



David Lane

From Humming to Mouth Drumming

Study Guide





From Humming to Mouth Drumming

"From Humming to Mouth Drumming" is an interactive hybrid performance workshop of vocal gymnastics that will have students singing and laughing along! The topics covered will include vocal exercises, beatboxing, and instrument imitation. Students will be encouraged to express their individuality by using their voices to create a wide array of silly and fun sounds. The performance will include demonstration, improvisation, call and response, and interactivity. Participants will experiment making sounds with their mouth on their own, and may even be called up on stage to share with the group within their own comfort level. We will learn many individual sounds, and ultimately combine what we have learned to beatbox along with an actual song. Participants should expect to be laughing a lot as they make sounds they've never made before!

Show Goals

- Stimulate an interest and/or curiosity in the area of vocal percussion and beatboxing.
- Empower students to not be afraid of making mistakes.
- Explore expression and personal identity through the use of purposeful play.
- Provide opportunities for listening, creating, and performing through the vehicle of beatboxing and vocal percussion.
- Deepen students' understanding of the drumset.

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About the artist

Introduction

Originally from Red Deer, Alberta, David is a singer, beatboxer, keyboardist, and music educator now based in Nelson, British Columbia.

Artist Biography

Formerly of the multi Juno-nominated vocal quartet “Cadence”, David is a jazz singer and keyboardist who has been beatboxing for almost two decades, and has always enjoyed making strange sounds and exploring the limits of the human voice. He holds degrees in Jazz Music Performance and Music Education, and is a dynamic and engaging performer with over 12 years of international touring experience and 500+ Educational workshops under his belt. He currently sings with the New York City-based group “Duwende”. He has performed in more than 20 countries, appeared on America’s Got Talent, toured with Grammy award winning-artists, opened for Jay Leno, and his two groups have garnered more than 11 million views on YouTube. As a solo artist, David uses his RC 505 Loopstation to combine jazzy keyboard harmony with vocal experimentations and beatboxing, creating full song arrangements and improvised soundscapes on the fly.



Pre-Show Discussion

What to expect:

The performance starts with a song created on the loopstation, using only the voice. The song incorporates elements of beatboxing and singing, to demonstrate what the students will be learning. Next, there are about 10 minutes of fun warm ups (stretching, breathing, rhythm) and vocal exercises, where we first begin to experiment with the possibilities of the voice. This will be followed by a demonstration of beatboxing, before the students learn to make drum sounds of their own, culminating in a full drum beat. The performance ends with a final song and 10 minutes of Q&A.

What to watch/listen for:

David uses a device called RC-505 Loopstation. This device allows him to record his voice and immediately play it back on the spot to “sing along” with himself. That means that none of the music you hear is recorded ahead of time. See if you can hear how many different versions of himself there are in each song!

David also uses some effects on the RC-505 Loopstation to change his voice in different ways. What are some of the ways you think he might change the way his voice sounds?

David uses his voice to imitate different instruments. Listen carefully and see if you can figure out which instrument sounds he is making!

There are lots of spots in the show to sing along and try making your own sounds. Feel free to join in. There may even be some chances for people to volunteer to try the sounds on a microphone in front of everyone!



Post-Show Discussion

1. Which of the following instrument sounds did David make with his voice?

Trumpet, Piano, Trombone, Guitar, Drums, Bass, Flute

2. Did David use effects to change his voice in the way you thought? If not, in what ways did he change the sound of his voice?
3. What was your favourite sound to learn and why?
4. How did David involve the audience?
5. What is one thing David did or said to inspire you to experiment with your own voice?
6. Were you nervous to try new sounds? Why or why not?
7. "Something new I want to try with my own voice is..."
8. Describe one specific sound or trick David did that really impressed you. How do you think he made that sound?
9. Write 3 words that describe the energy in the room during the show.
10. "Watching David Lane made me realize that music is..."



Lesson Plans

These lessons could be done with your class either before or after the performance. They play with vocal experimentation and sound layering, and are a way to further supplement the following workshop goals:

- Empower students to not be afraid of making mistakes.
- Explore expression and personal identity through the use of purposeful play
- Provide opportunities for listening, creating, and performing

K to Gr 3

[Looping Zoo](#)

Gr 4 to 8

[Cartoon Sound Effects](#)

Printable Activities

K to Gr 3

[Drumset Colouring Sheet](#)

Gr 4 to 8

[Label the Drumset](#) (Includes Answer Key)



Further Learning

A list of resources for those who would like to continue the exploration of beatboxing in their class after the performance.

[You Can Beatbox! Unit Lesson Plans](#) - A full unit on beatboxing, created by David

[You Can Beatbox! Handouts, Outlines, Rubric](#)

[David's Video Tutorials](#)

[The Orthobox Beatbox Tutorial Series](#)

[Alem Beatbox Exercise Playlist](#)