

Workshop Series: "Start the Sound - Creative Music Making Together"

For ages: 11-19

Goal: Help young musicians build confidence, musical identity, and collaboration through improvisation and writing

Session 1 - "Sound Without Fear"

Focus: Breaking the ice with sound and listening

Objectives:

- Create a safe space for musical risk-taking
- Explore sound through playful group improvisation
- Build listening and group awareness

Activities:

- Sound circle: pass a rhythm, sound, or phrase around the room
- Group groove-building (e.g. layering voices, body percussion, instruments)
- Listen to a student-chosen track - discuss what stands out and why

Session 2 - "Rhythm = Language"

Focus: Rhythmic creativity and communication

Objectives:

- Develop rhythmic awareness and creative expression
- Use rhythm to communicate and respond
- Connect rhythm to speech/lyrics

Activities:

- Call and response rhythm games
- Create a rhythm using words from a prompt (e.g. favourite food, places)

- Loop station or simple loop apps to build group grooves

Session 3 - "From Words to Music"

Focus: Collaborative songwriting and melodic ideas

Objectives:

- Turn personal ideas into lyrics or themes
- Experiment with melodic phrasing, even for beginners
- Encourage group co-writing

Activities:

- Group brainstorm: What do we care about? What do we want to say?
- Start lyric writing in pairs or trios
- Improvise melody using simple scales or natural voice

Session 4 - "Build the Song"

Focus: Structure, rehearsal, and group decision-making

Objectives:

- Assemble sections (verse, chorus, loop) into a structure
- Practice performance and stage presence
- Develop ensemble communication (cues, dynamics, support)

Activities:

- Rehearse in groups with facilitator support
- Focused coaching sessions (performance tips, harmony, timing)
- Share progress and get peer feedback

Session 5 - "Share Your Voice"

Focus: Final performance and reflection

Objectives:

- Celebrate each group's creative work
- Build performance confidence
- Reflect on growth and collaboration

Activities:

- Set-up and soundcheck style run-through
- End-of-project sharing performance (informal or public)
- Circle-up: What did you learn about yourself through this?

Extra Notes

- You can still reference jazz and other styles in your reflections or listening examples (e.g. "Let's listen to how artists in jazz, hip hop, or neo soul build solos or grooves").
- Emphasise that your facilitation focuses on collaborative music-making and expression, which builds the same core skills as jazz education (aural, improvisation, performance).