

Will Stroet and the Backyard Band — Music (English/French)

KNOW

About the Artist



Will Stroet, an award-winning bilingual children’s musician and educator, connects with kids through high-energy, interactive and educational music in English and French. Will has been playing music for most his life but it was while completing his B.Ed. at the UBC when he first discovered his talent for writing music for young audiences. After five years of teaching elementary school music in Vancouver, Will packed up his classroom and hit the road to share his music with kids and teachers across the country. You can also find watch Will on TV nationwide in his series [“Will’s Jams,”](#) which airs weekday mornings on Kids’ CBC.

About the Performance

Will Stroet and the Backyard Band offer a 50-minute musical concert in English and/or French. The main themes of the performance are imagination and creativity; healthy and active living; reading and literacy; languages. In the French or bilingual performances, a big emphasis is also put on the opportunities in life that come from learning other languages. While Will and the band engage and involve the audience throughout the show, Will also keeps all the fun under control using his well honed skills in audience management. The band takes care of all of their own technical requirements. For more info, visit www.willmusic.ca

About the Art Form

Will Stroet and the Backyard Band play all original music, this is something that all musicians dream of, to perform their own music to enthusiastic audiences. Will and his band mates have always belonged to bands they have started themselves. In addition to the learning opportunities presented by the subject matter in the songs themselves, the other main message, they hope students take away from the performance is that they too can learn an instrument, write their own songs, and start bands. Making music is an incredible way for kids to express their creativity as well as learn how to effectively collaborate with others.

Links to Curriculum

- Music: singing and singing from aural sources, responding to beat, responding to musical performances, exploring and applying elements on melody, rhythm, tempo and dynamics.
- Language Arts: listening, recognizing language patterns, choosing/reading books.
- Health and Career: importance of healthy eating and exercise, steps in decision making and planning to achieve goals; importance of recognizing and avoiding hazardous situations (i.e. road safety messages).
- Daily physical activity: 20 of the 30 minutes of daily physical activity.

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

- Do you play an instrument? What instrument? How long have you played? What do you enjoy about it? What is challenging? Have you ever performed with other people?
- What is your favourite song? Why? Is it the melody, lyrics, rhythm, chorus, other? If you were to write a song, what would you like to write about?

Post-Performance Activities

- In Will’s song “Just Imagine,” or in the French version “Imagine,” he talks about imagining what you might become when you grow up. What would you like to become when you’re older? What is it about this profession that is interesting and enjoyable to you? What steps would you have to take to achieve this goal? What skills would you need?
- Write your own simple song. Will is a songwriter – he writes about all kinds of topics. Choose a topic that interests you. Choose a simple song whose melody you know well (i.e. “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star”). Think of words related to your topic and look for rhymes. Identify the rhyming scheme of the original song. Re-write the song to fit your topic making sure to preserve the rhyming scheme using words related to your topic.
- Will Stroet offers a study guide, lyric sheets, colouring sheets and other ideas on his Resources page, www.willmusic.ca/resources/

Post-Performance Discussion Questions

- If you played in a band, what instrument would you like to play? Why? What would you name your band?
- During the show, Will talks about the connection between learning music and learning languages, how they both require you to develop your ear, and how rhythm and rhyme are an important part of both. Can you think of any other life skills that can benefit from learning music or playing in a band?

WONDER

LEARN