teacher resource guide schooltime performance series

etienne charles & creole soul
about the performance

Caribbean and New Orleans rhythms are brought to life by the brilliant trumpet player, composer, and bandleader Etienne Charles and his band, Creole Soul. In this compelling concert experience, you’ll groove to jazz, calypso, reggae and soul music.

Etienne Charles is a Trinidadian native who has made a name for himself as a virtuoso on the trumpet. His artistic projects often dive into Afro-diasporic cultures, folklore and histories. Etienne advocates for access to the arts and believes live music uplifts people of all backgrounds. Putting his philosophy into practice, Etienne brings his music to schoolchildren and other groups who are unable to attend his performances in his homeland of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Jazz Times described Etienne Charles as “a daring improviser who delivers with heart-wrenching lyricism.” He has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship. A graduate of the Juilliard School master program, Etienne is currently a professor of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University.

Etienne Charles at Riddim Brass and Mas. Photo credit: etiennecharles.com

njpac on the mic

with Etienne Charles

How to listen to this episode of NJPAC On the Mic
Scan the QR code or visit: njpac.org/arts-education/teacher-resources to access the podcast and the following show notes:

Part 1: About | Pre-show audio, 6 minutes
Includes: An introduction to the performance, artists & venue, welcome message
Sound editing, sound design, and voiceover by Michael Aquino
Welcome message voiced by Etienne Charles

Part 2: Connect | Post-show audio, 10 minutes
Includes: Reflection questions, a look at Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago
Sound editing and sound design by Michael Aquino
Opening question voiced by Etienne Charles

Part 3: Spotlight | Post-show audio, 16 minutes
Includes: An interview with Etienne Charles, discussion starters
Sound editing and sound design by Michael Aquino
Interview guest: Etienne Charles

Additional Episode Credits
Series producers: Michael Aquino and Dania Ramos
Written and hosted by Dania Ramos
Additional writing by the team behind Etienne Charles and Creole Soul
Theme and outro music: NJPAC TD Jazz for Teens program
Additional music: Epidemic Sound

About NJPAC On the Mic
NJPAC On the Mic allows students to engage their listening skills and deepen their understanding of creative content. This installment features three exclusive, curriculum standard-aligned episodes that supplement Etienne Charles and Creole Soul, presented as part of NJPAC’s 2023-2024 SchoolTime Performances series.
### Inspired Ideas in the Classroom

**Teacher Focus**

- Listen to part one of the NJPAC On the Mic Podcast: *About Etienne Charles & the video Carnival: The Sound of a People.* Before viewing, share and discuss different ideas with your students. Create a mnemonic device to remember the elements of Carnival, as stated by Etienne in the video clip.
- Listen to the video clip *Carnival: The Sound of a People,* featuring composer and trumpeter Etienne Charles. Participate in a class discussion using the following questions:
  1. What sounds inspired Etienne’s work for *Carnival: The Sound of a People*?
  2. What elements of Carnival did you notice when watching the video? What words would you use to describe the images?
  3. At the end of the video, Etienne states, “This is as one people. This is our way of ______ freedom, ____ our culture ______ our food, ______ our music is all in one word, and that's Carnival.” What word fills all of the blank spaces? Can you think of a clever way to remember all of these elements?
- Consider the following while watching the performance:
  - What elements of Carnival depicted in the video appear on stage?
  - How does Etienne Charles exemplify the spirit of celebration?
  - How are aspects of different cultures fused with music?

**Student Activity**

- **Prepare for the Performance**
  - **Listen to the podcast** and read about the origins and purpose of Carnival. While Etienne’s album *Carnival: The Sound of a People* focuses on the Carnival celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago, it is important to recognize that Carnival takes place in other parts of the world as well. The links below will introduce the celebrations in Brazil (Carnival) and New Orleans (Mardi Gras). Provide students time to research the cultures of both celebrations.
  - **Brazil (Carnival):** Brazil is famous for its Carnival, which is a large festival held in the weeks before Ash Wednesday. The Carnival is a celebration of the city’s history and cultural diversity. In the video, Etienne Charles talks about his experiences performing at the Carnival in Brazil. Provide students with the information below and ask them to research the Carnivals in Brazil and New Orleans. Encourage students to share their findings with the class.
  - **New Orleans (Mardi Gras):** Mardi Gras is a Carnival celebration that takes place in New Orleans, Louisiana. It is a time of festivities, parades, and music. The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced back to medieval Europe, where it was a way to let loose before the start of the Lenten season. Provide students with information about Mardi Gras and ask them to research the Carnivals in Brazil and New Orleans. Encourage students to share their findings with the class.

- **Experience the Performance**
  - **Listen to the podcast** and read about the origins and purpose of Carnival. While Etienne’s album *Carnival: The Sound of a People* focuses on the Carnival celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago, it is important to recognize that Carnival takes place in other parts of the world as well. The links below will introduce the celebrations in Brazil (Carnival) and New Orleans (Mardi Gras). Provide students time to research the cultures of both celebrations.

- **Reflect, respond and read**
  - **Listen to the podcast** and read about the origins and purpose of Carnival. While Etienne’s album *Carnival: The Sound of a People* focuses on the Carnival celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago, it is important to recognize that Carnival takes place in other parts of the world as well. The links below will introduce the celebrations in Brazil (Carnival) and New Orleans (Mardi Gras). Provide students time to research the cultures of both celebrations.

- **Focus**
  - **Listen to the podcast** and read about the origins and purpose of Carnival. While Etienne’s album *Carnival: The Sound of a People* focuses on the Carnival celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago, it is important to recognize that Carnival takes place in other parts of the world as well. The links below will introduce the celebrations in Brazil (Carnival) and New Orleans (Mardi Gras). Provide students time to research the cultures of both celebrations.

- **Origin**
  - **Listen to the podcast** and read about the origins and purpose of Carnival. While Etienne’s album *Carnival: The Sound of a People* focuses on the Carnival celebrations in Trinidad and Tobago, it is important to recognize that Carnival takes place in other parts of the world as well. The links below will introduce the celebrations in Brazil (Carnival) and New Orleans (Mardi Gras). Provide students time to research the cultures of both celebrations.

- **Rehearse**
  - **Pair students up and ask students to designate who will ask the interview questions and who will provide the answers. Have students write a script for their episode and conduct a practice interview. When students feel confident, they should record using a free digital recording tool like BandLab. Soundcheck or another resource. Have them listen back to the recording, make initial changes to the script, and re-record until they are satisfied.**

- **Make magic**
  - **Share the podcast interviews with the class. This can be done by compiling a tool such as SoundCloud or Google Drive folder into a shared Google Drive folder or a gallery walk with QR codes linked to each podcast episode. Because these are digital products, they can be easily shared with the school community, administrators, and/or parents. Remind students they have created a product that merges culture and music just as Etienne Charles does! At the end of the video, Etienne states, “This is as one people. This is our way of ______ freedom, ____ our culture ______ our food, ______ our music is all in one word, and that's Carnival.” What word fills all of the blank spaces? Can you think of a clever way to remember all of these elements?**

**NJ Student Learning Standards**

- **English Language Arts**
  - 9.NJSLA.SL1.5
  - Visual and Performing Arts
  - Anchor Standard 9.11
  - Visual Literacy
  - Beardsley
  - Visual and Performing Arts
  - Anchor Standard 7.9
  - Career Readiness
  - Life Literacies, and Key Skills
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.4
  - SEL: Social Awareness
  - Sub-competency 9

- **Social Studies**
  - 6.3.12.HistoryCC.1-G
  - 6.3.12.HistoryOP.1.6
  - Visual and Performing Arts
  - Anchor Standard 7.9
  - Career Readiness
  - Life Literacies, and Key Skills
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.4
  - SEL: Self-Awareness
  - Sub-competency 3

- **Visual and Performing Arts**
  - Anchor Standard 1.1, 1.11
  - Career Readiness
  - Life Literacies, and Key Skills
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.4
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.7
  - SEL: Social Awareness
  - Sub-competency 9

- **English Language Arts**
  - 9.NJSLA.SL1.5
  - Visual and Performing Arts
  - Anchor Standard 9.11
  - Career Readiness
  - Life Literacies, and Key Skills
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.4
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.7
  - SEL: Relationship Skills
  - Sub-competency 16

- **English Language Arts**
  - 9.NJSLA.SL1.5
  - Visual and Performing Arts
  - Anchor Standard 9.11
  - Career Readiness
  - Life Literacies, and Key Skills
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.4
  - 9.A.B.OCA1.7
  - SEL: Relationship Skills
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  - SEL: Self-Awareness
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FIND THE STANDARDS
For more detailed information on the standards, visit these websites:
NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS
corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy
NATIONAL SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS
socialstudies.org/standards
NATIONAL CORE ARTS ANCHOR STANDARDS
nationalartsstandards.org

NJ Visual & Performing Arts Standards
1: Generating and conceptualizing ideas.
2: Organizing and developing ideas.
3: Refining and completing work.
4: Conveying meaning through art.
5: Perceiving and analyzing products.
6: Interpreting intent and meaning.
7: Applying criteria to evaluate products.
8: Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
9: Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural, and historical contexts to deepen understanding.

NJ Visual & Performing Arts Standards
10: Synthesizing and relating knowledge and personal experiences to create products.
11: Relating artistic ideas and works within societal, cultural, and historical contexts to deepen understanding.

Career Readiness, Life Literacies, and Key Skills
9.4.8.OCA.1
Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect.
9.4.8.IML.7
Use information from a variety of sources, contexts, disciplines, and cultures for a specific purpose.
9.4.8.IML.12
Use relevant tools to produce, publish, and deliver information supported with evidence for an authentic audience.

Common Core State Standards

SEL: Self-Awareness
Sub-competency 3
Recognize one’s personal traits, strengths, and limitations.

SEL: Social Awareness
Sub-competency 9
Demonstrate an awareness of the differences among individuals, groups, and others’ cultural backgrounds.

Social Studies
6.2.12.HistoryCC.5.d
Relate the lingering effects of colonialism to the efforts of Latin American, African, and Asian nations to build stable economies and national identities.
6.2.12.HistoryUP.2.a
Analyze the impact of new intellectual, philosophical, and scientific ideas on how humans viewed themselves and how they viewed their physical and spiritual worlds.
vocabulary

Ash Wednesday
The first day of Lent in the Western Christian Church, marked by services of repentance.

Calinda
The national martial art of Trinidad and Tobago that is commonly performed during Carnival.

Calypso
A kind of West Indian (originally Trinidadian) music in syncopated West African rhythm, typically with words improvised on a topical theme.

Canboulay
A festival that preceded Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago and gave birth to calypso music.

Creole
A person of mixed European and Black descent, especially in the Caribbean.

Culture
The customs, arts, social institutions and achievements of a particular nation, people or other social group.

Improvisation
A performance, especially a piece of music, drama, etc., created without preparation.

Lent
The period preceding Easter in the Christian Church that is devoted to fasting, abstinence and penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. In the Western Church, it runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday and includes 40 weekdays.

Mas
Short for masquerade, a big parade that occurs as part of Carnival where the participants dress up in costumes, masks and other disguises, and dance or perform in the parade.

Soca
Calypso music with elements of soul, originally from Trinidad.

Websites
NJPAC’s Arts Education programs
njpac.org/arts-education

About NJPAC
njpac.org/about

NJPAC | Arts Education resources
njpac.org/arts-education/teacher-resources

NJPAC resources | Etienne Charles & Creole Soul
njpac.org/education-program/etienne-charles-creole-soul-resources/

Etienne Charles: Official Site
etiennecharles.com

Kennedy Center | Etienne Charles
kennedy-center.org/articles/2023-02-10-etienne-charles

NPR | Etienne Charles
npr.org/artists/4437856/tahiti-etienne-charles

Vimeo | Etienne Charles
vimeo.com/etiennecharles

YouTube | Etienne Charles
youtube.com/@etchala

Retrospect Journal | The Origins and Evolution of Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago

Riocarnaval.org | What Is Carnival Without You?
riocarnaval.org/rio-carnival/what-is

PBS NewsHour | Brazil's Carnival is back in full form after pandemic
pbs.org/newshour/world/brasil-carnival-is-back-in-full-form-after-pandemic

Authentic Mardi Gras Experience
neworleans.com/evenings/holiday-season/mardi-gras

Podchaser | Afropop Worldwide - Etienne Charles: The Freedom of Carnival

Cult of Pedagogy | Why You Should Bring Podcasts Into Your Classroom
cultofpedagogy.com/podcasts-in-the-classroom

Edutopia | How to Promote Student Voice With Podcasting
edutopia.org/article/way-promote-student-voice-literally

The Edge Magazine | Trinidad Carnival: Kambule
the-edge-mag.com/2023/04/05/trinidad-carnival-kambule

Smithsonian Magazine | Trinidad and Tobago - Music and Performing Arts
smithsonianmag.com/travel/trinidad-and-tobago-music-and-performing-arts/20352337

NPR Music | Soca: The Music of Trinidad’s Carnival
npr.org/entertainment/323533/4/1345/4378/20352337

Traditional Mas Archive
traditionalmas.com | traditionalmas.com/#carnival-characters

Videos
Etienne Charles: Creole Soul - Library of Congress concert
youniverse.com/2023/02/10-etienne-charles-creole-soul

Etienne Charles - Carnival: the Sound of a People (Research)
youtube.com/37686675

10 Fascinating Facts about Brazilian Carnival
youtubers.com/254065228

What is carnival: origins of the world’s biggest party
youtubers.com/254065228

The Story of Mardi Gras in New Orleans?
youtubers.com/254065228

Celebrating Mardi Gras in New Orleans
youtubers.com/254065228

Etienne Charles - The Making of Creole Soul
youtubers.com/254065228
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Generous support provided, in part, by


+ deceased


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The arts in your school

In-School Residencies: NJPAC teaching artists come right to your school to teach the performing arts to your students. Our super-flexible in-person residencies are designed to meet your needs and you’ll have a dedicated program manager to help you every step of the way. It’s the perfect program to keep your students creating, connecting and expressing themselves through the magic of the arts.

Professional Development: Calling all educators! Expand your teaching skills, deepen your curriculum and give yourself a creative boost in NJPAC’s forward-thinking professional development workshops. Our virtual PD programs are for teachers all the way from pre-K to high school and include hip hop, dance, storytelling, theater, music and more. Not only will you learn something... you’ll also have fun and be inspired.

study the arts at njpac

Saturday Programs: NJPAC’s Saturday programs are geared towards students at every level — from those who dream of starring on Broadway to those who are still learning their scales. Students work with professional artists to build technique and develop their own creative style in hip hop, jazz, theater, musical theater and symphonic band.

Summer Programs: Want to begin to explore the arts? Or immerse yourself in the study of one genre? Then join us at NJPAC next summer in one of seven programs that spark the creativity in every child through the study of music, dance and theater.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please email our education sales team at artseducation@njpac.org. Or visit njpac.org/education