Collective Creativity
Experiential Leadership Development with Orbert Davis’ Chicago Jazz Philharmonic

I have been previously exposed to many of the leadership concepts discussed ... I have never, though, seen the concepts displayed so effectively in a very engaging and inspirational format.... very sincere and real high performing team dynamics that brought concepts to life.

-McDonald’s executive participant
Collaborative Leadership.

Arts-Based Development.

“Anyone can make the simple complicated. Creativity is making the complicated simple.”

Charles Mingus

Today’s business leaders face unprecedented challenges in the face of accelerating complexity, change, and multiple generations in the workforce. Truly effective leadership is now characterized by creativity and inspiration balanced with operational efficiency. Developing these competencies requires a “whole brain” approach – engaging the sensing, intuitive, emotional right brain with the logical and rational left brain. Collective Creativity offers a fresh experience of what great new leadership looks, sounds and feels like -- engaging participants kinesthetically.

New Leadership Imperative

In its 2010 study of 1500 CEOs, IBM learned that “creativity is the most important leadership competency for companies making their way through the accelerating complexity of the current business environment.” CEOs saw the need for leaders to create cultures inspired by vision and built on trust and authenticity in order to generate innovation that harnesses the power of diverse perspectives. This is especially challenging where the remnants of command and control “heads-down, impress-the-boss, stay safe” ways of working, thinking, and behaving are ingrained at all levels.

Re-imagining Leadership Through a New Lens

In a different world – that of performing arts and arts education – Orbert Davis demonstrates an alternative. His Chicago Jazz Philharmonic is redefining music genres by bringing together classical music structure, precision and consistency with jazz improvisation and swing. This requires masterful collaborative leadership that deeply leverages diversity. Orbert’s leadership blends the scoring, instrumentation, and technical precision of European-rooted classical music - with the African-American-rooted jazz culture of improvisation, individual expression, and swing. With flawless execution.

By observing the musicians as they rehearse and perform, participants hear, see, feel, and experience new leadership live and in real time. Via dialogue with Orbert and the musicians, participants hear about the leader’s and team member’s thinking and intentions. In facilitated conversations with each other, participants translate their insights and observations into renewed relationships and inspired collaborative action.

In the face of increasing complexity, ambiguity, and accelerating change, many organizations struggle to
• Unleash and focus creativity, energy, and collaboration across organizational boundaries
• Engage and integrate diversity of thinking, experiences, and perspectives
• Loosen the “arthritic joints” between silos and levels
• Create dynamic structures and cultures where teams quickly connect, synergize and perform

The Collective Creativity Program: Music as a catalyst for the cultural shifts needed in your business.

When they spend a few hours with Orbert Davis’ Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, teams are inspired, unblocked, unleashed, connected, and renewed. Executives hear, see, feel, and grasp the essence of collaborative leadership.

We partner with you to identify the specific learning, change, and business issues you need to bring to life. The musical and verbal conversations are customized to shift mindsets and inspire new behaviors in one or more focus areas you choose...

- Collaborative culture and practices
- Leadership that inspires and connects
- Innovation across disciplines
- Deep inclusion and diversity
- Team effectiveness
- Learning and adapting
- Talent development, coaching, mentoring
- Leading with purpose and presence

An Immersive Learning Experience

Orbert Davis and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic (CJP) “Double Quartet” – four classically oriented string musicians with a four piece master jazz combo – perform three genres of music: Classical, Jazz, and Third Stream (a unique blend of the other two). Participants listen, bop, and swing along, enjoying the music. As they engage beyond the beautiful sounds, they discover much more...

These three music genres illustrate three kinds of cultures and ways of leading: traditional-hierarchical, team-based, and collective creativity. The practices, presence, and spirit of the Third Stream conductor/leader provide deep, personal, and memorable insights into the future of leadership in our flatter, faster, more diverse, and interconnected world. Observing a “live rehearsal,” participants experience the collaborative, collectively creative essence of this music.

Dialogue with Orbert and the musicians provides a look behind the curtain at what makes it possible – how they connect, learn, align, think, listen, experiment, lead, follow, and play together. The energy and mindset of everyone in the room shifts. Inspired, focused conversations between participants apply this fresh collaborative approach to your business challenges.

Format Options

- A 3-hour kick-off or capstone to your executive meeting, planning session or development program
- A full day workshop where musicians highlight specific issues and participants translate and apply their learnings to current business challenges
- Integrated into a team building or team launch

“Most innovative team building I’ve had the pleasure of experiencing.” - Hill-Rom participant
About the Facilitators

Orbert Davis

Emmy Award-winning trumpeter, composer and educator, Orbert Davis is co-founder, conductor and Artistic Director of CHICAGO JAZZ PHILHARMONIC, a 60 piece jazz-symphonic orchestra and music education provider. One of Chicago’s busiest and most sought after musicians, Chicago Magazine named Orbert Davis “Y2k Best Trumpeter in Chicago” and “Chicagoan of the Year for 2002.” Davis won an Emmy Award for the composition and production of an original score for the national PBS documentary, “DuSable to Obama: Chicago’s Black Metropolis.” In 2011, Davis was named Artist-In-Residence for the Chicago Jazz Festival, an honor never before held by a Chicagoan. Orbert has a Bachelor’s degree in trumpet performance from DePaul University and a Master’s degree in Jazz Pedagogy from Northwestern University. Orbert and CJP co-founder Mark Ingram were featured in a December 2014 60 Minutes report highlighting CJP’s education and cultural diplomacy work in Cuba.

Chicago Jazz Philharmonic Musicians

The CJP Double Quartet is comprised of highly trained and experienced professional musicians. In addition to their performance and teaching work with Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, some also perform with other acclaimed classical orchestras such as the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago. Others lead their own jazz ensembles and play with countless other jazz greats. These talented musicians are also dedicated teachers of their craft. The ensemble is always a new mix - some have played together often, others will be new to this group. A diverse team in every sense: members bring differing backgrounds, generations, training, music traditions and performance styles. With Orbert’s expert, collaborative, caring leadership, they swing!

Linda Rasins

Talent, change and culture strategist Linda Rasins has over twenty-five years of consulting experience helping leaders develop more effective organizations. Her work focuses on developing sustainably productive cultures, leadership team effectiveness, strategic talent development, and building Human Resources strategy and capability. She has practical expertise in collaborative teaming and partnering, and whole system change. Linda completed her Master’s degree in in Organization Development at Loyola University Chicago. She has a deep love for American music born out of the mix of African rhythms and soul with European instruments and structures. This interest led her to Orbert Davis’ Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, where she currently serves as Board Chair, embracing the challenge of leading for growth in a shrinking marketplace.

Orbert Davis’ Chicago Jazz Philharmonic

was born out of an invitation to Artistic Director Orbert Davis from the Jazz Institute of Chicago to “think big” when planning his appearance at the 2004 Chicago Jazz Festival. That moment allowed Orbert to launch his dream of leading a Third Stream orchestra – blending and bending classical and jazz music genres. It is the only Third Stream orchestra in the United States.

The 60-piece orchestra just celebrated its 10th anniversary season. The orchestra has performed at renowned venues in Chicago, including Millennium Park and The Auditorium Theater, inspiring a uniquely diverse audience with Orbert’s unique original compositions, new orchestral jazz arrangements, and with the works of other great composers.

CJP’s mission is equally devoted to education: our Jazz Alive program brings early and continuous music education, plus training in the life skills inherent in playing jazz, to Chicago Public School students who would otherwise have no music in their school. Our summer jazz camp provides intensive learning from master musicians. CJP is incorporated as a not-for-profit 501(C)3.

Contact

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