

KHAC CHI

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FROM VIETNAM WITH LOVE



ROBERT C. REED / RECORD PHOTOS

Chi Khac Ho, right, shows Garrett Allison and Josh Saliers how to play the Bang Bu (Vietnamese stamping tubs)

Musicians entertain students, play at library today

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HICKORY

Original from Vietnam, the Khac Chi ensemble plays many styles of music – contemporary, world and folk, to name a few.

But they've developed performance featuring lively new renditions of old tunes, comedic stage antics and audience participation to gain the appreciation of Western audiences.

It works.

The ensemble, a duo, performed their traditional folk music Friday to a cheering, laughing crowd at Southwest Elementary School. They'll be giving a free performance this afternoon at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

The group is made up of two of Vietnam's premier musicians, Khac Chi Ho and Bic Ngoc Hoang. They play about a dozen instruments, many of which are made out of bamboo. The two are full-time musicians who tour the world, often performing at folk music festivals.

Khac Chi was able to perform at Southwest and Longview elementary schools through a grant from the Catawba County Council for the Arts.

Students clapped in rhythm and roared in laughter during Friday's performance. Several children got to come onstage and play various instruments.

Josh Saliers, a fourth-grader, said he really enjoyed the music. During the performance, he got to play the bang bu, pipes of bamboo that are stamped on the ground to produce a percussive sound.

"I liked it when we played the sticks," Josh said.

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