

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ'S Arts Express Program Presents:

We Be Jammin'!

Performed by Maiko, Women's Drum and Poetry Ensemble

Organization Contact: Adaku Davis, Artistic Director
Phone: 408.272.9924
E-mail: adaku_davis@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.sjmag.org>

About MAIKO, Women's Drum & Poetry Ensemble

Maiko is a San Jose based multicultural women's drum and poetry ensemble, which was founded in 1983 and was incorporated under the umbrella of the San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild (SJMAG) in 1987. Maiko's powerful performances uniquely blend African, Latin and Brazilian drums, percussion instruments with dramatic poetry presentation, while promoting cultural expression through performance. During the past few years Maiko has performed for many organizations such as the National Organization for Women, Hispanic Women's Organization, Third World Counselors Conference, Female Gang Intervention Unit, YMCA, Take Your Daughter To Work, many schools and colleges, and especially Women's Month Performances.

Suggested activities to prepare students for the performance

- Have children learn a few short poems, in three or four small groups. The poems of Shel Silverstein are a good place to begin.
- If possible, have the children make a shekere. A shekere is a hollow, dry gourd covered with strings of glass, clay plastic or shell beads. The musician shakes it to create rhythmic patterns of sound. Each shekere makes a unique sound and when a number of musicians play together they create a lovely diversity of sounds and rhythms.
- A shekere can simply be made by filling empty cans with removable lids (such as Pringles or Baking Powder cans) with rice, beans popcorn, tiny gravel or birdseed. The different cans and different fillings, when shaken will create percussive sounds to go with the children's poetry. The cans can be decorated with border designs and simple patterns.

Possible discussion questions or writing topics for use back in the classroom

- What did you see in each part of the performance?
- What did you hear?
- Which of the instruments do you think you would like to learn?
- How did the performance make you feel?
- Have you heard or seen any music and poetry performed like this before? If so, what instruments did those performers use?
- What were their poems about?
- What different cultures were used in their performance?

- If all of us were part of their group, what music culture could we bring to the performance?
- Do you have to belong to a specific cultural group to be able to enjoy or play their music?
- Did the drummers express feelings differently than the person reciting the poetry?
- Before seeing Maiko, would you have thought poetry could be so exciting, so expressive?
- Do you think they have to practice a lot or a little?
- What is the value of combining music and poetry?
- How does each art form help the other?
- In what other ways do we combine the arts?
- Do you like poetry better when it has music with it?

Other opportunities to engage with Maiko

Maiko delivers powerful messages that educate, enlighten, encourage and empower their audiences through entertainment and creativity. Maiko presents annual public performances at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San Jose. Information about upcoming performances can be found at the website of their parent organization, the San Jose Multicultural Artists Guild. See website at the top of the first page.

Maiko is also available for school performances and also for Drumming & Percussion Workshops, Poetry workshops and Residency Programs for young children, teens and adults. For bookings and more information, contact Adaku Davis at 408.272.9924