



1102 North 3rd Street
Suite C
Abilene, TX 79601
(325) 677-6710
www.abilenephilharmonic.org

August 13, 2018

Dear Music Teacher,

This coming October, your 3rd through 5th-grade students will have a chance to experience ***Music Tells Stories!*** the newest program in our Discover Music Education Concert Series. ***Music Tells Stories!*** will demonstrate the parallels between literature and music, covering how music presents characters, action, setting, mood, and form without the use of words. It will be another exciting program, and we want to make sure your students benefit.

The Discover Music Education Program is an integral part of the Abilene Philharmonic's mission. For many of these school children, it is their only opportunity to experience a live symphonic orchestra. Before school begins, the curriculum and additional resources on the website are presented to local teachers in a workshop. The workshop explains how to use the lessons to give students a vivid, hands-on experience of the music that will be most effective in ensuring the lessons stick. Teachers offered input and constructive criticism and also shared stories about how the program changes their students' lives. Afterward we send out reservations to non-AISD teachers like this one, so that they can request to be part of the program as well. Teachers then use the curriculum in the classroom from the beginning of the school term. In spite of the cacophony of a bus ride and walking in long lines to their seats, journalist Janet Van Vleet has noted the "absolute silence" that came over the sea of children – around 1,700 for each of four concerts - as the concert began. When they sang along with the Star-Spangled Banner to start the program, it was a "goose-bump raising moment." Discover Music helps lay a foundation for a lifetime of learning about and enjoying music. It also boosts music education in the schools when students are at an age when they will soon choose whether to join band or orchestra, and which instrument they will play. A letter from a student to the orchestra said "I loved the Philharmonic but I did have a favorite. The Timpani was my favorite. I wish I could go back next year! But I'm going to middle School. :(But at least I get to Chose What I want to Play and If I'm reilly good I might get to be on that stage!" We're very proud to be able to present your children with an introduction to the fascinating world of orchestral music.

Maestro David Itkin has selected the music for this year's program. We are also pleased to announce that Abilene music educator Teresa Graham has prepared the Teacher's Guide for use with your students. Teresa teaches at Taylor Elementary and has over 20 years of teaching experience. Teresa brings a great amount of enthusiasm to her work and can't wait to share it with you! The Teacher's Guide includes proper concert etiquette, an introduction to the instrument families, composer biographies, and music terminology, all consistent with the TEKS for Fine Arts. The guide will be sent to you as soon as we receive your reservation.

You can also visit our website, <http://www.abilenephilharmonic.org/teacher-resources/> for additional resources in the classroom.

This year's concerts are October 25 and 26, from 9:45am-10:30am and from 10:45am-11:30am. Feel free to contact me via email or telephone so I can confirm your plans to attend and schedule your classes for one of the performances. Once again, we ask that each non-AISD school district make your payment of \$50-per-student by check payable to the Abilene Philharmonic Association.

We are looking forward to your participation. Please call with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kelley Bliznak
Education Concert Chairperson
Abilene Philharmonic Guild
kbliznak@netscape.net