

## 2010-2011 Touring Arts Program Planning

Dear Touring Arts Advisory Panel Member,

Please spend some time getting familiar with the artists listed here. This is not an all inclusive list of artists. Please feel free to make suggestions for additions.

It has been difficult for us to plan face to face meetings with the weekly bouts of bad weather we've been having. I'm making steps to have an online tool for evaluating each of the artists I have proposed (as well as a way to share about artists that you would be interested in that may not be on this list).

Thank you so much for your time and energy as we work together to make next year's touring arts program one of the best Watauga County students have seen!

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## *MUSIC*

### North Carolina Symphony

<http://www.ncsymphony.org/>



The North Carolina Symphony is performing at ASU's Farthing Auditorium in November of 2010. They are holding the date after for a school performance. I am negotiating fees currently. The North Carolina Symphony has one of the most extensive music education programs of any U.S. orchestra, performing over 40 education concerts a year for students throughout North Carolina.

This program is designed to introduce students in the third through fifth grades to the principles of orchestral music, culminating in a live performance by the North Carolina Symphony. By concert time, students have learned about the musical compositions and the composers featured in the North Carolina Symphony's performance.

### Billy Jonas

<http://www.loydartists.com/index.php?page=bio&display=9>



Throw out the rules when Billy Jonas hits the stage! It's a musical conversation... a sonic celebration ... a splendiferous gathering of old and young, because at a Billy Jonas show, the ensemble is... everyone.

"My favorite instrument is the audience. I work to 'tribalize' the compositions ... to create songs that provide an immediate opportunity, on first hearing, for the listener to join in, as if the song had been a part of their life for a long time." – Billy Jonas

## Red Clay Ramblers

<http://redclayramblers.com/>



The Red Clay Ramblers have contracted with ASU's Office of Art and Cultural Programs to perform in September 2010. They are holding a school performance around that date for our Touring Arts Program. They have just released a new album about North Carolina called, "Old North State."

Now in their 38th year, the Tony Award-winning Red Clay Ramblers are a North Carolina string band whose repertoire reflects their roots in old-time mountain music, as well as bluegrass, country, rock, New Orleans jazz, gospel, and the American musical.

Over the years, the Ramblers have performed with such figures as '98 Grammy-winner Shawn Colvin (a Red Clay Rambler for most of '87), Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys, Eugene Chadbourne, Ireland's Boys of the Lough, Randy Newman (recorded "Ride, Gambler, Ride" with him for the film *Maverick*), and Michele Shocked (who brought the Eagles' Bernie Leadon and a mobile studio to North Carolina to record with the Ramblers). All along, members of the Ramblers have been involved separately in diverse creative projects, including children's works for the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and the celebratory Carolina musicals *King Mackerel*, *Cool Spring*, and *Tar Heel Voices*.

## The ASU Steely Pan Band –

[www.steelband.appstate.edu](http://www.steelband.appstate.edu)



**The Steely Pan Steel Band**® consists of 20 performers and 40 steel drums, including drum set and percussion. The ensemble performs a variety of music from traditional soca/calypsos, to classical, to rock and roll, and even performs traditional Appalachian Mountain music. One of the goals is to demonstrate to audiences the variety of music that can be performed on the pans. During each concert the band demonstrates an

oral history of the steel band by performing on tamboo bambos and early steel instruments. As a builder/tuner of steel drums, Dr. Meister, talks about the origin of steel drums and how they are made and tuned.

## Thaddeus Rex – *Read like a Rock Star*

<http://www.thaddeusrex.com/>



Blending the energy of rock with the sensibility of Folk, Thaddeus Rex's concerts are "part Monty Python, part Dr. Seuss" (*Washington Post*). Rex has a degree in philosophy and a passion for reading. A PBS veteran and acoustic rock musician, Thaddeus uses his favorite books as inspiration for his songs. He systematically and organically develops an excitement for reading with his audiences. He openly admits the only reason he's able to write songs and be a performing rock star is because he reads everyday. His humorous performances are full of energy, convincing children that they too

can read like a rock star.

# DANCE

## Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble

<http://www.footworks.org/aie.html>



### *Keeping the Beat: Contemporary American Traditional Dance*

Footworks presents live music and authentic American traditional dance in an energetic engaging performance with plenty of audience participation.

Footworks has an exceptional ability to convey the joy of dance to every student while illuminating the historical and multicultural perspectives of different American percussive dances. For over twenty eight years, Footworks

has specialized in performing and teaching the music and dance that developed up and down the East Coast and across the continent from origins in African-American, Celtic, and Native American cultural traditions still found in Southern Appalachia. Footworks presents live fiddle music, American clogging and hambone along with call-and-answer songs, rhythms, and other related dances such as French Canadian stepdance and South African bootdance.

Grade Level: K-5, 6-8, 9-12

Curriculum Connectors: Multi-Cultural, History/Social Studies, Music, Dance, and Physical Education

# THEATRE ARTS

## Al Simmons – Sounds and Science

<http://www.loydartists.com/index.php?page=bio&display=8791>



### "Sounds Crazy: The Science of Music" Educational Performance

A musical exploration of junk with Al Simmons Juno Award-winner Al Simmons demonstrates, with hilarious results, how the various instruments of a symphony orchestra make music in his renowned school show: Sounds Crazy.

The principles of sound waves, vibrations, resonance, and pitch are clearly explained as Al plays his bizarre homemade versions of stringed, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. In typical Al-style, he manages to coax music out of tin cans, soda straws, garden hoses, plastic drink bottles, rulers, coat hangers, and even a turkey baster. He explains, by way of hilarious example, the science behind the music and how his crude instruments are similar to their more expensive counterparts.

## Mike Wiley – One man plays depicting African American Historical Narratives

[www.goingbarefoot.com](http://www.goingbarefoot.com)



Mike Wiley Productions is a theatre company that specializes in African American historical narrative, and true events that shaped the foundation of our present day United States. Utilizing over a decade of professional acting experience, "I transform through my voice and posture into dozens of real and sometimes fictional personalities from American history." By dramatizing the lives and events that have made a patchwork quilt of cultures and communities, he inspires audiences to seek opportunity in the shadow of success or failure.

## Theatre IV –

[www.theatreiv.org](http://www.theatreiv.org)



Theatre IV is a nonprofit, professional theatre for young audiences. Since 1975 they have toured thirty-three states, and performed before about two million children, parents and teachers. They provide outstanding educational entertainment designed to tour and innovative instructional programs that enrich our nation's schools. Available shows change seasonally, and usually consist of about eight to choose from. *The Little Red Hen, Patchwork: The Little House Life of Laura Ingalls Wilder, Stone Soup and MANY MORE*

## Tarradiddle Players

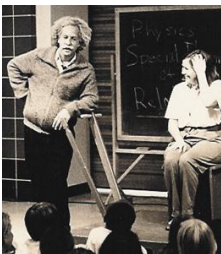
[www.ctcharlotte.org](http://www.ctcharlotte.org)



Tarradiddle Players is the Resident Touring Company of Children's Theatre of Charlotte. We're happy to be celebrating the company's 37<sup>th</sup> season! The Players' founder, the late Constance Welsh, started the Tarradiddle Players to bring the joy and wonder of the stage to audiences who might otherwise never see live theatre, but even she might be surprised to see how much her dream has grown. The Tarradiddle Players have now performed for over one million children, in schools, community centers -- towns big and small -- across the Southeast, bringing smiles (and maybe a tear or two) to the faces of everyone they meet. And the Tarradiddle Players performances on the Children's Theatre MainStage are consistently among the best loved by critics and audiences alike. We now offer a special tour for [Preschool](#) audiences, and we can tailor a [Create-A-Play](#) workshop especially for you!

## Marc Spiegel – *Einstein Alive!*

[www.marcspiegel.com/einstein](http://www.marcspiegel.com/einstein)



Einstein Alive is a school assembly program that blends science, history and entertainment. Among other accolades, it has been called “a marvelous science presentation,” explaining “complicated theories in an age-appropriate and extremely entertaining way.”

The show successfully introduces the Theory of Relativity to middle school students, and is also able to present the subject in such an entertaining and engaging fashion that it captivates elementary grade students (and the adults in the audience) as well.

Elementary students as young as kindergarten will clearly understand...

- what the term relative means
- how relativity relates to motion
- how things move and what friction is
- the importance of curiosity and determination
- the great contributions of Einstein to science

## Appalachian Young People's Theatre

[www.theatre.appstate.edu/special/aypt/index.html](http://www.theatre.appstate.edu/special/aypt/index.html)



### The AYPT has a two-pronged mission:

- to produce a variety of quality plays with educational value, including fairy tales, folk tales, musicals and plays with contemporary themes for K-8 audiences.
- to provide practical experience in producing and performing for young audiences for students seeking degrees in Theatre and/or Education.

## Bits 'N Pieces Puppet Theatre

[www.puppetworld.com](http://www.puppetworld.com)



Arts In Education residencies can be scheduled in conjunction with any of our performances. Holli Rubin, our A.I.E. specialist, offers workshops, puppet demonstrations, and teachers' in-service training sessions. In most residencies Ms. Rubin presents a combination of these three options. The typical day begins with a school-wide assembly in which she demonstrates different types of puppets from around the world. After the assembly, Ms. Rubin conducts three puppet-making workshops. Each activity is approximately one hour long.

## Silver Trout Arts – Timmy and Susanna Abell

<http://www.timmyabell.com/stinfo2.htm>



**Susana and Timmy Abell** combine their unique talents to offer dynamic and highly engaging performances centered around a repertoire of unforgettable original songs and stories.

Their concerts include an original puppet performance that has captivated audiences around the world, as well as spellbinding storytelling, poetry and award-winning music on seven different instruments.

## Atlantic Coast Theatre for Youth

[www.atlantic-coast-theatre.com](http://www.atlantic-coast-theatre.com)



ACT for Youth presents a variety of plays for young people.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT & EDUCATION!

-ACT for Youth tours Year-Round bringing high quality theatre performances to children across the U.S. Each production is performed by highly skilled Professional Actors who have a dedication to Arts Education. Shows are designed for touring and can be performed in theatres, auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, cafeterias, multi-purpose rooms, or just about any open space. Shows are approximately 40-50 minutes and include a Question & Answer/Talkback with the actors