

Program Name: Ella, Scat & Math

Artist: Lisa Henry

### Special Requirements:

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PA system; two microphones; tuned piano. Large, open space; large classroom or music room preferred. 30 minutes to put-up and to tear-down

### Special Points of Interest:

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Lisa has performed in venues worldwide including Chile, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. Lisa's companion workshop, *Swingin' the History*, is available through KCYA.

### Performance Description

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Ella, Scat & Math is a Pre-K through first grade program that introduces math concepts to students through jazz music, visual art, call and response, rhythmic exercises, and scat singing. This performance encompasses segments that address multiple intelligences, such as auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learning.

This interactive program will introduce children to historic jazz icon and scat singer, Ella Fitzgerald. Math concepts, such as counting, addition, and subtraction will be represented by Ella photos, and simple scat sounds and syllables.

After listening to the song, "A-Tisket, A-Tasket," students will answer math questions related to the song, and make up some math problems of their own. Master Teaching Artist and

Lighton Prize winning jazz vocalist Lisa Henry is accompanied by a live jazz bassist.



### Educational Objectives & Standards

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Students will:

- Be exposed to the concepts of rhythm and call-and-response
- Explore the basics of scat singing
- Listen to well-known jazz hits.

National Music Standards:

- Understands numbers, ways of representing numbers, relationships among numbers, and number systems.
- Understands how the elements of music are used in various genres and cultures.

## Artist Bio: Lisa Henry

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Dazzling and dynamic, Lisa Henry represents the best of Kansas City's current Jazz era.

Lisa has entertained many with her voice and energy around the world. She's performed in numerous festivals, venues, and tours. Her talents have led her to stages in Argentina, South Africa, and Madagascar.

Lisa has also appeared on numerous audio recordings, many of which were recorded here in Kansas

City.

Lisa is also comfortable in the classroom. She has given workshops at many universities both here in the United States and overseas.

Lisa has received honors for her talent including being first runner-up in the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Vocals Competition and being named International Jazz Ambassador to Africa.

### List of Resources:

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#### **Books:**

The Encyclopedia of Jazz and Blues by Keith Shadwick

Chartwell Books, 2003

Ella Fitzgerald The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa by Andrea Davis/ Monroe Pinkney  
Disney PR, 2007

Building a Jazz Vocabulary: A Resource

for Learning Jazz

Improvisation by Mike Steine

Hal Leonard, 1995

#### **Videos:**

Jazz—A Film by Ken Burns. 2000

#### **Music:**

Ken Burn's Jazz:

The Story of American Music.

Sony, 2000.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
KCYA.org

### Vocabulary

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**Call and Response:** Echoing a theme, dating back to the days of slavery.

**Jazz:** Music that's improvised. It may take several forms including Dixieland, Swing, Bebop and Ragtime.

**Rhythm:** The basic rhythmic beat in a piece of music. The primary, animating force in Jazz.

**Scat singing:** Improvising with the voice using monosyllabic sounds instead of words.

**Swing:** A style of Jazz played by big bands popular in the 1930s; flowing rhythms but less complex than later Jazz styles.

**Syllable:** a unit of pronunciation having one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants, forming the whole or a part of a word

### Post-Performance Activities

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1. Scat the first and third choruses of other popular songs.
2. Record yourself singing a favorite song, then try call-and-response to the recording.
3. Listen to Jazz recordings of Ella Fitzgerald, look at pictures of Ella and read facts about her life and times .

