

Letter to Teachers:

Your NATIONAL MUSIC MUSEUM Visit

Dear Teachers:

Thank you very much for deciding to embark on an educational adventure with your students. Soon you will be visiting the National Music Museum on The University of South Dakota campus in Vermillion. Please see our website to preview some of the things you and your students will see when they visit.

John Dewey, perhaps America's greatest education philosopher, believed that education began with experience. By displaying some of the best, most creative results of human inspiration and ingenuity, the National Music Museum's musical instruments provide an experience with the "real thing." Here virtually every culture and historical time period is represented and treated with respect. Music is by and for everyone. Not only do the instruments show this, but these artifacts also illustrate the essential human need for exploring and developing ways of expressing ourselves. We truly expect our visitors to leave as better citizens and better human beings through their experiences here.

Please browse through the accompanying educational materials. You will find a pre-visit study guide as well as post-visit materials. These materials were developed with elementary ages targeted. Please feel free to adapt them as you see fit for your classes.

If you have any questions or special requests or needs, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to your visit.

Dr. Deborah Check Reeves
Curator of Education
Associate Professor of Music
National Music Museum

