

Arts for Learning CT PROGRAM GUIDE

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To explore the history and geographical and ethnic diversity of China.
- To introduce the concept of a tonal language through the four tones of Mandarin, the official dialect of China.
- To demonstrate how music can help us understand different places and cultures.

Shaw Pong Liu

Exploring China through
Music and Story

ABOUT THE PROGRAMS

From the grasslands of Mongolia to the high mountains of Yunnan, master musician Shaw Pong Liu takes audiences on a musical journey through historical and contemporary China. Travelling by music and story, with a travel-bag packed with languages and musical instruments, Shaw Pong weaves history, geography, the Mandarin language and Chinese folk music in a dynamic exploration of China.

In her program, When Words Sing — Music and Mandarin, with a European violin in one hand and a Chinese violin (erhu) in the other, master teacher and violinist Shaw Pong Liu takes students on an adventure of cross-cultural communication, connecting the language of music to the tonal language of Mandarin. Drawing on her travels as a Chinese-American studying in Beijing, Shaw Pong uses her instruments, singing voice, looping pedal, and multi-lingual skills to demonstrate the variety of ways in which people use linguistic and musical tones to communicate. While exploring facets of Chinese culture, students will learn to sing the pentatonic scale and to speak, sing and physically demonstrate the four tones of Mandarin—skills that help both in learning languages and learning music.



ARTS FOR LEARNING CT
1 EVERGREEN AVENUE
3RD FLOOR
HAMDEN, CT 06518



Arts for
Learning
Connecticut



About the Artist & Program Preparations

ABOUT THE ARTIST

A graduate of U.C. Berkeley with a Masters in Performance from the New England Conservatory of Music, Shaw Pong is the recipient of the Eisner Prize, the Hertz Travelling Fellowship, and was 2008 and 2011 Artist-in-Residence and 2010 Program Director at the Blue Sky Project. Violinist and composer Shaw Pong Liu engages diverse communities with creative music and social dialogue by innovating the audience experience of live music. Collaborating with artists from a wide range of disciplines, Shaw Pong creates genre-defying performances which interplay written and improvised music with narration, storytelling and movement.

THE PROGRAM

- Students can work individually or in small groups on this project. Pick a location for your story in one of the four places we visited : Yunnan (mountainous province); Beijing (capital city); Zhejiang (province of the Butterfly Lovers) or Nei Meng Gu, Inner Mongolia (grasslands, home of horses and ancestors of bowed string instruments like the violin and the erhu).
- Make up your own story (written, drawn, and/or oral) that includes the phrase “Mom scolded the horse” or “The Horse Scolded Mom”. Stories should have something to do with the place they are set, and each student should practice saying their Mandarin sentence(s) and the place names together!
- As a class, review the four tones of Mandarin and practice both phrases. Teachers, use this webpage to review the tones and place names with your students:
- If time allows, students can refer to their original maps (from the pre-activity) , and make drawings to accompany their story. Students should explain why they picked the province or city if it is not obvious from their story.
- Share (present) stories to one another. Drawn/written stories can also go home to be shared with/presented to families!

CURRICULAR LINKS

National Core Arts Standards:

Anchor Standard #7. Perceive and analyze artistic work. **Anchor Standard #8.** Interpret intent and meaning in artistic work. **Anchor Standard #9.** Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. **Anchor Standard #10.** Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art. **Anchor Standard #11.** Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.

Common Core Standards, Comprehension and Collaboration:

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively. **2.** Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally. **3.** Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.



Website:
<http://www.aflct.org>



Contact:
203.230.8101



Email:
info@aflct.org