



CLIBURN IN THE CLASSROOM

LAUGH OUT LOUD!

Finding the funny in whimsical songs

CLASS ACTIVITY: Funniest Instruments

Grade Level(s): 2-4

Subject Areas: Music, Language Arts

OBJECTIVE

This lesson reinforces instrument families and music history by determining the world's funniest instruments, both past and present.

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Students will need a school-issued Chromebook or iPad with a word processor, internet access, and headphones.

MUSIC TO EXPLORE

HIRSCH	Concerto Gross: A Concerto for Three Kazoos
PUCCINI	O Mio Babbino Caro (version for saw by Katharina Micada)
DEBUSSY	Claire de Lune (version for theremin)
GABRIELI	Beata es virgo (version for cornett and sackbut)
GOSLIN	Slide Whistle Solo

ACTIVITY

1. Write a list of instruments to be researched on the whiteboard. Suggestions above include the kazoo, saw, theremin, sackbut, and slide whistle, but feel free to include additional options. Then allow students time to listen to these instruments, either independently or as a class.
2. Take a vote to see which instruments the students found most hilarious. Divide them into research teams according to their preference (one group of students per instrument) and have them research their selections and create a report on their findings. Information should include instrument family, technique required to play it, movies or recordings where the instrument has been featured, etc.

BONUS

Allow students to print pictures of the instruments and create a class bulletin board. Find ways to incorporate some of them into your next school concert!