

## **Virtual Bluegrass Music Presentations for Schools by *Charles Pettee, Hear the Sound Productions***

Success! Check out these post-program survey answers from Sterling Montessori, where *Charles Pettee* performed 20 virtual sessions for grades K-5, (multiple classes in each session), October, 2020:

Q17: Would you want this artist to return to your school again?

A: *Yes, Charles was delightful to work with from an administrative and teaching standpoint. He's flexible, and our kids really liked him.*

Q18: What would you tell other schools about your experience with the program and/or interaction with the artist?

A: *It was a really fun program and Charles Pettee is a fantastic artist to work with. The kids were engaged and learned a good deal. If you have the chance to work with Charles, I encourage you to take it!*

### **1) “Catch the Bluegrass Bug” (grades K-2) & “Bluegrass Stomp” (grades 3-5)**

Hear the exciting sounds of Bluegrass mandolin, banjo, guitar and voice, performed live (via the platform of your choice) for your class or grade level by acclaimed teaching artist and performer *Charles Pettee*! Close your eyes and let Mr. Pettee guide your imagination to reveal sounds from Africa and sounds from Europe blended together in the catchy rhythms of Bluegrass music! Curated video clips enhance Mr. Pettee's recounting of this boundary-crossing multicultural music. Join in, singing along live, with the lyrics displayed on your screen. Programs feature numerous connections with educational standards in both music and social studies, all shared with Mr. Pettee's trademark enthusiasm, virtuosity, and age-appropriate delivery! Follow up activities keep the conversation going, and teacher input is always invited!

“*Catch the Bluegrass Bug*” (K-2) = Meet the guitar, the mandolin, the banjo, the harmonica, and sing along with numbers such as, “Ain't No Bugs on Me,” “The Lollipop Tree,” “Chicken Train,” “Old Joe Clark,” “This Little Light of Mine,” and more!

“*Bluegrass Stomp*” (3-5) = Students will learn the places of origin and general characteristics of the guitar, the mandolin, the banjo, the harmonica, while experiencing the history of Bluegrass music's segregation-defying mix of sounds from both Africa and Europe through songs such as “New River Train,” “Follow the Drinking Gourd,” “Long Journey Home,” “Bluegrass Part One,” “Chicken Train,” and much more!

### **2) “Bluegrass: NC's Global Music” (grades 6-12)**

Hear the exciting sounds of Bluegrass mandolin, banjo, guitar and voice, performed live (via the platform of your choice) for your class or grade level by acclaimed teaching artist and performer *Charles Pettee*!

Fact: Bluegrass music is not “from Appalachia” – it is a mix of sounds from both Africa and Europe; it has global origins!

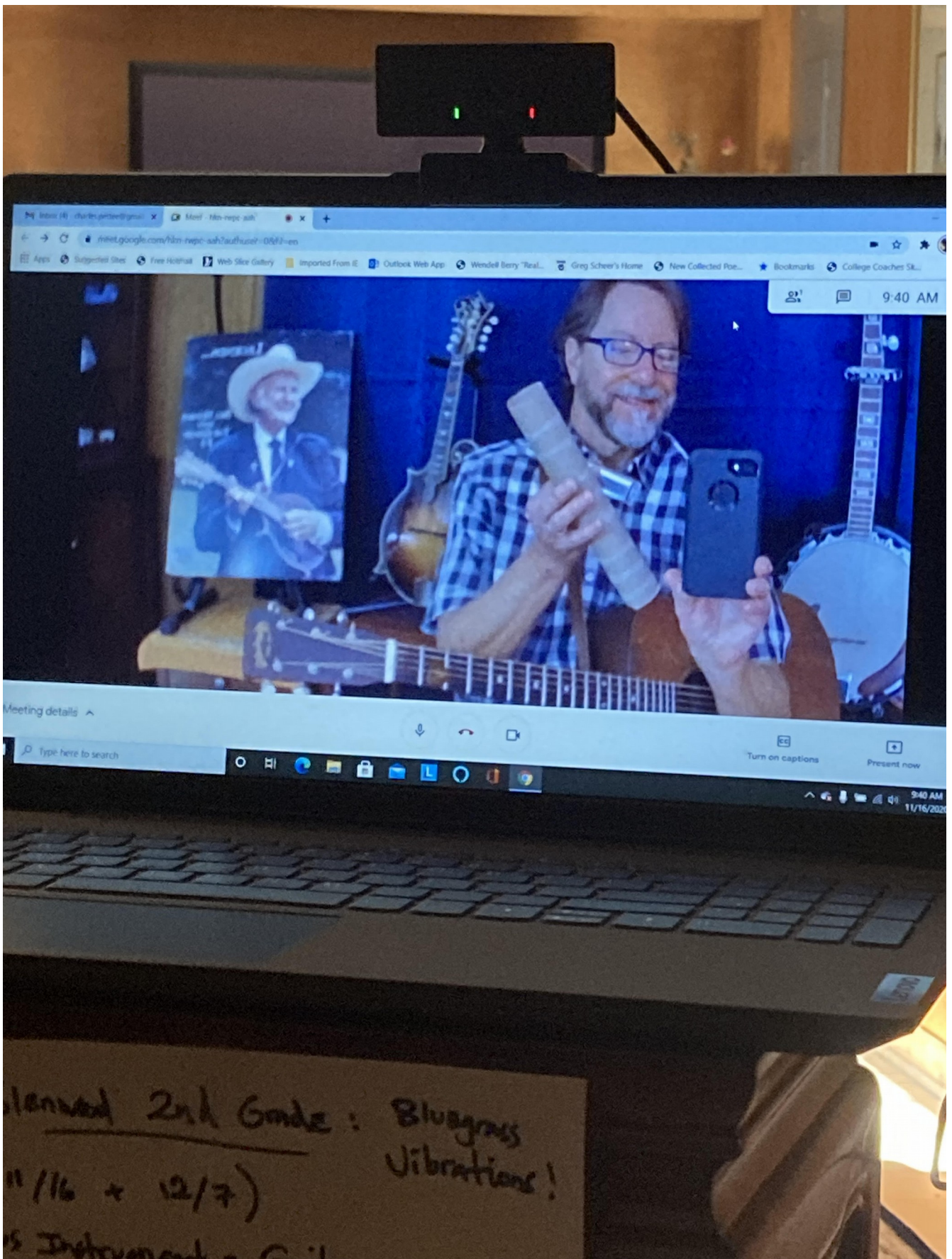
Fact: Currently, players of Bluegrass music are disproportionately white people, (this is changing rapidly!), but, historically, black people had as much of hand in the creation of this music as whites.

Following the general approach of “Bluegrass Stomp” (see above), Mr Pettee’s “Global Bluegrass” program for middle and high school audiences goes deeper into the evolution of southern US folk music from the particular ethnic origins of various peoples who immigrated to North America, (by choice, or by forced immigration due to slavery), to the blend of African and European music that characterizes Bluegrass music – a blending that defied the strict societal segregation so prevalent in the US in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century! Mr. Pettee’s live performance is enhanced by curated video clips which help tell the story, as well as Q & A, and suggested follow up activities, according to the desires of the teachers.

### **3) “Digging for the Roots of BG Music” Residency (3-5 day residency, grades K-5)**

Mr. Pettee loves the classroom, where we can have the time to enjoy each other as we sing and learn! Each day the students will enjoy hearing, and singing along with, a different "focus" instrument, learning how it works, and where it originated (guitar, banjo, mandolin, harmonica, voice). Students may also learn how to write their own folk song, if desired by the teachers! These features of Mr. Pettee’s popular live residency programs work just as well with digital platforms!

Residency packages may involve all classes K-5, or be confined to one or two grades, depending on the goals and desires of the school.



Planned 2nd Grade: Blugrass  
Vibrations!  
11/16 + 12/7)  
Instrument = Guit