

LONG TRAIL SCHOOL

founded 1975

For more info about this article, contact Kim Rizio, Long Trail School at 867-5717 x147

Victor Wooten wowed students at Long Trail School

On Tuesday, December 9, Long Trail School in Dorset hosted world-renowned musician Victor Wooten for a series of small group and full school workshops. Thanks to area musicians Christian Heins and Charlie Rockwell and funding from the Edwards Foundation Arts Fund, Wooten spent the day at Long Trail as his Grammy-winning group, Béla Fleck & The Flecktones, traveled to their next concert stop. Wooten is an innovator on the bass guitar, as well as a talented composer, arranger, producer, vocalist and multi-instrumentalist.



Wooten's interest and philosophy really energized the Long Trail community. He believes that "the most important thing is to be a good person. You can be the greatest bass player in the world, but if you're not fun to hang out with, no one will want you in the band." Using anecdotes from his life and observations, Wooten impressed students with the need to commit to what it means to learn. When he asked students why they wanted to be in his workshops, many responded that they wished to learn from him. He then asked where their notebooks and pencils were; he wanted them to have notes that can be referred to over and over again. He taught students to listen to the language of music when playing with others in order to create a more unified and responsive performance. At the end of his visit, he enchanted the audience with a performance. Students



appreciated his keen interest in what they had to say and in their education. His effect on the musicians at the school was deep and lasting. Long Trail School trustee Charlie Rockwell commented, "It was wonderful to have someone so well respected in his field come to Long Trail to interact closely with our community. The students' response to him made it worthwhile. Exposure to excellence is an important part of the Long Trail School experience." The funding for his visit was donated to Wooten Woods, the Bass & Nature camp Wooten plans in Tennessee.

Comments from students:

Conor Bowen, grade 9, Bennington: "The most important thing that Victor Wooten taught me was that if I want to be a good rocker then I should listen to rock. If I want to be a good blues cat then I should listen to blues. However, if I want to be a good musician then I should listen to all music."

Luke Krauss, grade 9, West Rupert: "...it was an amazing opportunity...Victor taught me that music is like your first language. As a young child, no one tells you to talk. You learn it when you hear it. Music should have the same freedom."