

Black History Month and Cultural Diversity - music with Chartwell Dutiro

The brilliant Zimbabwean music educationalist, Chartwell Dutiro is available to schools over October (Black History Month) and International Education Week 14-19 November. See further details here, or Contact Chartwell: cdutiro@yahoo.co.uk 07817 907162 or speak with Creative Projects Officer Anna McCarthy for further info 01603 638099

How might Chartwell work in my school?

Educational Concert

For larger groups, up to 45 minutes, regardless of age, Chartwell can perform and describe, introducing young people to mbira music, the instrument and its context. The concert would be as interactive as possible depending on size and circumstances. A shorter version can be used for assemblies.

Language

Chartwell uses the education value of bilingualism by introducing Shona vocabulary to the students. He translates words that are in the songs from Shona to English and gives them a taster of how the language works.

Song Teaching

In whatever size group Chartwell can teach Shona songs. He sometimes brings and uses drums to give rhythm and can pitch the complexity of the song to the ability of his participants. Sessions include understanding of polyrhythms/cross rhythms and polyphony. Hand clapping to the melody as well as swinging and dance are included in the process of understanding African community music. Chartwell uses his energy to draw individuals into the workshop and encourages them to participate and to present their work to others.

Workshops

For a maximum of 30 children. He is happy to work with mixed ages as well as year banded groups. Chartwell likes to start his workshops with geography by introducing Africa as a continent and Zimbabwe as a country within that continent. An introduction to the British Empire history in connection with Zimbabwe is touched on, as is the history of the Ancestors, which is a central part of the African, and in particular the Zimbabwean belief system. Chartwell brings his story of growing up in rural Zimbabwe, where he was segregated because of the colour of his skin. He uses his experiences to build bridges between cultures with his music. His work is interactive, with music, song and dancing as required. Depending on requirements certain areas can be emphasised.

GCSE and A Level students

Chartwell has an MA in Ethnomusicology from SOAS and a Diploma in Music Technology from Kingston University. He would explore in depth poly-rhythms, polyphonics, hocketing, call and response. An understanding of different African instruments as well as the music they make. He can introduce music from around the world with an ethnomusicological approach. He can include the role of Music Technology in traditional music and an understanding of collaborations between music genres.