

# Program Options

## American Studies/American History classes

Brazz Tree plays New World Acoustic Rock: world music with American roots. Like American culture as a whole, their music draws on traditions born in places as far-flung as Ireland and India, but retains a uniquely "New World" feel. Students might consider: What makes Brazz Tree's (or any) music truly American? What does their sound indicate about contemporary cultural currents on our continent? How does a composition like "Anthem" complement and comment on the protest songs of the 1960s, as well as our country's tradition of patriotic music? What story do Brazz Tree's lyrics tell about the values and concerns common to the generation of Americans coming of age today?

## Anthropology classes

After speech, music is the most basic form of human expression and communication. For eons, humans have used their voices and other instruments to celebrate, lament, or simply remember. How does Brazz Tree's music both draw on and depart from the musical traditions of our ancestors, in form as well as function?

## World History/Music History classes

Brazz Tree's sound melds many distinct musical styles, from all over the Eastern and Western worlds: Celtic, Indian, jazz, blues, rock, pop, folk, classical, and so on. What does this blending of sounds have to say about the blending of cultures? What historical forces have caused/allowed this blending to come about?

## Music/Drama classes

Music students will benefit from the chance to experience a new genre of music (New World Acoustic Rock), and to study Brazz Tree's expertise as live performers. Drama students can observe how Brazz Tree interacts with the audience (both during and between songs, how their performance style meshes with their music, and how Mazz used her voice to dramatic effect. The task of both musicians and actors is to convey emotion: What strictures do musicians face that actors don't, and what freedoms? What can an actor learn from a musician, about using the voice as an instrument of expression?

## English/Writing classes

With rare exceptions, Brazz Tree writes every song they perform. Lyrics, though not often included in the realm of literature, can be seen as holding down one end of the continuum that starts at poetry and passes through spoken word. What's the relationship between poetry and lyrics, and what's the difference? What can lyricists do that poets can't, and vice versa? How does Mazz use rhyme rhythm and other poetic devices, in concert with her voice, her violin, and Brad's guitar, to achieve the impact she's after?

## Sociology/Psychology classes

A concert is a social, interactive event. How does listening to music together (as opposed to alone) affect people's responses to what they hear? What effect does performing in front of an audience (versus performing in a recording studio) have on the musicians and their music?

## Communications/Public Speaking classes

Live music is, above all, an attempt to communicate. Just as public speakers (executives, politicians, media personnel) must convey their message in a compelling, convincing way, so also must performers. What techniques does Brazz Tree use to get and keep the audience's attention? How do they interact with the audience between songs? How can music be used to strengthen the impact of a message?

## Journalism classes

A Brazz Tree concert is always an event—with each performance, they're introducing a new audience to a new musical style (New World Acoustic Rock), as well as putting on a spectacular show. Journalism students can sharpen their skills as music reviewers, event reporters, and also interviewers—they can question audience members about their reaction to the show, and Brazz Tree about the origins and trajectory of their music. Brazz Tree welcomes students' questions.



# BrazzTree

Brad Hammonds

Mazz Swift