



Walton Arts Center

Performance Guide



Historic Cane Hill



Photo Credit: Historic Cane Hill

Historic Cane Hill, the earliest settlement in Washington County Arkansas, was an educational center on the frontier. Home to the state's first public school, library, and Sunday school, Cane Hill was also the site of one of Arkansas' first institutions of higher learning. Local favorites, Still on the Hill, offer original songs that document the community's history and bring to life the people, events and concerns of early Arkansans.

Ideas for Curriculum Connections:

Arkansas Learning Standards: Geography: 9.5.2. G.10.5.2: G.2. AH.7-8.2; G.2.AH.7-8.3. Economics: E.4.AH.7-8.2. History: H.7.AH.7-8.3, H.7.AH.7-8.4, H.7.AH.7-8.9, H.7.AH.7-8.10. Fine Arts Standards Music: P.6.5.3; CRA.SL.1; R.7.5.3, R.7.6.3, R.7.7.3, R.7.8.3; R.8.6.1; R.8.5.1, R.8.6.1; R.8.7.1, R.8.8.1; R.9.5.1, R.9.6.1, R.9.7.1, R.9.8.1; CN.10.6.1, CN.10.7.1, CN.10.8.1; Cn.11.6.1, CN.11.7.1, CN.11.8.1, CN.11.6.2, CN.11.7.2, CN.11.8.2; P.6.MA.2; R.9.MA.1. Music Appreciation: P.4.MA.1; P.5.MA.1; P.6.MA.2; R.7.MA.3; R.9.MA.1, CN.11.MA.3, CN.11.MA.4, CN.11.MA.5.



"Looking north on Main St., Cane Hill, Ark" is the caption on the photograph. Since automobiles were not common at the time, horses and wagons were the mode of transportation for residents of Cane Hill. Telegraph lines used for communication are also visible in this photograph.
Photo Credit: Historic Cane Hill

Cane Hill

Cane Hill, Arkansas, was founded in 1827 by Cumberland Presbyterians and was the earliest permanent settlement in Washington County. It quickly developed an identity around four facets of everyday life: religion, education, industry and agriculture. Most of the early settlers were attracted by the rich soil, plentiful freshwater springs and the canebreaks in the temperate mountain climate. Cane Hill was the original center for apples in Arkansas. The settlers brought apple seeds with them and planted the apple orchards that would soon bring a measure of prosperity to the region.

By 1834 the Cane Hill population had grown and there was a need for a school to educate the youth. On October 28th, 1834 the Cumberland Presbyterians established Cane Hill School. In 1852 an act was signed by the Arkansas state legislature that approved four year college degrees at Cane Hill and the name was changed at this time to Cane Hill College. During the Civil War, Union troops burned three of its four buildings and turned the only remaining building into an army hospital. Cane Hill College re-opened after the war, and, in the 1870s, it became the first four-year college in Arkansas to admit women into its degree program. In 1887, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church pledged stronger support for the college but insisted on moving it to a more central location within the state. In 1891, the college opened in Clarksville

as Arkansas Cumberland College, now University of the Ozarks.

By the time the college moved, the railroad had arrived in Arkansas, bypassing Cane Hill for Prairie Grove and other parts of Washington County. In the twenty-first century, Cane Hill is simply rural farmland with one main street, but several annual events are held in town such as the Cane Hill Harvest Festival and the Cane Hill Kite Festival. The Historic Cane Hill Museum is located at 14335 South Hwy 45, two buildings south of the Post Office and there plenty of beautiful spots in the area for a picnic lunch.

Still on the Hill

Donna & Kelly Mulhollan, artists known as Toucan Jam and Still on the Hill, live in Fayetteville. They are singersongwriters, and utilize a host of traditional instruments – including mandolin, banjo, fiddle, guitar, harmonica as well as other unique "found" or handmade instruments like a mule's jaw bone, the musical saw, washboard and tenor uke – to create musical color, texture and rhythm. They study the Ozark roots music of bluegrass, folk and mountain music and share traditional songs with audiences throughout the state and region. These songs compel people to stop and listen, to pause in their busy lives and think about the courageous, resourceful people of the Ozarks in a way that is engaging and relevant.

Learning Activities

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)

VTS encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations about visual art. It helps stimulate curiosity and sets the stage for inquiry.

The main aspects of VTS teaching practice include three key inquiries:

1. What's going on in this picture?
2. What do you see what makes you say that?
3. What more can we find?

Select a picture from Historic Cane Hill's

website (historiccanehill.org) and place it on the overhead projector. Ask the students to look at the picture silently for a minute and think about what they see. What is going on in the picture?

After a minute, open up the question to the room, "What do you see in the picture?" When a student offers a qualitative statement, ask for more information. "You said the picture looks old. What makes you say that?"

Next as, the students to share differing opinions and provide justification. One student may say, "The man is wearing a suit. I think he is going to work." Ask the students, "Does everyone agree?"

Continue asking, "What more can we find?" until students have shared all they can about the picture.

Teachers should focus on student inquiry and are not obliged to provide an explanation or answers for the art.

Folk Music in Arkansas

Folk music has a long tradition in Arkansas. Folk songs are often shared from person to person for generations before being written down and play an important part preserving history. Families pass their stories along to other family or community members. Think of songs you have heard family, friends and community members sing then write or speak the lyrics.

Cane Hill was known for its apples. In the book *The Cane Hill Story 1825-1969*, author Conrow R Miller talks about his love of apple picking as a boy. He recalls a story about Cousin Annie (Mrs. Bill Moore) making apple butter and dried apple pie. Still on the Hill turned Cousin Annie into the star of this song. When we hear the song we can imagine the character more fully because of the information implied in the lyrics.

Cousin Annie's Apple Pie

*The leaves they are a dancing on the end of the branches
Flashing their dresses of red and gold
Apples are blushing just like a new bride
The air's crisp and cool ...its harvesting time!
Cousin... Annie... bakes the best pie
From Wilson June Apples with dark crimson stripes
If I pick her a bushel and a peck
She'll give me a hug round the neck!*

Words and music by Still on the Hill

Write About

Ask the students to write a short biography about one of the oldest people they know. Interview the person. Learn more about the facts of the person's life. Write a short biography of the person using the language and images shared by the person. Start with simple questions and ask your own to help you learn more.

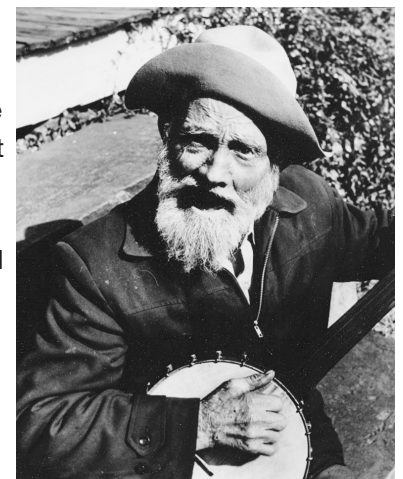
- When and where were you born?
- What do you remember about your home and family?
- What interested you about your town, region or country?
- What are the sounds you remember growing up?
- What do you enjoy doing?
- What is one of your favorite things?
- What do you feel most proud of?
- What are your hopes and dreams for your loved ones?

Learn More

Booth Campbell was a well-known native of Cane Hill, and one of the earliest participants in the [Ozark Folk Festival](#). He also performed as a singer and banjo player at other festivals in the Ozarks and elsewhere.

Read this descriptive article about him, published in 1942:

www.newspapers.com/clip/20797192/booth_campbell/





Quilts by Donna Mulhollan for Historic Cane Hill

Reflect and Assess

Ask the following questions. Record the group's answers on the board and discuss.

- What did you notice about *Historic Cane Hill*?
- What do you know now about Cane Hill that you did not know before?
- What story in Historic Cane Hill do you remember most?
- Describe the people in the songs. Who were they? What were they doing? Why?
- What did you like most about the live music performance? Singing? Music? Instruments? Dancing?
- Were you able to hear each instrument?
- How was each instrument different from the others?
- What elements of music, storytelling, and performance were used by the artists?
- How did the elements work together to create an overall experience?
- How did the performers communicate with each other on stage?
- How did the music make you feel?



Kelly and Donna Mulhollan

Learn More Online

Historic Cane Hill

www.historiccanehill.org

Official website of Still on the Hill

www.stillonthehill.com/

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Colgate Classroom Series performances help students meet Arkansas Learning Standards.

Learn more at:

www.waltonartscenter.org

Walton Arts Center

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Laura Goodwin, *Vice President*

Dr. Patricia Relph, *Arts Learning Specialist*

Mallory Barker, *School Services Specialist*

Meghan Foehl, *Engagement Coordinator*

Sallie Zazal, *Learning Coordinator*

Juniper Patel, *Learning & Engagement Intern*



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Walton Arts Center

Learning & Engagement

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