Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in Junk 2 Funk (J2F)! We are excited at the prospect of working with you.

Junk 2 Funk is a fun and engaging program designed to help young people feel good about themselves as creative individuals while challenging them to make the world a cleaner, healthier and ultimately a better place to live. Addressing a number of curriculum standards in the process, each J2F program is custom designed to fit your organization’s unique needs and schedule.

Included in this information packet are several letters of reference; our philosophy of arts in education; testimonies from education professionals, parents, kids and community leaders; our full-color J2F brochure; a printable 8.5” x 11” black & white poster (11” x 17” colored posters available upon request) and pricing information. J2F can be modified for grades K - 12 as well as for camps, after school programs, and other organizations that wish to expose young people to new experiences.

Please do not hesitate to let us know if you need any additional information or if you would like a free in-person consultation.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Keeping the beat,

Jeff Erwin, M.A., M.Ed.
Founder & Creative Director

“Jeff Erwin is an amazing teacher...His attention to musical learning, exploration of sound and rhythm, and flawless classroom management make him undeniably the best Artist in Residence I’ve ever hired in my teaching career.”

Michelle Wirth, B.M., M.Ed.
Rye Junior High School, Rye, NH
TEACHERS

“WOW! What a brilliant residency! What a fantastic performance! Jeff, your residency surpassed our wishes and expectations—something new, upbeat and engaging, a way to bring the students together as a unit in a fun learning experience...BRAVO!”

-Marlene Tabor, Teacher, Rumney, NH

PARENTS

“I am positive that you hear this all the time, but you do incredible work. I saw my son’s performance last evening at his school in Nashua, and I was floored!! ...You are like the kid whisperer!!!...not only are the kids learning such a great tool as teamwork, to also be able to teach them about doing their share for the environment, [and] tapping into their talented, “wild side” is just amazing!!!”

-Kim Iannuzzo, parent, Nashua, NH

KIDS

“Junk 2 Funk is a rockin’ way for students from all grades to have fun while learning about music, science, and the environment. We think the music we made sounds better than music on the radio. You should definitely try out Junk 2 Funk at your school!”

-Mrs. Shank’s 4th grade class, Nottingham, NH

COMMUNITY LEADERS

“I thoroughly enjoyed both watching the performance and having the opportunity to join the kids dancing [on stage]. I love the creativity, energy and sound of TLP. It’s easy to see why young people enjoy participating.”

-U.S. Senator Jean Shaheen
PRICE SHEET

Daily Rates for Residency Programs

Half day = $350 plus mileage (and lodging if applicable)

Full day = $500 plus mileage (and lodging if applicable)

Additional artist: Skip Brunette—gifted classroom teacher of over 20 years, musician, singer song writer = $100/day

Evening performance = $250

Rates for a Non-Residency Assembly: A stand-alone assembly that is not associated with an Artist-in-Residence Program

$995 plus mileage and lodging (if applicable). A non-residency assembly is structured as follows: Jeff works with all or part of the faculty/staff (depending on size and interest) after school one day with an assembly scheduled for the next morning. During the after school workshop, the faculty/staff create a piece of music to perform the next morning. At the assembly, Jeff engages many students from each grade level on stage (k-8 friendly) and all students from their seats. The faculty/staff perform last followed by a high-energy grand finale involving everyone at the assembly. This program is a huge hit with both adults and kids and sends a strong environmental/conservation message in the process! It’s perfect for schools or organizations that address the 3 R’s in the curriculum (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) including the impact of wastefulness on society and on our planet Earth.

Mileage

$.95 per mile during trips using cargo trailer (for multiple-day residencies: If our trailer can be left at the school/venue then the $.95 per mile mileage would only apply to the trip to the school/venue and the trip back from the school/venue at the conclusion of the residency.)

$.50 per mile when cargo trailer is not used (all other mileage)

Lunches

Purchaser will provide lunch for Jeff (and Skip)

Lodging

If distance merits Jeff (and Skip) to remain in town for the duration of a residency or on the evening before a non-residency assembly, the Purchaser agrees to provide lodging at no charge to the artist(s). Lodging may be in the form of a hotel or motel. Or a local resident or family may provide it.
JUNK 2 FUNK (J2F) is an exciting program (grades K – 12) that blends the disciplines of science, technology, language arts, pop culture, music and performance art through fun, rewarding, and often life-changing experiences, while incorporating dozens of state curriculum standards in the process. Proven to bring out the best in youth, J2F is a sensational outlet for students’ creativity, physical energy and individual expression. Programs can be modified for all age levels and for alternative venues such as camps and after-school programs.

ABOUT JUNK 2 FUNK
JUNK 2 FUNK (J2F) is an exciting program (grades K – 12) that blends the disciplines of science, technology, language arts, pop culture, music and performance art through fun, rewarding, and often life-changing experiences, while incorporating dozens of state curriculum standards in the process. Proven to bring out the best in youth, J2F is a sensational outlet for students’ creativity, physical energy and individual expression. With an emphasis on making music using instruments made from found objects, Jeff leads students down a path of self-exploration that encourages them to take risks and work together towards one common goal, namely, preparing a rhythmic extravaganza to be performed for an assembled audience. Programs can be modified for all age levels and for alternative venues such as camps and after-school programs.

The PROGRAM
Topics include, but are not limited to, the following:
- The Science of Sound
- Recycling & Conservation
- Current Environmental Issues
- Basic Music Theory, Terminology & Composition
- Percussion Techniques
- Poetry (in the form of lyrics)
- Pop Culture
- Performance Art
- Stage Direction & Blocking
- Introduction to Music & Video Technology
- Light & Shadow
- Public Speaking
- Inventiveness
- Maintaining a Positive Attitude
- Professionalism on Stage
- Sharing
- Risk Taking
- Group Cooperation & Teamwork

The ARTIST
Jeff Erwin is a performing artist and educator (M.A., M.Ed.) who, since 1989, has worked with youth and young adults as a classroom teacher, college instructor, stage director, youth counselor, mentor and artist/musician. Jeff is a juried member of the prestigious New Hampshire State Council on the Arts’ artist roster and is recognized as a master teacher in schools throughout New England. His work with youth has been featured on numerous television and radio programs and in magazines and newspapers throughout the U.S.

I thoroughly enjoyed both watching the performance and having the opportunity to join the kids dancing on stage. I love the creativity, energy and sound of TLP. It’s easy to see why young people enjoy participating.

US Senator, Jean Shaheen

It was very fun when we went on stage. It told me that I had a gift. It opened my heart. It felt like I discovered a gift of my own.

- Elise, student

Contact
TrashcanLidProductions.com
603.502.5886
Trashcan Lid Productions
P.O. Box 1522, Portsmouth, NH 03802

Look no further for an extraordinary and meaningful experience with an Artist in Residence. Jeff’s approach to the students encouraged and invited their creativity as they continued to experience the reinforcing boosts to their self-esteem. They spent time writing, creating and finding strengths for the first time...Please consider this the highest of recommendations.

- Ann Rutherford, Assistant Principal, Kingston, NH

WOW! What a brilliant residency! What a fantastic performance! Jeff, your residency surpassed our wishes and expectations — something new, upbeat and engaging, a way to bring the students together as a unit in a fun learning experience...BRAVO!

- Marlene Tabor, Teacher, Rumney, NH

Thank you for letting the 2nd grade go on stage and perform. I was nervous at first but found my courage somewhere.

- Kenny, student

Thank you for all the time you had to spend with us. It was the best thing I ever did.

- Ashley, student
February 14, 2012

Jeff Erwin is an amazing teacher.

He brings a delightful blend of musical energy and fabulous rhythms to the children of my middle school. His attention to musical learning, exploration of sound and rhythm, and flawless classroom management make him undeniably the best Artist in Residence I’ve ever hired in my teaching career.

This was Jeff’s second visit to teach with me, and I will absolutely bring him back again.

Michelle Wirth, B.M., M.Ed.

Music Director
Rye Junior High School
Rye, NH
April 6, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am going to start this letter of appreciation and recommendation by simply writing, “WOW!” Jeff Erwin’s “Junk to Funk” is simply amazing. After the assembly one teacher walked by me and stated simply the best Artist in Residence we have ever had. Some parent comments: simply fantastic, the kids were so into it, I have never seen our 7th and 8th graders so energetic, you could feel the electricity, I am so proud of our students right now.

We are a K to 8 school with approximately 500 students and Jeff was our Artist in Residence for two weeks. Jeff was able to connect with each class and to do this through music is even more amazing. I watched students come together as a group and perform in unison. Not only was Jeff able to connect with each class he was able to have an impact on them. Jeff left a positive impression on them. From our kindergarten classes to our 8th grade classes Jeff was able to identify with the student population. To watch all their faces light up when he simply stood in front of them and said “YO” was electrifying.

I cannot say enough good things about Jeff and his professionalism, classroom management skills and interpersonal skills. I would highly recommend Jeff to come into any school as an Artist in Residence. Jeff simply has, “IT”.

Sincerely,
Terry Leatherman
Assistant Principal
Nottingham School
Nottingham, NH
February 9, 2012

Jeffrey Erwin
Trashcan Lid Productions
PO Box 1522
Portsmouth, NH 03802

Dear Jeff,

Students, parents, and teachers are still talking about the Trashcan Lid Production residency that the Barnard School community was able to experience last month. The week-long event not only targeted our 2011-2012 school year goal of focusing on the arts and emphasizing writing, but it also exceeded our expectations for student engagement at all levels, K-8. You have a rather unique way of motivating students to care, to create, and to perform in front of an audience. Your talent as an artist and a musician may be evident to many, but what they may not know is that you are also a master at building self-confidence, a climate of respect, and a collaborative spirit.

Thanks for coming so well-prepared and energized to give the students your very best. None of this would have been possible without the support of our PTA. We are grateful to them for sponsoring the residency and to many of their members for having the courage to get up and jam at the performance! I think I told you that my husband, who has been attending Barnard School events with me for nearly forty years, said it was one of the best performances he has seen at our school. I know many would agree.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Knapp

C: Barnard School PTA
Music Department
Great Brook Middle School
16 School Street  Antrim, NH 03440  (603) 588-6630  •  (603) 588-3207  FAX

Margie Moran,  Choral Director
mmoran@conval.edu,  603-588-6630 x6209
Chorale,  Glee Club,  General Music

Jahna Moncrief,  Instrumental Director
moncriefj@conval.edu,  603-588-6630 x611+
Concert Band,  String Ensemble,  Jazz Band
Beginning Band & Strings
March 3, 2010

Jeff Erwin
P.O. Box 1522
Portsmouth, NH 03802

Dear Jeff,

Thank you so much for sharing so much of your time and passions with us at Great Brook School... the learning, exploring and performing that students experienced through their time with you has had a great impact on our students and staff alike. Your skill as a master teacher and musician is nothing short of amazing! I was thrilled to watch students come alive with excitement and genuine desire to learn within minutes of beginning their workshops with you. It is one of the most inspiring experiences I have had over all the years that I have been teaching. I keep flashing back to the Assembly and an entire gym full of middle and elementary school students, administrators and teachers engaged in improvised music and movement... the entire gymnasium then quickly settling down into a silence full of deep listening...I can’t say that I’ve ever seen that happen in a gym before! You ignited passions in our students through masterful teaching and masterful leadership. The crucial message that you convey in your work regarding choices for responsible living and the way you cultivate awareness of the importance of good citizenship was so well received... I think that anyone who has the privilege of working with you has been fortunate indeed!

I feel honored to have had the time with you here in Antrim. I highly recommend your program to any school or organization. Through your work you are providing a gift that truly does keep on giving within our community, long after the last drum is packed away. Thank you again for all that you are doing, I hope that we will have the opportunity to work together again!

Sincerely,

Jahna Moncrief
To Whom It May Concern:

I had the opportunity to attend both of Jeff's presentations that he did with the students on the last day of Junk to Funk. What an absolutely AMAZING program. Every single child (from pre-k thru third grade), as well as every parent, was completely mesmerized by what they saw and heard. Jeff constantly engaged the audience. He talked with the kids about the importance of recycling and combined it with his music program in the most unique way.

Every parent I have come in contact with could not stop talking about what a wonderful program the school put on for fine arts week. Every class incorporated the idea of using junk for another purpose and even wore and brought their items they had created to the assembly on the last day.

The grant that was given to Mrs. Smith to put on this program could not have been used in a better way for fine arts week. As a parent, I would like to thank all of the committee members for their time dedicated to the MEF. Because of you, our children had an experience like no other. They continue to this day to talk about Junk to Funk, not only the program, but how to use trash in other ways!

Catherine Paige
Central School Parent
Dear Jeff,

You are an amazing artist! My students were thrilled with your presence, your passion, management style and integration of academic curriculum is impressive.

We would love to have you be an “artist in residence” at Freedom Elementary again.

Warmly,

Suzanne Poll
Russell School  
195 School Street  
Rumney, NH 03266  
December 10, 2007  

Dear Jeff,  

WOW! What a brilliant residency! What a fantastic performance!  

Jeff, your residency surpassed our wishes and expectations—something new, upbeat and engaging, a way to bring the students together as a unit in a fun learning experience. The students were totally engaged, having lots of fun and learning too when they were with you. I believe the proof of your positive impact on the students was in the rap and flowers they presented you with at the end of the Friday evening performance. BRAVO!  

How wonderful it was for you to include Brian in your performance. We all loved seeing him having fun rapping away. Your ability to quickly be comfortable in our school and to work successfully with both staff and students was commendable and was very much appreciated. It was a pleasure to work with you, Jeff, throughout your residency and to have you as a guest in our little country school. How lucky we are! Keep up the beat!  

Enjoy!  

[Signature]
November 21, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

As a school in constant pursuit of worthwhile Artist in Residence opportunities, we are still reeling from the amazing experience Jeff Erwin provided for our youngsters last week. Working with students in grades K through 5, Jeff culminated his two week stay with us with an incredible and most memorable evening performance by our fifth grade class.

Jeff came to us with the instruments, i.e. pots, pans, empty plastic jugs, gascans, miscellaneous ‘junk’, and, most importantly, a “we can do anything attitude”. He willingly worked with our impossibly tight schedule and guaranteed us he could put together a quality experience for each of our students, while, simultaneously creating a final presentation of our fifth grade class. The fifth grade class is comprised of approximately eighty youngsters whose behaviors, learning style and needs couldn’t be more varied. Included are several students who struggle to invest in their learning on a regular basis. Their investment in ‘Junk to Funk’ did not waver throughout the time Jeff was here. They found strengths and commitment within themselves they had yet to explore. Suffice it to say that they did truly shine and were so very proud of it. To borrow a cliché – ‘priceless’.

Look no further for an extraordinary and meaningful experience with an Artist in Residence. Jeff’s approach to the students encouraged and invited their creativity as they continued to experience the reinforcing boosts to their self esteem. They spent the time writing, creating and finding strengths for the first time. I could go on endlessly speaking to the very many benefits Jeff and the Junk to Funk adventure brought to DJ Bakie Elementary School. Please consider this the highest of recommendations. Feel free to call if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ann P. Rutherford  
Assistant Principal

Donna A. Girard, Principal

Ann P. Rutherford, Assistant Principal
To whom it May Concern,

For anyone looking into hiring an artist who is truly talented as a musician and who has the ability to inspire students to create music, Jeff Erwin has it all wrapped up in a single package. As a chairperson of the Children And the Arts Festival in Peterborough NH for many years, I have hired many artists to come in to help us celebrate the arts and our youth. We look hard to find artists that are excellent at their craft and yet good at working with our children. To find someone like Jeff was a wonderful treat.

Jeff worked a residency at our high school for 5 days with 4 classes each day. Some of our students wanted work with Jeff and others were placed and not particularly happy about that. By the performance evening on their last day, the excitement that was buzzing throughout town was palpable. Our young people were motivated, inspired by Jeff and what he taught, and having a ball creating music together. The performance was the best student-created performance I had seen in all my years with this Festival. Our students connected with Jeff easily, were captivated by creating something together, and just plain had fun together. It was evident the night of the performance, that something magical had taken place.

I look forward to our next opportunity to work with Jeff at our Festival and can highly recommend him to anyone looking for a school residency and performance.

Terry Reeves  
Children And The Arts Festival  
P.O. Box 771  
Peterborough, NH 03458  
(603)924-9361
Self-Discovery

We believe there are kernels of creativity within everyone and that our responsibility as artists is to expose youth to experiences that may help them recognize those kernels and nurture them to grow. One of the saddest things in life is for one’s artistry, one’s talent as it were, to remain silent. Years ago, a second-grade student, Elise, said in her thank you letter to me: “It was very fun when we went on stage. It told me that I had a gift. It opened my heart. It felt like I discovered a gift of my own.” This is not a likely sentiment to come from the pen of a seven-year-old girl, but come it did. And it confirms the notion that our job as artists is to draw out of young people what they may not have known existed within themselves in the first place. Maybe one of those kernels will grow into a desire to perform again in some capacity before an audience, or to record music, or write poetry, or originate new forms of experimental theater. And maybe, just maybe, one will burst from its shell with such vivacity that to contain it would be unthinkable.

Discover vs. Skill

Further, we think that helping youth recognize their artistic interests and talents is more important, at least initially, than artistic skill development. It is, in our view, a greater success for, let’s say, a potter to stimulate a child’s interest in working with his or her hands than it is for the child to create the perfect pot without generalizing beyond this one creation. We think one way to help kids see and understand what the experience means to them is to “process the process” with them. In other words, we as artists can talk to kids about the process they went through to create their art and through this discussion help them generalize the experience and make connections to other parts of their creative lives. For some, it may take time for the processing to make sense or for them to follow through with any conclusions they might have drawn. But the odds of them doing so are greater if they are given a chance to talk about their artistic experiences.

Artistic Consumption

We believe there are different levels of artistic consumption too. At the end of a TLP residency, some youth may have simply come to appreciate our particular art forms more. Maybe they will be more likely to attend the theater in months or years to come. Others may be stimulated by the historical context of the art. Still others may want to master it. Each of these cases, in our view, is a success, for it is unrealistic to believe that every student will consume the art form entirely.
Levels of Group Achievement

TLP workshops are largely performance art based, so it follows that we hope for participants to take away a new appreciation for this discipline. One of our strengths as artists and educators is that we are able to create an atmosphere where kids feel safe and free to take the kinds of risks necessary to learn new things about themselves. When kids feel safe it is possible to call them, as an individual or as a group, to a higher standard of achievement as long as they are given the tools, leadership, inspiration and time to excel. It is the process that is most important; however, if the quality of the product matches the depth of process, the outcome becomes all the more meaningful for everyone involved, including the audience.

Our Two Convictions

In conclusion, we will say that there are two axioms that we rely upon as an artist when working with youth: (1) that kids are capable of accomplishing a lot more artistically than many adults give them credit for; and (2) that when kids learn to appreciate and do art, this leads to a better understanding and appreciation of their world and the life they lead in it.

Bill Ivey, former chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, reminds us, “I think the very best thing we can do for young people is to engage them in art in school at an early age. The doing of art produces not only great players and painters, it produces great listeners and lookers.” (National Public Radio, 1998)

We aim to do just that.

Jeff & Skip