

How to Pick Your Instrument

Lean On Me Performance Project



Project Objective:

Whole class or work in small bands to learn, rehearse, and perform “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers. Each student will choose one instrument (guitar, bass, keyboard, or drums) and learn how their part fits into the overall band arrangement. Students may use digital instruments if real instruments aren’t available.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

Step 1 – Form Your Band

1. Divide the whole class by the instrument choice from the app or into groups of 3–5 students
2. Each member uses the instrument they received from the app or chooses their own instrument: Guitar, Bass, Keyboard, or Drums
3. If needed, use digital instruments (see resources in Lesson Plan)

Step 2 – Learn the Song

1. Look at the “Lean on Me” Leadsheet
2. Work with your groups to write in the notes for the melody
3. Use the Chord Chart to help navigate the chords for the song

Step 3 – Learn Your Instrument Part

1. Use the INSTRUMENT GUIDE for your chosen instrument.

Step 4 – Practice Time

1. Start slow
2. Use a metronome (70–80 bpm)
3. Repeat short sections until they feel easy

Step 5 – Rehearsal Time

1. Count in together
2. Keep eye contact and listen to each other
3. Start with small sections before trying the full song

Step 6 – Final Performance Project

1. Perform live for the class
2. Or record your band performance as a video or audio track
3. As audience members listen, use the RUBRIC to support growth