

Glen Road - School Assembly Program

Turlach Boylan, Greg Brown and Mike Dugger will perform and talk about their personal experiences with Irish traditional music. Greg will also talk a little about music from Newfoundland. The focus will be on the history of the instruments and the connections between these idioms and American music. We will also talk about the pleasure we gain from playing and encourage workshop participants to begin making music themselves.

Outline

- (1) The workshop period opens with a set of tunes. These will be jigs or reels played on fiddle, flute, with accompaniment on guitar. *Time: approximately 5 minutes.*
- (2) Mike Dugger will open the discussion with a history of how he came to play Irish music. He will then read an Irish poem that captures the spirit of the culture. When he is through he will sing a humorous song. He will then pass the discussion to Turlach Boylan. *Time: approximately 10 minutes.*
- (3) Turlach Boylan continues the discussion on Irish flute. He will describe historic flute design and similarities between classical music in the early 1800's and Irish traditional flute music today. He will illustrate techniques that mark the Irish style, performing a tune to show how those techniques rhythmically accent the music for dancing. Turlach is from a farm in County Derry, Ireland and will discuss his family ties to the music. He will relate anecdotes concerning the people who influenced his music. Turlach will also demonstrate the Penny Whistle, the first instrument many Irish children learn to play. He will describe its similarities to the flute and play a tune. *Time: approximately 15 minutes.*
- (4) Greg Brown opens discussion on the concertina, discussing the origins of the instrument and how he came to play it. He will describe the construction and playing of the instrument, focusing on the melodic structure, rhythms and ornamentation. He will play a tune to demonstrate. He will then discuss the fiddle in the same way. *Time: approximately 15 minutes.*
- (5) Mike will play the Mandola and discuss how it is used in this music. The focus in this section will be on how the Mandola made its way into the Irish music tradition and how it is made. Turlach Boylan will discuss the Tenor Banjo with the same focus. *Time: approximately 10 minutes.*
- (6) Students and teachers now have the opportunity to ask questions. The trio will play a lively tune to close the workshop. *Time: depends on the length of the period.*

Note:

The complexity of the discussion will be tailored to the audience. Time allotted is 50 minutes but adjustments can be made to cut time if school periods are shorter. Teachers are encouraged to ask questions during the question and answer period. If teachers wish to purchase a CD as teaching aids please let the musicians know. The focus of the workshop is historical and inspirational. We hope students will be inspired to seek out ways to bring music into their daily lives