



AMANI PROJECT @ Home

Harmony Break SONG CHAIN

DETAILS

- **Time:** 1 hour (or more if you want!)
- **Materials/Equipment:**
Yourself, a group of friends, phones or tablets to record video, any instruments (including your voice and found-object instruments)
- **Potential Apps to Use:**
VSCO app (\$); BeeCut (Free); VivaVideo (free with watermark); any video conferencing platform like Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp Video

WHAT WE BELIEVE (norms & values)

- Music is Everywhere! In our bodies, in nature, and how we speak
- Making music with others develops a sense of connection, empathy, and teamwork
- Everyone can make music

WHAT YOU WILL GET OUT OF THIS (objectives)

- Demonstrate rhythm, beats, tempos, pitch and dynamics
- Demonstrate song writing, storytelling, and performance
- Practice creating music as a team, collaboration

ACTIVITY

Introduction

In this activity, a group of young (or older) people will work together to create a “song chain.” In a song chain, each phrase or section of a song is written by a different musician. Each participant starts their creation where the previous one left off. This activity is similar to a Story Chain, Chain Storytelling, or “Continue the Story” activity - but with singing and instruments. For instance, responding to the prompt “Being at home makes me feel...”, Musician A will begin the song by singing a simple musical melody or phrase. Musician A will pass the song to Musician B, who will add and record a new line, and then pass the song to Musician C and so on.



Step 1 - Plan It Out & Rehearse

Provide all participants with the prompt “Being at home makes me feel...” Explain that the first person will start the song by creating lyrics and a short melody to finish that sentence. Prepare the rest of the group by encouraging them to begin thinking of what they might sing or play when the song comes to them. Make sure to assign everyone an order so that participant A knows they are first, then participant B knows they will go next. It might be helpful to write a list of names in the order for everyone to see.



The first participant should be someone who feels confident writing lyrics and singing a melody using the prompt. The “lyrics” can be as short as one sentence. The next participants can either add their own lyrics and repeat the first melody, or create a new melody that compliments the first. Following participants can do the same or they can add their own beats or other instruments to the song.



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Participants might want to do a couple of rounds of practicing before they create their “final” song. Many times new ideas come from hearing other team members’ contributions, so everyone in the group should have one chance to redo their video after everyone has submitted their first attempts.

***DIRECTOR’S NOTE:** *If you want to add an extra layer of creativity, direct everyone to “use the same mic” (it can be a pretend microphone). Do this by having the first person pass the mic (on the video) to their left when they’re done. The next person grabs the mic from the right, then passes it to the left when they’re done. When the video is compiled, it will look like everyone is using the same mic!*

Step 2 - Start the Chain!

There are many ways to do the song chain. Here are two options to consider:

- **LIVE Performance:** If you have access to video conferencing like Zoom or Hangouts, you can all join a group video, and perform the song chain live and in real time! Make sure someone can record the video call to capture the song and the fun. You can record directly in Zoom with a professional or educational account or use a screen capture program - there are several free ones available including QuickTime (for a Mac), Screencast-O-Matic, or you can enable screen recording on your smartphone.
- **Virtual STUDIO Style:** If your group isn’t able to all join a live video call and record the song, you can also use a text or WhatsApp group to create the song. Participant A would record a short video of their song, then post it to the group chat. Participant B would add their contribution, then so on until everyone is done. To hear the finished song, someone in the group (or our team at Amani Project - send videos to hello@amaniproject.org) would compile the videos so they create a song. There are also several apps (see above) that allow you to combine videos together and then email, text, or share them to social media. Many of these apps are easy to use even for those who aren’t tech savvy.

Step 3 - Share Your Song

If you have permission from everyone in the group to upload your video to social media - please do so! Amani Project is launching this activity as a part of the international **#GivingTuesdayNow** campaign on May 5, 2020. If you haven’t finished before May 5th, don’t worry – the campaign will go on as long as everyone is posting.

Please use the hashtag **#SongChain** and tag us:



@AmaniProjectGlobal



@AmaniProject



@TheAmaniProject



Adults! Do you have a suggestion for how to improve this activity?
Or just want to tell us how much you liked it? [Click here.](#)