

presents

The Music of Sam Cooke

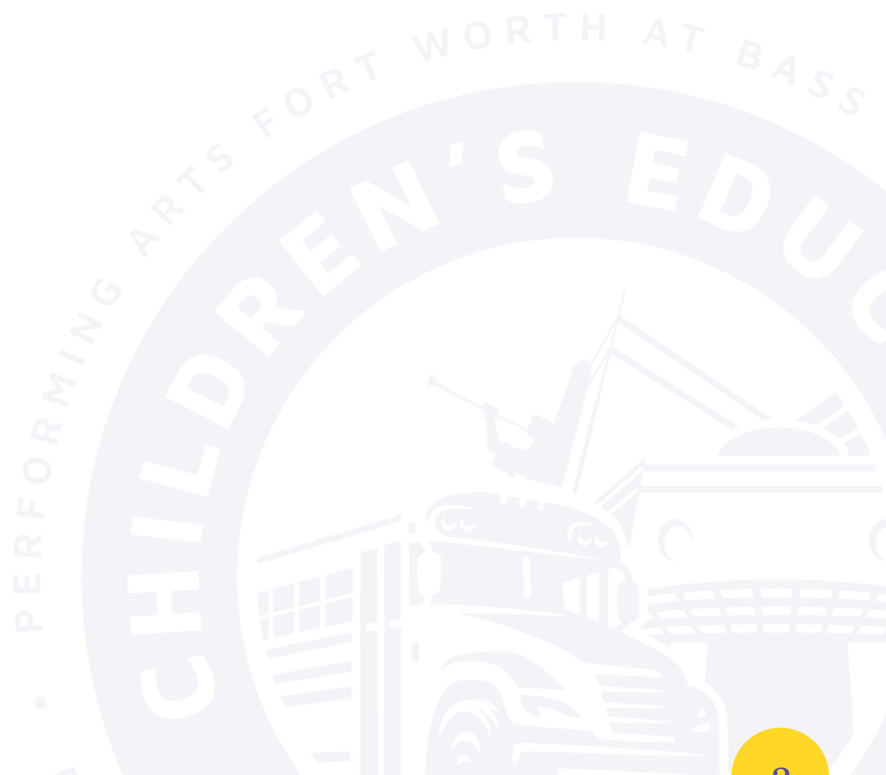
featuring

Bradd Marquis as Sam Cooke

**Performance intended for Middle and
High School Students**

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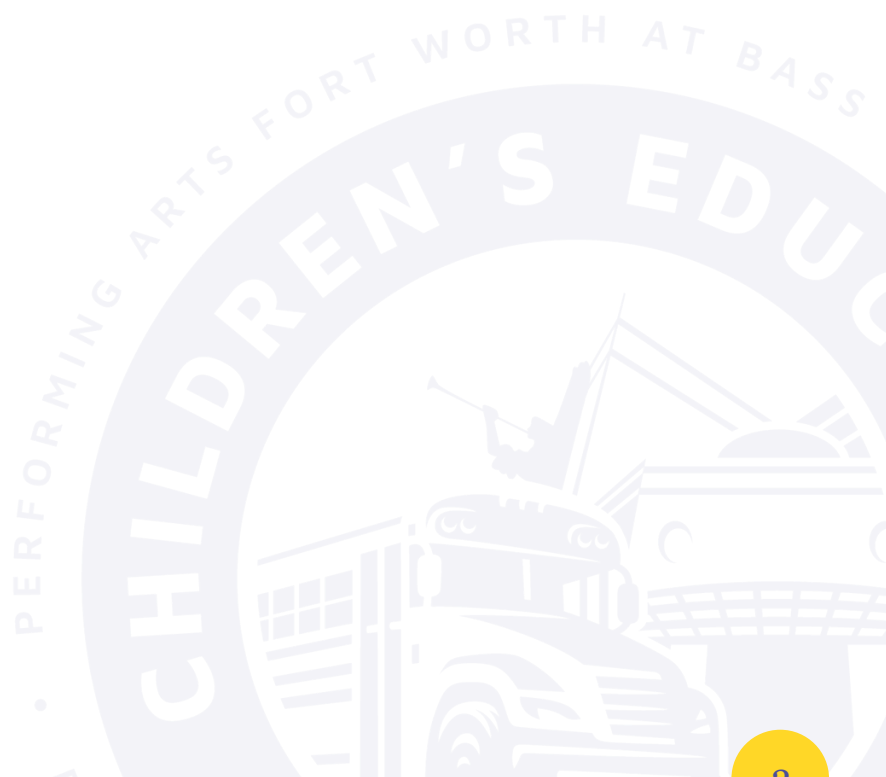
Introduction

Dear Teachers,

The Children's Education Program is excited to bring Bradd Marquis performing the influential music of Sam Cooke. As one of the most beloved artists of all time, Sam Cooke's electrical impact on the music scene began with his roots in Gospel music, yet it was when he blended Gospel with Pop and R&B that he is credited with inventing what is known today as soul music. He was an accomplished singer, songwriter, producer, activist, businessman and was the first African-American to own their own record label. His impact on the soul music genre and the inspiration for music and social activism are a continuing legacy.

We are excited for your students to feel the power and passion behind Bradd Marquis' high-energy performance that is more than just a tribute to the "King of Soul".

Children's Education Program
Performing Arts Fort Worth



Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills

Social Studies:

The student understands the impact of the American civil rights movement.

- US.9(D) identify the roles of significant leaders who supported various civil rights movements;
- US.22(B) evaluate various means of achieving equality of political rights;
- US.22(C) explain how participation in the democratic process reflects our national identity, patriotism, and civic responsibility;
- US.23(A) evaluate the contributions of significant political and social leaders in the United States;
- US.25(A) explain actions taken by people to expand economic opportunities and political rights for racial, ethnic, gender, and religious groups in American society;
- US.25(C) explain how the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, gender, and religious groups shape American culture;
- US.24 The student understands the relationship between the arts and the times during which they were created;
- US.25 The student understands how people from various groups contribute to our national identity.

Fine Arts:

The student demonstrates an understanding of cultural, historical, and artistic diversity. The student makes informed personal judgments about dance and the meaning and role of dance in society.

- FA.1(C) demonstrate and evaluate a working knowledge and skills of dance genres, styles, and vocabulary;
- FA.3(A) assess performance of memorized complex movement sequences with rhythmical accuracy in dance genres and styles such as ballet, modern dance, tap, jazz, musical theatre dance, and world dance forms;
- FA.4(A) perform the characteristics of dances from several diverse cultures or historical periods;
- FA.4(B) perform dance phrases or dances from several time periods with an understanding of historical and social contexts;
- FA.4(C) identify historical figures in dance history and their significance;
- FA.5(A) compare and contrast music by genre, style, culture, and historical period;
- FA.5(E) identify and explore the impact of technologies, ethical issues, and economic factors on music, musicians, and performances;
- FA.6(A) practice informed concert etiquette as a performer and as an audience member during live and recorded performances in a variety of settings.



Portions of this study guide have been provided by Creative Booking Agency and the production of:

The Music of Sam Cooke



The Production

The Production



Sam Cooke, pioneer of what we have now come to know as SOUL MUSIC. His influence has spanned over 60 years and touched every single individual, directly and or indirectly, in every genre of music from Country to Rock to Pop. His influence can be hidden behind the veil of his music but when you truly dissect his life you'll find that his true influence lies in his business acumen and willingness to blaze a trail for himself and others of his ilk in a time when it wasn't socially acceptable to even use the same bathrooms as whites let alone own your record label, own your own publishing and artist repertoire, perform on non segregated stages all while being an avid contributor to the equal rights, civil rights movement.

As a Musician, Actor, Producer, Educator & Social Activist Bradd Marquis performs the songs written and sung by Sam Cooke to curate and narrate a show that not only entertains but informs his audience on a historical time loaded with lessons about life, self- empowerment and social change that are still relevant and necessary to this day. Bradd Marquis transports you back in time through the life of Sam Cooke - from birth, to a preacher son in Clarksdale, Mississippi, to his recruitment into the number one Gospel Group, The Soul Stirrers in Chicago, to his secular music crossover, to his rise to a pop icon and his tragic death as he began to transform into a social activist.

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The Performer

The Performer

Bradd Marquis

Graduating with a degree in African American Studies from the University of Cincinnati, Marquis has worked for over a decade in social service and educational sectors, professionally and personally, volunteering his time in order to empower young people and give them hope where they saw little. Having a love and gift for music, realizing that entertainment was one of the major influencers on the youth, Marquis decided to pursue a career in entertainment hoping to be the influence that inspires young people to overachieve.

Breaking through national television and radio airwaves with his R&B hit singles, "Love Will Find A Way," "Break Up" and "Free" Marquis has been booked on national tours and performed on stages with artists such as Jaheim, Tamia, India.Arie, Blue Magic, Frankie Beverly & Maze, Gordon Chambers, Teedra Moses, and Angela Winbush just to name a few. Marquis also toured as the main character "Adam" in Oscar Brown Jr's musical fable, *In De Beginnin'*. He has performed on television shows such as *Showtime at the Apollo*, *Apollo Live* and had multiple guest spots on BET's *106 & Park* where he was named Soul Singer of the Year. Recently Marquis reintroduced his Sam Cooke tribute show at The World-Famous Apollo Theater's Apollo Music Café receiving a rousing overwhelming response!



"I felt that the way he embodied Sam Cooke was right on the money— I can't possibly imagine anyone else doing it the way he did, he slammed it!"
~Fiona Bloom, *The Bloom Effect*

"This was no tribute act, it was an homage to the legend with great respect and showmanship."
~Garreth Browne, *Pure M*

"Bradd Marquis draws a deep connection and understanding with Sam Cooke's songs. He brought those songs to life!"
~Brian Miller, *Founder of 'Did You Hear That'*

"It's not just a musical performance, it's history revisited."
~Samantha Hunter, *Sapodillic*



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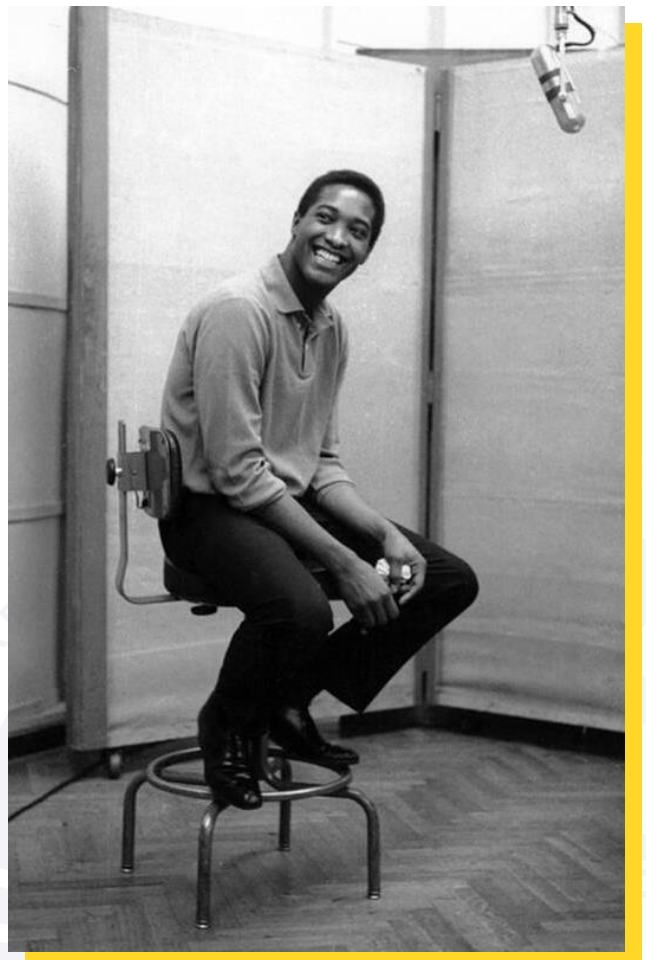
Who Was Sam Cooke?

Who was Sam Cooke?

Written by David Ritz, updated May 28, 2024, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sam-Cooke>

Sam Cooke (born January 22, 1931, Clarksdale, Mississippi, U.S.—died December 11, 1964, Los Angeles, California) was an American singer, songwriter, producer, and entrepreneur who was a major figure in the history of popular music and, along with Ray Charles, one of the most influential Black vocalists of the post-World War II period. If Charles represented raw soul, Cooke symbolized sweet soul. Cooke's career came in two phases. As a member of the groundbreaking Soul Stirrers, a premier gospel group of the 1950s, he electrified the African American church community nationwide with a light, lilting vocal style that soared rather than thundered.

Cooke's decision to turn his attention to pop music in 1957 had tremendous implications in the Black musical community. There long had been a taboo against such a move, but Cooke broke the mold. He reinvented himself as a romantic crooner in the manner of Nat King Cole. His strength was in his smoothness. He wrote many of his best songs himself, including his first hit, the ethereal "You Send Me," which shot to number one on all charts in 1957 and established Cooke as a superstar. When he did sing dance songs—"Twistin' the Night Away" (1962), "Shake" (1965)—he did so with a delicacy theretofore unknown in rock music. Cooke also distinguished himself as an independent businessman, heading his own publishing, recording, and management firms. He broke new ground by playing nightclubs, such as the Copacabana in New York City, previously off-limits to rhythm-and-blues acts. The tragedy of his demise in 1964—he was shot to death at age 33 by a motel manager—is shrouded in mystery. But the mystery has done nothing to damage the strength of his legacy. "A Change Is Gonna Come" (1965) remains his signature song, an anthem of hope and boundless optimism that expresses the genius of his poetry and sweetness of his soul. Cooke was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986 and was a 1999 recipient of the Grammy Award for lifetime achievement.



Sam Cooke in his Studio. C. 1963



Resources

- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
 - Video of induction ceremony in 1986: <https://rockhall.com/inductees/sam-cooke/>
- PBS: Sam Cooke
 - Short biography and video: <https://www.pbswesternreserve.org/blogs/program-highlights/sam-cookelegend/>
 - Interviews of Artists about Sam Cooke: <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/masters/sam-cooke/>
- ABKCO Music and Records
 - Short biography, images and playlist: <https://www.abkco.com/artist/sam-cooke/>
- YouTube
 - Sam Cooke on the Ed Sullivan show:
 - “You Send Me”: <https://youtu.be/REjmlDpAHsw?feature=shared>
 - “(I Love You) For Sentimental Reasons”: <https://youtu.be/hyWdlNgC4FE?feature=shared>
- GRAMMY Awards
 - Sam Cooke and the GRAMMY’s: <https://www.grammy.com/artists/sam-cooke/2603>
- BET (Black Entertainment Television)
 - Sam Cooke Playlist: <https://www.bet.com/article/t1va4f/sam-cooke-the-timeless-voice-of-change>
- NPR (National Public Radio)
 - Sam Cooke and ‘A Change is Gonna Come’:
<https://www.npr.org/2014/02/01/268995033/sam-cooke-and-the-song-that-almost-scared-him>
 - Youtube official lyric video of “A Change is Gonna Come”:
<https://youtu.be/wEBlaMOmKV4?feature=shared>



Muhammad Ali and Sam Cooke c. 1963



Angels In The Wings

Angels in the Wings

Angels in the Wings support the **Children's Education Program of Performing Arts Fort Worth at the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall** with gifts of \$1,000 and above. The Children's Education Program is an integral part of Bass Performance Hall but maintains its own support independent of Performing Arts Fort Worth.

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