

# GET READY FOR



## What is Bash the Trash?

Bash the Trash (BTT) is a performance ensemble that uses musical instruments built from trash to teach about science, sound and the environment. Through our music, dance and demonstrations we explore the families of musical instruments, explain how they work, and show students and teachers how to build their own from recycled and reused materials. BTT was founded in 1991 by husband-and-wife creative team of John Bertles and Carina Piaggio and reaches audiences around the US and the world.



## What your students will see:

BTT performances always contain a mix of music, science/instrument demonstrations, and audience participation. It can be noisy, and a bit boisterous, but through musical participation, group and individual questions, and back-and-forth banter between audience and performers we will be engaging your students throughout the show. We do love to have an active and participatory audience, but we won't send them out of the show bouncing off the walls.

## Concepts used in Bash the Trash performances:

BTT is all about **science, sound and sustainability**. We apply the science of sound to build better musical instruments from the cheapest possible materials - a form of **STEM to STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, **ARTS**, Math). We explore concepts of **environmental awareness and sustainability**, including the **3 R's - reduce, reuse and recycle**. We'll also consider the science behind **vibrations, frequency and sound waves**, and how different vibrating materials create the families of instruments - **winds, strings, brass and percussion**.

## How to prepare your students for a Bash the Trash show:

If your students are experiencing a BTT show for the first time you may want to read to them some of the passages from this document, and show them a video or two from our YouTube

channel including this short introduction to our educational programs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5dHIL4ijpo>, which is a good way for students to see the range of what we do.

You can also access a BTT Instrument Building Lab on Strings: Rubber Bands at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-Oocwv\\_HUU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-Oocwv_HUU) Here is everything you need to know about building rubber band box guitars - an exercise you can do with your students before the show!



### **Listen to the “Think Big” CD**

Some of the music your students will hear is on our album “Think Big” which is available through CD Baby, iTunes and other music services. **HINT TO TEACHERS** - *You can hear all the songs for free by playing them through our website <http://www.bashthetrash.com>!!*

### **Students with special needs welcome!**

All students are welcome to BTT performances, but those with hearing sensitivities may want to consider bringing ear-protecting headphones, or sitting close to an exit. Our shows can be loud, especially at the beginning. If a pre-performance visit to the stage area would make some students more comfortable please just get in touch with our musicians as they set up for the show. Time-allowing they will always be delighted to give your students a mini-tour and test the loudness of the instruments. We’re also happy to place any hearing-assistance devices close to our amplifiers before the show.

### **Following up after the show:**

The best way to follow up a BTT show is for your students to do some hands-on instrument-building. Nothing can replace the experiential feel of something vibrating; and working with a limited set of resources to see what can be built is a fun and educational exercise. Follow-up workshops with a BTT instructor are available; OR you can go to the BTT website <http://www.bashthetrash.com> where you will find step-by-step illustrated instructions to build a variety of different musical instruments, as well as more information about the science of sound.