



Massey Hall & Roy Thomson Hall presents **LIVE AT MASSEY HALL AT SCHOOL**



Featuring the award-winning Live at Massey Hall films, these free films offer insight into the Canadian music scene, with behind the scenes interviews with artists, stellar performances, plus short curriculum connected guides with pre- and post-viewing activities for select films. Activities can be completed synchronously or asynchronously, in-school or at-home.

Suggested age: Secondary school, some concerts contain explicit language. See specific details, notes, and highlights in the "Concert Highlights" section below.

SHAD



Shadrach Kabango (a.k.a. Shad, Shad K.), rapper, singer, songwriter, radio host (born 18 July 18, 1982 in Kenya). Witty, passionate and earnest, Shad is a Juno Award-winning rapper known for his sharp, socially conscious lyrics. His playful musical style blends rap and hip-hop with rock, R&B and other genres. In 2008 and 2010, the *National Post* named him the best rapper in Canada, and in 2013 CBC Music ranked him No. 2 in their list of the "25 Greatest Canadian Rappers Ever". In 2013, *Paste* magazine hailed him as "Canada's most talented, genuine musical artist and one of the industry's finest poets." Shad has been nominated for the Polaris Music Prize four times (2008, 2010, 2014, 2019), hosted CBC Radio One's flagship talk show *q* from April 2015 to August 2016 and hosted the award winning series *Hip Hop Evolution* on Netflix.

TALKING POINTS

Watch the first episode of *Hip Hop Evolution* hosted by Shad. What are the musical roots of hip hop? Create a list of as many of the different elements as you can.

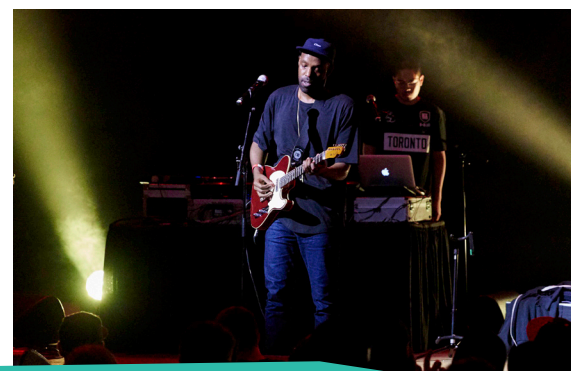
How are consciousness raising and advocacy an integral part of rap? What are some stereotypes about rap music?

What are some of the social and historical contexts surrounding the birth of hip hop? How has hip hop impacted Canadian music? Create a shared document listing all the Canadian hip hop artists you can think of together so that everyone can learn together.

When you think of Canadians music, who do you think of? How has race and gender shaped our ideas about who and what constitutes Canadian music? Listen to Shad with July Talk discussing racial inequality, hosted by Ron MacLean.

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES

00:35 - 1:30 - Shad discusses why performing at Massey Hall is important to him



ACTIVITY 1

Choose a song from the film, and think back to the roots of hip hop. How can we see Shad use the elements of early hip hop in his work? Select sections of his work as examples and share with each other to discuss how they reflect the foundational elements of hip hop.

ACTIVITY 2

Early hip hop had many influences including changing technology. How does Shad's music use technology to create his sounds? How can you use technology to create similar sounds and recordings? Create samples of vocals, music, and play with tempo, timbre, rhythm, and volume. Share the results on Garage Band or Soundtrap.

ACTIVITY 3

Canada has a rich history of hip hop and has produced some of the biggest hip hop artists in the world. Create a timeline mapping the list of artists you created earlier to examine artists' influences, on each other, by responding to other works or reacting to a change in accepted genre norms.

ACTIVITY 4

In his song "American Pie (the future)", Shad references the Don Mclean song "American Pie" and uses a sample from George Michael's "Careless Whisper". Listen to "American Pie (the future)" to identify the lyrics and the sample. Many artists reference iconic works and then build on it with their own meaning, for example Built to Spill's song, "You were Right". The song weaves together lyrics from 10 songs, including "Three Little Birds", "Stairway To Heaven", "Dust In The Wind", "Another Brick In The Wall", "Manic Depression", "You Can't Always Get What You Want", "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall", "Against The Wind", "Jack & Diane", and "The End". Listen to the song, can you find the lyrics? Combining these lyrics creates a new meaning. How does Shad build meaning in his song by referencing other artists work? Think of the lyrics in a song you feel are filled with meaning. Select three lines from your chosen songs; use these lines to create a starting point in your own chorus or verse. Build on or change the original meaning by combining these lyrics with some of your own, experimenting with creating contrasts in your own composition.



STAFF INTERVIEW *Stefania Paterak, Programming Manager*

- ◆ *What is your role at Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

I am the Programming Manager.

- ◆ *How did you get into the world of Programming?*

Hard work and good timing. I booked my first band when I was 13 – for a surprise birthday for a pal. When I was in my early 20s, I decided to work in the music industry though I thought I might become a band manager. My first full-time job was at a performing arts centre. It taught me a lot about this world, including networking with agents, negotiating deals and booking concerts, and working with the artist's and venue's team to make the events happen. This, and my other experience, prepared me to for a role as a programmer in the music industry.

- ◆ *Tell us more about your education, career path, and interests.*

I went to a regional arts program for high school, majoring in Drama. My focus ended up behind the scenes – primarily in stage management and some directing.

In university, I studied English and History – which taught me how to write well and make a case, proving helpful in my current role negotiating with agents and grant-writing. I also took a couple of elective courses on ethnomusicology. I tried to be strategic with my part-time and summer jobs: I worked at a museum on summer programming and a children's theatre in the box office and front of house.

My first full-time permanent job was in a junior role in programming at a performing arts centre where I was also responsible for coordinating their volunteer program. It was there that I learned the nuances of professional presenting and all of the people who work together to make a show happen. I worked there for three years in roles of increasing responsibility before I applied to be the Programming Coordinator at Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall. I've now been at the Halls for over a decade.

I knew from the start that I wanted to be in the world of arts and culture, and I was always a big music fan; but even going to an arts high school, I didn't know that the work I'm doing now was a job. To help round out my skills and knowledge base once I started working, I also did classes in arts administration, volunteer management, and leadership training.

- ◆ *How were you involved in Shad's Live at Massey Hall?*

I booked the show! I worked with Shad's agent and team to coordinate the engagement and with special guest Zaki Ibrahim's team to do the same. In programming, we coordinate the contract administration and artist payment while working alongside the other team members and departments to make the event happen, including the Event Coordinator, Production, Box Office, and Artist Development.

- ◆ *Who are the other team members you work with at the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

In programming, we work with almost every department on a daily or weekly basis. On the shows we present, programming can often function as the hub for an event as we're responsible for ensuring everything goes to plan, including budget.

- ◆ *What is your favorite part of your job?*

Every show is different, and every day is different – this also means that I get to work with so many very fun, very cool people helping to make concerts happen for people who love music. It's an awesome job, and I feel very fortunate to have it.

- ◆ *What is your favorite memory of the Halls?*

There are so many, it is impossible to choose – but an extraordinary memory is being in Massey Hall on the balcony level for the rehearsal of an acoustic concert by pianist Herbie Hancock with the orchestra performing "Rhapsody in Blue". It was a rare treat to hear something without any amplification at Massey Hall, and it was magical. It was, of course, beautiful and striking to hear; it also made me think about all the people who had come through the Hall before me, so many of whom only heard music performed this way. Massey Hall is such a special place to so many people across Toronto and beyond; it was humbling to feel so small while being a part of something so meaningful.

- ◆ *Are there any other comments you would like to share with student readers?*

My best piece of advice for preparing for the job market is to take notes. Difficult situations are fodder for future interview questions about how you overcame a challenge and what you might have done differently. If you can, take some time to reflect on your challenges and successes while they're happening – make a mental or written note so you can make use of those reflections when you need them to get that gig!

