

Joel Veena: Educational Outreach Programs



Making connections with other cultures, view points and traditions is vital to the ongoing development of our artistic selves. Joel Veena provides a unique bridge between western and south Asian music cultures that can enrich communities of all types. Sharing his experience, knowledge and modalities of education, Joel has presented lecture demonstrations and workshops around the globe. Joel holds a BA in World Literature and a minor in Electronic Music from the University of California at Santa Cruz, has worked as a classroom assistant in grades 5-8 and special education para-professional in Vermont and taught after-school programs for high-school students wanting to learn to produce their own music. Below are some examples of the programs that Joel can offer your community:

From Hawaii to Kolkata and around the world: the history of the Indian slide guitar



General audience, ages 15+

A narrative history of the Indian slide guitar, telling the stories of the guitar's origin as the Hawaiian steel guitar, Tau Moe's introduction to Indian audiences, the evolution of the instrument (how we ended up with 20+ strings) and imagining the future of the instrument. Slides, recordings and video clips punctuate animated story-telling.

Music for every time of day: Indian ragas



General audience, ages 6 – 14

Ragas are a special type of music unique to south Asia, countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. They are different from other types of music because each raga has a specific mood and time of day that it evokes. Let's explore this idea and see what time of day and what types of feelings these different ragas remind YOU of! You might be surprised... I will play snippets of a particular pieces of music from the Indian classical repertoire and you tell me what time of day you think it belongs to and what mood you are feeling while listening. An exploration of intuitive reactions to music and culture.

North Indian classical music appreciation for musicians

Musical audience, ages 15+



A lecture demonstration for musicians outlining the different aspects of North Indian classical performance. Starting with the basics of Indian music theory, followed by the structure of a typical performance and concluding with a live demonstration. We will cover the Indian approach to melody and rhythm, how it relates or differs from Western music and discuss the different genres of Indian classical music and how to recognize them. Audience will receive basic instruction and notation in one raga which they can take home and attempt to play on their own instrument.

- this offering can be adjusted to accommodate any type of music class. Choruses can be led in the basics of Indian classical vocal music while band can be taught instrumental music, adapted for an ensemble (a style popularized by Pt. Ravi Shankar and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan).

Individual or Small Group Lessons



For musicians of any age and any instrument

Indian classical music is traditionally performed on instruments like sitar, sarod, tabla or is sung. However, the basics of this music can be played on any instrument and the additional perspective can enrich any musician's playing. Joel can tailor one-on-one or small group lessons to meet the needs of most every population...and have fun doing it! Students will experience the oral tradition of learning from India, memorizing sargam (Indian solfege notes), discussing Indian music theory and practicing traditional bandishes (compositions) on the instrument of their choice. Lessons can culminate into a performance and/or a body of notation and knowledge that students can take home and continue to study and perform in the future.

