

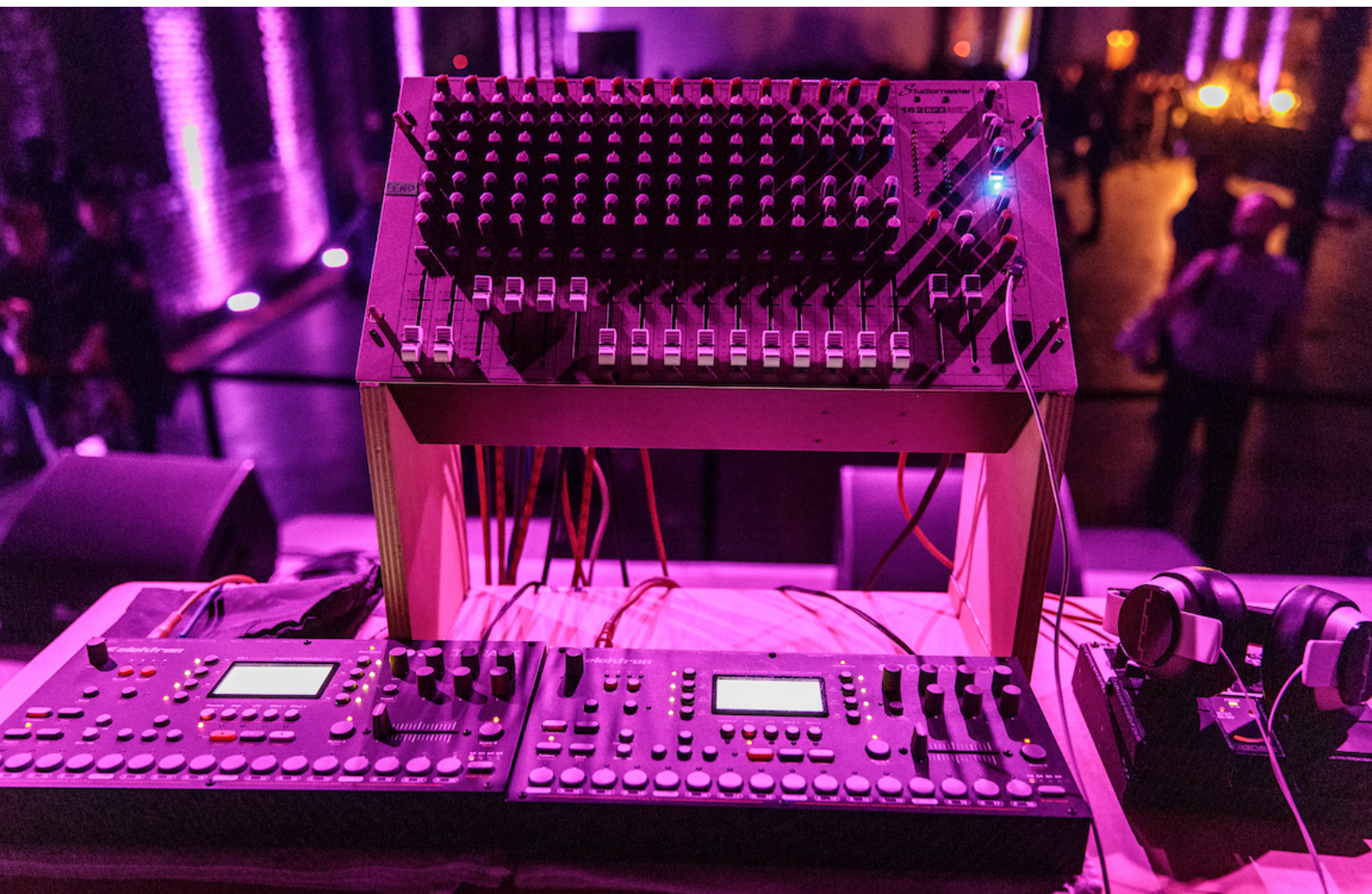
TEACHER PROGRAM GUIDE

Fall 2020

PW Kid's Concerts

October 19 - November 19, 2020

Pioneer Works



ABOUT US



Pioneer Works is a cultural center dedicated to experimentation, education, and production across disciplines. Through a broad range of educational programs, performances, residencies, and exhibitions, Pioneer Works transcends disciplinary boundaries to foster a community where alternative modes of thought are activated and supported. We strive to make culture accessible to all.

85% of our funds are spent on free and affordable programs, across each disciplinary department and our community engagement team. This wide scope of accessible offerings attracts over 150,000 individuals per year to our building. In order to sustain our programming through this process, we are working

with our generous donor community to raise the operating funds required to continue to provide our high level of affordable and thought-provoking programming for the community of Red Hook, New York City, and our audience members from around the world. Pioneer Works is a non-profit 501(c)(3).

SCHOOL PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



Our K-12 School Programs follow the interdisciplinary arts practices of Pioneer Works. We provide music, technology, literature, science, and visual arts-based workshops that reflect the mediums of our artists-in-residence.

Each workshop will include a pre-recorded performance and demonstration as well as a Q&A with Brooklyn Raga Massive. We strive to create a unique and engaging experience for students, following the Blueprints for Teaching and Learning in the Arts. The content and workshop activities are tailored to Grades 3-8.

PW KID'S CONCERT WITH BROOKLYN RAGA MASSIVE



Brooklyn Raga Massive is a 501c3 charitable organization and a platform for all lovers of Raga music, both listeners and artists, to feel the pulse of NYC's live Indian Classical music scene.

BRM officially became a non-profit in the summer of 2015. However, it's first seeds as a humble music collective began in 2012 in a Prospect Heights dive bar with a Weekly Concert Series and Jam Session, featuring traditional and raga-inspired music followed by an open jam session. Over the years, this ongoing weekly event has helped to cultivate a vibrant community of musicians and music lovers, all while embracing new artists and opening doors for cross-cultural collaboration, community engagement and educational initiatives reflective of the current Brooklyn musical landscape. The inclusive and spontaneous nature of BRM's weekly jam session has not only built a strong community, but has also become an incubator of new music collaborations and genres of music indigenous to Brooklyn.

BRM produces over 70 events each year including the weekly concert series and other performances. BRM has received enthusiastic support from premier presenting organizations and venues such as World Music Institute, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, MOMA, The Met, India Center Foundation, Brooklyn Arts Museum, Celebrate Brooklyn, BRIC, Jazz Gallery, Pioneer Works, Joe's Pub, Shapeshifter, The Rubin Museum, Yerba Buena Gardens, Seattle Town Hall, and more. In addition, Brooklyn Raga Massive is a co-producer of the Ragas Live festival, a 24-hour NYC annual music festival featuring Indian classical and Raga inspired music for a live audience broadcast live throughout NYC on 89.9 FM-NY radio and internationally via WKCR.org. With a strong community of music lovers and talented musicians, BRM is a respected presenter and community partner of both traditional raga music as well as cross-cultural contemporary projects.

Artists

Arun Ramamurthy
Carnatic Violin

Trina Basu
Carnatic Violin

Jay Gandhi
Bansuri Flute

Abhik Bukherjee
Sitar

PW Educator

Ashley Renee Watkins
Musician and Teaching Artist

THEMES & VOCABULARY



THEMES

Perspective
Imagery
Empathy
Social Justice
Storytelling

VOCABULARY

Scale/Raga (Rah.Gah): The set of notes a song uses

Melody: A pattern of notes we arrange from our Scale/Raga to create songs (also known as a main tune of a song)

Motif: Short melodies that repeat or come back throughout a song

Tempo: The steady beat, pulse or “heartbeat”

Rhythm/Taala (Ta.Lah): The way the sounds of a song are arranged over the steady pulset

Improvisation: Using the ingredients to compose or make things up on the spot

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND QUESTIONS

PRE-WORKSHOP ACTIVITY #1:

Step 1: Discuss the following series of questions with a partner. Write down your answers.

- *What are some of your favorite food dishes?*
- *What makes them your favorite?*

Step 2: Now focus on just one of your favorite dishes and journal responses to the following:

- *Do you eat it for any specific occasion, event or time of day?*
- *What are some of the ingredients that make it so good?*
- *How does it make you feel when you eat it?*

Step 3: Music is like food. It comes from many cultures around the world and like food, music is made up of many different ingredients that give it its own special flavors. Discuss and document a list of responses for the following:

- *What are some of the ingredients in music that speak to us?*
- *What helps to communicate the meaning of the song to us?*

Step 4: Generate a list of musical ingredients with a partner in their own words. Give short examples (beat, lyrics, rhythm, melody etc..)*

Step 5: Reflect and write down your answer to the following questions:

- *How music without words can still say something to us?*
- *How can it use some of the ingredients we just listed to do this?*

Ex. Speed/beat - a slow beat might make us think of something really sad or deep

STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND QUESTIONS

PRE-WORKSHOP ACTIVITY #1B:

Step 1: Listen to an sample of music (1 minute)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QSDbvxiIZc>
- *Write down any musical ingredients you notice (from above list) and document your responses.*

Step 8: Look at the following list of musical ingredients. Listen to the sample again. Identify any ingredients you already have listed:

- **Scale/Raga (Ra.Gah):** *The set of notes a song uses*
- **Melody:** *A pattern of notes we arrange from our Scale/Raga to create songs (also known as a main tune of a song)*
- **Motif:** *Short melodies that repeat or come back throughout a song*
- **Tempo:** *the steady beat, pulse or “heartbeat”*
- **Rhythm/Taala (Ta.Lah):** *The way the sounds of a song are arranged over the steady pulse*
- **Improvisation:** *using the ingredients to compose or make things up on the spot*

Step #9: You just listened to a piece of Indian Classical Music which is music unique to Northern and Southern India. Choose a musical ingredient to focus on as they listen to the excerpt for a third time. Think of the following questions as you listen:

- *How do the musical choices you hear make you feel as you listen?*
- *Based on what you feel, what season or time of day might you play this song?*

Step 10: Discuss some of your responses with a partner. Share ideas, imagery, thoughts that came to mind. Write some of them down.

Closing: Indian Classical songs are often written to be played during certain seasons and times of the day. They help us to focus on certain feelings like being reflective or deep in thought with their Ragas (which means, that which colors the mind). Much Like the music that we listen to everyday, this music helps us to reflect on events that happen in both our own lives and the world around us.

ARTIST BIOS

ASHLEY RENÉE WATKINS

is an accomplished performing artist and teaching artist and is currently a part of the prestigious faculties for Lincoln Center Education. She is also a member of the consulting firm MJR Partners that focuses on building cultural plans and arts infrastructure for cities around the United States. Ashley Renée is a classically trained vocalist who has often ventured into other styles of music as a singer and songwriter. Under her artist name A. Renee, she released her debut R&B single “Red Wine” in 2018 followed by her 2nd single “Sunkissed” in the summer of 2019. She will be releasing her first EP in October of 2019.

The New Orleans native has been based in New York City since 2014 – the year she appeared on NBC’s America’s Got Talent live at Radio City Music Hall with her opera and multi-genre duo ACTE II. The duo has been making their own way creating exciting concerts for audiences around the U.S. and internationally. She attended Dillard University in her hometown of New Orleans and completed her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in voice and opera studies at the University of Oklahoma.

ABHIK MUKHERJEE

is a Kolkata-born sitar player of the Etawah-Imdadkhani gharana. He was initiated to sitar at the age of six by his father, Sri Tarit Mukherjee, and Sri Bimal Chatterjee, while simultaneously receiving vocal instruction from Sri Kaylan Bose. He has since taken talim from Pandit Arvind Parikh and Pandit Kashinath Mukherjee, themselves disciples of the legendary Ustad Vilayat Khan. He is a gold medalist in musicology from Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, and has also received a scholarship from the Ministry of Culture, India.

Abhik’s first public performance was at the age of nine at the Governor’s House, Kolkata. He has since performed in ten countries on four continents. Some memorable concerts include performances for the inauguration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial (Washington D.C.); at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York City); at the Indian Habitat Center (Delhi); on Doordarshan (Kolkata); and a summer tour of Italy, Germany, and Switzerland. Abhik currently lives in New York City and is a founding member of Brooklyn Raga Massive, an Indian classical music artists’ collective. He is the director of academic affairs at Chhandayan School of

ARUN RAMAMURTHY

is a versatile violinist, educator and organizer based in Brooklyn, NY. His music is rooted in his lifelong training of South Indian Carnatic music and influenced by his various musical interests growing up in New Jersey. Arun is a disciple of the celebrated violinist brothers, Dr. Mysore Manjunath & Sri Mysore Nagaraj, the distinguished violinist Sri. Ananthakrishnan as well as many early years with western classical violinist Jim Mate.

He leads the Arun Ramamurthy Trio, an ensemble that brings a fresh approach to Carnatic classical repertoire and features

Arun’s original composition work. Praised by All About Jazz as “a beautiful, exotic, ear-opening listening experience”, ART has been heard on stages like Jazz at Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Jazz Gallery and Pioneer Works. His other projects include Nakshatra with wife and violinist Trina Basu, reimagining string chamber music through the lens of Indian classical raga. Arun also performs regularly with A.R. Balaskandan’s Akshara, Sameer Gupta’s A Circle Has No Beginning, Adam Rudolph’s Go Organic Orchestra, Neel Murgai Ensemble, BRM Coltrane Tribute, and Raga Maqam a collaboration with Amir ElSaffar.

ARTIST BIOS

TRINA BASU

is a violinist, improviser and educator living in Brooklyn, NY. Originally from Miami, FL, Trina grew up in learning Western Classical music, playing in orchestras and attending arts magnet schools. She later studied jazz, traveled to India to learn Carnatic classical music and has sat in on numerous folk jam sessions. Being of mixed heritage, Trina's musical interests reaching beyond her Western classical roots, was inevitable. Her unconventional path as a violinist is largely influenced by her South Asian and North American roots, identity as a mixed-race woman and her experiences working with creative musicians practicing across multiple genres and disciplines. Trina co-leads raga chamber folk ensemble Karavika, who have two self-released albums, titled Sunrise and Of Earth and Sky.

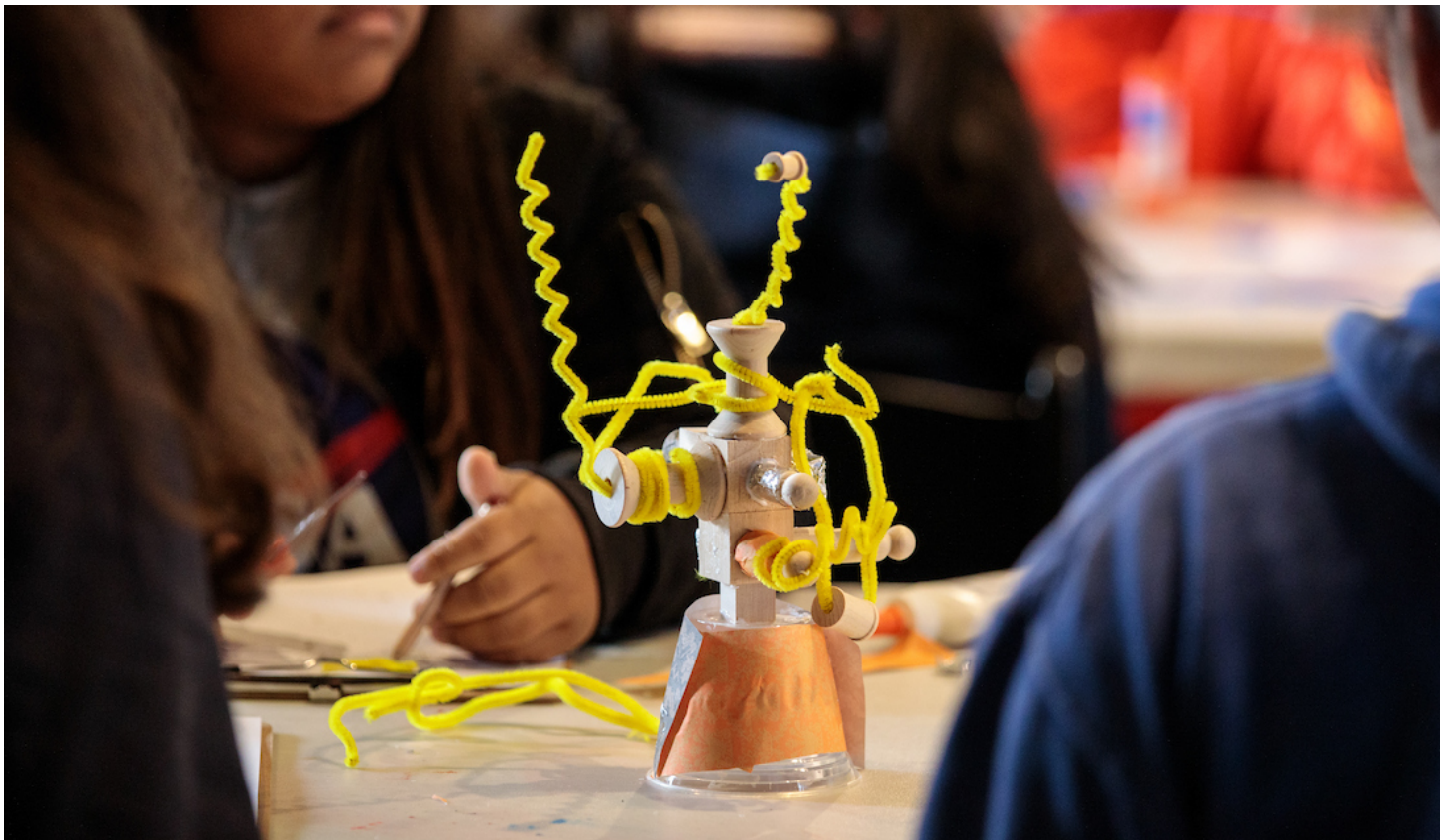
Trina is a co-founder of the musicians collective and non-profit, Brooklyn Raga Massive and founder/curator of Out of the Woods, a NYC festival focusing on women led projects working in South Asian traditional and creative music. Her passion for youth arts education and community has brought her to schools, universities, hospitals and nursing homes around the country. She received her Suzuki teacher training from the School for Strings in NYC, holds a Bachelors of Music in Music Therapy from Florida State University, and is a 2007 recipient of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute Artist Fellowship.

JAY GANDHI

is a multifaceted artist, his music is at once reflective of his devotion to his Guru, the inimitable legend of the bansuri, Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia, as well as a diverse range of other musical influences. Jay's initial training in Hindustani music was under Smt. Kum Kum Sanyal (vocal) and later in bansuri under Pt. Ronu Majumdar and Pt. Raghunath Seth. Inspired to gain deeper knowledge of both the gayaki ang (vocal style) as well as the tantrakari ang (stringed instrument style), Jay has also taken valuable guidance from Pt Vidyadhar Vyas (vocal) and Pt. Nayan Ghosh (sitar, tabla). In 2006, he was blessed to have been accepted as a disciple of Padma Vibhushan Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, and has since had the honor of accompanying his Guru on stage for multiple concert tours.

With the desire to bring the sound and versatility of the bansuri into the jazz idiom in a meaningful way, he formally studied Jazz Performance at Oberlin College/Conservatory of Music (Ohio) and trained under such Jazz luminaries as Gary Bartz and the late Marcus Belgrave. A recipient of the prestigious AIIIS Performing Arts Fellowship, Jay maintains a busy schedule performing for audiences across the globe. He also as a founding member of Brooklyn Raga Massive, prominent musicians collective.

POLICIES AND GUIDELINES



Below is information that will help you best prepare for your virtual learning workshop. If you have additional questions after reading through this page, please feel free to email **tiffanie@pioneerworks.org**

GROUP SIZE + CHAPERONES

Virtual School Programs must be accompanied by adult chaperones during your visit. To optimize student experience we ask that one chaperone for every 10 students. Please note that we cannot accommodate classes over 15 students.

LOGGING ON

All virtual programs will be hosted via Zoom. Please be sure to log-on at least 5 minutes prior to the start of your scheduled workshop. If you are running late, please be sure to contact program staff.

TARDINESS

If you are experiencing technical difficulties, we ask that you please contact us with updates regarding any tech issues as soon as possible. Keep in mind that we may not be able to stall or extend your workshop beyond the scheduled time.

CANCELLATIONS & RESCHEDULING

If you need to cancel a virtual workshop, please email program staff. We reserve the right to cancel workshops due to unforeseen circumstances. In this case, we will do our best to reschedule your workshop, although we cannot guarantee it.

CONTACT

Tiffanie Harris

Director of Community and School Programs

tiffanie@pioneerworks.org

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Open Hours
Wed — Sun, 12 — 6 pm