



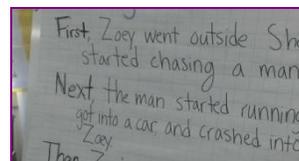
Hazmat Modine returns to the Musical Introduction Series!



Livestreams continue to provide international access to MIS concerts.



Premieres abound! New York City and World premieres for Unit 3.



Classroom lessons transform students into musical poets and authors.

92Y

MUSICAL
INTRODUCTION
SERIES

The Storytelling Extravaganza Continues!

With Hazmat Modine, *Mona Lisa*, and *The Kitchen Review*



Monsieur Pot, Mademoiselle Moulinette, Madame Lid, and Dish Towel dance a tango through an imaginary French kitchen in *La Revue de Cuisine*.
Photo credit: Yelena Yeva Photography

Hazmat Modine Rocks the Hall Despite Blizzard

While January's blizzard *did* force us to postpone two of Hazmat Modine's concerts, all of the students in the Musical Introduction Series eventually had the chance to see this energetic, groovy band led by virtuoso harmonica player Wade Schuman take the stage at 92nd Street Y. Through



blues-inspired songs and expressive instrumental solos, students explored how music can tell stories and convey emotion. As they listened and moved to musicians taking solos in songs like *Two Forty Seven* and *Mockingbird*, students identified the musical ways that instruments can make bluesy sounds such as crying, sighing, whining, and groaning. They delved into these tunes even further by identifying the character, setting, and bluesy story elements, in order to reinforce work they are doing with their classroom teachers in English Language Arts. The students capped off the unit by writing blues poems in the style of the musical stories told by Hazmat Modine, and performing them for their classmates. We were thrilled to have Wade Schuman and his talented group of musicians here for their second appearance on the Musical Introduction Series, this time helping students in 145 classrooms across the city gain a greater understanding of the ways music can tell a variety of stories.

What Teachers Are Saying About Hazmat Modine:

“The most enjoyable [activity] was the creation of blues lyrics. The children were engaged and anxious to perform [their] pieces. Using the music provided on the CD, everyone was given the opportunity to ‘Sing the blues.’”

“[My students] learned how to use lyrics and music to channel emotion.”

In response to what was most valuable about this unit:
“Learning how to sit through a concert, learning what it means to listen and describe what you hear.”



Students were very excited to see Hazmat Modine!
Photo credit: Natalie Pilla

Viewers Across The Globe Tuning In To MIS Concert Livestreams

This past December, as part of #GivingTuesday, the Center for Educational Outreach presented a free livestream of the first MIS concert of the year, and received over 400 views throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Due to the vast viewership of this event, we have been livestreaming the remaining MIS concerts this year, and look forward to continuing to do so in the future.

On January 26, people tuned in to watch Hazmat Modine from more than 50 different locations across the globe, with especially high concentration in Germany, where the band frequently tours. On March 30, our presentation of *Who Stole the Mona Lisa?* and *La Revue de Cuisine* garnered 235 views from people watching in over half of the 50 states and 28 countries, from Brazil to Russia, Iraq, Malaysia, and Nigeria. It is an incredible opportunity and honor for us to have the ability to share our world music concert series directly with people in the countries whose music our students are studying.



An exclusive backstage peek at Hazmat Modine.
Photo credit: Naomi Dubin

Visit 92yOnDemand.org to watch!



True Crime: Students Investigate *Who Stole the Mona Lisa?*

Throughout February and March, students in the Musical Introduction Series explored music, dance, and film via two stories set in Paris, France. The first of these, Micah Chamber-Goldberg's animated film *Who Stole the Mona Lisa?*, was created to tell a story based on the events in the theft of the most famous painting in the world from the Louvre in 1911. The real inspiration for this movie, though, was Alexandre Moutouzkine's piano transcription of *The Firebird Suite* by Igor Stravinsky, which served as the musical framework for the story portrayed on screen. 92Y's screening of the movie in Kaufmann Concert Hall, accompanied by Mr. Moutouzkine's superlative performance on piano was a New York première and had students glued to their seats.



Alexandre Moutouzkine
Yelena Yeva Photography

In the classroom, students transformed into *les inspecteurs* (take note for the activity in the purple box to the left!) and worked in "Detective's Notebooks" in their individual music journals to review the story elements, disguised as the facts and evidence of the crime. They investigated still frames from the movie, and listened to musical excerpts as they outlined the "first," "next," "then," and "last" of the story to form their own conclusions about who stole the Mona Lisa: artist Pablo Picasso, or a mysterious figure with fiery red hair? Watch the film OnDemand to find out for yourself!

Do you know these French words and phrases that students learned before the concert?

Bonjour!

S'il vous plait

L'inspecteur

Le musée

Je t'aime

Le danseur

Bon Apétit

Le voleur



The Kitchen Like You've Never Seen It Before

For the second half of the concert featuring stories set in France, dancing kitchen utensils graced the concert hall stage in a performance unlike any other ever presented in the Musical Introduction Series. Bohuslav Martinů's jazz ballet, *La Revue de Cuisine* (The Kitchen Review), features Monsieur Pot and Madame Lid, the Mademoiselle Moulinette who tries to come between them, Dish Towel always stirring up trouble, and Officer Broom just trying to restore order in an increasingly chaotic kitchen. Five dancers, six musicians, one actor, and one narrator came together to bring this story to life for the first time since

the work's composition in 1927. While an abridged suite of the music has been a charming addition to concert programs for many years, the full performance of all 10 movements with complete choreography that was presented to our young audience was a world première. We were honored to work with some of New York's most talented musicians and dancers, as well as choreographer Christopher Caines, who also lent his dramatic faculties to the role of narrator.

Students were not only enchanted by the creative costumes, dramatic pantomime, and athletic dancing, but were intimately familiar with several musical themes which they listened to and choreographed themselves in class. Teaching artists guided them through focused listening, helping them draw out the emotional and dramatic content of Martinů's score. Children also experienced first-hand how inanimate objects can take on personalities, feelings, and movements as they experimented with object puppets and role play.

Following the concert, teaching artists returned to the classrooms to reflect on the film and ballet with their classes. Students wrote original stories in the music journals by listening to four excerpts from the *Firebird Suite*, and deciding on action that matched the music – perhaps a chase scene through an enchanted forest during the brassy, hastening *Danse Infernal*, or the discovery of a serene, golden temple in the middle of the desert during the tranquil *Berceuse*. Stravinsky's music inspired great joy and creativity in the students as they wrote and illustrated their stories, and contributed to their overall understanding of and appreciation for classical music.



Photo credit: Yelena Yeva Photography



Au Revoir!

Up Next....Kotchegna Dance Company!

Join us on May 12, 13, and 14 for the final concerts of the 2014-15 school year – Vado Diomande and the Kotchegna Dance Company, who perform traditional stories and dances from the Ivory Coast. Email NDubin@92y.org for tickets or more information.