

Universal Language Room

DIY Concepts

For Facilitators

The Universal Language Room is a dynamic experience of improvisational dialogue, individual communication, and group cohesion. It is a communal, creative moment that is centered on music permutations.

This DIY concept paper is for facilitators. There are many reasons why it is a DIY kit rather than a manual. This is to give ideas and concepts to the musician, but not a full system. Rather, the ULR is based on music permutations, including both consonants and vowels. The consonants are pitches and the vowels are rhythmic duration. That it is all.

The system is built on many ideas of permutation ideas in a variety of cultures. For the purposes of this DIY Kit, the ideas are quoted in the name of Rabbi Abraham Abulafia of the 13th century. He uniquely taught a consonant and vowel based permutation system that fits perfectly with the ULR. I am very grateful to connect with the great Tzaddik. May Abulafia's universal vision expand through the ULR and vice versa.

It is an infinite blessing to share my 20 year journey with you now, I feel comfortable to share in writing - only with the promise that this is just a spark – a framework - to build your own light and seek the gold within the soul – in your own way.

The framework itself must be changed and permuted!

Blessings,

Jason

Step 1 - Learn to match the letters of your language with music pitches. ABCD will equal 1234 of a Major/Minor/D7 scale, starting on any point of the scale. You can also use arpeggios. Practice the permutations.

1234 1243 1324 1342 1432 1423 - Line #1

Add Vowels to the pitches. Sing the exercise first. Example - AAA Bee CEE Da - AA Bo Ci Doo

You have your 1st line of consonant and vowel permutations and you can see the infinite possibilities beginning to emerge.

Step 2 – Introduction to participants gathered to learn and experience ULR.

Suggested introduction - “I am very grateful for your attendance at this ULR – May we build unity and understanding of the one human family through our work and dialogue tonight. I would like to acknowledge the board and mission of the Bridge Institute. Thank you to Jason for the DIY kit, I will be taking these ideas in my own direction tonight and permutating the framework to match a personal creative concept and direction.”

In a group setting of approx. 8-10 people - in a semi circle/horseshoe set up, you will guide participants to practice Line #1. Describe the ‘magic trick’ of the ULR. State confidently and with openness – “every person can speak through music, esp when you know the secret of improvisation - there are only 4 notes, nothing more” Participants being to build trust that they can limit music choices to 4 notes and create melodies when you demonstrate line 1 clearly.

Step 3 - Operator. Have one participant make eye contact with the person next to them, then play a melodic idea on their instrument. They do not need to look at the person while playing, but it is essential that they start with the eye contact 1st. Go around the room one time. Ask for feedback. Then go around the room many times.

Step 4 - Talk to us for 30 seconds or a 1 minute. Guide the participants to create their own call and response with the melodies - visualizing something in their day or life they would love to tell the group about, but only would feel comfortable with music! Guarantee that the group will clap at the conclusion of their 30 seconds to a minute.

Step 5 - Tell everyone that their xylophone is in the key of C. There is no note that will clash with anyone else in group play. You can start with a drummer keeping simple beat, and let everyone know they can close their eyes and listen for melodies and respond. Listen to each individual in the group or listen to the group as a whole, but listen for clear melodies and respond. Let this go for about 10 minutes

Step 6 – Invite participants to give feedback, thoughts, and insights into the ULR. How did they feel, did they experience the magic of communication through permutations? Did they enjoy telling life stories or events through music with applause?

Step 7 - Thank everyone for attending and ask them to stay in touch, and check out the other ULRs going on at www.ulr1.com