



## ‘River Currents Tour’ at River Music Experience

Since its inception in February of 2006, over 3,000 area 5th grade students have experienced America's music and its journey up the Mississippi River through the River Currents Tour program at the River Music Experience (RME) in Davenport, IA. Students explore the American songbook from New Orleans and the Delta, north to Memphis and St. Louis, then to the Quad Cities and beyond. In addition to the digital program, area musicians lead a sing-a-long, complete with kazoo accompaniment, bringing the historical presentation to life.

RME's award-winning River Currents interactive program is permanently available to visitors via six interactive kiosks in the 2nd floor exhibit area, and RME staff, in partnership with Nerdwerx of Rock Island, has re-purposed the existing programs to be "portable" and can now be taken outside the RME and used in classroom settings. The River Currents Tour is a refined version of the 5th Grade program that has hosted over 4,000 students at the River Music Experience since 2005, and is presented in conjunction with a visit to the Figge Art Museum, where students will learn all about museum operations as well as the preparation and presentation of exhibits and programs.

If you're looking for a fun, interactive way to introduce American music to your students, the RME River Currents program is for you.

Here's what area teachers are saying about the RME River Currents program:

*"We are currently in the middle of our 5th grade River Currents tour and I'd like to report that according to the reaction from our teachers it is a wonderful success! This is so gratifying...From the information packets and study guides that we assembled and provided our teachers to the actual tour itself and the efforts you as a performer/narrator of the slide show and your excellent tour guides – all this has come together in a wonderful educational experience for our Davenport 5th grade students...Thank you so much for your continued work and making the RME a part of our students lives."*

John Bernatz  
Music Facilitator  
Davenport Community Schools

*"Our RME experience was really delightful. My 5th graders wrote their own Blues lyrics and Ellis Kell was able to sing to them over the lunch time. I thought it was a great unit and the tie in between music and art [at the Figge] was also great. I enjoyed it very much."*

Chryss Hartman  
Eisenhower Elementary

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*“This tour was excellent. It fit our standards and benchmarks perfectly and kept the children’s interest. They learned so much more than they can just hearing the information from the teacher in a classroom. The best part is Ellis performing. What a great experience for our children! This is KEY for our community to keep our music and culture alive. Thank you!”*

Mitzi Harris  
Buffalo Elementary

*“Our field trip to the RME last year allowed the children to better understand how the area they live in has played an important role in the development of American music. The children heard and learned about how blues developed in the classroom but seeing the same ideas on the big screen and hearing it by the performers at the concert made the material more credible...It was like turning on the light bulbs in their heads...”*

Brenda Lipps  
Washington Elementary

*“As a teacher who took full advantage of the materials provided to me in advance, I felt my students were well prepared, followed the narration with ease, and enjoyed the additional comments Ellis provided. When the students left that portion of the program, the two tour guides did a fine job of presenting the exhibits in the outer area and providing interesting answers to the student’s questions...Thank you all for putting so much forethought into this experience. It was well worth it. Our students had a wonderful and informative time.”*

Vicki Gray  
Harrison Elementary

For more information on how you can schedule your students for this program, please contact:

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***The River Music Experience (RME)** exists to give our region's residents and our visitors opportunities to experience America's music, and most especially the music of the Mississippi River, through live musical performances, and programs which nurture, educate, and inspire musicians and music appreciators.*