

# Around the World with Sonic Escape



**Discussions - Background Information - Classroom Activities**  
**Written & Designed by Sonic Escape**



## About the Show

In *Around the World*, Shawn Wyckoff (flute) and Maria Millar (violin) perform a rich blend of classical and world music with luxurious tone, technical mastery and superb musicianship. The flute and violin are two of the most beloved instruments, and their likeness can be found in virtually every culture's music. In this program of original compositions and arrangements created specifically for this dynamic ensemble, *Sonic Escape* takes you on a journey across borders, worlds and time with music from Germany, Ireland, Japan, China, the Czech Republic, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Uruguay, the United States and Canada.

Cross-curriculum topics include North American folk music, European folk music, Asian folk music, music appreciation, ethnomusicology, North American history, European history, Asian history, immigration, women's studies.

Video: <http://youtu.be/Bcw3BYut0qQ>

## About the Group

*Sonic Escape* is a flute and violin duo of Juilliard graduates that uses every part of the performer - fingers, mind, voice & story - to reshape the live music experience. The virtuoso members have traveled the world in roles as diverse as soloing at Carnegie Hall, fiddle-dancing in *Riverdance*, jamming with Beale Street blues bands and playing rock clubs across NYC. Whether *Sonic Escape* is performing one of their ground-breaking original works, a folk arrangement or a classical masterpiece, they share with audiences as though it's the last note they'll ever play for the best friend they'll ever make!

## About the Study Guide

This guide is designed to help teachers prepare their students for the performance. It also provides pre and post discussion topics and activities.



# PRE-SHOW DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIVITIES

## Minds On – Assessing Prior Knowledge

### Primary / Junior

#### Introduction to the Musicians

- What kind of music do you like?  
How does it make you feel?
- Make a list of your favorite musicians. Do any of them play a musical instrument?
- How many musical instruments can you name?
- How can you use your body to make music if you don't have an instrument?
- If you could play any musical instrument in the world, what would it be?
- Have you ever been to a concert?  
What did you think about it?
- Do you play a musical instrument?

### Primary / Junior

#### Introduction to the Show

- Have you (or someone in your family) traveled to a country outside of America?
- Is there a country outside of America you'd like to visit?
- What country does your favorite music come from? What else do you associate with this country?
- What foods do you like from other countries?



# PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

## What to Watch / Listen for During the Show

### Primary / Junior

- How do the flute and violin sound different from each other?
- What does the flutist do to make sound come out of his flute? What does the violinist do to make sound come out of her violin?
- How does this affect the way they move?
- Do they move differently when the music is loud or soft, fast or slow?
- How do the two musicians start the music together?
- How do you know when a piece is about to end?
- In what ways does the music sound different from country to country?
- What can you learn about a country through its music?
- What music do you find interesting?
- What stories do you find interesting?
- How do you think the music you hear nowadays is different from the music of your ancestors?



# POST-PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION

## Primary/Junior

### About the Show

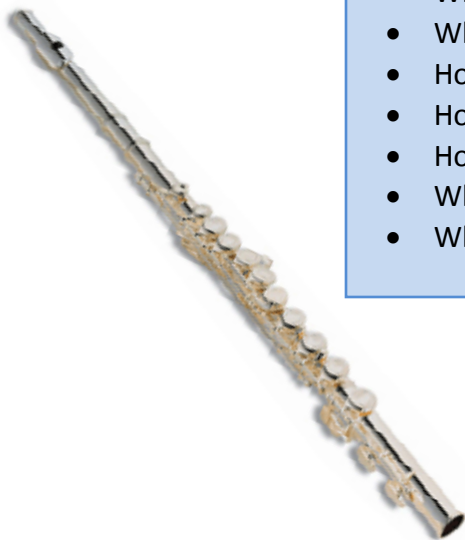
- What did the music make you feel?
- What did the stories make you think about?
- Why do people make music?
- How does music bring people together?
- Which instrument would you rather play – the flute or the violin? Why?



## Primary / Junior

### About the Music

- What is a flute? A violin?
- Why is music important?
- Which country's music made you want to dance the most?
- How does music get passed on?
- How did the music inspire you?
- How can music show a particular feeling or emotion?
- Where are some places you can go to hear music?
- Where does the music make you want to travel to?



# POST-PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES

## MUSICAL ACTIVITY Primary / Junior



### Improvised Instruments

Making music together is one of the easiest ways to make new friends. Look around the classroom and see what you can use to make music. Now grab your “instrument,” sit in a circle, and once someone starts a beat, everybody join in!

Remember that you can sing, clap, snap, tap your feet, jump... and so much more.

## DRAMA ACTIVITY Primary



### Communicating without Words

Pretend you’re in a new country where you don’t speak the language. Find ways to move your body to say:

1. Hello
2. Goodbye
3. I’m hungry
4. I’m sleepy
5. I’m happy
6. I’m sad

Now think of what else you can say with your body, not your words!

## DRAMA ACTIVITY Junior



### Communicating without Words

Music is a way of speaking or telling a story without words. In groups of two, pretend that you do not speak the same language and figure out how to ask each other basic questions and give answers without using words. Next, present to your class the ways you found to communicate.

# POST-PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES

## PUBLIC SPEAKING ACTIVITY Primary / Junior



### Your Favorite Things

If you had to move to a new country and could only pack one suitcase, what would you bring?

## PUBLIC SPEAKING ACTIVITY Primary / Junior



### Your Favorite Musician

Who is your favorite musician in the whole entire world? Why?

## RESEARCH ACTIVITY Junior



### Music You Like

Choose a style of music you heard at the performance and find out 5 historical facts about it.

## VISUAL ART ACTIVITY Primary / Junior



### Around the World Montage

In groups of 4, take a very large piece of paper, place it on a table, and have each person sit at all 4 corners of the table. Starting from your corner of the paper, draw your reaction to the show *Around the World*. Find a way for all 4 drawings to blend together in the middle of the page, and present your group's drawing to the class.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITY Junior



### Where Would You Go?

What country would you most want to visit / move to? Why? Find out 5 interesting facts about that country.