



Family Activities

Title: **Ty's One-Man Band**

Author: **Mildred Pitts Walter**

Illustrator: **Margot Tomes**

On a hot, humdrum day Ty meets a mysterious man who uses a washboard, comb, spoons, and a pail to create a one-man band out of thin air. LeVar explores a concert in the park where he discovers a rap group, doo-wop group, jazz band, and salsa band — all different types of music. An acapella singing group and the talented Ben Vereen add to the mix. A visit with Reading Rainbow's music director shows how he performs magic with a music synthesizer.

Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this episode.

Music, Music, Music

We have music around us all of the time. We hear it on the television, through the radio, or on our phones. Where else do you hear music? Over one day, make a list of all of the times you hear music. See how long your list is. Also note how the music is made...by instruments made to create music or from items that just end up making musical sounds, like a dripping faucet, the patter of feet, or the chirping of a bird.

If your local community center offers concerts, plan to take the family. Some concerts are specially designed for children's involvement. Check with your local Chamber of Commerce for information.

Simple Instruments to Make

If there are one or more budding musicians in the family, try making these simple instruments so they can try out a variety of rhythms.

- **Drums:** Use an empty coffee can with a plastic lid or a cardboard oatmeal box. Beat with a wooden spoon or some sticks from your yard.
- **Bongo Drums:** If you have three empty containers of varying sizes, tape them together and play them by beating with your hands.
- **Rhythm Rocks:** Hold one large stone in your hand and tap it with another stone.
- **Rhythm Sticks:** Hold one stick or wooden spoon in one hand and tap it with another stick or spoon. **Rhythm Boxes:** Put a handful of rice, popcorn, or dried beans in a box, can, or plastic container with a lid, and shake.
- **Jingle Bells:** Attach jingle bells on yarn and wear around your wrist or ankle, and jingle all the way. Now that you have all your instruments, get together and sing a familiar song and use your rhythm instruments to keep the beat.

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Here is a book you can check out on your next trip to the library:

The Amazing Bone by William Steig