



Study Guide

Ball in the House is an R&B/Pop/Soul a cappella group based out of the Boston area. A cappella is music made without any instruments. Everything is 100% vocal. The group has been around for over 20 years. The current group is Jonny, the beatboxer, Kevin, the bass, Oscar, the baritone, Tyler, the tenor, and Wallace, the high tenor.

A cappella has a long history, starting as a way for people to worship in the church through music at a time when instruments were not allowed. In fact, a cappella actually means “in the church/chapel” or “in the style of the church” in Italian, and originally referred to music used in those services, but today refers to any music made without instruments.

While unison singing, (everyone singing the same note) was great, eventually, more notes were added, and harmony (singing different notes at the same time) became more appealing. You can hear a cappella harmony in many different styles of music - from madrigals, spirituals, and gospel music to barbershop and doo wop. With the introduction of vocal percussion (or beatboxing), more rhythmic contemporary styles were possible a cappella. Today, you can hear a cappella that uses not just beatboxing, but effects, amplification, live looping, and all kinds of technology to enhance the sound. Those other older styles are still very present but contemporary a cappella is a global sensation that you can find on TV, on the radio, and in movies.

If you have any questions for us, email us at
bith@ballinthehouse.com

If you want to learn more about the band, and each member's schooling, music, and learning experiences:

<https://www.ballinthehouse.com/about>

[Ball in the House YouTube Channel](#)

Ways to make your own a cappella songs, by yourself or with others:

[Acapella](#) - *an iOS app that lets you record, edit and share music right from a mobile device*

[Soundtrap](#) - *a freemium cross-platform website to record audio in a browser to create music*

[BandLab](#) - *a free cross-platform website for social music creation*

There are many ways to get involved in music and the arts, so here are some suggestions:

If you do enjoy singing, we encourage you to **join your school choir, or community or church choir, or to take voice lessons.**

All are great ways to use your voice. Singing with others in harmony is especially rewarding and highly recommended!

If you love rhythm and **beatboxing** is more your thing, check out our tutorial video that's a lot more in-depth than what we were able to do during the show:

[Jonny's Beatboxing Tutorial](#)

Try **writing songs**! Whether you have ideas for melodies or lyrics or both, try recording your musical ideas and writing down your lyrics. Keep revising and revising, just like you would with a school report or paper. Try collaborating with others.

Here are some ways to help you get started:

[10 Songwriting Tips](#)

[How to Write a Song in 6 Simple Steps](#)

[Songwriting 101](#)

If performing isn't your thing, there are still many ways that you can be involved in the arts **offstage**:

sound engineer - setting up sound, mix live music to sound good

studio engineer - recording music in a studio

lighting - controlling lights during a show, designing and setting up cool lighting patterns before the show

stage crew - working backstage to keep the show running smoothly

costume designer/set designer - design and make the costumes, props, and sets for theater or musical productions

Talk to your teachers for guidance - you might find something you've never even considered before!

If you want to **learn more** about a cappella singing and all the amazing ways the voice can be used across different styles, check out:

[The Contemporary A Cappella Society](#)

[Listing of Vocal Harmony Groups](#)

[YouTube Playlist: a cappella vs instrument versions of songs](#)

Some groups that may have been mentioned in the show:

[Ball in the House](#)

[Barbershop Harmony Society](#)

[Sweet Adelines](#)

[Patti LaBelle and the Bluebelles](#)

[The Chantels](#)

[Sweet Honey in the Rock](#)

[The Swingle Singers](#)

[Pentatonix](#)

[Musae](#)