

Rock Coach:

A Practical Guide for Teaching Rock Ensembles in Schools

Introduction

Who is This Book For?
Rock Bands in the Schools
Why I Wrote This Book

Chapter 1 – Why Rock Bands?

Engages Those Students Who Would Not Normally be Involved
Can Act as an Enrichment Program
Can Effectively Engage Students in Learning Who Were Not Engaged Elsewhere
Are More Relevant to Students
Natural Focus on Creativity, Memory, and By-Ear-Learning
Provide Opportunities for Expansion
Develop Musical Independence More Effectively Than Other Ensembles
Are Less Expensive Than Other Ensembles
Are A Lot of Fun to Lead

Chapter 2 – How Do I Do That?

Have an Open Mind
Think of Yourself as a Coach
Trust the Kids
Testimonials

Chapter 3 – Equipment

Minimum Requirements
Recommended Instrumentation
PA System
Acquiring Equipment
 Take in Donations
 Ebay or Kijiji
 Ask for Instrument Donations
 Ask a Friend

Chapter 4 – Repertoire

Song List
 Very Easy

Easy
Medium
Advanced

Chapter 5 – Learning and Performing Rock Music Authentically

Informal Learning
By-Ear-Learning
Asking the Legends of Informal Music Making
Performing the Same Song Multiple Times
How Do I Teach Them and Where Do I Find the Charts?
 Tablature
 The Nashville Number System
 The Nashville Language
Resources

Chapter 6 – Instrument Basics

Guitar
 Anatomy
 String Tuning
 Standard Tuning
 Drop Tuning
 Down Tuning
 Other Tunings
 Fingering
 The Main 7
 Moveable Chords: Barre Chords and Power Chords
 Simplified Barres
 Capos
 Scales
 Left-Handed Guitars?

Drums
 Anatomy
 Stick Holding Positions
 Basic Drum Patterns and Grooves
 The Basic Rock Groove
 The Basic Blues Groove (AKA – The Power Ballad Groove)
 Other Drum Grooves
 Drum Rudiments

Keyboard
 Electronic Piano
 Keyboard

- Synthesizer
- Anatomy
- Fingering
- Chords
- Chord Chart
- Chord Inversions
- Scales
- Effects
- Vocals
 - Micing
 - Basic Skills
 - Range
 - Harsh Vocals
- Horns
 - Micing
 - Basic Skills
 - Brass Instruments

Chapter 7 - Auditions

- Introduction
- Guitar
- Bass
- Drums
- Keyboard
- Vocals
- How Many to Take

Chapter 8 - In Rehearsal

- When to Rehearse
- The First Rehearsal
- Subsequent Rehearsals
 - Playing Through
 - The Ending
 - The Missing Parts
 - The Solo
 - Transposing
 - Tuning the Guitars
 - Wrapping Cables
 - Stage Presence

Chapter 9 – Creativity and Song Writing

- Children’s Inherent Creativity
- Rock Bands are Conducive to Students Writing Their Own Music
- Song Writing With Your Young Rockers
 - Song Form
- Improvising

Chapter 10 – Including More of the School in Rock Music

- Introduction
- The By-Ear-Learning Process
 - Before the First Note
 - The First Note
 - Piecing it Up
 - Reinforcing Aural Skills
 - Chords
 - The Next Step
 - Arranging
- Performance/Informance
- Songs That Work Well Using This Process
- Song Writing as a Class Project
 - My Process
 - Chord Progressions
 - The Map
 - Melodies
 - Lyrics
 - End Goal
- In a High Schools Setting
 - Popular Music Performance Course Outline
 - Vision and Introduction
 - Course Strands
 - Independent Project
 - Assessment
 - More on Assessment

Chapter 11 – The Concert

- Concert Preparations
- Sound
- Student-Led
- Conclusion

Appendix