



Composing is the art of putting things together, and anyone can do it - including you!

Thinking like a composer helps you discover new connections between the sights, sounds, feelings, and events in your life, and gives you a way to share new experiences with the people around you. Whether you'd like to compose with sounds, images, gestures, words, food, or some combination, putting things together to make connections is foundational to creativity -- and creativity is a superpower!

Musician and educator Danny Clay has a passion for fostering creative play. Drawing on a career of community music-making with people of all ages and over a decade of educational experience -- including directing a K-8 general music program, teaching music courses at Stanford University and San Francisco State University, and designing educational content for organizations such as Kronos Quartet, the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and the Kennedy Center -- his workshops for students and teachers alike lead participants through the process of composing music while integrating other modalities such as visual symbols, language, movement, games, design, and social-emotional learning.

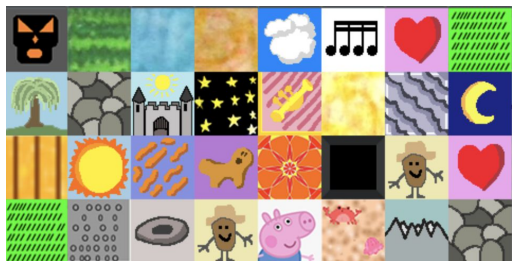
*Workshops are designed for smaller groups, such as classes of 30 or less, and can be adapted to suit the needs of most age ranges and skill levels. Sessions are 45-60 minutes each, and multi-part sessions can be combined into single-day visits if desired. A \* indicates a workshop that is also available exclusively for teachers and educators.*

## SONIC SANDBOX

Design a Musical Video Game!

Ages: 8 or higher

1-4 Sessions (Remote or In-Person)



Click on the image to check out an example game created by 5th graders from Belding Elementary School in Chicago, IL!

In this workshop that integrates music and visual literacy, participants will learn about the world of game design by brainstorming and contributing sounds, visuals, and story concepts to make their own class video game that they can play from a web browser.\*

### Participants will:

- Learn about tile-based video games and how they are made.
- Draw or design one or more of their own “musical tiles” inspired by a setting, image, character or object.
- Record a sound to match those tiles using instruments, voices, or items in their surroundings.
- Play-test their new game environment and create a short composition using the game to share and perform for their peers.



## WRITING SOUND\*

Compose Music with Letters!

Ages: 5-7

1 Session (Remote or In-Person)



In this workshop aimed at early and developing readers, participants will reinforce foundational reading and language skills by using the alphabet in a creative way -- to make music!

### Participants will:

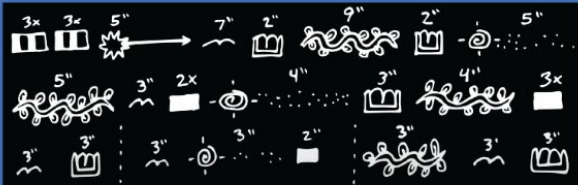
- Learn about *musical notation* (drawings that represent sounds) and *composing* (putting sounds together to make music)
- Learn how others have arranged letter/vocal sounds into patterns to make music (beatboxing, sound poetry, etc.)
- Compose their own original musical composition by arranging letters into patterns and perform their music

## DRAWING SOUND\*

Compose Music in Secret Code!

Ages: 7 or older

1-4 Sessions (Remote or In-Person)



In this workshop that integrates music composition and visual literacy, participants will invent a visual code to represent sounds and create a composition using that code.

### Participants will:

- Learn about how musicians have used *notation* symbols to remember sounds and compose their own music.
- Find sounds in their space and design corresponding symbols that match the quality of those sounds
- Compose and perform their own original musical piece by arranging their symbols into patterns.

## BETTER TOGETHER\*

Compose with Musical Games!

Ages: 5 or older

1-4 Sessions (Remote or In-Person)

In this workshop that integrates musical performance with social emotional learning, participants will explore six different strategies for making music through collaborative sound and movement games, and reflect on how games can be used to build teamwork and group creativity. Older participants will use these games to create their own original performance pieces to share with the class.

## TEACHERS ONLY!

Individual Activity Consultations  
For Pre-K through College Educators

Looking for fun and creativity-centric ways to engage your students? Let's work together to build customized games and activities to suit your classes needs and achievement goals. Play-based models of learning are proven effective, and no subject area is too complex to game-i-fy!

To make an inquiry about a workshop, email [dclaymusic@gmail.com](mailto:dclaymusic@gmail.com)