

ELEANOR ACADEMIA

The Blues - Songwriting Workshops

MEET THE ARTIST:

Virtuoso musical artist, **Eleanor Academia**, Artistic Director of World Kulintang Institute, is also a multi-faceted recording artist in Rock n' Roll. This diversity of background and styles is one of the things that makes her such an exceptional performer, teacher and creator. Academia is an accomplished vocalist, composer, lyricist, arranger, producer and engineer, as well as a skilled multi-instrumentalist.

Eleanor conceived, produced and stars in *The History of Rock n' Roll*, a program created to highlight the legendary performers and composers who formed and evolved this musical style. This show is a multi-media performance covering the complex evolution of Rock n' Roll from its early roots to the 1990s. Eleanor has also produced her own rock album, *When You Live*, and previously produced, wrote and performed the number one Billboard Hit, *Adventure* (Columbia Records), and *Global Conversations* (Epic/Sony Records). Ms Academia's performances and compositions have been enjoyed by all age groups; her work was celebrated and acknowledged in Los Angeles when she was awarded Artist of the Year by Mayor Richard Riordan.



MUSIC·CENTER

ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS:

This uniquely powerful workshop series introduces students to the world of song writing and composition. Ms. Academia introduces her subject in a dynamic way by singing one of her own compositions and accompanying herself on the electric keyboard. She then assesses the musical knowledge of the students and finds out the songs they know and like. During this six session series, middle school students will demonstrate the ability to compose original lyrics and arrange rhythms to create an "original 12-bar blues song" through collaboration with a "band" consisting of other students. Students will select a central theme (i.e., school, family, friends, nature, etc.) for their song, then brainstorm ideas and write the lyrics. After the songs have been written, refined, and rehearsed, each group will perform their song in front of the class while clapping the beats in time, singing the required four lines of verse and maintaining the rhyme scheme with soft/hard dynamic expressions. Of course, there will be strong connections to the rhythm of words and the language arts curriculum.

BEFORE THE WORKSHOP:

- Please have the students wear nametags for the workshop. It saves time if they are made beforehand!
- Review the importance of listening and observing. Ask the students what it means to be a good listener. What does it mean to be a good observer? Why is it important in daily life? Why is it important when the artist is here?
- Give them some background information on the artist and the workshop.

AFTER THE WORKSHOP:

- Review the composition techniques learned in the workshop. Discuss what the students remember about the workshop. What did they learn about the “blues,” rhyming and the chorus?
- What did they learn about themselves?
- Review students' ideas about music, underscoring the idea that it is a universal form of expression for many cultures of the world. Discuss the importance of working cooperatively together with others. Where can they use this skill in their lives? (E.g. focus, working cooperatively with others, listening to directions, remembering sequences, etc.)
- Encourage the students to use their newly found skills and knowledge to make up new songs alone, in partners or small groups. Where can they use collaboration skills in their lives? (E.g. focus, working cooperatively with others, listening to directions, remembering sequences, etc.)