

## *There Ya Go*, Bobby McFerrin

### Creativity and Jazz - Middle School level, grades 6-8

#### **Objectives:**

1. The student will identify body percussion sounds that singers use to create percussive sounds.
2. The student will identify instruments that Bobby McFerrin imitates in his scat vocals.
3. The student will create a scat version of *So What*.

#### **Optional Objective:**

1. The student will improvise with Bobby McFerrin.

**Time:** One or two class periods.

#### **Materials Required for Objectives:**

Computer access to Internet recording and speakers for playback for class (or individual headphones for students to listen on their own).

#### **Procedure:**

**Activity 1** - “We have listened to Ella Fitzgerald, Eddie Jefferson, and Lambert, Hendricks and Ross scat sing and sing jazz. One of the most creative jazz singers alive today is Bobby McFerrin. Bobby McFerrin has the ability to create the sound of a band all by himself. Listen to Bobby McFerrin sing *There Ya Go*, and as you listen, think about how he made the sounds you hear. Everything on this song was a sound that came from him.” Play the recording. “How do you think he does that?” Encourage students to discuss and demonstrate how McFerrin was able to make the sounds on the recording.

**Activity 2** - “Let’s listen again and this time try to identify instruments that Bobby McFerrin was trying to imitate in this song. How do you think he made those sounds?” Listen to the recording. “How do you think he made those sounds?” Encourage students to discuss and demonstrate. “Bobby McFerrin makes some of the percussion sounds by hitting his chest with his hands. Try to recreate those sounds yourself.” Allow students to experiment.

**Activity 3** - Put students into pairs or small groups and ask them to listen to either the Miles Davis or Marcus Miller version of *So What*. The small groups will create their own arrangements of *So What* using only vocal and body percussion sounds. Students can use parts of the recordings or simply use the recordings as inspiration for their own versions of *So What*. Consider allowing students to either perform their version live, or record them on a tape that will be later played to the class. Allow

plenty of time for students to develop their own versions; if you have the time, allow more than one class period.

**Optional Activity:**

**Activity 4** - Visit Bobby McFerrin's web site, <http://www.bobbymcFerrin.com/> and scat sing with Bobby. To find the area where you can sing with Bobby, scroll across the dots at the bottom of the screen until you find the one that says "Sing and Play With Bobby." There are two songs in this area and students can experiment with layering vocal parts and see how Bobby creates some of his more complex songs like *Don't Worry, Be Happy*. Allow students to sing/play in pairs or small groups with the computers if possible.

**Extension:**

Listen to more of Bobby McFerrin by going to this Amazon.com site (<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B000005H6Y/104-3523261-7798308?v=glance>). Scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click on songs to hear samples.

**Indicators of Success:**

Students will incorporate ideas Bobby McFerrin uses in his music to create vocal and body percussion arrangements of *So What*.

**Learn more about Bobby McFerrin:**

<http://www.bobbymcFerrin.com/>