

ST. PADDY'S DAY.



**ST. PADDY'S
DAY.**
with Pete Moss and
the Bog Band

Recommended for ages 5-12

Kindergarten - Grade 6

A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ST. PADDY'S DAY. It contains background, discussion questions and activities appropriate for Ages 5 to 12.

Programs Are Made Possible, In Part, By Generous Gifts From:

The Nora Roberts Foundation
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Smithsonian Associates

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About the Band

The Bog Band is a group of talented young musicians with a passion for traditional Irish music and dance. The group began some fifteen years ago at the Washington Waldorf School, where director Mitch Fanning taught violin. Most of the members are middle and high school students living in the Greater Washington D.C. area.



Fiddles remain the focus of the band, but they have also featured a variety of other traditional Irish instruments including **guitar, bouzouki, bodhran drum, flute, Uilleann pipes, tin whistle, banjo, button accordion** and **piano**. Many members have competed and placed at a variety of local and regional traditional Irish music competitions, including the "all-Ireland" *Fleadh Cheoil nahÉireann*.

The Bog Band has performed at events and festivals throughout the Baltimore/Washington area including the Embassy of Ireland, Potomac Celtic Festival, The Folklore Society of Greater Washington, The DC Mayor's Awards Gala, ShamRock Fest, Takoma Park Folk Festival, The Glen Echo Irish Festival, Kid's Euro Fest, and at NYU's Glucksman Ireland House. The Bog Band furthers its service to youth by raising tens of thousands of dollars performing for charities and public interest groups, most notably for Child Justice, a child-advocacy organization and The Father McKenna Center, a homeless shelter in DC.

The Bog Band has produced four CD'S: "Got Bog?", a studio album called "On Their Own Turf" that captures the excitement and enthusiasm these musicians bring to their performances in a live session recording, and "Our Voyage with Brendan" which is a celebration of the band's work with legendary Irish fiddler Brendan Mulvihill. The Bog Band's latest project "Bog Band, The Next Generation" was released in 2018 at their concert in Rockville with The Institute of Musical Traditions.



You can learn more by checking out their website at: www.bogband.com/



About the Show

Join Pete Moss (aka Mitch Fanning) and his troupe of talented young musicians as they pick up their fiddles and *bodhran* drums to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Spirited music, lively step dancing, and a dash of Irish musical history guarantee "a rattlin' good time!" This show is a program for Music in Our Schools Month, an initiative by the National Association for Music Education encouraging educators to utilize music and sound in their classrooms!

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Have You Seen These Instruments?



Fiddle



Guitar



Banjo



Bouzouki



Uilleann Pipes

Did you know that a **Fiddle** and a **Violin** are the same instrument? What makes this a Fiddle and not a Violin is the way the musicians hold and play it!



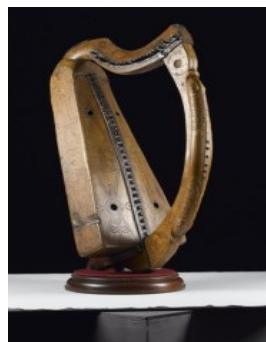
Tin Whistle



Bodhrán Drum



Piano



Gaelic Harp



Button Accordion



Flute

Look out for some of these instruments at the performance!

You may have seen a few of them before...

A Brief History of Irish Music

The origins of Irish music date back to around 500B.C. when a group of people called **the Celts** settled in the land that is now Ireland. The Celts were ruled by tribal leaders called **chieftains**, who paid **musicians** to play music for them in their courts. In this early period, most of the musicians played the **Gaelic Harp**.

In 1762, the first piece of Irish music was written down.

In the 1840s, **The Great Famine** took place in Ireland and many Irish people fled the country, bringing their musical traditions with them. By the 1920s, recordings of Irish music were being made in the United States and when people in Ireland heard them, they liked how quick the music was. Soon after, musicians in Ireland started playing faster as well!

In 1960, an Irish classical music expert named Seán Ó Riada started a music **ensemble** named Ceoltoiri Chualann that brought the Irish musical tradition to people around the world. This group created **musical arrangements** that others could learn from.



Try This at Home or in Your Classroom!

Make your own Bodhrán Drum out of a Pizza Box

Materials:

- 1 empty pizza box
- Tape
- decorations (paper, markers, stickers, etc.)
- a mallet



Directions:

1. Find an empty Pizza box. Make sure it is clean and dry.
2. Tape the box closed.
3. Decorate your Bodhrán Drum using construction paper and markers. You can use some of these traditional Irish designs or make up your own.



4. It's time to find your mallet: You can use a pencil, a wooden spoon, a stick, or really anything that makes a loud, clear sound. Try playing your drum with different objects to see which one works the best.

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Now let's learn how to play Bodhrán!

1. Hold your drum with your non-playing hand at your side like this, with part of the box tucked under your arm for support:



2. Click on this link for a video and follow along to learn how to hold your mallet or "stick," how to properly hit the drum, and some basic rhythms: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y54oacW6NQM



Click below to access a guide to bringing Irish dance into your classroom:

www.folkways.si.edu/irish-experiences-dance-singing-instrument-playing/jigs-polka/music/tools-for-teaching/smithsonian



Gaelic is a Celtic language that has been spoken in Ireland for centuries.

Try out these Gaelic phrases:

Hello- *Dia duit (Dee-ah gwit)*

Goodbye- *Slán leat (Slawn-lat)*

How are you? - *Conas atá tú? (Kun-as a-taw to?)*

I am well- *Tá me go maith (Taw may guh maw)*

What is your name? - *Cad is ainm duit? (Cod iss a-nim gwit?)*

My name is Henry- *Henry is ainm dom (Hen-ree iss a-nim dum)*

Watch this video to hear some of these phrases: www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=54&v=7o8JYiYWKal

Vocabulary

Musician	A musician is a person who plays an instrument. Some people play instruments for fun and some people do it as their job!
The Celts	The Celts were a group of people who lived a long time ago. They moved around a lot before they came to Ireland. The Celts were split up into smaller groups called clans.
Chieftain	Chieftains were the leaders of Irish tribes from a long time ago. They made the decisions for the people in their tribe.
The Great Famine	In the 1840s, Ireland experienced a famine called "The Great Famine" or "The Potato Famine." A famine is when there is not enough food in a place because the plants that the farmers grew died.
Ensemble	An ensemble is a group that works together, like a team.
Musical Arrangement	A musical arrangement is a map of all the notes that each instrument in a group plays and when to play them. The map makes sure all the sounds each person makes work together to create a song.

Check out the Smithsonian Learning Lab for *St. Paddy's Day* here:
learninglab.si.edu/collections/st-paddys-day-w-pete-moss-the-bog-band/

Smithsonian Connections

To hear more traditional Irish music, visit **Smithsonian Folkways'** Website where you can find recordings of music from around the world!

Smithsonian Folkways Recordings is the nonprofit record label of the **Smithsonian Institution**. They are dedicated to supporting cultural diversity and increased understanding among peoples through the documentation, preservation, and dissemination of sound.

You can visit their website using the link below:

www.folkways.si.edu



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Smithsonian Institution

OUR MISSION: "THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE"

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution's mission through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian's research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for almost 40 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. There's so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!



Our Location

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