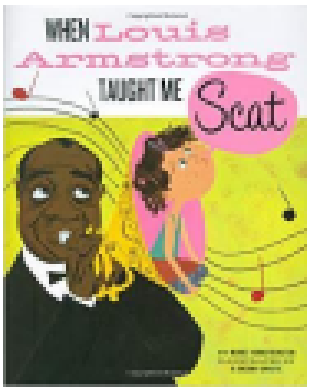
WHAT A WONDERFUL SCAT

Grades K–5th



Objectives:

- Students will understand form and expressive elements in jazz music and scatting.
- Students will describe stylistic qualities of music from different historical periods.
- Students will evaluate different sources of evidence used in historical inquiry.
- Students will use their voice to communicate emotions.
- Students will identify cultural groups in the U. S. and explore the birth of jazz music.

Materials:

- *When Louis Armstrong Taught Me Scat* book
- Speaker
- "What A Wonderful World" printed lyrics (see below)
- Ella Fitzgerald - One note Samba (scat singing) 1969
- Louis Armstrong - What A Wonderful World

Directions:

- At the beginning of this activity, give a brief description of the music genre, jazz. Jazz is a type of American music that stems from African American folk traditions and uses lively rhythms and melodies that are often made up by musicians as they play. With influences from African and Spanish music, it is a unique blend of many styles including gospel music, brass bands, and blues. Jazz uses musical notes that are "bent" to create emotion in the music. Jazz bands can create rhythm from several kinds of instruments. During a song, the rhythms can shift and change too![1]
- Today, we are going to be looking at one element of jazz singing called scat. Scat singing is when the singer improvises sounds to imitate instruments.
- Read the story of *When Louis Armstrong Taught Me Scat*.
- Another famous jazz musician was Ella Fitzgerald. "Ella Jane Fitzgerald was an American jazz singer, sometimes referred to as the 'First Lady of Song', 'Queen of Jazz', and 'Lady Ella.' She was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing, timing, intonation, and a 'horn-like'

[1] "US History: Jazz," Ducksters, accessed on December 30, 2021, https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_1900s/jazz.php.

improvisational ability, particularly in her scat singing."[2] Listen to Ella Fitzgerald scat sing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekmwIStfR0o
- Practice scatting with emotion. What does it sound like to scat about something happy? What does it sound like to scat about something sad? In theater, you may not always be singing words, but you do always sing with emotion.
- **For Grades K-1st:** Work together to act out the lyrics of "What A Wonderful World". Begin by watching the video of Louis Armstrong singing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqhCQZaH4Vs
- Read through the lyrics, and have students act out the lyrics in real time. If extra time, have students perform for their teachers including entering the "stage", a final pose, and taking a bow at the end.
- **For Grades 2nd-5th:** Working with a partner, in small groups, or independently, students will explore scat phrases and come up with their own scat song based on Louis Armstrong's "What A Wonderful World." Listen and look over the lyrics together: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VqhCQZaH4Vs
- Ask students: In your group, what are some lines that you want to keep and what lines do you want to rewrite with scat singing?
- Try it out and have fun!
- When you come to the Gaillard, listen to see if you can spot out scat singing by Charlton. How is modern jazz similar and different to jazz from the past?

Standards:

IM.R IH.6.1 I can explain the use of melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre, texture, form, and expressive elements in varying genres of music.
IM.R AL.6.2 I can describe stylistic qualities of music from different historical periods.
K.H.3 Identify different forms of evidence used in historical inquiry, such as digital sources, maps, photographs/images, or texts.
1.H.3 Evaluate different sources of evidence used in historical inquiry, such as art, artifacts, digital sources, graphs, maps, oral histories, photographs/images, and texts.
T.P NL.3 I can use body and voice to communicate character traits and emotions in a guided drama experience.

[2] "Ella Fitzgerald," Wikipedia, last modified on December 27, 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ella_Fitzgerald.

2.CG.1 Identify cultural and ethnic groups in the U. S., explore their characteristics, and communicate how civic dispositions build relationships between groups in a diverse society.

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD

I see trees of green, red roses too

I see them bloom for me and you

And I think to myself what a wonderful world

I see skies of blue and clouds of white

The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night

And I think to myself what a wonderful world

The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky

Are also on the faces of people going by

I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do

They're really saying I love you

I hear babies crying, I watch them grow

They'll learn much more than I'll never know

And I think to myself what a wonderful world

Yes I think to myself what a wonderful world

Scat phrases: be, bop, ski, do, she, wah, da

Bibliography

Ducksters. “US History: Jazz.” Accessed on December 30, 2021. https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_1900s/jazz.php.

Wikipedia. “Ella Fitzgerald.” Last modified on December 27, 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ella_Fitzgerald.