

Many of us are fortunate enough to know first-hand that inspiration elevates teaching to a breathtaking art form. For David Coffin, the specialized niche of musical enrichment programming is a delightful challenge of delivering the lesson under the guise of entertainment.

When children join in his enthusiastic performances by adding their own voices and imaginations, they are astonished to discover how much they have learned — and how fun it is to share in the adventure.

David Coffin presents two programs, “Music From the King’s Court” and “Life At Sea,” as well as school residencies, for schoolchildren and community groups throughout New England and beyond.

When David captivates, he motivates. And when children sing with him, they learn with him.



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VISIT DAVIDCOFFIN.COM



“IF YOU’RE GOING TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT, IT’S REALLY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MAKES IT GO.”



COLONIAL HISTORY CURRICULUM GUIDES SPARE LITTLE ATTENTION TO THE SEA-FARING INDUSTRY THAT LITERALLY ILLUMINATED THE WESTERN WORLD OR TO THE IRON MEN IN WOODEN BOATS WHO “CREATED GREAT FORTUNES AND SPURRED THE FORMATION AND GROWTH OF A NEW NATION.”*

For booking information, contact david@davidcoffin.com or call 978 282 4680

Music From the King’s Court: Exploring the Early Winds

David has been delighting audiences by demonstrating his collection of Early Wind Instruments since we don’t know when. His entertaining presentation covers the history of the recorder from the primitive ocarina through the medieval gemshorns, to the refined recorders of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. With his complete set of beautifully crafted instruments, David demonstrates period examples of music written for each particular instrument. He illustrates with humor and vitality the evolution of the Early Winds. How have some evolved into modern instruments? Which continue to be used in their historic forms? Which are now extinct?

As a support for the school curriculum guides, David neatly inserts a “Science of Sound” unit that informs as it entertains. Vibrating air through ordinary household implements, he demonstrates how to alter the wavelengths that create sound and pitch, piquing children’s curiosity and enriching their understanding of sound potential, starting with a basic drinking straw!



David’s interactive program is enough to encourage even the most reluctant of young musicians to come forward and try one of his rare and curious instruments. Versed in various genres of traditional music, including Celtic, Folk and Maritime, in addition to his formal training in the repertoire of the Renaissance and Baroque periods, David’s playing enlivens his collection with a creative style all his own. His presentations impress students with an understanding of how Early Wind instruments were played, what sort of music was made with them, and, most essentially, the principles by which they still produce their wonderfully distinctive sounds.

“David is a master entertainer, not only through impeccable musical talent but also his natural ability to draw in his audience. He is a music historian, comedian, virtuoso player and singer all rolled into one.”

Stephen Smith, Waring School Summer Music Festival

Life At Sea: A Voyage in Song

David Coffin’s music-oriented “Life at Sea” fills in the gap, enhancing students’ appreciation and understanding by engaging them directly in the experience of learning.

“Life at Sea” captivates students right from the outset. With his harpoon, concertina, his larger-than-life singing voice, and of course, Pierre, his trusty limber-jack, David transports his “crew” back to 18th century Nantucket, to the days of his ancestors who settled there in 1659. From that most famous whaling port, your students will travel “around the Horn” to the Pacific whaling grounds through lively anecdotes and participatory songs, all the while experiencing traditional songs the whaler-men sang as they sought to make their fortune. From the singing of traditional sea chanteys to hoist the anchor and set the sails, to the fo’c’sle songs sailors sang in the doldrums, you’ll experience the life of a whalerman on his three- to five-year epic voyage hunting the magnificent whales of the ocean for their

precious whale oil. It’s a perilous venture, so hang on tight when David takes you on a Nantucket Sleighride!

While pupils are thoroughly entertained by David’s engaging performance, teachers will appreciate his deftly woven core curriculum, including vocabulary, geography, Colonial history, language arts, music, plus a host of supplementary activities and resources on his website.

For older children, David includes background on Herman Melville’s novel, *Moby Dick*, especially as it relates to the true story of the ill-fated Nantucket Whaleship, *Essex*.

“David Coffin is a musician, performer, and music-educator of remarkable ability and insight. As a maritime specialist and descendant of some of America’s greatest seafaring families — the whaling Coffins of Nantucket — no one could be better suited to present the traditional songs and yarns of Yankee seafaring in the Age of Sail.”

Stuart M. Frank, M.A., PhD, New Bedford Whaling Museum

Consider booking the **recorder program** for your instrumental students and the **whaling program** for your Colonial History classes on the same day. This is a great way to serve the maximum number of children with two different enrichment programs.

We also provide discounting for booking another school in your town for the same day.

Be sure to ask David about his signature “**Framework for a Residency**,” an all-hands performance that includes student-written recitations, songs, art projects and dance.

“Thank you again for gracing our library with your presence yesterday. As always, you were engaging, utterly charming, warm, playful and extremely funny. You kept the audience, ranging from preschool to fifth grade, completely entranced.”

Lynne Campbell, Children’s Librarian