

SoVoSó

In this assembly, **SoVoSó** (from the **S**oul to the **V**oice to the **S**ong) demonstrates their imaginative, dynamic and inspirational **a capella** "voices only" music-making and group improvisations. Presenting musical styles of a global perspective, from Afro-Latin, jazz and funk to R&B, inspirational, blues, and pop, SoVoSó leads students in an exploration of creating vocal percussion sounds and call-and-response singing.

"SoVoSó is tight, soulful, and a whole lotta fun."

-Bobby McFerrin

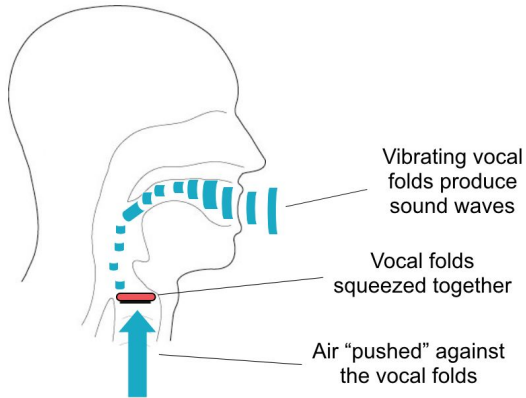
SoVoSó Video Examples:

<https://youtu.be/Q3L8JtTfcMc>

<https://youtu.be/hAiBqtgppuo>



Basic Singing Vocabulary



instrument - an apparatus or tool for producing musical sounds

the voice - our first instrument; sound produced by human mouths by the controlled expulsion of air

a capella - music created with voices only (unaccompanied by other instruments)

part-singing - using several voices to create layers of sound and harmony in one song

soprano - the highest singing voices

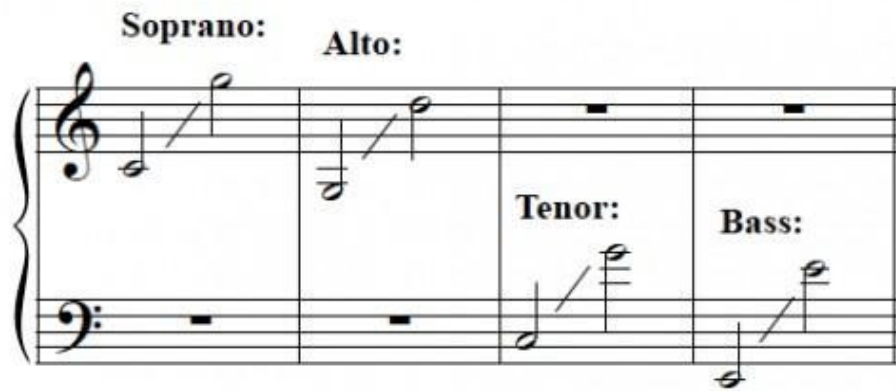
alto - second highest singing voices

tenor - intermediate singing voices (between bass and alto)

bass - lowest singing voices

Part Singing Example:

<https://youtu.be/zLh5WGs2Tio>



General Music and A Capella Techniques

arranging / arrangement - adapting or re-writing a composition to accommodate voices or instruments

beat boxing - to create the sounds and rhythms of percussion instruments or a drum machine by using the mouth and voice
(https://youtu.be/g0_2vmkTmf0)

call and response - a style of singing in which a melody sung by one singer is responded to or echoed by one or more singers. (<https://youtu.be/QFWRcXYsYMo>)

circle singing - improvisational singing performed in a group or community.
(<https://youtu.be/gJNgUdH0ijQ>)

harmony - any simultaneous combination of tones (different notes played or sung together to create one new textured, blended sound)
(<https://youtu.be/pRzjNPSIXH0>)

hidden messages (in songs) - singing one thing, but meaning another. The literal meaning of a word or phrase may be referencing something secret.

improvisation - to compose and perform (or sing) without previous preparation, to perform on the spur of the moment from whatever materials are readily available
(<https://youtu.be/81uJZIF9TCs>)

melody - singular musical sounds presented in a particular series or arrangement. (often creating a musical phrase or idea) (<https://youtu.be/pRzjNPSIXH0>)

rhythm - a pattern of regular or irregular pulses (caused in music by the occurrence of strong and weak melodic and harmonic beats)

scatting (scat singing) - singing in which the singer substitutes improvised nonsense syllables for the words of a song, and tries to sound and phrase like a musical instrument. (<https://youtu.be/k0175vPMU7o>)



Musical Influences of Contemporary A Capella

Bobby McFerrin

Video Examples:

<https://youtu.be/ne6tB2KiZuk>

<https://youtu.be/8eH8jS0DyO0>



Ella Fitzgerald

Video Example:

<https://youtu.be/PbL9vr4Q2LU>

Lambert, Hendricks & Ross

Video Example:

<https://youtu.be/UI54NwLxS>

Jon Hendricks

Video Example:

https://youtu.be/lzin4asq_fE



Photo Copyright (Lambert, Hendricks & Ross):
© Corbis. All Rights Reserved. Creator: Ted Williams

Making the World a Better Place

With these three guiding principles, SoVoSó uses their music to make the world a better place:

- 1. Collaboration / Cooperation**
- 2. Building community**
- 3. Social Responsibility**

1. Collaboration & Cooperation occurs when we work together to create something bigger than one person can do on their own. SoVoSó cooperates when they blend their voices to create their unique sound. Each member contributes their individual part to make something different and new through their collaboration.

What are some ways that you have collaborated or cooperated with others? What did you create? What could you create?

2. Building community is an important aspect of working together successfully. Building community takes trust and respect. SoVoSó builds community by listening to one another and using creativity and imagination to create new songs.

What are some ways that you build community in: Your classroom? Your school? Home? Neighborhood? City?

3. Social Responsibility is the concept of doing things that benefit the whole society, not just one's self. As individuals, we can take responsible for performing actions that benefit more people than just ourselves.

SoVoSó fulfills their commitment to social responsibility by:

- using their voices for good and
- using their voices to spread positive messages to people.
- Example: SoVoSó sings One Planet: <https://youtu.be/gEqOQy3Guol>

What are some ways that you can demonstrate social responsibility?



Classroom Discussion

Can you think of any special occasions when people sing? In your family? Culture? Community? Country?

Does your family have any music or singing traditions that you can share?

What messages do you hear in the music that you listen to?

What types of messages do you **want** to hear in the music you listen to?

How can music help us make changes in the world?

Class Activity: *My Voice is 1,000 Instruments*

- VAPA Skills: Creating, Performing

1. Have your class name as many different instruments as they can. (For example: drums, trumpet, saxophone, cello, accordion...)
2. Have your students try making the sounds of each instrument with their voice only. (If the students have not heard the instruments before, watch videos for reference.)
3. Have the students choose an instrument and perform it in front of the class. (This can be done quickly around the room with the students standing at their desks or in a circle. A few seconds per student is plenty.)
4. Allow the students to form small groups and make a 20 second composition combining their vocal instruments. Have the groups perform with their “band” in front of the class.
5. Allow the students to discuss their experience of making the different vocal sounds and what it was like to work with a small group to create a composition.

Class Activity: *What is a capella?*

- VAPA Skill: Responding, Connecting

1. Review the a capella techniques listed above with your class.
2. Review the 3 Influencers of contemporary a capella in this study guide and watch the videos provided.
3. Have your students find examples of the a capella techniques in the videos.
4. What else do your students notice from these examples that might be different than singing and music that they are already familiar with?

Thank you for attending SoVoSó!

At Rhythmix' PAL assembly, you will see four SoVoSó members including Tammi Brown, Vernon Bush and Bryan Dyer. Other great SoVoSó singers include David Worm (founder), Sunshine Becker, Ashling Cole, Zoe Ellis, Nicolas Bearde and Alexa Morales.



SoVoSó, from left: Bryan Dyer, Sunshine Becker, David Worm, Ashling Cole, Vernon Bush and Zoe Ellis.