

Gord's Guitars!

KNOW

About the Artist



ABOUT GORD: Juno award winner Gordon Grdina has lead many bands and toured throughout the world most notably in the Dan Mangan band, Haram, and the Gordon Grdina Trio. He is an Oud/Guitarist whose sound is a combination of his interests in rock, mainstream jazz, free-form improvisation and Arabic classical music. He has been performing in schools for over 15 years as a member of the Blues Berries and performed over 1,000 school concerts in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario. His educational performances have introduced hundreds of thousands of students to established genres of popular music through carefully designed programs including *The History of the Blues*, *Jazz in the Gym*, *A History of Rock and Roll*, *Jazz, Jive, and Wail*, and *Blues Rocks!*

About the Performance

One person, seven guitars and an oud. Guitar virtuoso Gord Grdina takes students on an exciting musical, social and geographic journey through the history of guitar music from Arabic, Classical, Country, Blues, Jazz, Rock and Pop styles. Through the evolution of the instrument we see how music crosses borders to facilitate cross cultural learning. Through looping technology, percussion and projections Gord will accompany himself on several instruments at once while engaging students through listening games, audience participation and physical activity. Musically you'll hear everything from Stevie Ray Vaughn to Johnny Cash, and Muddy Waters to AC/DC.

- 45 minutes
- Technical requirements: Projector and Screen, One chair
- More info: <https://www.blues-berries.com/gords-guitars>

About the Art Form

The show is based on the development of music through the lens of the guitar from ancient Egypt to modern day Rock and Roll. We will cover the themes of musical migration and geography from Northern Africa throughout Western Europe to North America and back again. Students will hear the development of music from single voice melodies through to classical harmony and modern day Rock. Students will take away an understanding of cultural exchange across vast geographic areas while seeing the interconnectedness of music through the ages.

Program

Pride and Joy / House is a Rockin'—Stevie Ray Vaughn

Folsom Prison Blues—Johnny Cash

Miserlou—Dick Dale

Can't be Satisfied—Muddy Waters

Roll Over Beethoven—Chuck Berry

Rock Medley

Lagrima—Francisco Tarrega

Thunderstruck—AC/DC

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

For K-3: Ask them what kind of music they think can be played on a guitar (rock, country, etc.). Make note of their answers, and then ask them the same thing after the show. Ask them how their ideas of guitar music has changed since seeing the show.

WONDER

Gr 4-7 PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

IRP link: **Historical and Cultural Context**

SHOW & TELL (30 min)

Suggest that students talk about music with their parents and bring some music, (CD's, albums, tapes, videos) to school from one or more of the periods presented in the show. perhaps their parent's music or grandparent's music. Or they could bring in pictures of guitarists or stories to talk about that they may have heard. Give them the option to do these exercises with any style of music. Compare the sounds of the different types of music. How are they different? How are they similar? How many artists fit into more than one category?

INFLUENCE OF THE GUITAR (30 -40 min)

Ask students: What is *guitar music*? Encourage as many answers/guesses as possible. Then read the following definition to them:

The guitar is a musical instrument with anywhere from 4 to 18 strings, usually having 6. The sound is projected either acoustically or through electrical amplification.

Now based on this definition, have your students (in small groups) write down some types of guitar music and names of guitarists that they are familiar with. Finally, explain the following historical information to students and discuss:

The guitar is used in a wide variety of musical genres worldwide. It is recognized as a primary instrument in genres such as blues, bluegrass, classical, country, flamenco, folk, jazz, metal, pop, punk, reggae, and rock.

Post-Performance Discussion Questions

K-7 POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

IRP link - **Elements of Rhythm and Melody**

THOUGHTS, IMAGES & FEELINGS? (10-15 min)

Identify and describe different thoughts feelings or images you had when hearing the different pieces of music?

WHERE DID THE OUD COME FROM? (20 -25 min)

Ask students which instrument came first the Oud or the guitar? Ask students to point out on the map where the oud originated. Then trace the migration of the guitar from the Middle East to North America.

RESPONDING TO MUSIC & DANCE (10-15 min)

Lead a discussion with the following questions: which type of music did you like the best? The least? Why? Describe different ways you felt when listening to the different styles of music?

LEARN

Learn more about this artist online at artstarts.com/aotd