



Let's Jam! It's Our Band

Harper (1): Hi everyone and welcome to our program!

Kenleigh (2): Well, we were going to have a program for you, but... well... we ran into a little problem.

Maddy (3): Yeah. Our teacher, Mr. Tyler — that brilliantly talented one sitting down there who dedicates his life to teaching us all things musical - gave us the assignment of forming a band and presenting some music for you today.

Mae (4): I know you're thinking, "That shouldn't be so hard. You guys LOVE music!" And you would be right. But the problem is, the more we learned about music, from that brilliant teacher sitting down there, the more we realized there were SO MANY styles of bands, that we couldn't decide which kind we wanted to be.!

Judy (5): I wanted to be in a blues band! You know, and play the music of folks like Etta James, Lead Belly, Big Joe Turner, or B.B. King!

Harper (1): I wanted to start a country band and be like Alabama or Rascal Flatts!

Kenleigh (2): Well, what about a Reggae band that plays the music of Bob Marley?

Maddy (3): Or Motown!

Mae (4): Or the Beach Boys!

Judy (5): You see? We really have a problem here! So I guess what we're saying is, if you get to choose to be in a band, what kind of band would it be?

SONG 1: What Kind of Band

Mila (6): Look, everybody, I don't really care what kind of band we all decide to put together. Whatever it is, I hope we play some music that we can really dance to.

Harper (1): And I think it should have some great brass parts so it really cooks!..

Kenleigh (2): ...and screaming saxophones...

Maddy (3): ... great rhythm!

Mae (4): . . . and a lot of soul!

Judy (5): Well, if that's all you want, then the answer is clear! Your band ought to play the music of Motown!

ALL: MOTOWN!

SONG 2: *Dancin' in the Street*

SONG 3: *Stand By Me*

Layla (7): Hey, that was great, but I was thinking that I would like to play in a band that is a little more laid-back in style. Something that makes me feel like I'm on a tropical island!

Brielle (8): I'd like to play in a band that takes jazz, rhythm and blues, African and Caribbean music and puts it all together to take me away!

Ethan-Rasta: (*guy in Rastafarian wig*) Hey, mon! Have I got the band for you!

Finley (9): Who are you?

Ethan-Rasta: Rasta is the name and Reggae is my game.

Layla (7): Reggae?

Ethan-Rasta: Yeah, mon. Reggae is the music developed in Jamaica and made famous by guys like my old pal Bob Marley!

Brielle (8): YOU knew Bob Marley?

Ethan-Rasta: How old do you think I am!?!?...No, sadly I did not know him. But, that doesn't mean I can't love his music and be in a real reggae band!

Finley (9): I KNEW he didn't know Bob Marley!

Ethan-Rasta: Hey mon! Lighten up. As they say in Jamaica, "Don't worry, be happy!" And if someone asks you what kind of band you are, just answer, "Hey mon! I play in a Reggae band!"

SONG 4: *Don't Worry, Be Happy*

SONG 5: *Three Little Birds*

Layla (7): Hey! Do you know what I like about those Reggae songs? They are so easy to sing along!

Brielle (8): Yeah, I want to play in a band that really has a great part for a vocalist, so we can sing along and feature the finest musical instrument ever — the human voice!

Finley (9): The vocals *ARE* an important part of all kinds of bands.

Piper (10): Besides, our teacher LOVES it when we sing, especially when we sing in harmony.

(All look at the Mr. Tyler, who nods with approval)

Layla (7): Some of the greatest singers ever were really important members of a band, like John Lennon* for the Beatles.

Brielle (8): Roger Daltrey for The Who.
Finley (9): Jim Morrison for The Doors.
Piper (10): Mick Jagger for The Rolling Stones!
Layla (7): How about Bono?
Brielle (8): Freddie Mercury?
Finley (9): Well, who should we get to be our lead singer?
ALL: (ad lib.) I will! I can! It should be me! (etc.)
Piper (10): I know! Let's all do it!

(They look at the teacher who gives a "thumbs up".)

ALL: All Right!

SONG 6: In My Room

Riley (11): That's such a great song! I love the tight harmonies.
Reynolds (12): The Beach Boys had a string of top 10 hits in the 1960s that reflected a southern California youth culture of surfing, cars, and romance, dubbed the "California sound."
Abrahm (13): The number one song in 1963 was a Beach Boys song. It was so important that it is included in the 500 songs that shaped Rock and Roll by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
Karsynn (14): Let's sing it and try some of those tight harmonies ourselves!

SONG 7: Surfin' USA

Riley (11): Hey ya'll! Surfin' is great and all. But we don't really do that here in Georgia. Don't you think it's time for some country music?
Reynolds (12): Yeah! I *really* want to play in a country band!
Abrahm (13): I've got a fiddle!
Karsynn (14): I've got a guitar!
Reynolds (12): We've got rhythm...
Abrahm (13): Singers...
Karsynn (14): And a hot new club where line dancing is encouraged every night of the week?
Riley (11): Come on, ya'll! Let's go down to the Twist and Shout!

SONG 8: Down at The Twist and Shout

SONG 9: Mountain Music

(Two guys with sunglasses and black fedora hats enter.)

Norah (15): Hey, who are those guys?

Charleigh (16): Nobody really knows, but they've been hanging around the Twist and Shout trying to get the band to try a different style.
Anniston (17): They want to put a band together that they can take to their home in Chicago.
Choe (18): I guess they thought if they put on some sunglasses, someone would think they were as cool as Bob Marley and help them out.
Norah (15): Well, the sunglasses **DO** work! What style of music do they want to play?
Charleigh (16): They like blues ... like get-down music that combines spirituals, work songs, field hollers and chants, with elements of jazz, rhythm, and rock and roll.

Anniston (17): Oh yeah, and they really love the harmonica.

ALL: *The harmonica?*

Anniston (17): Hey! I'm just the messenger!

Norah (15): What they seem to be describing is a *blues* band.

Choe (18): So what are we waiting for? If a blues band will help those guys get back to Chicago, I'm all for it.

Charleigh (16): Come on, let's let 'er rip!

SONG 10: Sweet Home Chicago

Norah (15): With so many tastes and so many styles to choose from, it's really going to be impossible to choose just one kind of band.!

Charleigh (16): Yeah, I guess you folks might as well go home. There will be no program tonight.

(PAUSE)

Anniston (17): Uh, guys. Uh... guess what? I think we just did a program.

Choe (18): We did?

Norah (15): Yep, and in it, we had a Motown band, a Reggae band...

Charleigh (16): a country band, a blues band, and a rockin' surf band led by the vocalists.

Anniston (17): Huh? What do you know? I guess we don't really have to choose. When someone asks us "what kind of band are you," we can just say "all of the above!"

Mr. Tyler: And that, students, is exactly the right answer! Learn to appreciate all styles of music and you'll enjoy listening to any kind of band.

ALL: YAY!