



THE KENNEDY CENTER

Performing Arts Series

ARTS-BASED PROGRAMMING VIA SATELLITE/WEB

presented in cooperation with PRINCE WILLIAM NETWORK

The Music of the Andes

Friday, January 16, 2004

Grades 4 - 8

When viewing *The Music of the Andes* and participating in this guide's suggested activities, the following National Standards for Music: 6, 8, 9 will be addressed.

Background Information

The Inca Culture of the Andes

The Inca people created and controlled the largest native empire in American history. Through conquering other peoples and governing their lands, the Inca Empire reached its greatest political and economic power around 1500 A.D., extending 2,500 miles along the western coast of South America (modern-day Ecuador, Peru, and Chile). At that time, millions of people were under Inca rule.

Inca culture was highly developed in the areas of art, music and dance, architecture, and religion and incorporated the cultures of many different native peoples. This collective is called Andean culture and includes the native cultures that extended along the

Andes Mountain Range. Quechua (Ke-chwa) is the traditional language of the Inca people.

“New World” Incas — “Old World” Europeans

After Columbus' 1492 voyage, “Old World” Europeans became aware that the “New World” contained vast lands and riches. Subsequently, Spanish and Portuguese explorers and *conquistadors* (conquerors) invaded the Americas. In 1532, Francisco Pizarro led a group of Spanish soldiers in the conquest of the Inca Empire. Armed with horses, canons, and guns, and bringing devastating diseases, the Spaniards brought the Inca Empire to its knees in just a few years.

As Spaniards colonized the mountainous Andean regions, native cultures blended with Spanish culture. Today, many Ecuadorians speak both Quechua and Spanish, and Ecuadorian folk music is also a blend of native and Spanish music.

The Artists — ANDES MANTA

The four Lopez brothers, Fernando, Luis, Bolivar, and Jorge, along with their friend Nazim Flores, form the group ANDES MANTA. In Spanish, the word manta means song; therefore, the group's name means “Songs of the Andes.” Growing up in Ecuador, these musicians learned their traditional folk music as it has been learned for thousands of years, passed from father to son, and brother to brother.

What to Look and Listen For

- How the Lopez brothers describe learning music as children by listening and observing at village festivals, carnivals, and ceremonial gatherings.
- Songs sung in both Spanish and Quechua.
- Families of instruments, instruments that look similar but are made in different sizes.
- The musicians yelling, shouting, or whistling encouragement to each other as they play.
- How the difficulty and speed of the music increases as the musicians play for long periods of time.
- Abrupt changes in the speed (tempo) and mood of the music.

About the Program

ANDES MANTA is committed to performing traditional Andean music, rooted in the cultural heritage of the Incas and their ancestors, in its purest, most authentic form. During the program, they discuss and demonstrate more than 35 traditional musical instruments, and share their history and cultural traditions.

Andean Cultural Traditions

In Andean traditional culture, festivals mark life events such as the blessing of a new house, the birth of a child, or the cycles of planting and harvesting. These festivals are celebrated with vibrant, energetic music and dance, and combine native religious practices with Catholic rituals that were introduced by the Spanish. Music is central to Andean communities, and serves as a metaphor for how successful community members work together. Musicians like ANDES MANTA who are selected to perform at festivals earn great prestige.



Andean Musical Instruments

The Lopez brothers make their own instruments by hand. Many of their instruments imitate the sounds of nature, including wind, rain, the forest, and birds. Some traditional Andean instruments include:

- Zamonia* (zam-PONE-ee-uh) panpipes made by connecting bamboo pipes of various lengths, organized from long to short. Each individual pipe, because of its specific length, produces a different pitch. A musician can blow into more than one pipe at the same time, producing several tones together. There are many

different sizes and styles of Andean panpipes, each with a specific name.

- Quena* (KAY-nuh) – a vertical bamboo flute with holes for producing different pitches. There are also different sizes of *quena*. A small *quena* is called a *quenilla* (kay-NEE-yah); and a large one is called a *quenacho* (kayONAH-cho).

- Bombo* (BOM-bow) – a large drum played with a drumstick.

- Palo de Lluvia* (PA-low day YEW-vee-ah) – A “rain stick” made by hollowing out a tube of bamboo, piercing the bamboo with small pegs that protrude into the inside of the tube, filling the empty tube with seeds or small stones, and capping off the ends. When the “rain stick” is turned upside down, the seeds hit the small pegs as they fall from one end to the other, producing a sound like rain.

- Chakchas* (CHOK-chus) – a rattle made of goat or llama toenails.

Andean Musical Instruments, Cont.

The Spanish introduced stringed instruments including:

- *Guitarra* (gee-TAH-rah) – the acoustic guitar familiar to North Americans.

- *Cuatro* (QWA-trow) – a small guitar with only four (cuatro) strings that produces higher sounds than the guitar.

- *Charango* (cha-RAH-goh) – an adaptation of the Spanish guitar with a body made from the shell of an armadillo. It has up to fifteen strings and is played rapidly as a solo instrument.



Instructional Activity Speed Up!

During the performance, you will hear abrupt changes in the speed of the music. Experiment with doubling your speed.

1. Count 1 -2 -3 -4 over and over, feeling a steady beat.
2. Continue to count, and clap only on beat one.
3. Now count 1 -2 over and over, keeping the same steady beat.
4. Continue to count and, again, only clap on beat one. You will feel the music moving twice as fast.



Resources

On the Web:

kennedy-center.org/pwttv

andes.org

tiberioagency.com/andesmanta.htm

Print:

Moseley, Michael E.. *The Incas and Their Ancestors*. London: Thames & Hudson, 2001.

Recordings:

ANDES MANTA. *Des de los Andes and Causai Pacha*.

Available through andesmanta@att.net or annie@a-tiberio.com

Credits:

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