



calliopebrass



Kate Umble Smucker, Trumpet | Rebecca Steinberg, Trumpet
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Calliope Brass Presents: *What's Your Story?*

Calliope Brass is an innovative New York City-based brass quintet with a mission to bring stories to life through music. Our latest project is our educational program *What's Your Story?* featuring puppet narrator *Calliope*. During this interactive show, students experience how music impacts storytelling by representing characters, emotions, and settings. This cross-curricular performance educates students about brass instruments and musical concepts, and reinforces K-5 ELA core content and vocabulary.

What is *What's Your Story?*

What's Your Story? is a cross-curricular show that incorporates topics from both music and ELA. The one-hour interactive performance is narrated by “Calliope”, a childlike dragon-fairy puppet who excitedly leads young audience members through an exploration of the power of storytelling through music. Calliope is an original character created for and by Calliope Brass with the help of Sesame Street puppeteers Leslie Carrara-Rudolph (*Abby Cadabby*) and Haley Jenkins (*Zari*).



In a short series of videos designed for both music and ELA teachers to present, we introduce the brass instrument family and our delightful narrator Calliope, establishing foundational knowledge and building excitement and anticipation among your students. We will also send a curriculum package with a writing assignment in advance. In order to get as many students involved in the show as possible, we request that students write a story as a class. After receiving these writing assignments, we will pair student stories with the musical score ahead of time, and students can experience their own writing come to life with music.

During the live show, Calliope explains how musical themes can enhance a story by illustrating the characters, the setting, a moment in the plot, or a character’s emotions. In the course of the one-hour program, students have the opportunity to interact with Calliope, “choose their own adventure” while exploring these concepts through a familiar storyline, and enjoy seeing their original narratives brought to life through music.

What will students learn during the show?

Students will learn musical terms and concepts that align with core ELA curriculum. Full curriculum details and lesson plans available upon request.

Musical terms include: consonance, dissonance, harmony, unison, musical theme

ELA terms include: protagonist, antagonist, supporting characters, setting, five-act structure, exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution, plot, conflict, theme

How does it work?

During the show, students collaborate with Calliope to create a musical soundtrack to narrated stories. Our cinematic original score was written by Broadway composer Kat Sherrell, currently the musical director of the “Hamilton” National Tour. The modular score is designed to be played in any order, which allows us to custom fit the soundtrack to student stories depending on what is happening in the plot.

Where can I learn more?

Email info@calliopebrass.com, visit <https://www.calliopebrass.com>, or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)!

What are people saying about Calliope Brass?

"You have not just performed the piece [Morning Music] with excellence, you've expanded what it can convey."
- David Sampson



"Students enjoyed identifying the emotions in the story, and then hearing the quintet represent each emotion through their music."



"...a breathtakingly beautiful display of emotion through an exquisite sound and unparalleled musicianship."



"Out of all of the enrichment and guest presentations we had during the year, this was by far the most inspiring and engaging for all of our students, grades preschool through sixth grade and teachers alike!"

About Calliope Brass

Calliope Brass was formed in 2015 with the mission to advocate for the importance of music education as a core subject through innovate cross-curricular workshops; to advance the importance of brass quintet as a chamber ensemble through commissioning and performing new works; to act as female role models for a new generation of professional brass musicians; and to support brass musicians and students whenever possible.

Calliope Brass is committed to excellence in performance and educational initiatives, in order to further the role of women brass musicians as both artists and teachers. Members are versatile musicians found playing in Broadway pits, major symphony orchestras, the Amazon series *Mozart in the Jungle*, mainstage acts including Adele, Pink Martini, and Andrea Bocelli, and sharing their artistry in schools nation-wide. Calliope's signature educational program *What's Your Story?* is a Signature Artist program available in NYC public schools through Midori & Friends Foundation.