scrapArtsMusic

ScrapArtsMusic Teacher's Study Guide

What to Expect

ScrapArtsMusic delivers a fast-paced, educational show that features **original percussion** ensemble music, **sculptural instruments** made from a variety of **recycled materials**, and **meaningful interactions** between artists and students.

In addition to performing **high-energy compositions** from **ScrapArtsMusic's** core repertoire, there's an **audience participation** piece as well as the chance to ask five **"really good" questions.**

ScrapArtsMusic's five, highly-trained musicians also possess strong athletic backgrounds. Their musical performance embodies the benefits of studying percussion technique, creativity, physical conditioning and teamwork.

Beginnings...

ScrapArtsMusic was created in 1998 by Gregory Kozak–an energetic and multi-talented drummer and composer, and Justine Murdy, an equally passionate architecture-trained collaborator. From the beginning, the project was rooted in the inventive, musical use of recycled materials.

About Gregory Kozak

Gregory loves to develop the sonic and visual potential of recyclable materials. By bringing a musician's ear and an artist's eye to the scrap heaps of modern life, he has designed and built over one hundred sculptural instruments, composed several CDs worth of syncopated music, and choreographed countless performances. In addition to private studies with masters, Gregory attended Creative Music Studios in Woodstock, NY, and the New School for Social Research in NYC.

ScrapArtsMusic's prime directives

- Recycle discarded materials
- Create unique looking/sounding instruments
- Visually express percussion's physicality
- Put instruments on wheels
- Perform with Canada's most talented percussionists

Recommended Reading

ScrapArtsMusic is featured in two recently published text and teacher resource books:

La guerre aux déchets (Junkyard Wars) — Teacher Resource Book
by Irene Bernard & Beverley Biggar, Published by Oxford University Press, 2004.
www.oup.com/ca/isbn/0-19-542072-1

An introduction to the various creative ways of reusing and recycling objects. This is a "hands-on" unit that will develop and motivate students to become activists in making decisions that will affect them and the environment now and in the future. Students will be able to use their experience and previous knowledge in order to categorize junkyard objects as either household or industrial waste. Students will also become familiar with some forces of movement and complete various activities giving them ideas on how to create an invention. (**ScrapArtsMusic** is on the cover as well as inside!)

Spotlight on Music – Grade 2
Published by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 2005.
www.mhschool.com/music/student/index.html

ScrapArtsMusic's artistic director is featured in Lesson 8 "Found Sounds!" (page 36) in the Spotlight on Concepts section of this text book. **ScrapArtsMusic's** "Assembly Required" is part of the accompanying CD, as well as a feature interview with Gregory Kozak.

Interesting Websites

www.ScrapArtsMusic.com Images, video, music, tour info, guest book and other cool stuff.
www.oddmusic.com A source for unique, unusual, ethnic, or experimental music and instruments.
www.windworld.com Experimental Musical Instruments: An extensive web site, with great links.
www.drummergirl.com Dedicated to women + girls who drum.
www.pas.org Percussive Arts Society: Devoted to percussive arts
www.bashthetrash.com Instruments from trash: Ideas about making things.
www.corporeal.com Harry Partch: Life + works of iconoclastic American composer, theorist, and instrument builder.

Discography

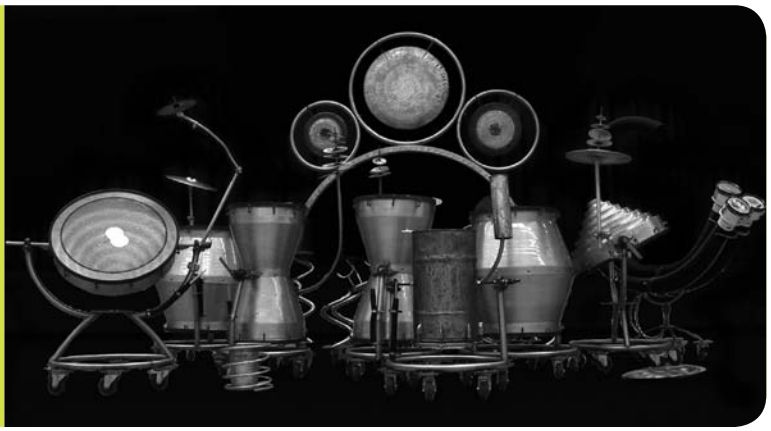
{Phon} A Unit of Subjective Loudness.
Scrap Arts Production: 2001.
Enhanced CD with 9 tracks of original music plus a 3.5 minute Quick-time movie of the group's first Bravo! Video.

Available for purchase &/or download at CD Baby **www.cdbaby.com/ScrapArtsMusic** or the iTunes store at **www.apple.com/itunes/store/** search "Scrap Arts Music"

For more info please visit: www.ScrapArtsMusic.com

PERCUSSION • RECYCLING • RHYTHM • SOUND • DYNAMICS • INNOVATION • MOVEMENT • MUSIC • ORIGINALITY • STRUCTURE • IMPROVISATION

Some of our Invented Instruments



Scorpion Drums
High pitched drums made from big O irrigation hose and plumbing fixtures. Can support up to three drums per mobile stand.

Ziggurat Drum
A drum with a large drum head and stepped spun aluminium drum shell. Each "step" produces a different pitch when struck.

Gong & Chime Array
Stands for gongs & artillery shell chimes made from stainless steel scrap and monkey bar legs.

Humunga Drum
Made of spun aluminium; lowest pitched of the mobile drums. It pivots at the middle & has two drum heads that can be tuned to different pitches.

B-52 Drum
A single-headed drum made from a steel oil can manufactured in 1952. Cleaned up & mounted on a stand made from scrap steel.

Junk-on-a-Stick
A cymbal tree consisting of threaded rod and whatever metallic sound makers we can find!

Alumo-Springs
Hollow, coiled aluminium played using a recycled dowel drumstick. We paint our sticks orange so they're easier to see.

Annoyophone
A delightful soundmaker created from dishwasher hose, a bagpipe reed and a balloon that acts like a bellows.

Activity suggestion **Compose your own percussion music with original instruments.**

Step 1 Improvise

Gregory Kozak, the composer and artistic director of **ScrapArtsMusic** brought a musician's ear and an artist's eye to the task of creating music for his ensemble. Have your students look around the classroom and identify items that could be used to make rhythmic sounds. Examples:

- Pen clicking
- Chalk tapping on the blackboard
- Window opening and closing
- Chalkboard erasers clapping together
- Notebook paper rustling
- Hardcover book being closed
- Binder rings opening and closing
- Sneakers squeaking on the floor

> **"...we have a duty toward music, namely to invent it."**
>
> Igor Stravinsky (1882–1971)

Select a few different sounds at a time and try different combinations.

1. Let one student establish a rhythm with one of the items and have another layer a second rhythm on top.
2. Improvise a jam session of classroom sounds around the rhythms.
3. Identify which rhythms work well together.
4. Identify which sounds work well together.

Step 2 Compose

From your improvisation, create a piece of music.

1. List the different sounds and the order in which they appear.
2. Perform the piece again and see if it has improved.
3. If the students are confident, invite them to make vocal improvisations.
4. Devise physical movements to go with the music.
5. Name the composition.
6. If students have created instruments, by all means name the instrument!

Post-Concert Discussion Questions

1. What makes **ScrapArtsMusic** different from other musical groups you have seen?
2. What surprised you about the instruments you saw on stage? About the choreography?
3. How are **ScrapArtsMusic** instruments different from traditional percussion instruments?
4. What kinds of industrially produced materials does **ScrapArtsMusic** use to make their instruments?
5. Why do you think making instruments from scrap is—or is not—a good idea?
6. What skills must a musician in **ScrapArtsMusic** have to be able to perform well?
7. Anyone who creates their own instruments can give that instrument whatever name they choose. What names would you give different **ScrapArtsMusic** instruments? Why?
8. All present-day orchestral instruments were once new inventions. List the names of traditional instruments. Why do you think they were given those names? What are some of the funnier ones?