

MARTHA REDBONE'S BONE HILL - Educational / Outreach Opportunities

(Revised March 2024. Please contact booking agent if interested in Outreach Activities from Bone Hill.)

Presented as a dramatic musical work with a cast of 12 actors/musicians, BONE HILL: The Concert is a devised, interdisciplinary theatre work inspired by 200 years of Martha Redbone's family history in the Appalachian mountains. The musical spans four generations of this family's strife and challenges.

Study topics (set up by schools) can include:

- 1) The US Calvary's attempts to exterminate and remove the native people (Indian Removal Act and the resultant "Trail of Tears"). Policies of the American Government towards America's Indigenous people can be studied, stimulating thinking about one's relationship to the land as a person and as a government.
- 2) The Coal Mining companies' attempts to force the Native people off their land to mine it and their manipulative practices towards accomplishing their goals. This topic raises questions about mining practices including their environmental and social impact.
- 3) Study of the Jim Crow Laws, which perpetuated deep discrimination against native and black Americans.
- 4) Cultural preservation, Indigenous rights, and Cultural identity are all topics that Martha has given talks on. Students can engage in dialogue around racial identity and diversity in both an historical and personal context. American racial identity as expressed by DNA, laws and choices, and finding one's own roots.
- 5) History of coal mining and the resultant environmental destruction and widespread poverty present in Appalachia now.

Bone Hill can offer the following types of outreach and residency activity:

- 1) Student performances for young people (full cast OR songs as written played on piano by Aaron with Martha OR Martha Redbone Trio performance).
- 2) Panels or discussion formats in American History, on any of the above topics – bringing in local professors and experts to teach with Martha.
- 3) Martha's Southeastern Woodlands traditional music workshop.
- 4) Post-show Q&A.
- 5) Residency for a day to visit many of these topics in classrooms.
- 6) In addition Martha can also lecture on these topics (options include but are not limited to):
 - – Southeastern Native & African American History and Culture and Intersections
 - – The lives of black coal miners in Appalachia
 - – The indigenous roots of American music
 - – Challenges facing women in the arts, the role of identity and politics in art
 - – Songwriting and performance

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