ROBOT RICKSHAW

CURRICULUM

CLASS NOTES®
PRESENTED BY CLASSICAL MPR

THESE MATERIALS ARE MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE MINNESOTA LEGACY AMENDMENT’S ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND.
WELCOME TO CLASS NOTES ARTISTS!

We are so excited to bring live music into your school—thanks 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

LEARN WHAT YOU WILL HEAR
To understand Robot Rickshaw’s music, it is helpful to have a discussion about the definition of music.

• Discuss in class: what is music?
• The composer John Cage said that music is simply “organization of sound.”

• All of the objects you see here make sound. Could they all make music? Why, or why not?
What about this—do you think this is an instrument?

Listen to a song from band named Matmos, who decided to create an album using only sounds recorded from a washing machine. Remember—every sound you hear was originally created by a washing machine.

Musician Troy Rogers thought about sound in this way, which led him to invent Robot Rickshaw.

LEARN HOW ROBOT RICKSHAW IS PUT TOGETHER

Robot Rickshaw is a collection of automatic instruments on a cart, controlled by a computer and a musician.

Think about a drum set.

Imagine what it would look like if you took it apart and put each piece on a cart.

Do you see a snare drum, a bass drum, and some bongos?
Once the percussion instruments are in place, some special instruments that create pitches or notes are added to the cart.

Let’s meet each of these pitch creators.

First is “AMI” which stands for:
- Automatic
- Monochord
- Instrument

Then there is: “CARI”
- Cylindrical
- Aerophone
- Robotic
- Instrument

“AMI” and “CARI” sometimes work together to make a little band called “MARIE” or
- Monochord
- Aerophone
- Robotic
- Instrument
- Ensemble

Finally there is “Stemmetje” which means “Little Voice” in Dutch. Here are two pictures of it.
LISTEN TO AND WATCH ROBOT RICKSHAW

- Troy Rogers explains his creation
- Mechaglossolalia v. 2, performed on Robot Rickshaw

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?
- Watch a video about concert etiquette.
- Robot Rickshaw is a complicated machine. There are other instruments that are sort of complicated machines by themselves. List to this episode of the kids’ science podcast Brains On!® to learn about another complicated machine—the piano.
DURING THE CONCERT

• NOTICE
  › The way all the parts of Robot Rickshaw work together. Sometimes one instrument is playing pitches to make a melody and the other instruments create rhythms to go along with it.

• WONDER
  › How did Troy Rogers put this all together?
  › How did he get the idea to make this?

• THINK ABOUT
  › How each component, or part, of Robot Rickshaw produces its sound.
  › How different materials affect the way different components sound.
  › The feelings or images that pop into your mind as you listen. Do you think the composer wanted to make you feel a certain way with his music?

• IMAGINE
  › You are a composer. What sounds would you want Robot Rickshaw to make? Would you make any changes or modifications?

AFTER THE CONCERT

• DISCUSS
  › Your definition of what music is. What kind of music do you like best, and why?

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

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

• REMEMBER
  › All the parts of Robot Rickshaw, and how each one made its sound. How many different kinds of sounds did you hear?

• 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.