



MIDDLE SCHOOL

MASTERCLASS 2

Theme: The Musical Ensemble - Bringing Singers and Instrumentalists Together



Abstract

In a one hour masterclass for middle school students, we will focus on music that involves both singers and instrumentalists. We will not only highlight the importance of music in musical theatre but also showcase how instrumentalists and singers can work together to create a powerful performance.

Objective

To demonstrate the integral role of music in musical theatre by involving both singers and instrumentalists in performance activities, promoting collaboration and understanding of each other's roles.

Equipment & Materials Needed

- Musical instruments
- A sound system for playing backing tracks.
- Copies of sheet music for both singers and instrumentalists.
- A projector and screen for displaying lyrics or musical scores.

Introduction (5 Minutes)

- Warm-Up Activity: Begin with a fun musical warm-up that gets both instrumentalists and singers involved. This could be a simple call and response exercise where a rhythm or melody is played by an instrumentalist, and singers repeat it back with their voices.
- Overview: Briefly explain the objectives of the workshop, emphasizing the collaborative nature of musical theatre between musicians and singers.

Segment 1: Understanding Roles (10 minutes)

- Presentation: A quick overview of the roles of musicians and singers in a musical theatre setting, highlighting famous examples from musicals where the collaboration between instrumentalists and singers is key.
- Discussion: Encourage participants to share their thoughts on the importance of working together in musical performances.

Segment 2: Musical Collaboration Workshop (20 minutes)

- Selecting a Piece: we will choose a well-known piece from musical theatre that includes both instrumental and vocal parts.(west side story/Annie)
- Rehearsal: Break down the piece into sections and rehearse them, focusing first on instrumentalists learning their parts, then singers on theirs, and finally bringing both together.
- Interactive Element: Encourage feedback between singers and instrumentalists on balance, dynamics, and expression to refine their collaborative performance.

Segment 3: Performance Techniques (10 minutes)

- Mini-Lesson on Stage Presence: Teach participants about conveying emotion and story through music, discussing techniques for both singers and instrumentalists to engage the audience.
- Interactive Activity: Practice these techniques by performing a section of the piece with an emphasis on expression and stage presence.

Segment 4: Preparing for a Joint Performance (10 minutes)

- Integration and Polish: Focus on integrating the musical and performance aspects, polishing the piece for performance. Work on transitions, cues, and final adjustments.
- Dress Rehearsal: Perform the piece from beginning to end, simulating a live performance environment.

Conclusion: Reflection and Feedback (5 minutes)

- Group Reflection: Discuss the collaborative process, what was learned about the other group's contributions, and how these elements come together in musical theatre.
- Feedback Session: Provide constructive feedback on the performance, with an emphasis on the positive aspects of collaboration and areas for improvement.
- Encouraging Mutual Respect: Throughout the workshop, we will emphasize the importance of mutual respect and appreciation for the contributions of both singers and instrumentalists.
- we will be prepared to adapt the plan based on the number of participants, their skill levels, and the instruments available.

This workshop aims to highlight the synergy between singers and instrumentalists in musical theatre, promoting an understanding of how these roles complement each other to create compelling performances. Students should have a greater appreciation for the collaborative nature of musical theatre and the importance of both musicians and vocalists.