

## Instructional Principles

I believe that those I educate deserve. . .

. . . program themes, content, materials and presentations that respect that the most fundamental role of family-friendly festivals and school and community programs is to provide a fun, but wholesome environment for participants; school programs that provide direct links to grade level and/or course curriculum and help students make important learning connections; programs that are flexible and tailored in order to make sure that accurate blues content, instructional strategies, and presentations are both age appropriate and developmentally appropriate; and programs that consciously strive to support the goals of the festival/community program mission and special school wide initiatives (e.g., COMMON CORE LEARNING STANDARDS and CHARACTER EDUCATION).



# Tas Cru's Blues Alive



Education at the very  
**CROSSROADS**  
of America's music heritage!



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# Tas Cru's



# Blues Alive

Education at the very  
**CROSSROADS**  
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Programs & Workshops for  
Schools, Festivals and  
Community Events

"Everybody Loves the blues, just some don't know it yet!" - BB King



## My Mission

*To me, there is nothing more important that I do as a blues performer than blues education!*

Blues is a uniquely American music that along with gospel and jazz is one of America's most precious gifts to the world. Blues is the musical foundation for all forms of pop music with its influence spanning seven generations.

Children in schools throughout the globe learn about their culture's artistic heritage and creative achievements. American children deserve to know about their culture's rich musical heritage that is the Blues and how the world has embraced it as a creative art form.



## School Programs

### Blues 101

30 to 45 minute assembly or classroom program. Songs, instrument demos, history/blues today, Q&A. Customized for age of audience – RULE OF THUMB- the younger they are the more active participation.

### Literacy Connections

*PreK – 3 "Even Bugs Sing the Blues"* – Eric Carle books (e.g., The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Very Busy Spider, and more) rewritten as blues songs.

*Grades 4- 6 "I Wrote a Blues Song!"* – Blues lyric form as derived from call and response (AAB pattern) is introduced. Students learn to appreciate the concise power and imagery of Blues poetry as they write, sing and record their own songs.

*Grades 7-12 "We Are the Blues"* – History and culture come alive with Blues songs – soundtrack of historical, political, social and economic events.

### Music Classes

*General Music* – Programs are custom made in collaboration with teaching staff to fit the age level and curriculum goals.

*Performance Ensembles* - Customized in collaboration with teaching staff. Workshops on theory, legendary performers, history and links to other genres. Students explore styles and techniques and perform blues standards and improvised jamming (vox & instruments).

## Programs & Workshops for Festivals and Community Events

### Kid and Family Performances

Sing, Dance Laugh to family-friendly songs such as "My Dog" (a rewrite of Little Walter's classic "My Babe" ) and Willie Dixon's "Mellow Down Easy." Tas Cru originals from his blues for kids CD, "Even Bugs Sing the Blues" are sprinkled in as determined by the age of participants.

### For Teens and Adults

*Blues 101* - Songs, instrument demos, history / blues today, with question and answers time.

*Meet the Artist Tas Cru* - A chance to chat up close and personal with the "Master of the Triple Entednre "to talk about and share with each other the music we love and maybe swap a few road stories.

*Build Yourself a Diddley Bow* – A big hit at festivals, participants assemble and learn how to play the one stringed traditional Bow.

*Slide Guitar Workshop* – Demos and discussions about all things SLIDE – tunings, cigar boxes, resonators, slide materials and technique.

*Songwriting Seminar* – What does it take to write a good blues song? Demo and discussion on the creative process – inspiration, lyrics, arrangements, feels, hooks and more!