Ella Scats The Little Lamb

1) An Overview:

Ella Scats the Little Lamb is a 60-minute interactive educational experience geared toward elementary aged students exploring the artistry of improvisation. Students will learn this art form as it pertains to jazz through the use of children’s songs and scat singing. Scat is a vocal improvisation technique that uses wordless vocables or no words at all such as “doo-wah” or “dit-bop.” Students will utilize the following skills:

- Clapping simple rhythmic patterns
- Singing simple rhythmic patterns using scat vocables
- Learning about theme and variation and improvisation
- Learning about basic rhyming patterns
- Using free body movements

At the center of the education project is the work Ella Scats the Little Lamb, a movement from composer Valerie Capers’ Portraits in Jazz collection. Originally composed for piano, Ella Scats the Little Lamb can also be performed as an arrangement for solo alto saxophone. This short work is inspired by Mary Had a Little Lamb and includes a playful variation on this popular melody. It serves as a natural segue into learning improvisation, paying tribute to Ella Fitzgerald’s skills and artistic creativity regarding scat improvisation.

2) Outline:

The 60-minute workshop includes: the following approximated sections:

- 30 minutes: various interactive activities designed to introduce rhyming patterns, word association and rhythmic variations
- 20 minutes: Creation of improvised performance to the song Mary Had a Little Lamb
- 10 minutes: Ending performance by teaching artist to include a “traditional” performance of the popular children’s rhyme, the Valerie Capers’ version and a complete improvisation
3) **Materials Provided:**
   - 1 Music Stand
   - An easel for interactive poster display

4) **Materials Needed:**
   - A small table

5) **Cost:**
   - 60 minutes: $300

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If you are interested in bringing *Ella Scats the Lamb* to your organization, please contact:

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