

**Tennessee Arts Commission
Sample Program – Student Ticket Subsidy**

Artist or Organization’s Name: Tekelia Kelly

Presentation/Activity Name: She Sings: Spirituals and Work Songs of Slavery in the 1600-1800's

Indicate which of the following disciplines this activity represents (check all that apply):

Dance **X Music** **X Theatre** **X Literary** **X Visual** **Other _____**

Beginning Date: Year Round

Ending Date: Year Round

Time(s): Approximately 1 hour

Location: Client's Site

Fee or Ticket Cost: TBA

Brief Description of Activity (60 minutes):

Performing as a one-woman show entitled **She Sings: Spirituals and Work Songs of Slavery in the 1600-1800's**, Teaching Artist Tekelia Kelly captivates and educates through song and story, as she teaches about a time in history when **African -American Negro Spirituals, Gospel and Work songs, and those who sang them during Slavery**, were an integral part of American and African-American experience.

As a tribute artist to the music of that era, reenacting the events and people as a backdrop, Tekelia engages students with singing, storytelling, role playing and interactive dialogue, including questions and answers. Students benefit from her live human performance that shows-and-tells about history the way no book can.

How does the presentation increase the students’ appreciation for and knowledge of the art form?

Tekelia's songs, stories, beautiful attire and her actually being a professional performer of jazz, gospel, spirituals and freedom songs help students to readily see and appreciate the authenticity of the music, while being taught in an entertaining way. Classic songs of yesterday, with insightful lyrics, help reflect the time while also enhancing curriculum-based learning. American and African-American history becomes valuable lessons for living today.

Why should teachers give up valuable instruction time for the presentation?

The benefits of having a true, live teaching artist who can perform and portray the special scenarios and situations of American and African-American history, along with convey the character of the people of that time is invaluable. Through Tekelia's tribute artistry and reenactments, textbooks come to life; and the transfer of knowledge from the pages of the history book to the places in the person's mind better takes place. Content becomes more real, relevant and relatable, enriching students to appreciate history, social studies, music and other related subjects.

What are the educational goals of the presentation?

The goal of **She Sings: Spirituals and Work Songs of Slavery in the 1600-1800's** is to connect students to a time and place that is so distant to their existence today, and allow them to be part of the culture, where through the work of the teaching artist and engagement of learners, learners become more clear and fluid in their understanding of historical information. Learners become more aware of the songs and stories of the era, and are better able to see and appreciate people and life as real and identifiable to them...and not just stories in the past.