

CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: BLACK VIOLIN

Show & Theater Company:

- Black Violin

Art Form:

- Classically trained string instrumentalists

Context:

- Black Violin is an American hip-hop duo from Florida composed of two classically trained string instrumentalists.
- Kevin Sylvester (Kev Marcus) plays the violin.
- Wilner Baptiste (Wil B) plays the viola.
- The group was named after an album by African-American jazz violinist Stuff Smith, Black Violin plays over 200 shows a year worldwide, in countries like Dubai, Prague and South Africa. They have performed for the troops in Iraq and the President's Inaugural Ball in Washington, DC.
- The duo fuses hip-hop and pop with classical music to create a mixture of sounds uniquely their own.

Main concepts:

- Black Violin met in high school orchestra, and is committed to school appearances, stressing the importance for youth to realize their potential through arts education.
 - ? What are the names of instruments in the string family?
 - ? How many sizes are in the violin family?
 - ? How would your life be different without music?

Special things to look for:

- ? How many different string instruments are played during the performance?
- ? Can you name the instruments?
- ? How do the instruments sound different when played?

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, limit bathroom breaks, one person to a seat, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), no audio, video recording or photography and remember to turn off cell phones and please no texting.
 - ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - Can't pause, rewind, or forward with live theater.
 - Live theater is exciting, because each performance is unique.

Show info: *Black Violin* • Thursday, January 26, 2017 • 11:00am • Grades 5-12

BLACK VIOLIN



Wil B



Kev Marcus

