



John Bertles

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BUILDING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

Workshop Leader: John Bertles

For Teachers of Grades K-6

3 hours instruction time (can be expanded to two 3-hour sessions or a full day)

Maximum number of workshop participants: 30

In this workshop, teachers explore how to guide their students in creating musical instruments inexpensively from recycled materials and use the instruments to make connections to literacy. First, participants build the instruments — such as an oboe from a straw, maracas and drums from tin cans, a guitar from a tube and fishing line — while learning the science behind how they work. Next, the sounds of the instruments become the inspiration for writing and composing musical stories to be performed on the instruments. No musical background required!

JOHN BERTLES ALSO OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES* FOR:

Students

- Performances/Lecture-Demonstrations
- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/Exhibit Attendance
- Other Workshops
- Residencies
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits

Teachers

- In-Depth Courses
- Demonstration Teaching
- Coaching in the Classroom
- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/Exhibit Attendance
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits

Parents

- PTA/PTO Presentations/Speeches
- Workshops for Parents
- Workshops for Parents with their Children

School Administrators

- Speeches

Schools

- Strategic Planning for Arts Integration Schools

Partners in Education Teams

- Program Planning Advice
- Strategic Planning

Other

- Environmental Arts Workshops
- Long-Range Planning for Music Programming in Schools
- Orchestra/Music Group Programming
- Music Standards Writing Coaching
- Teaching Artist Coaching
- Program Coordination for Interdisciplinary Workshops/Performances

**Not all services have been designed or presented by the Kennedy Center.*

JOHN BERTLES is an educator, composer and instrument-builder. He has worked in arts education since 1988 as a teaching artist, professional developer, administrator and consultant. He is the founder and co-director of Bash the Trash Environmental Arts LLC, which presents performances, residencies and professional development sessions nationwide, and a board member of the New York City Arts-in-Education Roundtable. As a composer he works with combinations of traditional instruments along with his own invented musical instruments built from recycled and reused materials. His most recent performances include “The Choke Artist” for found-object instrument sextet; “Incline and Trashicaglia” for orchestra, homemade instruments and audience members; and a version of Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Raven” for 3-6 year olds, written for small orchestra of “traditional and found-object instruments. Over the years he has worked with some amazing performers, including Yo-Yo Ma, Wynton Marsalis, Max Roach and Mister Rogers; and consulted for the Grammy Foundation, Leonard Bernstein Center, New York Philharmonic, Carnegie Hall, and the Silk Road Ensemble, among others.