

Beat Science

Grades 6-8



Students will learn how to use GarageBand, a Digital Audio Workstation well suited for beginner music producers. Writing drum patterns, composing melodies, crafting chord progressions, sampling, recording, and mixing are just a few of the essential skills this course will cover. Students will study examples of great production in the worlds of hip-hop, electronic music, pop music, and more.

LESSON 1 & 2

DAWs, GarageBand, drum beats

Students will learn what a DAW is, how GarageBand is organized and how to navigate it. They will also learn some basic drum patterns, and how to use them as a basis for writing their own beats.

LESSON 3 & 4

Riffs, bass, smart controls

Students will learn about riffs and listen to examples across various genres. They will write their own riffs in A minor and pair them with one of their original beats from Lesson 1 & 2. Students will also explore some of GarageBand's bass and synthesizer instruments and how to customize them using Smart Controls.

LESSON 5 & 6

Chords, more drum beat skills

Students will learn how to construct some basic chords in A minor and use them to write a chord progression. We will also discuss some advanced drum beat writing skills including longer phrases, the split drums technique, hi-hat tricks (triplets, rolls, swing), and velocity.

LESSON 7 & 8

Anatomy of a beat: Smooth Criminal

Students will learn how to recreate a track by the legendary producer Quincy Jones. Drumbeats, riffs, and chords, all work together in this classic hit.

LESSON 9

Recording, effects, sampling the classroom

Students will learn how to record sound using a microphone. We will record sounds made from objects in the classroom, which will then be manipulated with effects, and used to make a beat.

LESSON 10

Sampling YouTube

Students will learn how to sample any song from YouTube and use it in a beat while taking inspiration from some of hip-hop's greatest producers.



Louise Brooks

Executive Director

louisebrooks@scoolsounds.org
www.scoolsounds.org

S²Cool Sounds' NYC Schools Program is made possible by the New York State Council on the arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



Council on the Arts