

Billy Jonas and Billy Jonas Band Offerings Overview

Adults

It's a "neo-tribal hootenanny" -- original "voice and percussion" -based songs with a generous dose of audience participation. The music mixes conventional instruments (guitar, bass, marimba) with homemade creations (using buckets and barrels, keys and cans, bells and body percussion). Billy tailors both his song selection and its presentation to uniquely suit each audience. As a founding member of the acclaimed duo "The Billys," Billy Jonas helps audiences discover the music within common items and within themselves. Most concerts are performed with the Billy Jonas Band.

Family

Throw out the rules when Billy Jonas hits the stage! It's a musical conversation, a sonic celebration, a splendiferous gathering of old and young, because at a Billy Jonas show, the ensemble is EVERYONE! Billy Jonas is one of those rare performers who can engage and delight both young and adult audiences. Billy's clear tenor voice is well-suited to a plethora of venues, from intimate settings and workshop sessions to large halls and outdoor festivals. For more than two decades, his creative and interactive performances have enchanted and inspired families from all walks of life. Most concerts are performed with the Billy Jonas Band.

School Programs (Most concerts are performed solo.)

Elementary Schools (k-5)

Concert: 'Everybody's in the Band': This program is all about participation. Concerts include sing-a-longs, bang-a-longs, and an improvised song with audience suggestions. Instruments include voices, guitar and homemade, recyclable, object instruments. This show proves to each and every participant that they are indeed a musician. Themes include ecological awareness, community connection, and various curriculum-related songs.

Workshop: 'Music From Anything': Using cardboard, plastic, metal recyclable objects participants will create one-of-a-kind instruments, or 'sonic sculptures'. For a more detailed description please contact Billy's booking agency (info@loydartists.com).

Middle School / High School

Concert: "The Troubadour Tradition": a concert presented in lecture-demo style, demonstrating the role of the singer / songwriter throughout history. Billy's original songs and improvisation will help students gain an understanding of the role of the "musical historian / storyteller / news bearer" through different cultures and epochs, and to realize their own potential to fill that role.

Workshop 1: 'Bangin' & Sangin' 101': This workshop explores communal music making with homemade, recyclable-object instruments, found sound sources and the participants' imagination. Care is taken to make this accessible to people of any ability.

Workshop 2: 'Songwriting / Song-making': Each student will learn to refine their natural ability to create and present songs or melodic / rhythmic poems. They'll learn standard brainstorming and editing techniques, as well as performance tools for presenting their creations.

Workshop 3 (primarily for high schools): 'Tools and Techniques': This workshop is designed to teach students how to transfer inspiration and raw energy into staged presentations.

Workshop 4: 'Songwriting in Motion': Sharing a songwriting style that *Dirty Linen Magazine* has called "wild-minded word magic," Billy will lead the class through an exploration of a series of exercises he calls "Primal Flow". The process will employ walking music meditation, ecstatic automatic (a stream-of-consciousness process), embryonic mnemonics (memory techniques for working without paper), group improvisation, and more! We'll also explore a series of 'editing filters' for refining out creations.

Workshop 5: 'Performance': There is a synergy, a loop of energy created between performer(s) and audience when a performance is at its best. Our goal is to learn to set the stage for this potential 'magic' to occur, through building solid skills in Billy's Seven Perfectable Pillars fo Performance. These Pillars include, and depend upon: 1. honing vocal / instrumental abilities and skills; 2. selection of material; 3. crafting a 'set list' that flows; 4. crafting introductions and transitions between songs; 5. developing stage presence and theatrical performance skills 6. negotiating technical aspects (acoustics, the physical space,

sound systems / microphones, lighting); and most importantly, 7. generating vitamins 'H' and 'M' (Hope-filled, Heart-felt and Mystical, Muse-Mustering Magic). In addition to exercises in the above 'arenas,' EACH PARTICIPANT WILL PERFORM EVERY DAY! We will also address performance history and theory, ritual theater, audience participation, establishing safety, pushing boundaries, and any relevant concerns or topics generated by the participants.

Colleges / Universities

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House Concerts

Billy Jonas, and The Billy Jonas Band are available occasionally for smaller, intimate concerts. Anyone can host one, if inspired and clear on the concept!

Symphonic Pops

Fiddles and frying pans, bassoons and buckets! Twenty-two scores available for Symphonic Pops versions of the Family or General Audience shows. **"...first class.... compelling, humorous, beautiful and brilliant! ...the highlight of our season."**- Ron Clearfield, Conductor, Blue Ridge Orchestra

Interfaith

Billy and the Billy Jonas Band LOVE working with different faith communities, and the joy seems to go both ways! Their songs are born out of a deep reverence for all expressions of spirituality. They seek to enhance whatever worship context has invited them, and their programs are tailored to the specific needs and demographics of those present.

Jewish Offerings

see special one sheet with offerings