

ABT ALBERTA BAIR



T H E A T E R

EDUCATION GUIDE



Tuesday, October 7, 2025
9:30 AM & 12:30 PM

Recommended for Grades 3-12
Tickets: \$7.00 per person

Jane Wallace ABT Student Matinee Series

ABT Education Partner



Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts
2801 Third Avenue North • Billings, Montana 59101
406.294.5206 or 406.256.8915
www.AlbertaBairTheater.Org

COLLISION OF RHYTHM

We are all MADE OF MUSIC!

“We are musical beings!”

We breathe in rhythm
We walk in rhythm
We talk in rhythm
Our hearts beat in rhythm

Rhythm is an undeniable force which connects all people together. Our hearts beat in rhythm. We walk in rhythm. We talk in rhythm. We breathe in rhythm. We communicate through rhythm. In ***Collision of Rhythm***, we love making music out of all kinds of sounds. Sometimes, we use professional musical instruments. Sometimes, we find sounds from our environment or from our own bodies. Music is everywhere! Think of the sounds that you encounter in your daily life. How could these sounds be used to make music? What are these sounds?



List some of these sounds below:

“Music surrounds us!”

Phones Ring
Birds Sing
Clocks Tick
Leaves Rustle

Name _____ Date _____

COLLISION OF RHYTHM

WORD SEARCH

We use many kinds of musical instruments in *Collision of Rhythm*. Each instrument generates a unique sound and requires unique technique, which gives us new ways to explore, create, and have interesting musical conversations. Below is a list of some of the instruments you might see in our show. Can you find them all?

Find all 17 Instruments:

M N A T L H A E Z L D J E M B E K M B W P V N X A
N S O O B E T U L F N A C I R E M A E V I T A N C
C O L L I S I O N O F R H Y T H M R A E A R H W I
G D Z X R I H J N K Q S C D D A J I T L N N Q Y N
V S M J Y J T V T N O A I A P R I M B E O J C G O
N A P D N A H E T U L F W N J D Q B O L E L O K M
B O U N C E J U G G L I N G G O H A X U W S A Y R
N O I S S U C R E P Y D O B R I N K I K G Z M P A
T A P D A N C E N O H P O X A S N P N U O F G O H
S D Y I Y K S M G Z K K Y C X Q C G G O D O O W T

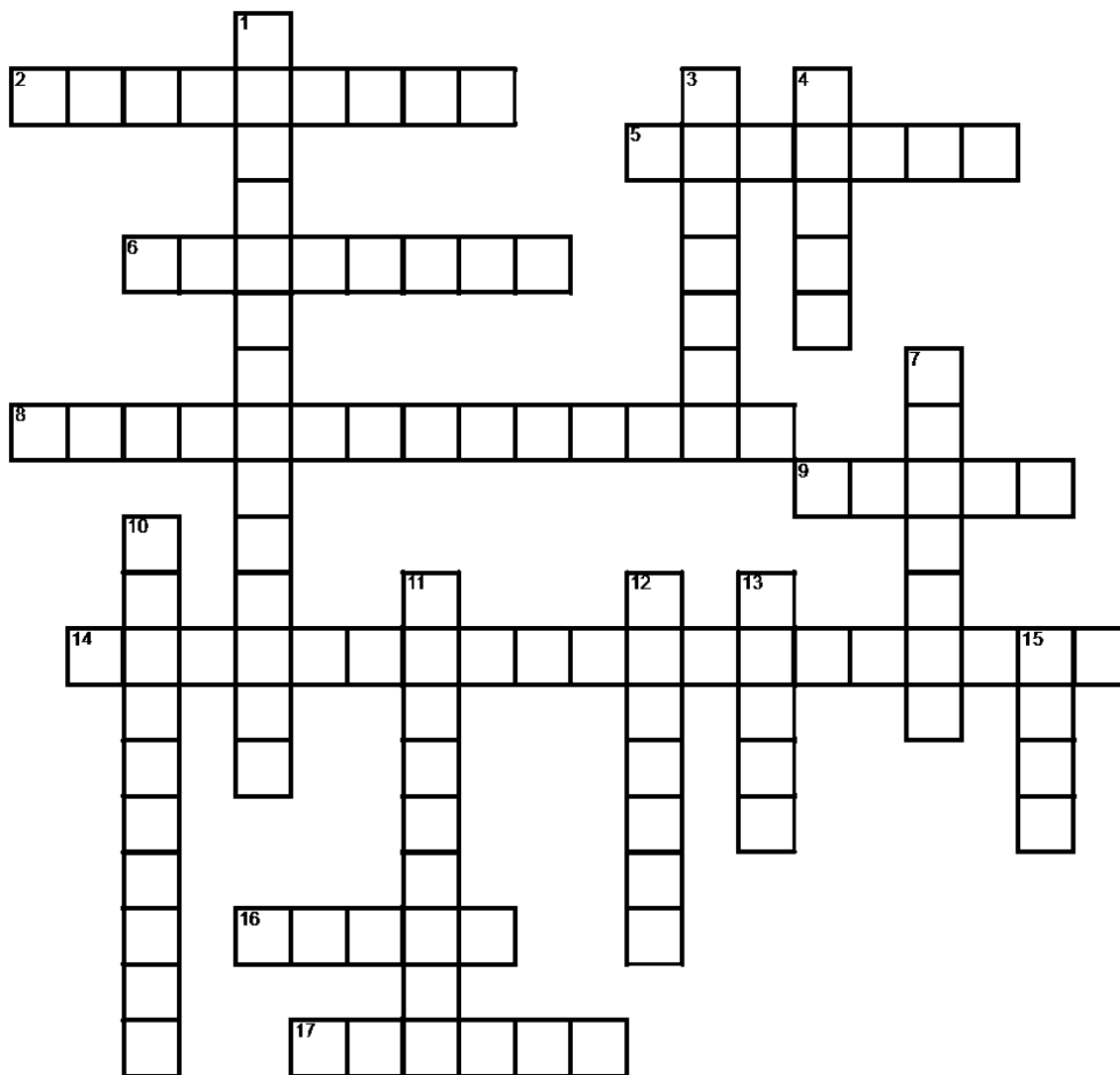
Word Bank	
Beatboxing Body Percussion Bounce Juggling Cajon Djembe Flute Handpan Harmonica Kazoo	Marimba Native American Flute Piano Saxophone Singing Tap Dance Toms Ukulele COLLISION OF RHYTHM

Name _____ Date _____

COLLISION OF RHYTHM

Crossword Puzzle

Aaron and Bronkar use many instruments in *Collision of Rhythm*. Use the clues on the following page to identify them.



Name _____ Date _____

Across

2. A small wind instrument played by using the mouth to direct air through holes along a wide, rectangular mouthpiece. Behind each hole is a chamber containing at least one reed.
5. A percussion instrument consisting of wooden bars struck with yarn or rubber mallets to produce musical tones. Resonators or pipes suspended underneath the bars amplify their sound.
6. A dance performed wearing shoes fitted with metal taps, characterized by rhythmical tapping of the toes and heels.
8. A form of toss juggling where the balls are thrown down and bounced off a flat surface.
9. A wind instrument that is typically made of metal with an elaborate set of keys. It is usually held horizontally so that the player's breath strikes a narrow edge, causing it to vibrate and produce sound.
14. A type of wooden flute that is held vertically, has open finger holes, and has two chambers: one for collecting the breath of the player and a second chamber which creates sound.
16. A musical instrument that adds a "buzzing" sound when the player vocalizes into it.
17. A rope-tuned, skin-covered, goblet drum played with bare hands, originally from West Africa.

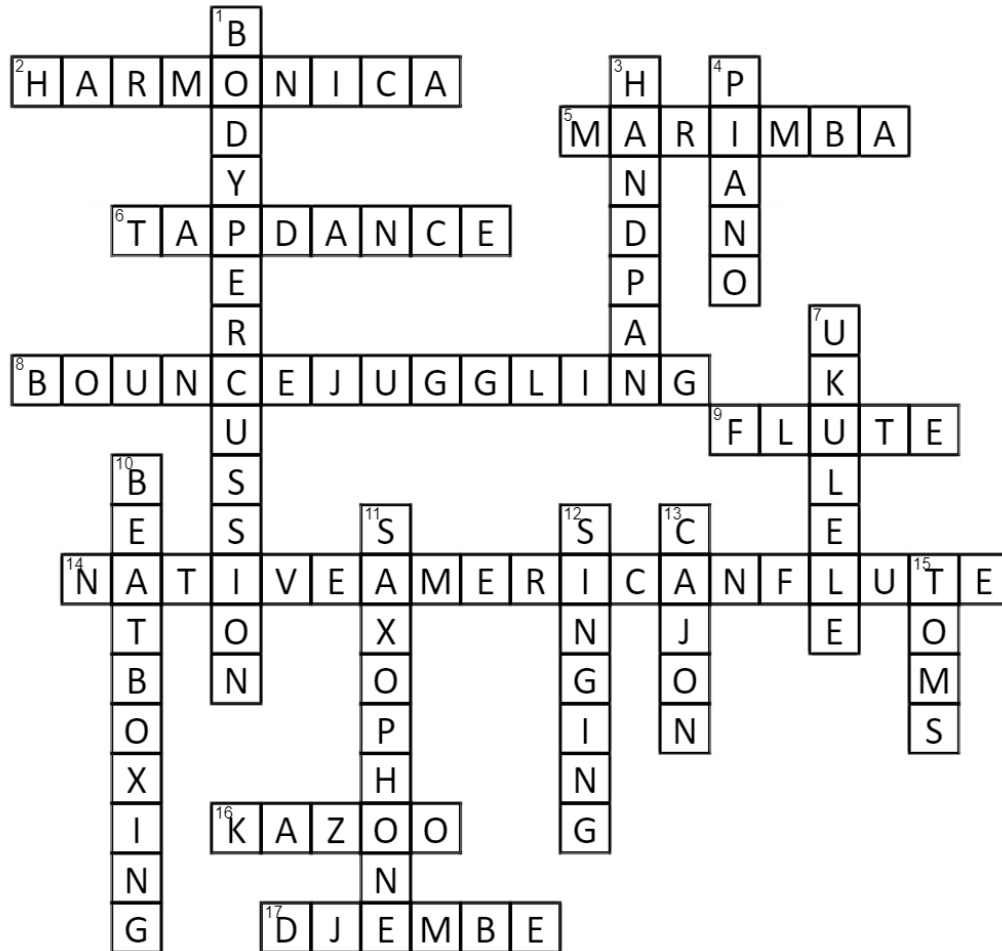
Down

1. The art of striking the body to produce various types of percussion sounds.
3. A percussion instrument constructed from two half-shells of steel sheets. The top has a center 'ding' hammered into it and many 'tone fields' around the center. It is played with hands and fingers.
4. A stringed percussion instrument invented in Italy, in which keys activate hammers to strike the strings.
7. A small, four-stringed guitar-like instrument which originated in the 19th century as a Hawaiian adaptation of the Portuguese machete.
10. A form of vocal percussion involving the art of mimicking drum sounds using one's mouth, lips, tongue, and voice.
11. A metal wind instrument with a single-reed mouthpiece, conical tube, and several keys, used especially in jazz and dance music.
12. The act of producing musical sounds with the voice.
13. A box-shaped percussion instrument originally from Peru, played by slapping with the hands and fingers.
15. Cylindrical drums with no snares, ranging in size between 6 and 24 inches in diameter (15 and 61 cm).

Name _____ Date _____

COLLISION OF RHYTHM

Crossword Answer Key



Where Did Tap Dancing Come From?

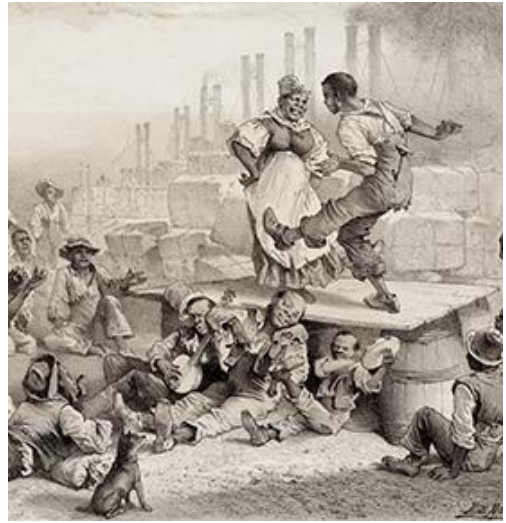
1. Tap dance originated in the United States during slavery.
2. Tap dance gained in popularity through the 1800s, and really took off after the American Civil War as part of traveling minstrel shows. Tap reached the height of its popularity during the 1950s.
3. Early tap shoes had wooden soles, sometimes with pennies attached to the heel and toe.



4. Tap was reinvigorated during the 1980s through Broadway shows, dance companies, and tap dance festivals.

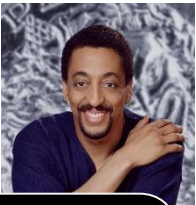
5. Tap dancers began collaborating with jazz musicians, incorporating improvisation and complex, syncopated rhythms. This is known as rhythm tap.

6. Modern tap shoes feature metal plates on the heel and toe.
7. National Tap Dance Day is celebrated on May 25, the birthdate of Bill “Bojangles” Robinson.
8. Today, tap is alive and well, and has spread all over the world. dancers of all countries and backgrounds can learn and contribute to this fascinating art.



Tap

Bill Robinson



Gregory Hines



Shirley Temple
Bill Robinson



Jeni Legon



The Nicholas
Brothers



Clayton "Peg
Leg" Bates



Eleanor Powell



Sammy
Davis, Jr.

A few
important and
influential tap
dancers.

Name _____ Date _____

Use the information above to answer the following questions:

In which country did tap dancing originate?

What kind of material were early taps made of?

What kind of material are modern taps made of?

How many taps are attached to a modern tap shoe?

When is national tap dance day?

Who were:

Bill “Bojangles” Robinson

Peg Leg Bates

The Nicholas Brothers

Eleanor Powell

Sammy Davis Jr.

Gregory Hines

More Information for further learning:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200217630>

<https://pt.slideshare.net/dmasters/tap-dance-history/6>

<https://ums.org/2019/06/21/from-margins-to-mainstream-tap-dance-history/>

<https://www.britannica.com/art/tap-dance>

The Art of Beat Boxing

a.k.a The Voice as an Instrument

1. Beatboxing is a musical artform that uses the voice to mimic percussion and other sound effects.
2. Beatboxing began in New York City in conjunction with the birth of the hip-hop subculture on the streets of Harlem. The beginnings of hip-hop are well known - DJs spinning the breakbeats in records with MCs rapping over the top. When MCs started to rap over drum machine beats in the urban communities of New York City, drum machines and synthesizers were not very affordable and were well out of reach even for well-paid musicians. Without machine-supplied beats to rap over, a new, more accessible instrument was adopted - the mouth - and thus human beatboxing was born.
3. The term "human beatbox" literally means "human drum machine." Beatbox was originally used as two words: 'beat box'.
4. The term 'beat box' was used as slang for the non-programmable drum machines that were first called rhythm machines. For example, the Roland TR Rhythm Series, including the TR-33 and TR-55, were produced in 1972. Later it was used to refer to a particular line of drum machines - particularly the Roland CR and the later TR series with the Roland CR-78 appearing in 1978.
5. Just because beatboxing was born in the 1970s doesn't mean that that is the first time we heard anything like it. In Jazz, scatting is similar to beat boxing. Scatting is making noises with your vocals that are nonsense syllables, or sounds.

"I got tired of schlepping around a drum kit, so my mouth replaced my drums!" -Bronkar Lee



Roland TR-33 "beat box"

- **Louis Armstrong** was one of the most influential scat singers and is credited with the popularization of scat singing. When his Heebie Jeebies was released, it created a nationwide scat-singing sensation and that is why many people believe that he was the first to scat. Louis Armstrong, the most famous jazz musician of all time, was not the first to scat, but he can be thanked for making scat well-known. His 1926 performance is considered to be the turning point for the medium. It was February 26th, 1926, when Louis Armstrong and his band The Hot Five recorded Heebie Jeebies, written by Chicago violinist Boyd Atkins, a member of Louis's band at the Sunset Cafe. The song quickly became a national bestseller and introduced scat singing to a wider audience.



Louie Armstrong

Name _____ Date _____

- **Darren 'Buffy' Robinson** was a member of the hip hop group The Fat Boys. He championed the iconic bass-heavy breathing technique and due to the popularity of The Fat Boys was for many people their first exposure to beatboxing.
- **Doug E Fresh** was one of the kings of 1980s beatboxing. The hit single 'La Di Dah Di' was voiced by MC Ricky D and backed for the entire duration of the song by Doug E Fresh's beatboxing. Doug featured in the 1984 hip-hop movie 'Beat Street' alongside the Treacherous Three. He was known for his distinctive style featuring the now famous click rolls.
- **Rahzel** is known for an ability to sing or rap while simultaneously beatboxing, as evidenced in his performances of "Iron Man" and his signature song "If Your Mother Only Knew", a hidden track on Make the Music 2000. Rahzel has done a great job of bringing beatboxing into the new millennia.
- **Bobby McFerrin** is a rare artist that incorporates both scatting and beatboxing into his songs. He mixes genres in his work and create completely brand new sounds.



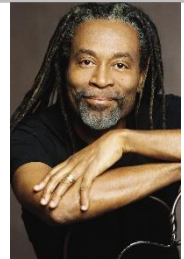
Darren Robinson

Doug E Fresh



Rahzel

Bobby McFerrin



Use the information above to answer the following questions:

- Where did beat boxing originate?
- What did beat boxing replace (hint, it was a type of machinery)?
- What does the term "human beat box" mean?
- What is one of the origins?
- Who were:
 - Louis Armstrong
 - Darren "Buffy" Robinson
 - Doug E Fresh
 - Rahzel
 - Bobby McFarin

More Information for further learning:

<https://www.humanbeatbox.com/articles/history-of-beatboxing-part-2/>

<https://www.schoolofbeatbox.com/a-brief-history-of-beatboxing/>