Jazz Out of the Box
Performing Arts: Music

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Jazz Out the Box (JOTB) is a professional trio of musicians that brings live interactive jazz performances to young children in local schools. Since 2010, the trio has provided jazz programming for over 40 CCSD elementary schools, several community centers, festivals and libraries. JOTB feels that the exposure of jazz to children everywhere is essential for its survival. With each performance, the goal is for young people to view jazz as a fun and useful form of artistic expression.

Their approach to teaching starts with a live performance. The students gain knowledge of the musicians’ instruments and of their roles in the trio. To introduce jazz to a young audience, JOTB uses familiar children's songs and audience participation along with colorful visual props. Rhythm and improvisation are key components of the jazz/musical conversion process.

In addition to using familiar songs and placards with colorful images, a variety of interactive musical activities are used to guide the young audience's imagination toward the understanding of those components. In the trio's workshops, jazz rhythm activities conducted by the trio include walking in tempo with the bass and "becoming" the drum set. Activities used for teaching improvisation include the collaborative improvisation of drawing pictures, call and response with an ever-changing saxophone theme/cue, and composing an improvised chanting song with the trio based on the word "improvisation."

School Workshops

Rhythm + Improv = Jazz: A sample one-day class session, the trio breaks jazz down into two components: rhythm and improvisation.

Let's Make Jazz: Consist of a wide selection of activities, depending on the audience, venue, and time allotted.