

# Louisville Folk School 3-year Arts Programmatic History

- 2020
- Group Class Instruction for ages 11 and up
- Louisville Folk School, Louisville, KY
- Jesse Wells, Kris Truelsen, Julia Purcell, Carla Gover, Brett Ratliff, Blakely Burger, David Brooks, Tyler Lance Walker Gill
- 85 Group Classes in subjects that included African Choir and Mbira, African Drumming, Central Kentucky fiddle tunes, Kentucky String Band Ensemble, The Life and Songs of Hazel Dickens, Stamper Family Fiddle Tunes, Harmony/Duet Singing, Old Time Guitar Greats, Bluegrass Ensemble and Repertoire, Irish Pub Songs, Irish Fiddle, Banjo, Mandolin, Mbira, Guitar, Fiddle, Folk Songs of the Kentucky Mountains, and Country Songs by Women. All five of our eight-week sessions concluded with a public performance by students and faculty at the JB Speed Art Museum or 21c Museum Hotel with an average audience between 150 and 200. LFS staff also presented educational performances for public elementary school students.
- 600 participants and several thousand audience members.

LFS offers an assortment of group classes like the above example each year. We present five seasonal sessions of group classes annually with 16 to 32 unique classes offered each session. To date, we have taught 38 sessions of eight-week classes since 2015 - over 600 classes have run with thousands of attendees in the Metro area, and hundreds more through our virtual classes.

- April- June 2021
- Exploring the African American Influence on Kentucky Music, Co-presented by Louisville Folk School and Kentucky Performing Arts.  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7sUUvPCkDakDVhybMmWRHR2b4k2yMEwf>
- Conversation series was streamed live on Youtube and Facebook in April 2021, with a concert by Leyla McCalla performed live at Old Forester's Paristown Hall, Louisville, KY on June 25, 2021.
- Panelists included Dom Flemons, Leyla McCalla, Rachel Grimes, Michael Jones, Dr. Clark Kimberling, and Keith Lawrence.
- Series of three moderated conversations, concluding with an in-person concert in June 2021 with performances by Leyla McCalla and instructors of Louisville Folk School and Girls Rock Louisville
- Audience for the virtual series and concert combined was 12,457.

2022

*Exploring the Diverse origins and influences of Kentucky music*

*Title I and 40206 location elementary schools in JCPS*

*Dom Flemons, Julia Purcell and the Possum Queens, Don Rogers, Misty Mountain String Band, LFS West African Drumming Students and faculty*

*Nine performances at eight different JCPS elementary schools in spring 2022.*

*1270 JCPS elementary students*

Our fastest growing education component—in-school performances at Title I JCPS elementary schools—blends Kentucky core curriculum requirements with live music performances. These educational performances provide equitable access for children from diverse and often marginalized populations. Some performances are presented by touring national acts, while others are presented by up-and-coming local artists. In 2022, Covid-19 precautions have limited the number of students that can engage with our school performances at one time, but we anticipate serving 4000 elementary school students in the 2022-23 school year.

Through this program, third-grade elementary students in JCPS learn about Kentucky culture and the diverse influences on Kentucky's traditional music, including the contributions of Black and immigrant populations, through a presentation of live bluegrass music that will include references to historical contexts and important figures in Kentucky history. Live ensemble demonstrations may include a brief overview of the history and pioneers of bluegrass music, the origins of the instruments used and their role in a band, the vocal harmony structure used in bluegrass music, and bluegrass music today.