

Education Programs

The Abaca String Band

The **Abaca String Band** has been presenting music education programs in the New York City public schools under the auspices of the Carnegie Hall Education Department since 1996. The group has also conducted music workshops and lecture/demonstrations in many other schools, from Elementary to University level, during this time.

The instrumentation of the **Abaca String Band** makes it particularly suitable for demonstrating the repertoire and history of stringed instruments; the guitar, mandolin, violin, viola, and double bass encompass the three basic types of stringed instrument: plucked (guitar), bowed (violin, viola, double bass), and plectrum (mandolin).

Programs include a basic 45, 60 or 90 minute lecture/demonstration illustrating the history of stringed instruments and repertoire. Specially structured programs are also available - "European Music from 1700", "American Music from 1750", "Arrangements and Transcriptions", etc.

The needs of the particular school are always addressed. Interaction with students and faculty is an integral part of every presentation.

CARNEGIE HALL

Hannah H. Kim
Carnegie Hall Education Department
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New York, NY 10019
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October 25, 2001

Mr. Andrew Schulman
ABACA Productions
711 West End Avenue
New York, NY 10025

Dear Andrew:

I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for your continued involvement with the students at the High School of Economics and Finance. In a course that introduces music to high school students with little or no previous experience with music, your seminar never fails to reach the students in a very meaningful way.

The String Seminar by the ABACA String Band has been one of the most beloved presentations of the Weill Institute Seminar Series. Your perfect blend of refreshing music and delightful history has a way of making the most complicated classical music comprehensible and enjoyable to apathetic students.

Last year, you also led an engaging seminar on American music at PS34 for fourth and fifth graders. It amazes me how you are able to reach students regardless of their age and adapt your program accordingly. The students later told me that they were absolutely fascinated and inspired by you and the ABACA String Band.

You are a pleasure to work with and I highly value your participation in all of our programs. All your wonderful contributions to the Carnegie Hall Education Department are greatly appreciated and I thank you for making a genuinely positive impact on how students perceive music.

Sincerely yours,



Hannah H. Kim



Music at Noon
The Logan Wintergarden Series

Penn State Erie, The Behrend College
School of Humanities & Social Sciences
Station Road, Erie, PA 16563
(814) 898-6078

20 September 2001

Andrew Schulman
Abaca String Band
711 West End Ave.
New York, NY 10025

Dear Andrew:

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your performances here this week as part of our *Music at Noon* concert series. I cannot imagine a worse set of circumstances than those you found yourself in due to the sudden illness of your violist and the attack on the World Trade Center which left your bass player stranded in Hong Kong.

But you responded to these setbacks in a consummately professional manner by doing whatever it took to get the job done. In this case that meant driving for 8 ½ hours each way with two substitute players and taking a loss of over \$300 in unusable airline tickets.

Despite all of that, the artistry level of your performance was quite high, and very well received by the audience at your noon performance. I was particularly impressed by your performances at Diehl Elementary School. The format you chose to employ of interspersing student questions in between the selections you performed kept the overall tempo from dragging, and kept the students engaged for the entire performance. Your years of experience playing Carnegie Youth concerts were made particularly evident by your facile handling of the students' unpredictable questions.

So, again, thank you very much for coming and for making a difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

Daniel Barnard, DMA
Director, *Music-at-Noon*
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Phone: (814) 898-6078
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cc: Kay Logan



The Behrend
College

THE ABACA STRING BAND

Sample Childrens Program

Carnegie Hall - Education Department

Allegro, from op. 3 #3.....Vivaldi
For Guitar and Strings

Serenade for Double Bass and Mandolin Obbligato and Strings.....Mozart
Rondo alla Turca for Mandolin and Strings

Bachiana Brasileira #5 for Violin, Viola and Strings.....Villa-Lobos

Pinball Wizard.....Townshend

**Additional works or excerpts to be announced from the stage
in conjunction with commentary.**

What Students Say...

(...at The High School of Economics and Finance in New York City)

"When I went to the performance I thought it would be a big bore. But when the Abaca String Band played their first song, I felt like dancing to the beat. It was a joyful hour. I was angry when the concert ended." **Christopher Alberto**

"The Abaca String Band was a great musician band. My favorite song they played was the song by the artist, Johann Sebastian Bach, Air on the G String. I liked it so much that the same day I came home I downloaded the song from napster."

"It was a great pleasure that the Abaca String Band performed for us...the Band was awesome...They seem to love doing what they do. It's great to be so passionate about such a thing as music and do it for a living." **Kazi Ahmed**

"I enjoyed the [Abaca] string quintet more than any other music groups that visited our class....The string ensemble played the particular kind of classic music that closely resembled the new developments in modern music."

Ivan Pentchoukov

"The Abaca String Band is what I can say grabbed my attention. That was the first session to really grab my attention. We got to go on stage and get a close look at the group playing and we got to hear it closer." **Kelly Valerio**

"I was very excited by the show of the String Band. Each member explained the details of their own instrument, such as the history and function. I was amazed at how much I learned from those great explanations." **Dawei Ni**

"My favorite session was the Abaca String Band...Out of all the songs they played my favorite was "Air on the G" written by Johan Sebastian Bach. The piece was probably the most beautiful piece of music I have ever heard in my life, it even made me cry." **Cynthia Rovay**

"The last part was really cool. The guy that was playing the guitar looked like his head was going to fall off and his hands were moving so fast that I couldn't even see them. The others were cool too. They were all fantastic. I wish I could be like that in my school subjects." **Rasheem Caine**

"Your melodious tune and rhythm was just magnificent. My favorite music that you played was the Pinball Wizard and It Don't Mean a Thing. They were just so enjoyable. I hope you come next year." **Ediberto Diaz**

"The reason I enjoyed the quintet so much was because everything they played flowed together. Their pieces were so beautiful and melodious that I actually left the class all relaxed and calm. Also it was pretty funny when they would try to make some jokes." **Leonardo Colomer**

"The second session we had also intrigued me. The Abaca String Band visited us and performed some of their music. I found myself actually enjoying the music more than I thought. Usually I would just not pay attention and say that classical music is for old snotty people. However when the band-leader began to explain each song, instrument and their roots, I paid attention. I noticed that many of the songs they played I have heard numerous times before. Now that think of it, some of the songs they play are used as background in some of the rap songs I listen to. **Randy Valerio**

What Presenters Say
...about the Abaca String Band's Education Program

"I want you to know how much I appreciate your work and friendship over the years. You have brought the joy of making music to many who would not otherwise attend a concert and to a classroom of students who had no idea of the world in which you and your colleagues live."

Phyllis B. Susen, Director of Education, Carnegie Hall

"I was particularly impressed by your performances at Diehl Elementary School. The format you chose to employ of interspersing student questions in between the selections you performed kept the overall tempo from dragging, and kept the students engaged for the entire performance. Your years of experience playing Carnegie Youth concerts were made particularly evident by your facile handling of the students' unpredictable questions."

Daniel Barnard, Director - Music at Noon, Penn State Erie

"The String Seminar by the Abaca String Band has been one of the most beloved presentations of the Weill Institute Seminar Series. Your perfect blend of refreshing music and delightful history has a way of making the most complicated classical music comprehensible and enjoyable to apathetic students...It amazes me how you are able to reach students regardless of their age and adapt your program accordingly. The students later told me that they were absolutely fascinated and inspired by you and The Abaca String Band." **Hannah Kim, Education Department, Carnegie Hall**

"I want to commend you for presenting a program that was so accessible to our largely student audience...I was especially pleased with your commentary and introduction of the works; the audience was provided with just the right amount of information to make the works come alive."

Jesse Hopkins, Music Department Chair, Bridgewater College

"Our students thoroughly enjoyed the concert...Andrew Schulman was delightful to work with. He accommodated our specific needs and created a program that fit the musical experience and interest of our students...The concerts turned out to be even better and more enjoyable than I had expected. The musical arrangements were creative and musically artistic, and each musician related so well with our students."

Elaine Keigher, Assistant Principal, The Frisch School

"The concert for young people really engaged the students who attended. The mix of history and music created a good balance to introduce young people to string music."

Peter Lesser, Managing Director, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall