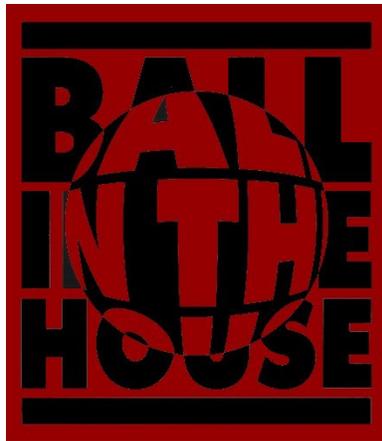


# TOTALLY VOCALLY

AN A CAPPELLA MUSICAL JOURNEY WITH



Student Guide

Grades 1 – 5

## INTRODUCTION

Get ready to experience a cappella music like never before! Very soon, you will get to take part in an interactive journey with Ball In The House. You will learn about the history of a cappella music to the technology that we use to how to make drum sounds without any instruments. Before that happens, let's introduce you to a few things.

\*A Cappella means any music made without the use of instruments. Every sound is made with the human voice!

\*Ball In The House is a full time a cappella group based out of Boston, Massachusetts.

\*Being full time means that making a cappella music is our job!

\*Ball In The House is comprised of 5 guys. Their names are Jon, Dave, James, Wallace, and Monty. You will get to know more about them later!

\*The diversity of backgrounds make Ball In The House a unique group. They are from all over the United States. In the group, there are former electricians, dancers, bank tellers, servers, American Idol contestants, members of the Armed Forces, and teachers!

\*You may have seen Ball In The House on The Today Show, The Early Morning Show, and America's Got Talent.

\*Ball In The House were the voices of Cool Whip for many years. Recently, they were the men behind the Amazon Prime jingle.

Now that you have had an intro to a cappella and Ball In The House,  
**LET'S GET STARTED!!!!**

# TEAMWORK

As we said, Ball In The House is made up of 5 guys from very different backgrounds. In order for us to make the a cappella music that we do, we have to work as a team.

When most people think about working as a team, they think sports teams. That is absolutely the case. **Teamwork** is also working on a project in school with your classmates. Helping out around the house with your family is also considered teamwork. **Teamwork is when individual people work together as a unit to reach a common goal.**

Ball In The House is an a cappella group. Our common goal is making sure that we create the best sound possible for our audiences to enjoy. Even though we have our individual roles, we have to work as a team to reach our goal.

**Exercise #1:** Get together with a classmate and decide on a color for each letter in the word Teamwork below. Listen to each other and work as a team to determine what colors work best for each letter!!! We look forward to seeing your finished products!

\*Materials needed: Crayons/Markers/Colored Pencils

# TEAMWORK

# VOICE PARTS

We talked about having our individual roles in Ball In The House. Those roles for us are our **Voice Parts**. **Voice Parts are the titles given to tell you what someone does, how high, or how low they sing.** There are many different **Voice Parts**. Since Ball In The House is 5 guys, we have 5 very distinct **Voice Parts**. Let's breakdown all of the **Voice Parts**:

\***DRUMS/VOCAL PERCUSSION** – Jon is our vocal percussionist/beatboxer. His job is to make all of the drum sounds that you hear. You will learn more about those later!

\***BASS** – James sings the bass part. The bass is known as the lowest voice part.

\***BARITONE** – Wallace sings the baritone part. The baritone can sing some low and some high but always right above the bass part. The baritone is also the most common male voice.

\***TENOR** – Dave sings the tenor part. The tenor is one of the higher male voices. The tenor part is sung right above the baritone part.

\***HIGH TENOR** – Monty sings the high tenor part. The high tenor part is the highest voice part in the group. It goes by many other names such as the alto part or the counter tenor part. This voice part is sung right above the tenor part

There are other voice parts out there that refer to the female voice such as soprano, alto, mezzo soprano, and contralto.

**Exercise #2:** Unscramble the letters to form the names of the voice parts

SBAS \_\_\_\_\_

GIHH NORET \_\_\_\_\_

ERTNO \_\_\_\_\_

MDUSR \_\_\_\_\_

AINEBTRO \_\_\_\_\_

## Voice Sections

So how do all 5 **Voice Parts** work together as a team? The best way to do that is to join forces in different sections to make a complete song.

**Voice Sections are when Voice Parts work together to add an important part to the song.**

\***RHYTHM** – The Rhythm section is comprised of the Drums and the Bass. They work together to set a solid and firm foundation for the song. They create the feel or groove of the song. The Rhythm section also determines how fast or slow a song should go. This is otherwise known as the tempo.

\***HARMONY** – The Harmony section works with the Rhythm section to make the song sound a lot more complete. There may be some space in the song. The Harmonies make sure that those spaces are filled in.

\***MELODY** – The Melody is the main idea of the song. The Melody contains the lyrics and tune that help to tell the story of the song to the audience. The Melody works with the Harmonies and the Rhythm sections to put the finishing touches on the song.

# Technology

While we are a completely vocal group, we definitely need the use of **Technology** to enhance the sound. Ball In The House does about 250 shows a year. **Technology aids us in preserving our voices and staying healthy so that we put on the best show possible!** Here are a few of the items that we use during our show.

**MICROPHONES:** Microphones are pieces of equipment that allow sound to travel from your mouth to the speakers.

**SPEAKERS:** Speakers amplify the sound coming through the microphones so that the entire audience can hear very clearly.

**MIXING BOARD:** A panel of buttons and levers that control the volume of each microphone that the audience can hear. Just like in a recipe, the Mixing Board or Mixer is helpful in making sure that we get the right blend of voices.

**OCTAVE PEDAL:** A small piece of equipment that drops the voice of our Bass singer down an octave. It is very helpful in getting the sound that we need for certain songs.

**EAR MONITOR:** Ear Monitors let us hear everything coming through the microphones. These are helpful so that we can listen to each other in a clearer way. It is like having your own personal speaker in your ear!

**Exercise #3:** Find the Technology in this word search!

MIXINGBOARDKEAXOAPEDSGCMWSDOCAJOJDFANRICOA  
IOMCLSDIOMENOIOSMVSDJLMICROPHONESECOMADKEA  
IONOVEOMXSXOIJCJDSFNXKOHDFIPHFDSVSDPDWDNVOE  
CADNWFIADOFNADCDOCTAVEPEDALNKDSOENDUVBEOD  
INOECOISHEIPNKNDISOIUDFNEKOHDONCOIUDKFIHONDK  
EANDSPEAKERSNOINOSOFNIOVDIODIOHONOUUICNND  
IHENSNFKLLKJDIONEODNEANDOMDAECAEARMONITOREI  
CNAIOCKEDOBCOQCZVWOYBNSEVOEDSNKLEDBGTEISZXU

# Songwriting

**Songwriting is when you take an emotion that you may be feeling or something that is on your mind and you set it to music.**

Any emotion can help you write a song. If you turn on the radio, you will hear a mix of different emotions heard through song.

A lot of songs start off as poems or journals. It is so important to be able to express your feelings and emotions. Songwriting, journals, and poetry are excellent ways to do this!

**Exercise #4:** List 3 emotions that you would use to write a song

1)

2)

3)

**Exercise #5:** Name a song that you hear on the radio and tell us what emotion it uses!

## Drums/Vocal Percussion

We are sure that most of you have tried to beatbox or make drum sounds while listening to the radio. Pretty fun! Jon, our vocal percussionist will teach you all about the drum sounds that he uses and that you can practice...at home! If you look at a drum set, you will be able to pick out each of the drums that Jon will discuss. Let's talk about the different drum sounds.

**\*HI HAT CYMBALS:** Two brass circles that sit on top of each other on a pole with a foot pedal. You can get two different sounds from the Cymbals. The first sound is the closed sound. That is when the two Cymbals are together. You can make that sound by using the letter "T". The second sound is the open sound. That is when the two Cymbals are separated. You can make that sound by using the letter "T" but followed closely by the letter "S".

**\*BASS/KICK DRUM:** Large round drum that sits on its side. Just like the Bass voice, the Bass Drum is the lowest drum in the set. You can make this sound by using the words "Boom" or "Doom" in your lowest voice possible.

**\*SNARE DRUM:** This smaller drum sits on a stand. Under the drum, you will find these small wires, called Snares. They create a rattle type sound. You can make this sound by combining the sound of the letters "P" and "F" with your lips being really tight. Not recommended while eating or drinking!

Now that you know how to make the different drum sounds, you can now create drum patterns. With practice, you can become a beatboxing expert!!!

**Exercise #6:** Write down a drum pattern that you would like to try or practice. Use the words OPEN CYMBAL, CLOSED CYMBAL, BASS DRUM, SNARE DRUM to create a very interesting drum pattern!

You have learned about Voice Parts, Voice Sections, Technology, Song-writing, Drum Sounds/Vocal Percussion, and Teamwork. Now it is time for a little History lesson.

# History Of A Cappella

Most people think that A Cappella is a style of music, but it is actually a way to make music. Some styles are Country, Rock, R&B, and Pop, for example. Let's take you down a brief history of A Cappella.

A Cappella is Latin for "in the church" or "in the style of the church". In many religions, instruments were forbidden. The only way that they could make music for their services was to use the human voice. The term A Cappella was used to refer to the music used in the services. Now, A Cappella refers to any music made without instruments.

Here are a few examples of different styles of music commonly performed A Cappella through the ages:

**GREGORIAN CHANT:** The earliest form of A Cappella music. Sang in Latin and from sacred text. One voice. No Harmony. No Drums. Later, other voices were added to give it a fuller sound.

**MADRIGALS:** A form of A Cappella that told a story. Used 3 or more voice parts that had moving parts and lots of rhythm.

**SPIRITUALS:** A form of A Cappella that evolved from enslaved Africans that were brought to America. Slaves used these songs to inspire themselves during the hardships of slavery.

**GOSPEL:** This music stemmed from the Spiritual. A lot more harmony and driving rhythm.

**BARBERSHOP:** This form came at a time when the radio was only used for news, so a lot of music was made by people when they gathered together, such as when they got their haircut at the barbershop. Known for tight harmonies and close chords. Now a thriving component of A Cappella.

**DOO WOP:** Generated at a time when friends would get together on the street corners and just make music. In order to sound like the early Rock n Roll songs that they heard on the radio, nonsense syllables were used

to make the sound more complete. Syllables like Shoo Doop Shoo Bee Doo Wop was how this form got its name.

Exercise #7: Use the description to fill in the blank with the correct A Cappella form

WORD BANK

Gregorian Chant

Gospel

Spirituals

Doo Wop

Barbershop

Madrigals

1) Close harmonies and tight chords: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Performed on the street corners  
and used syllables \_\_\_\_\_

3) Evolved from Africans who were brought to  
America \_\_\_\_\_

4) Sang in Latin and used sacred text \_\_\_\_\_

5) Used 3 or more voice parts with lots of rhythm \_\_\_\_\_

6) Came from another form of A Cappella but uses a lot more harmo-  
ny and driving rhythm \_\_\_\_\_

## **Conclusion**

Thanks for taking this awesome journey with us through the world of A Cappella music!

We understand that you may have more questions when we visit your school and we can't wait to answer them. If you need a question answered sooner, check out our very student friendly website with the permission of your parent or guardian.

WEBSITE:

[www.ballinthehouse.com](http://www.ballinthehouse.com)

You can also find us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube!

Hope that you have enjoyed this journey and we are looking forward to seeing you at your school very soon!!!!

BALL IN THE HOUSE

Dave, Jon, James, Wallace, and Monty