

Tiller's Folly — Sails to Rails (Music + History)

KNOW

About the Artist



Tiller's Folly have been bringing British Columbia's fascinating history to life through stories and songs for nearly two decades. The goal behind their **Stirring Up Ghosts – From Sails to Rails** initiative is to combine live music performance, story-telling, interaction and multi-media to create a lasting impression of frontier life, the history of travel and settlement through the adventures and the characters that helped shape Canada's West.

Bruce Coughlan, Laurence Knight and Nolan Murray are award-winning, highly skilled musical performers with decades of experience. Each member believes that being exposed to live music while in grade school inspired them on their musical path. They, in turn wish to inspire others on their own voyage of discovery. Tiller's Folly would hope students take away a keener sense of pride, appreciation and understanding of British Columbia history.

About the Performance

- Stirring Up Ghosts – From Sails to Rails** features storytelling, archival multi-media, history, singing and musicianship
- The duration is 50 minutes which includes a short question period
 - The audience is expected to listen, watch, learn, clap along and enjoy!!
 - The students will see the first flight of the silver dart (Canada's first manned flight):runs of the Kettle Valley RR, Greater Vancouver in the late 1950's from the Electric Railway: what life was like as a voyageur and more
 - One end of a gym with an AV screen and an AV cart or a theatre stage with AV access

About the Art Form

- The Art Form: Preserving history through song is a social phenomenon that reaches back before the use of written language. Gathering socially to exchange stories and songs has been focal in building communities throughout the ages.
- Main Themes: Students will gain insight into what life was like for early BC colonial pioneers and explorers. What drew early settlers here and how their adventures and accomplishments helped shape contemporary British Columbia
- Students will also gain understanding and appreciation for Acoustic Roots Music and perhaps be inspired to learn an instrument themselves. How songs can tell stories and teach us while inspiring us to learn more. That history can be vibrant and dynamic, that live performance is enriching, valuable and enjoyable. Students may gain a broader appreciation for the performing arts, and the need to promote and support them.

WONDER

Links to Curriculum

- <http://www.tillersfolly.com/educational/> downloadable study guide
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu0buWffBvKXpdu1hqB-BMQ> multi-media links
- **Music:** master musicianship on a variety of instruments and voice and guide to this form of creativity
- **History:** specific BC history for those studying that curriculum and general knowledge and background of the province and transportation in Canada and the pacific NW region. A Bushel full of easily digestible learning. Joy of exploring museums and other historical places, visual aids that bring the history to life and make it easily digested for all students

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

Do you play an instrument? Have you ever learned things from songs? Do you listen to song lyrics or do you just listen to the beat or the melody? Have you ever seen a live musical performance? Did you ever wonder how places got their names? Have you ever wondered how the early settlers came here and how they got around?

Post-Performance Activities

- Pick their favorite song from the performance and listen to it and read the lyrics online at http://www.tillersfolly.com/stirring_up_ghosts/
- Write your own song about something that inspires you, it doesn't have to be complex
- <http://www.tillersfolly.com/educational/> download and print the study
- Have a look at the multi-media from the performance see what you missed musically or visually
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu0buWffBvKXpdu1hqB-BMQ>

LEARN

Post-Performance Discussion Questions

- Did you know how colonists 1st came here? How did they get around to where they wanted to live and why did they want to live here? Why did they leave home?
- Can you have fun playing music? Do you think you would have to listen and pay attention to each other in a band?