

My Choir students, several Band, and Fine Arts students just finished hearing the Creole Choir from Cuba this afternoon. The best work I could use to describe their performance is "contagious". Not only was their performance well prepared and performed, but their ability to include the students in their performance was both unexpected and thoroughly enjoyed by them. Many of the students were moving in their seats to the rhythms of the songs. Spontaneous clapping to the beat of the piece erupted and was well received by the performers. One of the songs offered the students to move with the performers, and was enthusiastically received by the students. The students left the program quite energized. I even got an email from a teacher that some of the students got to his class following the performance, and were very complimentary of the whole experience.

Two things that I personally got from the program. One was the performer's inclusion of the students in their performance. Audience participation, especially with young people, is always a strong motivator towards enjoyment. I wasn't expecting that, but was pleasantly surprised how well the students participated. Two was the fact that in my short time in Idaho, I have not experienced much, if any, multicultural music / performance. Having lived in California for 62 years, I have, of course, been thoroughly immersed in various cultural experiences. Something I'm not sure the folks here often get. I am sure the students both enjoyed the performance, but learned from it also.

Would I recommend this group performing for other school – here or wherever? Without question. Positively. Well worth the time and effort to host them.

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