

UNCLE DEVIN'S

THINK LOCAL, CRANK GLOBAL!

Go-Go Workshop for Educators

Teacher's Resource Guide

**Teaching for Change's
Teach the Beat and DC
Public Schools Office of
Teaching and Learning
Professional Development**

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UNCLE DEVIN

THE CHILDREN'S DRUMCUSSIONIST!

I'm Uncle Devin, the Children's Drumcussionist! As a youth growing up in Seat Pleasant, Maryland, I learned to play many kinds of drums and percussion instruments. Today, I share my love of music and culture with pre-school and elementary-aged children in assemblies, classroom residencies, and music workshops.

I also created a free 24/7 children's music station called WEE Nation Radio featuring the best in global beats for little feet. I host a radio show on WPFW 89.3 FM every Wednesday from 7 - 8 PM ET and every other Thursday on KBOO 90.7 FM in Portland, OR. Learn more about these offerings as well as my CD's, children's book, and family involvement workshops at The Uncle Devin Show.

Now come on and get in the pocket!



WIND ME UP CHUCK!

HOW GO-GO GOT ITS START

Go-Go, the official music of Washington, DC, doesn't have an official start date, but it has an awesome history that began at least FOUR DECADES ago!

A young guitarist named **Chuck Brown** had a genius idea. Instead of stopping between each song, his band continued to play while he talked to the crowd during the song transitions, keeping people on the dance floor. **His new style of music was nicknamed "Go-Go" because the parties (also called Go-Go's) would go on and on.** That young bandleader, Chuck Brown, earned the title **"Godfather of Go-Go."**

August 22, his birthday, has been designated **"Chuck Brown Day"**

Introduce your children to this music pioneer by playing Go-Go's first hit song, "Bustin' Loose" and another popular original "We Need Some Money".

Learn more at WindMeUpChuck.com.

Chuck Brown Live at the 9:30 Club

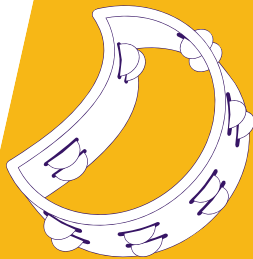


MAKING THE (GO-GO) BAND

Go-Go music has gone through many changes over the years. But the **two-part structure** of the band has stayed pretty true to form.

The **front line** is made up of the vocalists: **singers, rappers** and the all-important **lead talker**. This person is part emcee and part bandleader. They interact with the audience between songs, give directions to the band, ad-lib during the songs, and may even sing, rap, or play an instrument such as the cowbell or tambourine as well.

Most of the music is played by the **rhythm section**, which includes **percussionists, keyboard** and **horn players, guitarists**, and **drummers**.



Different Go-Go bands use different combinations of instruments, but common instruments include:

Congas



Rototoms



Timbales



Tambourine



Horns (Trumpet , Trombone , Saxophone )

Drum kit



Keyboard



Guitar (Lead and Bass)



Cowbell



Can you find the instruments in the crossword puzzle?

Making The (Go-Go) Band

B	T	E	O	B	B	E	G	B	G	A	L	R	A
S	K	C	O	L	B	D	O	O	W	O	T	T	G
Y	B	C	Y	M	B	A	L	S	B	A	R	A	T
L	E	O	G	U	I	T	A	R	A	A	C	M	O
E	N	A	B	D	S	D	O	D	I	U	O	B	Y
N	O	S	B	R	M	M	B	D	L	N	N	O	O
O	H	T	M	A	T	D	O	M	O	O	G	U	O
B	P	E	M	O	L	S	R	T	G	D	A	R	M
M	O	P	I	B	M	G	D	U	O	R	S	I	O
O	X	M	G	Y	B	B	E	B	M	T	R	N	B
R	A	U	O	E	B	O	N	G	O	S	O	E	U
T	S	R	Y	K	O	R	A	B	L	O	P	R	B
W	N	T	S	X	O	G	L	L	E	B	W	O	C
T	I	M	B	A	L	E	S	T	K	O	I	L	O

KEYBOARD
 ROTOTOMS
 CYMBALS
 WOODBLOCKS
 TAMBOURINE
 COWBELL
 BONGO
 GUITAR
 TROMBONE
 CONGAS
 TIMBALES
 TRUMPET
 DRUMS
 SAXOPHONE



THE POCKET VS. THE GROOVE

Go-Go music has evolved over the decades just like any enduring art form. Each generation has put its own spin on the “beat.” The most recent addition, the hypnotic bounce beat, is distinctive enough to be recognized easily. One of the most debated questions among go-go fans is what is a pocket and what is a socket?

The Pocket Beat – The original sound of go-go music played by the drummer and conga player alone based on Grover Washington’s “Mister Magic.” While the drummer is playing the rhythm of Mister Magic, the conga player is playing a derivative of the Guaguanco African drum rhythm.

The Socket Beat – A go-go rhythm where the music stops except for the drummer, congas, cowbell, tambourine, and guitar scratching like a percussion instrument.

The Bounce Beat – A slower, but hype go-go rhythm where the drummer plays on the offbeat with an open hi-hat along with a progressive timbale player, over top of a call-and-response rap.

The Groove – When all the other non-percussion musicians in the band, i.e., bass player, guitar player, keyboards, and horn section, join in with the percussion.



THINK LOCAL, CRANK GLOBAL!

Go-Go's unique sound is made up of original songs, covers of popular music, influences from Africa, Latin America, and Blacks in the USA.

Africa. Although our ancestors didn't bring Go-Go music straight from Africa, it includes elements found in many genres of Black music:

- **Call and response.** Go-Go is all about crowd participation. The "lead talker" speaks to the audience, and elicits a response. In one classic Go-Go Roll Call chant, the lead talker says, "Where y'all from?" and the crowd responds, "DC!" or whatever quadrant, neighborhood, or town they live in.
- **Polyrhythms.** The word sounds complicated, but it just means music that has more than one rhythm being played at the same time.

In December 2017, Donnell Floyd, Go-Go Mickey and Team Familiar made history by playing for the Ooni of Ife, the traditional ruler of the Yoruba people in Nigeria.



Cuba. Two of the most important instruments in Go-Go's polyrhythm, **conga drums** and **cowbells**, came indirectly from Africa by way of their descendants in Cuba!

Chuck Brown encountered these Latin percussion instruments in the 1960's when he played with a cover band named Los Latinos. He included them as he pioneered DC's brand new funk and formed his own band, **The Soul Searchers**.

The USA. Speaking of funk... Go-Go music was born between the 1960's and 1970's, when James Brown and others put funk music on the world stage. Go-Go is often called a sub-genre of funk. Both types of music combine several Black genres, including R&B, soul, jazz, blues, and even gospel.

Which brings us to one of Go-Go's most important influences: Mister Magic, a jazzy instrumental recorded in 1974 by Grover Washington, Jr (written by Ralph McDonald and William Salter). That jazzy groove reminded Chuck Brown of the Black church music he grew up hearing, and it became the backbone of Go-Go's essential beat.

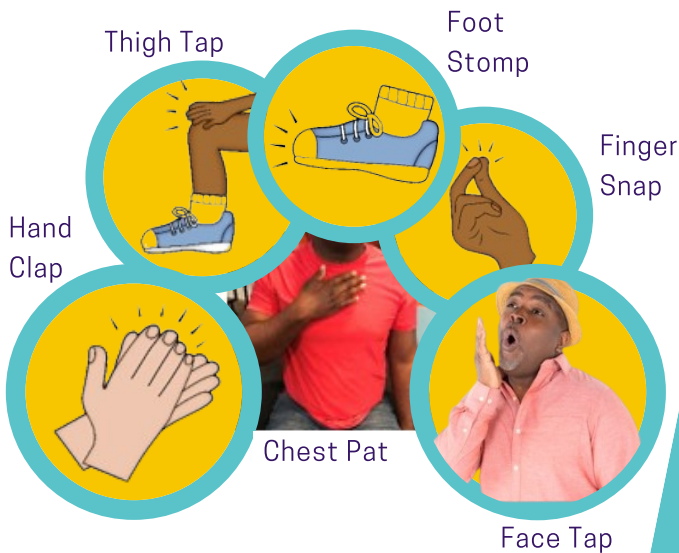


BODY PERCUSSION PATTERNS

MAKING SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING

Do you know what the oldest percussion instrument is in the world? That's right, it's the human body!

Create your own body percussion pattern stating your name and share it with your team. If a person only has one syllable name, use their first, middle, and last names if it helps. It is best to have at least three syllables. Also, consider different ways you may use this exercise in your curriculum. It can be applied to any subject matter.



Here's a link to [Uncle Devin's Hambone](#) video for inspiration.



JUNK YARD BAND & SHOW

3-S: SHAKE, SCRAPE & STRIKE

A percussion instrument is something you scrape, shake and strike to make music. Identify if you shake, scrape or strike the following instruments or any combination of the three to make music.



Cabasa



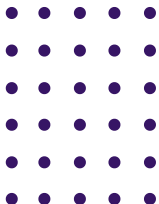
Shekere



Woodblock



How would you use these and other instruments in your curriculum or as classroom management?



JUNK YARD BANK & SHOW

Junkyard is the epitome of making something out of nothing. With humble beginnings in South East DC's Barry Farms neighborhood, Junk Yard's illustrious career has spanned 40+ years. They are the perfect combination of musicianship and showmanship.

Junk Yard released "Sardines" and "The WORD" on Def Jam records in 1986. Instant classics!!

In 2018, Mayor Bowser declared January 18, Junk Yard Band Day in DC.

Click this historic [Junk Yard Band](#) video to see how it all began. Can you identify instruments used from their environment?

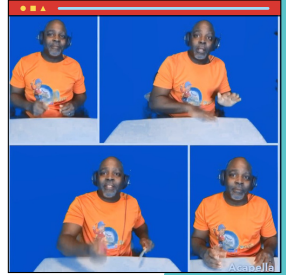
Learn more at Junkyardband.us



THE TABLE TOP GROOVE

Through the generations, many children on buses and in schools worldwide have found things to bang on to make music.

Uncle Devin was no different. Check out how he uses instruments found in his environment to make the song in this video, "[The Table Top Groove.](#)"



Most professional instruments are derived from nature such as wood, animal skins, and recycled items such as bottle caps.

- Which of the 3-S's did Uncle Devin use in the Table Top Groove?
- Find two or more objects in your environment that can be used to either shake, scrape or strike together to make music?
- Share your creation with the class. What would you call it?

~**Fun Fact:** Two names used in the video are Uncle Devin's actual nephew and niece.



UNCLE DEVIN'S THINK LOCAL, CRANK GLOBAL!

RESOURCES

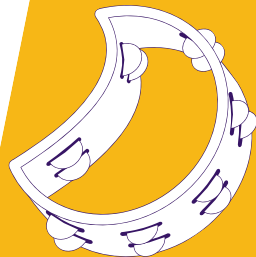


Percussion Introduction Die Game

This is the link to the [iChoice.io online dice roller](https://www.ichoice.io). Just click on the die to start spinning, then move the mouse below the die, hover, and wait. Click anywhere below the die when the child says **"Stop"**.

Have the child identify the matching number on the die, the corresponding instrument, and whether you shake, scrape or strike. Again, this can apply to any subject by just swapping out the images based on your topic of choice.

Rolling the die online is a safer option virtually or in person as opposed to having all children sharing the same die.



UNCLE DEVIN'S THINK LOCAL, CRANK GLOBAL!

RESOURCE LINKS

[Teach the Beat!](#)

Bringing the distinctive D.C. sound of Go-Go into the classroom.

[Brown Paper Bag Video](#)

A great example of making something out of nothing.

[Go-Go Glossary](#)

Be in the know with Go-Go lingo.

[Think Global, Crank Global!](#)

[Go-Go References and Resources](#)

A deeper dive into Go-Go's rich history, the Official Music of DC!





THINK LOCAL, CRANK GLOBAL! RESOURCES

Connect with Uncle Devin!

drum@theuncledevinshow.com | 202.695.2980

TheUncleDevinShow.com

 **YouTube: @UncleDevinShow**

Uncle Devin's "[The ABC's of Percussion](#)" Children's Book with Music CD

[Uncle Devin's Drum Tales and Be Yourself! CD's](#)

[Uncle Devin's A Go-Go Fun Day!](#) from the All One Tribe Album



Family Friendly Global Beats for Little Feet!
24/7 online children's radio station.

Join the Nation!..at WEENationRadio.com

music@weenationradio.com

 **YouTube: @WEENationRadio**

WPFW 89.3FM Washington, DC

Weekly Wed 7 pm ET

Listen Live on Wpfwfm.org

KBOO 90.7FM Portland, OR

Every Other Thu 12 pm - 2 pm PT/ 3pm - 5 pm ET

Stream Live on kboo.fm

Or Steam Live on  Simple Radio  tunein

