**Seuss and Song**

**Educator Guide**

*Enriching the lives of children and promoting creative learning by uniting arts and education*

**About the Program**

Did you know that in addition to being a writer of children's books, Dr. Seuss also wrote songs? In this performance program, Lara Troyer introduces selected songs from the Dr. Seuss Songbook. Students discover the ways Dr. Seuss explored words, numbers, emotions, and onomatopoeia or "word painting" in his books and songs. Volunteer students will get to experiment with playing drums "on the beat", help with the zany props in the show, and even wear some crazy costumes that look like they jumped right out of Dr. Seuss' books! Students will even get to hear excerpts from one of Dr. Seuss' most famous works, *Green Eggs and Ham*, come to life through song.

**Objectives**

1. **Participate** in the program through drumming, singing, answering questions, holding props, and being music detectives.

2. **Experience** Seuss songs sung by a professional opera singer with piano accompaniment.

3. **Learn** about word painting and how music and words work together to create a work of art.

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**Content Standards**

**English Language Arts**

Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.

Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly.

Describe how words and phrases (e.g., regular beats, alliteration, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem or song.

**Music**

Demonstrate how musical elements communicate meaning and emotion by playing, singing or moving to music.

Create music in simple forms to be performed with dance, drama, or response to visual art.

Form and express opinions about music they hear in formal or informal live or recorded performance.
Discuss Dr. Seuss and his books, and how he also wrote the words to songs (or text, or lyrics).
Discuss professional musicians and opera singing. Briefly introduce them to opera.
Discuss word painting and onomatopoeia, two ideas presented in the show.

Ask if students can think of word painting in any other songs they know.
Do the books of Dr. Seuss that we love so much have a song like quality to them?
Can you make up a melody or tune using the words of Dr. Seuss from your favorite book?

**Vocabulary**

**Text:** The words to a song

**Composer:** The person who writes the music

**Word Painting:** The musical technique of writing music that reflects the literal meaning of a song

**About Lara Troyer**

Described as singing with an engaging, robust tone (clevelandclassical.com), Lara Troyer is a versatile soprano, at home on the opera stage as well as concert and recital stage. Most recently she performed the Ohio premiere of Ricky Ian Gordon’s *Orpheus and Eurydice* with Nightingale Opera. This season has also included solo engagements with Heights Chamber Orchestra and the Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra. Lara Troyer has toured with the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra as their soprano soloist throughout the Midwest and Southeastern United States. She also spent four years as an Associate Artist with Cleveland Opera. She performs regularly under the auspices of the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning and Children’s Concert Society. She has performed the children's opera, *Green Eggs and Ham* hundreds of times throughout the Midwest.

**Resources**

Compose Your Own Music


*Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Seuss (or any other book of his)

The Official Dr. Seuss Website

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

**About the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning**

Through a balance of demonstration and audience participation, the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning teaching artist performances and workshops introduce students to an art form, support various curricular areas, and inject excitement and wonder into the school day.