

Jazz trumpeter Marsalis brings music to kids

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empowerment zone are to receive equipment and a starter library of music CDs.

Marsalis has an easy rapport with kids. He jokes. He scrunches his face. He makes funny wheezing sounds on his horn. But always he teaches.

Thursday's topics included meter, form, dynamics, theme and soulfulness.

The lessons can be surprisingly complex. To illustrate meter, he plays a tape of Dave Brubeck's "Take Five" with its tricky rhythms.

At the piano, he accompanies five student scat singers as they feel what it's like to express themselves in the language of Louis Armstrong. To demonstrate soul, he plays Ben Webster's "Danny Boy" with Webster's tenor sax bending blue notes in a breathy purr that whispers.

"What is soulfulness?" Marsalis asks.

"A lot of heart?" comes a reply.

Marsalis raises a startled eyebrow: "Yeah, it means it has some love in it," he says.