



John Bertles

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BUILDING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

Workshop Leader: John Bertles

For Teachers of Grades 3-6

6 hours of instruction time (can be offered as two three-hour sessions, or a full-day session)

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 a composer, instrument builder and educator. As a composer he has written music ranging from opera to circus music, and from symphony to punk rock. Most recently he has been concentrating on music for instruments built from recycled materials with his performing group Bash the Trash®. “The Evils of Pots” (1994), written entirely for pots and pans, has been performed at Lincoln Center in New York City, the International Gamelan Festival in Indonesia, and throughout the United States. He is mainly an educator, staff developer and curriculum consultant. In this capacity he has worked in many different roles – including teaching artist, teaching artist mentor, study guide writer, concert narrator and performer, curriculum writer, and advisory board member among others – with a number of organizations, including the Grammy Foundation, Kennedy Center, Leonard Bernstein Center, New York Philharmonic, New York City Department of Education, and Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble. He also teaches Master Classes at Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music.