WELCOME TO CLASS NOTES ARTISTS!

We are so excited to bring live music into your school—thank you for hosting a concert. This curriculum includes:

• Learning prompts for before, during, and after the concert experience
• Standards-based, K-6 lesson plans based on themes and ideas from your Class Notes Artists concert

Everything is designed to help you and your students get the most out of the experience. Please share your experience with us!

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BEFORE THE CONCERT

Afoutayi is a Minnesota-based performance art company dedicated to sharing the traditions, beauty, and culture of Haiti through music, storytelling and dance. To prepare for their Class Notes Artists concert, do the following activities in class:

LEARN ABOUT HAITI

• Haiti is a country located on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean Sea.
• Find it on a map.
  Here is where it is on the globe:
Here is a look a little closer in.

LEARN WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

Watch and listen to Afoutayi. During their Class Notes Artists concert, Afoutayi will perform selections from the pieces below. These videos will give you a preview. When they come to your school, you will get to join in the fun. All of their works are created by mother and daughter Djenane Saint Juste and Florencia Pierre.

- **Balanse Fofo**, a song that invites a community to dance and connect with each other.
- **Zanm Telele**, a song about healing.
- **Tik-Tak**, a dance song about how life passes by quickly, like a clock.
- **Lasirenn ak Labalenn**, a story and song about a mermaid, a whale, and an old man.
- **Ibo Lele**, a song that honors the Igbo tribe from Nigeria, and their quest for freedom.
MEET THE PERFORMERS

**Djenane Saint Juste**, a native of Haiti, is the Artistic Director of Afoutayi Dance, Music and Arts Company. She is a professional choreographer, dancer, actress, and vocalist specializing in Haitian traditional dance and folklore.

**Florencia Pierre** is also known as “Fofo.” She is the Cultural Director of Afoutayi Dance, Music, and Arts Company, and she has dedicated her life to teaching the stories, songs and rhythms that form the foundation of traditional Haitian culture.

The other ensemble members include Jeff Pierre, John Paul Douglas, Jimmy Diligent, Hassen Ortega, Melissa Clark, Jean Mary Brignol, and Fabienne Denis.
MEET THE INSTRUMENTS

Afoutayi uses many percussion instruments. Here are several of them. How would you make a sound with each of them?

Percussion instruments are grouped into categories based on what material the instrument is made of: wood, metal, and skin. Can you put each of these instruments into one of those categories?
DISCUSS IN CLASS

• How can we use our bodies to listen?
• How can we show respect to performers and other audience members?
• What does it mean to be an audience?
• Afoutayi performs a lot of dance music. Think about how you will dance in an expressive way while still listening to the music.
• Watch a video about concert etiquette.

DURING THE CONCERT

• NOTICE
  › The interesting combination of instruments Afoutayi uses. Some look like traditional instruments and others are everyday objects, like buckets.
  › All the percussion instruments! Do the players shake, scrape, or strike their instrument in order to make a sound? What are their instruments made of? Does the material an instrument is made of affect the way it sounds?
  › The way the instruments and voices work together. Sometimes one instrument plays a melody and the other instruments adds sounds to go along with it. Sometimes one instrument plays a musical idea and another instrument or a voice answers or echoes—almost like a conversation.
  › How dancing and movement are a part of the music. Everything is combined to work together and send a message or tell a story.

• WONDER
  › How often do these musicians practice?
  › What does this music tell us about life in Haiti?
  › How did they get their start?

• THINK ABOUT
  › How each instrument makes its sound.
  › Which singing voices are higher, which are lower, which are in the middle.
  › The different kinds of sounds each instrument can make.
  › What daily life might be like in Haiti.
  › The feelings or images that pop into your mind as you listen. Do you think the composers wanted to make you feel a certain way with his or her music?

• IMAGINE
  › You are a composer. What sounds would you want each instrument or each voice to make?
  › You travel to Haiti. What do you think you would see and hear? How do you think it would be different than your life here? How would it be the same?
AFTER THE CONCERT

• DISCUSS
  › Your favorite piece of music from the concert. What did you like best, and why?
  › Think about how each piece sounded similar or different from the others.

• TELL SOMEONE AT HOME
  › Two things you heard or saw or learned at your Class Notes Artist concert. Include something you learned about Haitian culture.

• DESCRIBE
  › How the music made you feel. Maybe different pieces of music made you feel different feelings.

• REMEMBER
  › How each instrument made its sound. Can you explain how each instrument’s sound is produced?

• CONNECT
  › Something from the Class Notes Artists concert to something you’ve learned in school. Explain the connection to a partner, a teacher, or someone at home.