

## Around the World With Boris

### About the performer

Boris Sichon is a multi-instrumentalist with an MA from the St. Petersburg Academy of Music. He has played and performed with the Leningrad Symphony Orchestra, the Jewish Chamber Musical Theatre in Moscow, the Russian National Folklore Band and France's Footsbarn Company. He has performed in 40 countries on five continents, and has presented his school show more than 500 times to students in Israel, France, Germany, Canada and the US.



### About the Performance

Boris takes students on a musical journey to different cultures and countries. Students learn about, and listen to, approximately 25 instruments from Boris' unique collection of over 200 ethnic musical instruments, including the Russian bagpipe, Eastern European flutes, the Middle East dumbek, the Australian didgeridoo, the Indian tabla, the Turkish Gong, Irish Bones and the Russian Xylophone. He invites students to improvise with him on stage. "All musical instruments from around the world speak the same language, but sometimes they have a different accent."

## Instruments

Here are some of the instruments that will be featured in Around the world with Boris. Boris has been collecting instruments for three decades and now has over 200 instruments from dozens of countries from every continent.



**Suling Flute- Indonesia** This bamboo flute is used to play long bending notes and drawn out melodic contours. Some musicians 'circular' breathing technique that maintains uninterrupted music by breathing in and out at the same time.



**Bodhran- Ireland** The bodhran (pronounced "bow-rawn") arrived in Ireland between one and two thousand years ago. The word means "deaf" or "haunting".

## Activity Suggestions

#1-

Traditional musical instruments are often made from materials found close at hand. See if the students can make the connection between what the instruments are made of and what sorts of materials would be readily available in that particular country. (Examples: goatskin used for a drum head; horns made from sheep horns; flutes made of bamboo). What kind of musical instruments can the students make with materials found in the classroom?

#2-

Have the students sit in a circle with a rhythm pattern in mind. One by one, each student will perform their rhythm (ex. First student claps, second snaps, third whistles, etc.). Try getting the students to do their rhythms all at the same time. After, discuss with the students any difficulties they experienced while performing their rhythms at the same time. (ex: Was it hard to stick to your own rhythm? Did you notice a constant beat amidst all the rhythms?)







