

About the Artist: *Krystle Dos Santos*



Vancouver-based soul singer and actor, Krystle Dos Santos was born in Edmonton and is of Guyanese descent. She grew up listening to Motown and soul music as a kid but didn't start taking professional singing lessons until the age of 16. She studied singing and performing at the Canadian College of Performing Arts. Over the past 10 years, Krystle has been working professionally as a soul singer-songwriter performing Motown classics along with her own original soul music across Canada. In 2016, she debuted her own musical cabaret show incorporating spoken word, poetry, dance and song, called "Blak," which highlighted the experiences, struggles and stereotypes that black Canadians face today. She is also the co-creator and main actor/singer portraying the late activist and entrepreneur Viola Desmond in an original musical cabaret called "Hey Viola!"

Krystle developed "A History of Motown" show to teach students about the impact and importance of black history in Canada and the U.S. In an entertaining and informative way, she shares the struggle and amazing accomplishments of some of the key artists and people from the Motown era, who have influenced contemporary soul music as well as her own musical career.

About the Performance

Know

Krystle Dos Santos and her three-piece soul band (keys/bass, guitar, drums) will take students back in time to the eras of Motown music from the late 1950s to 1980s. Motown Records, started by producer Berry Gordy with only an \$800 loan, grew into a massive label featuring stars such as The Supremes, Stevie Wonder, the Temptations, and a young Michael Jackson in the Jackson 5. Krystle and her band will perform interactive songs from the Motown catalogue while also educating students about notable Motown artists, the historical importance of the civil rights movement, music entrepreneurship, and the significant impact Motown has had on contemporary soul music today. The show includes medleys of the most popular hits and lots of audience interaction, singalong choruses, and on-stage participation. The audience is expected to sing along and dance, have fun and hopefully learn something new.

- Performance length: 45 min performance + 5 min. Q&A
- Technical requirements: If school has an auditorium or professional theatre with a stage and PA with a drum kit, the band can provide tech rider. Otherwise, the band will bring own sound equipment, backline and instruments and just requires a regular power outlet and a min. 8 ft x 16 ft space on stage or gym floor.

Artist inks:

www.pebblestarartists.com/krystle-dos-santos

www.krystledossantos.com

[Krystle's YouTube site](#)

About the Art Form

Do / Inquire

The Motown record label was formed in 1959 by Berry Gordie. The label broke ground by creating music and developing artists that brought R&B/soul music to mainstream radio – bridging a cultural divide that had never before been done. The main themes focused on in the presentation are: Motown’s origin story, the civil rights movement, Motown’s iconic music catalogue and its variety of incredible artists. We hope students discover a love for this classic style of music and learn about where it came from; learn the value of hard work and dedication; and see how far we’ve come in our fight for equal rights for all humanity.

Links: <https://www.motownmuseum.org/story/motown/>
<https://www.motownmuseum.org/motown-sound/the-artists/>

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

- What was the name of the movement in the 1960s that strived for equality for all people?
- Can you name a song or band from the Motown catalogue and what do you know about them?
- Who was the founder of Motown label and what city in the USA did it come from?

Links to Curriculum

- Social studies: learn about the significance of Motown music and its artists in context of the civil rights movement and how this has shaped pop & soul music today listened to by Canadians and the rest of the world
- Arts education: learn about music history and contemporary music and experience a live performance by professional musicians

Post-Performance Activities

Understand

- Look up YouTube clips of the various groups from Motown and observe their dancing and performance styles. Are there any similarities to what you see from artists today?
- Listen to a Motown song and name the instruments you hear. Can you distinguish between the lead vocal and the background vocals?

[Link to YouTube Motown Mix playlist](#)

Post-Performance Discussion Questions

- Name the person who was a major driving force of the civil rights movement and find one of his quotes.
- What was the significant affect that Motown music had on the radio in the 1960s?

Learn more about this artist online at <https://artstarts.com/artist-profile/krystle-dos-santos>