

# THE BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS

**Based on a fairy tale from the collection of Brothers Grimm**

**Book by John Webb      Puppet Design by Floyd Shaman      Music by Sherman Lee Dillon**

**Set Design by Jarmila Zapletal**

**Directed by Peter Zapletal**

## **Teacher's Guide**

**The production of this play was made possible in part by  
a grant from the Greater Jackson Arts Council**

**Feel free to make as many copies as needed.**

**A Production of PUPPET ARTS THEATRE**

**1927 Springridge Drive**

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## **ABOUT THIS PRODUCTION**

The play touches on many themes: Working together we can accomplish things, the special skills of apparent “misfits,” stay away from drugs and the value of the individual in a group context. For some added fun, the members of the audience become the accompanying orchestra.

“The Bremen Town Musicians” was adapted for the puppet stage by John Webb. Mr. Webb has made his career as a newspaper journalist, work that took him to Paris, France, where he worked for New York Herald Tribune, and as an art critic for Jackson's Clarion-Ledger. The puppets were designed for Puppet Arts Theatre by Floyd Shaman and built by Peter Zapletal, founder of the Puppet Arts Theatre. Floyd Shaman was well-known for his wood sculptures that were on exhibit and are in collections around the United States. The sets were constructed by Jarmila Zapletal. The music was composed by Sherman Lee Dillon, a well-known folk musician.

## **CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY**

DR. STRINGLOVE, a befuddled old-world gentleman who can't control his own puppets.

THE GOOD FAIRIES - The benevolent storytellers.

FONKY DONKY - The good-natured animal group leader.

BRUN HOUND DOG - The Wagnerian diva.

CLAUDE VON KITTEN - The sarcastic skeptic.

RED COMB - The cocky and clueless rooster.

WOLFGANG & FRITZ - The bumbling villains.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

Language Arts Objectives:

1. The student identifies and describes the actions, traits, emotions, and feelings of a character from a story.
2. The student recalls story details.
3. The student recognize sequential relationship.
4. The student predicts outcomes of a story.

Social Studies Objective:

1. Locate and label continents and find Europe and Germany, the home of Brothers Grimm.

Writing Objectives:

1. Express thoughts through writing.
2. Explores various genres (folk tale)

## BEFORE THE SHOW

1. Introduce the students to folk tales and fairy tales by asking the children if they have ever heard any folk tales or fairy tales. Discuss how folk tales, stories or legends, originated among common people.
2. Locate Europe on a map and discuss that Europa is a continent and have student locate Europe on a globe.
3. Find the country - Germany. See how far away it is?
4. Find the city of Bremen and other major cities - Berlin (capital) Hamburg, Munich and Frankfurt.
5. Introduce the name of the puppet show "The Bremen Town Musicians."
6. Remind students that most folk tales and fairy tales had morals. Listen for the moral of the story.
7. Remind the students that sequencing means putting things in order and that they will need to be able to sequence one of the stories.
8. Have children define vocabulary words from the story and explain that these words will be used throughout the show.

folk tale	diagram	Ella Fitzgerald	spunky	decreed
duckbill platypus		scarlet	lair	deluded

## AFTER THE SHOW

1. Discuss the story together in class.
2. Have some of the children tell the story in sequence.
3. Discuss some of the characters in the story. Have the students write a brief character sketch of their favorite character.
4. Discuss the morals of the story and some of the details that support them.
5. What virtues did Fonky-Donkey possess?  
What were weaknesses of Claude von Kitten, Brun Hound Dog and Red Comb?  
What about Wolfgang and Fritz? What can you tell about them?
6. Have the students sequence one of the story in their own words by writing character descriptions, and details that would support the moral.
7. Have students draw their favorite part of the story.

## **PREPARING THE SHOW FOR YOU**

Many people are involved in making “The Bremen Town Musicians” a successful stage production. When you are watching the performance see what each one contributed:

The Writer created the lines for the characters to say.

The Set Designer planned out what the stage should look like during the show.

The Costume Designer created the costumes that the actors wear on stage.

The Puppet Makers build puppets.

The Musicians are playing the music you hear.

The Director instructed the actors and puppeteers where to move.

The Actors/Puppeteers from Puppet Arts Theatre are performing the various parts in the story.

The Lighting Designer set and focused lights to set the mood for the show.

They all worked together to create “The Bremen Town Musicians” just for YOU!

Puppet Arts Theatre brings amazing puppetry to audiences throughout the Southeast. Recognized for its commitment to excellence and innovation, it receives support from the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Greater Jackson Arts Council.

Puppet Arts Theatre was founded in 1967 and now performs for thousands of children each year.

The show, “Bremen Town Musicians” was created with the help of the grant from the Greater Jackson Arts Council.

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