On September 12 when Moab Charter School student Bates Lawson came home from school, his mother asked what he had learned that day.

“More about compost,” he responded. When pressed, Bates told his mother that the rest of the morning was spent at a school assembly with (face lighting up) “Rockin’ good music.”

Bates Lawson was one of more than 800 students from Red Rock Elementary, HMK Intermediate and the Moab Charter School who traveled on a musical journey through Judeo-Spanish musical traditions guided by traditional artists Paul Woodiel, Christopher Layerer, Steve Gibb and Festival newcomers Mathias Kunzli, Basya Schechter and Greg Heffernan.

Grand County Middle and High School students also heard Festival musicians perform on August 29. Flutist Marco Granados, pianist Emilio Solla, bandoneon player Raul Juarena, violinist Tim Fain and bassist Pablo Aslan performed traditional as well as Nuevo Tango music for students. 2008 Festival School Assemblies reached over 1400 students and teachers during the Festival.