

# Mr. Ho's Orchestrotica

## Outreach Programs

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## Crash and Boom: The Science of Sound (45 min.)

### AUDIENCE

- Grades K-2

### OBJECTIVE

Through the performance of short excerpts of music, instrument demonstrations, and participatory body percussion, Mr. Ho and his assistant(s) from the **Orchestrotica** will present a basic workshop expanding the knowledge of science in music using instrument demonstrations and interactive participation from students.

### ACTIVITIES

- Expand knowledge on the basic science of sound through demonstrations of percussion and other instruments
- Observe how a drum and the human eardrum are similar
- Recognize pitch differences (frequency), timbre changes (sound quality), and loudness (volume/amplitude), and timbre/emotion (angry, happy, sad, sharp, gentle) while listening to music.
- Identify instruments by sound: the students will face away from the teacher while the teacher plays a short excerpt of sounds. Students will be asked to identify which instrument made the sound and learn to associate the timbre of the sound with the instrument.
- Call and response exercise: using clapping and vocal percussion sounds, students will repeat the teacher's patterns back and learn to focus on hearing the variations in the sounds made by Mr. Ho (speed, pitch, volume, rhythmic pattern etc).



# Crash and Boom: The Science of Sound (45 min.)

## AUDIENCE

- Grades 3-6

## OBJECTIVE

Through the performance of short excerpts of music, instrument demonstrations, and participatory body percussion, Mr. Ho and his assistant(s) from the **Orchestrotica** will present a basic workshop on the science of music using instrument demonstrations and interactive participation from students. Students will identify and create sounds during the workshop and take part in a basic ensemble using body percussion. Working together, the students will learn how their individual music parts make up a greater collective sound.

## ACTIVITIES

- Expand knowledge of basic science of sound through demonstrations of percussion and other instruments
- Observe how a drum and the human eardrum are similar
- Recognize pitch differences (frequency), timbre changes (sound quality), and loudness (volume/amplitude), and timbre/emotion (angry, happy, sad, sharp, gentle) while listening to music.
- Identify instruments by sound: the students will face away from the teacher while the teacher plays a short excerpt of sounds. Students will be asked to identify which instrument made the sound and learn to associate the timbre of the sound with the instrument.
- Call and response exercise: using clapping and vocal percussion sounds, students will repeat the teacher's patterns back and learn to focus on sound playback (the most common form of musical instruction is repetition and rote teaching).
- Ensemble: The students will be grouped and assigned different rhythmic parts of the cha-cha-cha rhythm from Cuban music. Each group will learn an individual part. These groups will then play their parts together with the other groups to form an ensemble. Along with the students, **Orchestrotica** musicians will perform excerpts from Esquivel's arrangement of "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," a cha-cha-cha song that uses vocal percussion.



# Partner-Play Workshops for Music Departments (90 min.)

## AUDIENCE

- Junior high (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) band departments
- High school band departments

## OBJECTIVE

Give students the opportunity to sit side-by-side with professional musicians of the same instrument. The **Orchestrotica** is comprised of professional instrumental musicians and teachers who specialize in a variety of genres of music. Credentials include members of the Boston Modern Orchestra Project, and faculty from Berklee College of Music.

**Orchestrotica** musicians will participate in student rehearsals, offer technical and musical guidance, provide master-class style sectionals, and augment the classroom teacher's instruction with their specialized training in specific instruments and genres. Section leaders from the **Orchestrotica** will be selected to work with the students on sound production, technique, ensemble, and musicianship.

## FORMAT

The smallest workshop will include the **Orchestrotica** rhythm section and one or two lead soloists who come and work with the school's small combos (e.g. jazz or rock bands). A mid-sized workshop will include lead trumpet, lead low-brass, lead woodwind, 1 vocalist, and the rhythm section. These musicians will work with the teacher and their ensemble directly on their current musical repertoire. A larger program includes **Orchestrotica** musicians rehearsing side by side with the student ensemble as a whole in addition to giving master classes on a per-instrument basis. Additionally, special percussion workshops can be presented. **Mr. Ho** is a versatile percussionist with experience in wind ensemble, big band, marching, orchestral, and world percussion across a variety of instruments. Master classes addressing technique, sound generation, and ensemble skills for a variety of instruments can be presented to schools large enough to have dedicated percussion departments.

## ACTIVITIES

- Partner-Play: the students will be seated with the **Orchestrotica** musicians and rehearse together. The **Orchestrotica Partners** can provide real-time feedback to the students during the rehearsal.
- Provide students the opportunity to hear their school's repertoire performed by professional musicians. Listening to the end product can be a driver of success for students, especially when students have limited music-reading skills and are playing by ear.
- Mentorship and role modeling: **Orchestrotica** musicians will talk to students about the social aspects of being in professional bands and ensembles, practicing one's craft, and for seniors, what it is like majoring in music.



## Technical requirements

- Performance venue (main stage where performance takes place) must host workshops (except percussion-only workshop which can be done at a school)
- Workshops will require the same instrument layout, setup, and microphones as the performance. It is assumed all instruments and microphones will be set up and prepared.
- (2) two wearable, wireless microphone headsets will be needed for the workshops
- (1) sound person will be needed to man the sound board
- No special lighting is required.

