

# I. Welcome To SPARC

Everyone: mmm... trummm Yan: Hi everyone! I'm Yan, the camp director. Welcome to SPARC!

Everyone: We're in the Bay for ten days. This place is strange in many ways. We strive to have a-gen-cy, while also thinking ra-tion-al-ly. We lounge with easels, bean-bags, chairs. One-on-ones, we're off in pairs.

Walking down the cam-pus streets while talk-ing 'bout our teeth. We bet our souls for some SPARC cash

pitch to Da-vid "Zip-line! Door-dash!" It's tri-vi-al to see we want to max-i-mize E-V

We're at SPARC on our ration-al-ity arc. I-deas, peo-ple, places to be! But first, who are we?

The musical score consists of six staves of handwritten music. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It features a dynamic marking 'trummm' and a trill symbol over a measure. The second staff begins with a bass clef and a common time signature. The third staff starts with a bass clef and a common time signature. The fourth staff starts with a bass clef and a common time signature. The fifth staff starts with a bass clef and a common time signature. The sixth staff starts with a bass clef and a common time signature. The music includes various note values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and measures. Red ink is used to write lyrics and annotations between the staves. A trill symbol is placed above the first staff, and a dynamic marking 'trummm' is placed above the second staff. Measures are separated by vertical bar lines, and rests are indicated by short horizontal dashes.

Yan: Hi! I'm Yan. Talk to me about being meta. Damon: Hi! I'm Damon, the coolest instructor at SPARC!

Yan: Hi! I'm Yan. Talk to me about being meta. Damon: Hi! I'm Damon, the coolest instructor at SPA!

first time on ,

CJ: Hi, I'm CJ, your favorite JC! Talk to me about two-minute  
talks.

Handwritten musical score for the first time through. The score consists of two systems. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It contains a single measure with a note value of 16th note followed by a fermata. The second system begins with a double bar line, a repeat sign, and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a measure with a note value of 16th note followed by a fermata, and a measure with a note value of eighth note followed by a fermata. A bracket groups the first two measures of the second system, labeled '(# p)' above and 'first time only' below. The score concludes with a final double bar line.

tidies. Emily: I'm Emily! Talk to me about... my relationships spreadsheet.

everyone: We

all belong here for a reason. Math kids, gym rats, from all regions come to SPARC year after year

Yan: Erm actually, this will be our last SPARC here (Everyone) \*gasp\*

Yan: Soylent costs were much higher than expected. Due to this, SPARC has

run out of funding. Not only will we have to end camp early, but we

will also have to cancel all future SPARCs. Enjoy your four days

here! Everyone! NOOOO!

Soprano: {

Alto: {

Bass: {

## II. How To Achieve Your Goals

Narrator: The next day ...

Instructor: Today's class is "How to Achieve Your Goals". What is one goal you

would like to achieve? Henry?

Henry: I want to get what I want without waiting for permission.

Instructor: Ah, you would like to have more agency. Emily?

Emily: I want to stop wasting so much time.

Instructor: Ah, so you want to optimize your time. Erick?

Erick: I want my friend who has been friendzoning me for 15 years who has a husband and

kids to suddenly fall in love with me because I am madly in love with him and his oldest son.

Instructor: Uh... you want to improve your communication skills.

With swing



Musical notation for the second line of the song. The key signature changes to G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: "You choose how to spend your day You can choose to speak, or wait Ask a friend out on a date Agency is yours to claim". The music features eighth and sixteenth notes with a bass line below.

Musical notation for the third line of the song. The key signature changes to A major (two sharps). The lyrics are: "You choose how to spend your day You can choose to speak, or wait Ask a friend out on a date Agency is yours to claim". The music continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Straight 8ths

Do it now don't be a-fraid!

Now, let's talk about communication!

When you feel like you're a turtle Do it let sadness be a hurdle Get out of your shell and add a

conv to your spread-sheet cell When you want commu-ni-ca-tion SPARC is the place for medi-ta-tion If you're stuck take a breath

talk in the meta-it saves you stress!

Now, let's talk about optimization.

Slower

When you want to save some time Plan a-head, it'll be fine Try your best to optimize

With this skill you'll reach the skies! It's ok to cal-cu-late Do the math it will be great! Try your best like Fermi-thous but

one that just keeps going on

Quick! Paraphrase what I said in class. What is agency? Henry: When we aren't

limited by what others do!

Instructor: what is open communication? Emily: when you speak your mind.

Instructor: What is optimization? Erick: When you plan for the future! Such as optimizing time.

Instructor: speaking of time, that's time! Catch me at lunch for questions!

### **III. Real-World Applications (Henry, Instructor, JC, Emily)**

(In a classroom, just before class starts. JC and Emily are also there.)

Narrator: The next day...

Instructor: So what did you learn from my class about agency?

Henry: I shouldn't be limited by what others do!

Instructor: And how have you used this?

Henry (to the audience): I realized that

For everyone I talk to, I gain a new friend

Instructor: So true!

Henry: And these conversations, I don't want them to end

Instructor: You bet!

Henry: And so, to build the network that I want to create

Instructor: Uh-huh!

Henry: I've used my agency to stay up late!

Instructor: Um..

Henry: We were singing Hamilton at two or three,

Instructor: Hmm

Henry: In a musical is where I always wanted to be!

Instructor: And...

Henry: We looked at local wildlife 'till four or five!

Instructor: Oh deer...

Henry: And though I didn't sleep I've never felt more alive (The student trails off at the end of the sentence and falls over, snoring extremely loudly. The pianist plays a lullaby)

Instructor: (visibly annoyed, goes over and shakes the student awake. The pianist slams the lower range of the piano)

Henry (being shaken): woah-oh-oh-oh-oh

Instructor: Come on dude, stop sleeping in my class!

Either try to listen or get off of your [ass]

Narrator: Later that day, in Lassen...

(Henry and JC are chilling in Lassen)

Henry: I'm hungry...

JC: Me too! I'm going to lunch.

Henry: I might not, actually.

JC: But I thought you were hungry!

Henry: Hear me out...

[rhyming section begins]

Henry: Remember when Damon told us to optimize?

JC: I thought you didn't listen - you were closing your eyes!

Henry: I meant yesterday. Anyway, I'll save a bit of walking

If I just live off snacks in Lassen!

JC: Keep talking,

Henry: I'll be waiting here if anyone wants to 1-on-1!

JC: You can do that at lunch!

Henry: But that doesn't maximize fun!

(Student starts stuffing his face with snacks and dropping trash)

(B starts walking away and shaking their head)

JC (to audience): I'll talk some sense into him.

(S opens some nuts and has shells left over)

Henry: I need to find a schelling point for all of this...

Henry: And if I drop my trash, I can save so much time!

(Student drops trash on the floor, JC walks in)

JC: You know dude, littering is a crime!

Henry: But the trash can's so far! I think I'll test my luck.

JC: You can't just make problems and act like you don't give a [fuck]

Announcer: Later that day, Henry is in a one-on-one with Emily...

(Henry and Emily are walking)

Henry (to audience): This is a chance to lowkey use my new communication skills!

Open intentions!

I'll say what I mean, and mean what I say!

My feelings make sense and I can share all my mental models!

Emily: Hi Henry!

Henry: Hi [B]!

Emily: So, what should we talk about?

Henry: You know, I really like talking to you!

Emily: Aww, thanks, I like talking [to you too] (gets cut off)

Henry: And on a meta level...

Henry: (to self/audience) Remember, open communication.

Henry: It's because I like you! I really really do!

In Stag's class, I would take the blue pill for you!

Emily: Thanks, but (gets cut off)

Henry: You're the only mental model in my mind!

Henry: (to audience) Damon told me I should share the things that I find

Emily: I like you as a [friend] (gets cut off again)

Henry: Come to catch 22 - I've caught feelings for you!

And alphabet, so I can write my love out too

Emily: (louder) are you listen[ing]?? (gets cut off)

Henry: The market can't resolve how much you mean to me!

Please, let's go against SPARC policy!

Emily: (even louder) I'm sorry but (gets cut off)

Henry: I want to one-on-one with you, for my whole life

At a meta level, I want you to be my wife!

Emily: (Shouting) Shut up! You're cooked!

Henry: Because you're so hot!

Emily: I'm leaving, you've ruined your shot!

[not me breaking rhythm lmao]

Henry: But you're in my ninety-percent confidence interval of love. That interval's gotta be hit!

Emily: (leaving, very loudly) THIS IS SOME MESSED UP [SHIT!]

Henry: Emily! (reaching out but giving up)

#### IV. Do I Belong?

Henry: You know, I feel like everywhere I go, no one understands me. I mean I thought really hard about how to achieve my goals but somehow nothing seems to be improving! I thought I'd finally found a place that could accept me for everything I love and want to do... But instead, they're all just mad at me.

The musical score is for a string quartet (two violins, viola, cello) in 3/4 time, key signature of A major (three sharps). The score consists of six staves of music with corresponding lyrics written in red ink. The lyrics express feelings of isolation and self-doubt.

Lyrics (in red ink):

- I thought that here I'd
- find my place, with minds like mine and with dreams to chase. But e-ve-ry
- stop I take feels wrong, like I don't fit, or I don't be-long I
- tried to rea-son, to think, to plan Instead I've dis-ap-point-ed

A handwritten musical score for a multi-instrument ensemble, likely woodwind quintet, spanning four systems of music. The score includes vocal parts and lyrics.

**System 1:** Key signature of F major (one sharp). The vocal part asks, "Is there a reason for which I be-long?" and "Or did SPARC". The vocal line includes slurs and grace notes. The instrumentation includes woodwinds and brass.

**System 2:** Key signature changes to E major (two sharps). The vocal part asks, "se-select wrong?". The instrumentation continues with woodwinds and brass.

**System 3:** Key signature changes to C major (no sharps or flats). The instrumentation continues with woodwinds and brass.

**System 4:** Key signature changes to G major (one sharp). The instrumentation continues with woodwinds and brass.

## II. One-on-One

SPARC Alum. Come on, don't lose contact with reality.

I'm glad I ran into you! I'd love to have a...

Student: one-on-one? Alum: Oh, just a... Student: one-on-one? Alum: No, just a... Student: one-on-one? Alum: Alright.

I'll call it a one-on-one, but on one condition: that you listen to me closely.

Student: Wait, who are you? Alum: I was at SPARC 2012, I'm here for alum night,

and I'm an expert at helping you, because I work at... Ci-te-del In-se-cu-ri

slightly swung

ties!

You think you're in a place where you're just out of luck.

You've failed a lot and now you're

so

so

so

so

kind of stuck. But be - lieve things will get better, you're along for the ride  
Henry: Yeah.

You're still learning, and you

don't need to hide. Recall "We all belong here for a reason. Math kids, gym rats, from all regions!"

Slightly Faster

You've had some set-backs but that doesn't mean

that you can't come back to the people you've seen

Slightly slower, swing

Henry: Maybe you're right and I'm not a lost cause If I reflect on life and

learn to hit pause I'll look inside myself and find which problems are real. But

straight eighths

Since this is a one-on-one, I'll ask, how do you feel? Alum I've worked at a quant firm through

toil and strife. But I'm not really sure what I'm doing in life

Henry: You should have more agency, I learned it today. If you do the things you want, you'll find your own way. Alum. but

what do I love? I don't mean to be brash. But I just enjoy swimming in my pile of cash

Henry: You should think of what you're optimizing. That is, the values that you want to be rising

Alum. Plants make seeds and bees make honey. I know! I want to maximize my money.

But how do I show people my realization? Henry: You can practice communication! You



Alum: I see what you see! We can learn so much if we work in har-mo-ny!

Henry: think I get it now.

We can learn so much if we work in har-mo-ny!

not swing

You should learn to be the best you can be

It'll work for you just wait and see

You should learn to use your a-ge-n-cy

It'll work for you just wait and see

Think about your im-por-tant re-la-tions

Trust in the power of de-li-ber-a-tion

Think about your life-long op-ti-mir-zation

Trust in the power of sub-stan-ti-a-tion This

swing

Handwritten musical score for 'One-on-one'. The score consists of two staves. The top staff is in G major and includes lyrics in red ink: 'this one-on-one will help us set life straight' and 'Since you told me to com-mun-i-cate'. The bottom staff is in A major and includes lyrics: 'One-on-one will help us set life straight E-specially to com-mu-ni-cate'. The score features various dynamics like *bd*, *p*, *b!*, *! =*, *h!*, and *b!*.

not swing

You know, because I knew you, I have been changed for the ... for some definition of the word.

That's wicked, dude, me too! Good luck out there!

See ya!

swing

Alum.: So... my goal is optimizing for money? How should I do that? I can...

start charging people for conversations! But I only have two friends. I can...

sell one of my yachts! But I'm pretty attached to all five of them.

I can ... evade taxes! Wait, I already do that. Hm...

## VII. Closing Ceremony

Everyone: \*hum\* Yan: Hi everyone. My time here has come to an end. It's time to go home and be a  
(except Henry)

family man. Everyone: Aww \*sniffles\*. Yan: Keep in touch. All of you are still here  
(except Henry)

in my heart. Even without SPARC, we can one-on-one. Everyone: SPARC has been quite a blast  
(except Henry)

But it ended way too fast We've enjoyed the last few days Learning from each other's ways

Being here makes life so bright We just want to stay tonight Well be sad but we all know that

now it's time to go. Yan: May sparks turn into fires, and fires into flames. Alum: WAIT!!

Yan: Citadel? Why is she here on this somber day?

Henry: Wait, let's listen to what she has to say.

Alum: Something happened the other day, and it was quite funny

A little birdie told me that I optimize for money

These principles had relevance, they made me resonate

So I'm using my agency, and I'll communicate

Emily: Communicate what? What did you decide?

Erick: Is there even any strategy that you guys haven't tried?

Instructor: If you use my method, any problem can be solved!

JC: If you're going to commit a crime, then I am not involved

Alum: I was thinking, to achieve my goals, is there some clearer path?

Some huge untapped potential: In coding or in math?

And I just called my CEO, Ken Griffin? He trusts

That if we fund you, then you might work for us!

And that ensures that he will never crash

And as a result, it earns me extra cash!

swing

In other words, SPARC doesn't have to end early this year because your sponsor will be... Ci-ta-del In-se-cur-i-

The musical score is written on five-line staff notation. The first system (treble clef) has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The second system (bass clef) has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The music consists of measures with various rests and tied notes, primarily eighth and sixteenth notes.

*not swing*

-ties! Everyone: We all belong here for a reason. Math kids, gym rats, from all regions.

*swung*  
Here's to the future our camp sees Thanks to you and your insecurities insecurities insecurities

*straight*

Everyone: You belong here! Henry: I belong here too! Because we're at SPARC on our rationality arc. I-

deas, people, places to be! At SPARC we're finally free. we're at SPARC on our

rationality arc. I-deas, people, places to be! Be the change we wish to

Be the change

we wish to

Be the change we wish to

