

When viewing *Time for Three* and participating in this guide's suggested activities, the following National Standards for Music will be addressed: 6, 8, 9.

## Time for Three

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. ET

Grades 7-12



### Background Information

Time for Three (Tf3) is a non-traditional trio of musicians who began playing together while they were students at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At first, violinists Zachary De Pue and Nicolas Kendall, and bassist Ranaan Meyer, played for fun. Sharing their mutual love for music, they began experimenting with different genres of music. Each of these classically trained string musicians comes from a different musical background, but together through experimentation they began to blend their unique styles of country/western and bluegrass with jazz and improvisation to form Time for Three.

### Styles of Music

Adhering to no musical boundaries, Tf3 plays a widely diverse repertoire of music that includes country/western, bluegrass and gypsy, as well as classical music.

### Country

Country music is a combination of different styles of music originally found in the southern United States. Country music has roots in traditional folk music, Celtic music, blues, gospel, and old-time music. Today, country music encompasses different music genres such as bluegrass and rock, but this uniquely American genre is known for its emphasis on stringed instruments, simple melodies and harmonies, straightforward lyrics, and folksy style.

### Bluegrass

Bluegrass is a type of country music that emerged after World War II. What makes bluegrass different from most country music is the use of differing instruments. Bluegrass bands typically include fiddle, banjo, guitar, and mandolin, which create unique sounds using faster tempos, tighter vocal harmonies, and instrumental solos.

### Gypsy

Gypsy music (also called Romani [**rom-uh-nee**]) started in India. The Roma were nomadic entertainers and tradesman who migrated to places such as Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and northwest India. Although this type of music possesses Indian roots, it has Greek, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Slavic, Romanian, German, French, Spanish, and Celtic influences. Romani music differs according to the region where the music comes from. However, the common characteristics of gypsy music are the soulful and dramatic vocals and the prominent glissandi [**gli-sahn-dee**], which is the gliding between notes or pitches.

### Classical

Around the world, classical music has been interpreted differently by many cultures, which has led to the development of many classical styles such as Baroque, Romantic, and Impressionist music. However, the term "classical music" traditionally represents the type of music that first developed in Europe many centuries ago. European classical music had its origins in church and dance music written for the privileged classes. Classical music continues to be composed and performed around the world.



## About the Program

This youthful and engaging trio of musicians who play a diverse repertoire will perform an eclectic mix of bluegrass, Hungarian gypsy, jazz, country/western, classical, and improvisatory music. During the program, Tf3 performs music from Brahms to the Beatles and beyond, and demonstrates how engaging the music of all genres can be when played with spontaneity, enthusiasm and technical virtuosity. In addition, Tf3 will take students through the process of composing music and will play some of their newly created works as well.

### What to Watch and Listen for during the Program:

- the unusual ways the musicians play their instruments. For example, a violinist may give his bow a rest and pick the strings of his instrument as if it were a guitar.
- how the members of the ensemble play their instruments together. Notice how they interact with and gesture toward each other.
- how the musicians improvise, and play familiar melodies in personal ways.

## Instructional Activities

When musicians compose, they are often inspired by the sounds and noises that surround them to write music. They try to recreate everyday sounds such as a busy, city street or the crashing waves of the ocean and incorporate them into their music. Listen and observe the sounds of your classroom, your backyard, or some other setting. Then, using an instrument, if you play one, or simple items you can find either in your home or outside such as a coffee can, sand, shells, or glasses of water, recreate the sounds that you hear. Now, as a class, use your instruments to play the sounds together.

## Resources:

### Internet

For more information, connect to:  
[tf3.org](http://tf3.org)  
[myspace.com/timeforthree](http://myspace.com/timeforthree)  
[kennedy-center.org/pwtv](http://kennedy-center.org/pwtv)

### Recordings

Time for Three  
*We Just Burned This For You!* Time for Three, 2006.  
*Time for Three.* Time for Three, 2005.