



Urban Nation
H.I.P. H.O.P.
Choir

All Ages
Grades K and up

A Reproducible Learning Guide for Educators

This guide is designed to help educators prepare for, enjoy, and discuss Urban Nation H.I.P. H.O.P. Choir. It contains background, discussion questions and activities appropriate for all ages.

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Sommer Endowment



Smithsonian Associates

About the Production

With a mix that covers everything from jazz to gospel, spirituals to show tunes, and classical to contemporary, D.C.'s own Urban Nation H.I.P. H.O.P. Choir showcases amazing young talent—and the astounding power of music in our lives. In a high-energy performance full of rich harmonies and plenty of audience engagement, this talented ensemble's musical, message of self-empowerment rings out loud and clear: Lift your own voice so you can be heard above the crowd!



About the Group

The Urban Nation H.I.P.-H.O.P. (**Hope, Integrity, Power - Helping Our People**) Choir of Washington, DC has the mission of channeling the creative and artistic energies of a targeted group of youth into a dynamic, structured group that will foster excellence in all facets of their lives. They focus on a better understanding and awareness of their heritage by performing a variety of musical styles, particularly spirituals, gospel, jazz, contemporary, inspirational, folk, MUSICAL Theatre/Hip Hop and classical music. In addition to performing, Urban Nation emphasizes education, academic excellence, community service, intercultural appreciation, discipline and HIV/AIDS awareness.

For more information visit: www.urbannation.org

Music is the soundtrack of our lives. Today, we listen to it on our phones, ipads, computers, in our cars and buses, in stores and at school and in church, and at sporting events -- and even in our heads, when we cannot get a song off our minds! Music can bring people together and motivate them to be strong, give them a rhythm to work to or a happy feeling while they labor. Music makes the time go fast and slows us down, calming us and making us less afraid. Urban Nation reminds us of all these reasons and more... that just the **joy of lifting our voices together can create understanding and commonality among strangers, and warmth among friends.**

Do Your Own Vocal Warm-ups!

When people perform in show choir concerts, they need to warm-up their voice beforehand. Your voice is just as much of an instrument as a guitar or trumpet. In order to warm-up your voice, different vocal exercises are needed prior to not hurt or strain your vocal instrument. Some examples of vocal warm-ups are shaking it out, tongue twisters, rounds, breathing exercises, silly word combinations, singing the alphabet, games, imitating animals, and singing hello. Below is a link that will provide information on how to do these warm-ups. Choose your favorites to prep for a singing extravaganza!

For more information visit: <https://improvesingingonline.com/vocal-warm-ups-kids/>

Make Your Own Microphone!

Materials:

- paper towel tube
- black craft paint
- Styrofoam ball
- piece of aluminum foil (enough to cover the ball)
- hot glue gun
- stick on gems or metallic craft tape



Directions:

- Cut a paper towel tube in half and paint with some craft paint. Allow to dry.
- Cover the Styrofoam ball with a piece of aluminum foil, and then use a hot glue gun to attach the ball to one end of the paper towel tube.
- Add some bling to your microphone with stick-on gems or metallic craft tape.

More information can be found at: <https://www.aboutamom.com/sing-digital-hd-microphone-craft-for-kids/>

Why do you like music?

Make a poster of the biggest memory you have of music-- a party, a game or a holiday? Make a drawing, poem or comic that tells that memory. Give it a name-- or better still -- write a song for it.

Vocabulary

Melody- combination of pitches that move up, down, or repeat in arranged in orders that are usually pleasing to hear

Rhythm- patterns of long and short sounds in a phrase

Tempo- speed of the beat, with terms for fast or slow

Harmony- when two or more pitches sound at same time

Dynamics- the loudness or softness of the music

Finale- ending to a musical piece



2019 is Smithsonian Year of Music
365 Days of Music at the Smithsonian

The Smithsonian Year of Music is an Institution-wide initiative to increase public engagement, advance understanding, and connect communities in Washington, D.C., across the nation, and around the globe. **The Smithsonian Year of Music highlights and shares our vast musical holdings, bringing together our resources in history, art, culture, science, and education.**

The Smithsonian Year of Music features “365 Days of Music at the Smithsonian” with a variety of music-related activities: performances, music releases, exhibitions, workshops, educational programs, lectures, films, and conferences. The 2019 Smithsonian Folklife Festival (June 26 to 30 and July 3 to 7, 2019 on the National Mall) is focused on the “Social Power of Music.”

For more information visit: www.music.si.edu/smithsonian-year-music

Did You Know? March is Music In Our Schools Month!

For more than 30 years, March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) for the observance of Music In Our Schools Month (MIOSM), **the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools** across the nation.

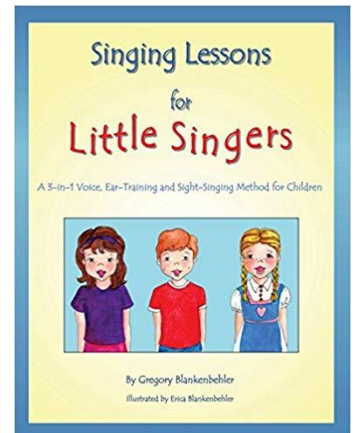
The purpose of MIOSM is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children – and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. MIOSM is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community, and to display the benefits that school music brings to students of all ages.



READ...

Singing Lessons for Little Singers: A 3-in-1 Voice, Ear-Training and Sight-Singing Method for Children, By Gregory Blankenbehler

Written for teachers or parents of young children, *Singing Lessons for Little Singers* offers exciting songs and exercises based on proven pedagogical principles and healthy vocal technique for use in solo or group voice lessons. This revolutionary method combines a system of voice-developing technique exercises with an ear-training and sight-singing course and a collection of enjoyable songs with entertaining lyrics and delightful illustrations.



More information at: <https://www.amazon.com/Singing-Lessons-Little-Singers-Sight-Singing/dp/1450530605>

WATCH...

Wide Open Sky, By Lisa Nicol

Wide Open Sky is an uplifting documentary about a children's choir in a remote corner of outback Australia. Out here, footy is king and music education is rare as rain. The children travel far from home to music camp to prepare for a big concert in Coonamble. They have three days to learn a demanding repertoire. *Wide Open Sky* follows four primary-aged children brave enough to dream big. While the choir means something different to each of them, it matters a lot to all of them. Moving and funny, the film reminds us why no child, anywhere, should grow up without music.



For more information visit: <http://www.wideopenskymovie.com/the-film/>

VISIT...

The National Museum of American History to see the *Sounding American Music* exhibit about how from acoustic guitar to keytar—this display looks at musicians representing diverse genres who have innovated, invented, and inspired as they contributed to America's songbook. Guitars from Steve Cropper, Elizabeth Cotten, and Jesse Fuller demonstrate decades of ingenuity, while Herbie Hancock's keytar reflects the continuous evolution in American music making.



Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except December 25. Admission is always **free** and no tickets are required.

More information is available at: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/sounding-american-music>

Discovery Theater • P.O. Box 23293, Washington, DC • www.discoverytheater.org
Like us on **Facebook** • Instagram: **SmithsonianDiscoveryTheater** • Twitter: **Smithsonian Kids**

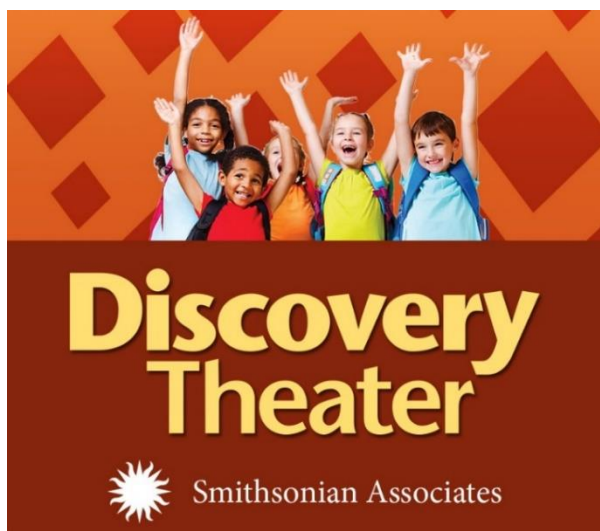


Smithsonian Institution

OUR MISSION: "THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE"

Smithsonian Associates advances the Institution's mission through life-enriching educational and cultural experiences inspired by the Smithsonian's research and collections for DC-region students, families, and adults, and for learning communities nationwide.

Discovery Theater has been presenting DC-area children with live educational performances for almost 40 years. With programs that enrich the Smithsonian experience for nearly 50,000 children annually, Discovery Theater is a gateway to the exhibits, collections, and themes contained in the museums and galleries on the National Mall and beyond. We explore American history and cultures, folk tales from around the world, and exciting, accessible science and math programs in the company of puppeteers, storytellers, dancers, actors, and musicians. Discovery Theater performances unite ideologies, enact themes that reflect the diversity of its audiences, open avenues of self-reflection, and offer an enjoyable means for parents and teachers to demonstrate life's lessons. There's so much to do and explore at the Smithsonian—and Discovery Theater is the ideal place to begin!



Our Location

The S. Dillon Ripley Center, 3rd Sublevel
1100 Jefferson Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024

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