

**Sample Lesson Plan
for
Grades 6, 7 and 8**

**Introduction to the Celtic Harp
in Renaissance England and Ireland**

Subjects Covered: Music, History, and Social Studies

Preparation Needed Prior to this Demonstration: Students should have a beginning knowledge of the Renaissance period of history (perhaps knowledge of Shakespeare, King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I).

Required Materials: None for students. If this seminar is to be taught in an auditorium, a sound system should be provided. Otherwise, Anne Roos will provide her own microphone and amplifier.

General Goals: Students will have a basic understanding of how music, specifically Celtic Harp music, fit into the culture of Renaissance England and Ireland.

Specific Objectives:

1. Students will learn about music in the Renaissance period, how it transcended classes. They will also learn about dance during this period.
2. Students will learn the difference between music of the Renaissance versus the middle ages.
3. Students will learn a brief history of the harp, including the Celtic harp, and interesting facts about these instruments.
4. Students will learn how the Celtic harp fit into Renaissance culture, and they will learn about one of the composers of the Celtic harp, Turlough O'Carolan.

Anticipatory Set (Lead-In): Anne Roos will begin by playing a typical English Renaissance dance on the Celtic Harp, then explain what dance it was and why it was played...

Step-By-Step Procedures:

1. Anne Roos will give some details about the harp, the Celtic harp, and how it developed over history.

2. Anne Roos will be wearing the typical clothes of the middle class woman in England. She will discuss the meaning of the dress, as all clothes during the Renaissance period indicated one's status in culture.

3. A discussion Renaissance music and how it differed from the music of the middle ages (non-secular, due to the rule of Henry VIII—in fact, he even wrote some music during that period). Then, Pastyme With Good Company is played, one of Henry VIII's compositions.

4. A discussion of how music fit into the Renaissance period. An explanation of how people would sit around a table in the evening and make music, even making up instruments like rummel pots and such, just to join in. This is the period when the madrigal became popular, as people also used their voices in lieu of instruments.

5. An exploration of how the Celtic harp fit into all of this. Turlough O'Carolan, who was one of the most prolific Celtic harpists of all history, is discussed. He was blinded at the age of 18 from smallpox, and then decided take up the Celtic Harp. He was a traveling bard, going from inn to inn and performing for the gentry who stayed there. The tunes he played were called "Planxty", which means "In Honor Of". Anne will then play several tunes by O'Carolan.

6. Rounding out the seminar, there will be a return to the explanation of dances from the Renaissance. Anne Roos will play more English and Irish dance music, and the students will listen and tell what kind of type of dance the music probably accompanied (example: jig, minuet, march, galliard, etc.).

7. Fifteen minutes to field questions about the Celtic harp.

Closure (Reflect Anticipatory Set): Anne Roos asks for a recap from students to share what they have learned from the discussion.

Assessment Based on Objectives: Teachers are urged to include information from this one-hour demonstration within other subjects currently being taught, such as general world history and music appreciation.