

## Road to WBC 2018: Beatboxing Beyond the Battles

John Galusha, Class of 2020

This summer found me honing skills and deepening my study of the international Beatbox community by attending various events and intensifying my practice regime. The goal was to improve my live performance and technical proficiency in studio recording and on the Boss RC-505 Loopstation, my instrument of choice and a favorite among competitive beatboxers. Competitions in NYC and Boston proved an excellent performance opportunity as well as a chance to expand and examine my networking within the community. I made the Top 8 in the highly competitive Smash Sounds, the first ever beatbox/SuperSmashBro's crossover battle event, and Top 4 at Boston Beatbox Battle. These battles as well as live performances in Portland, Maine led up to the highlight of the summer, my trip to Berlin, Germany for the 5<sup>th</sup> Beatbox Battle World Championships, followed by the World Beatbox Camp, comprised of ten days of masterclasses and workshops in Krackow, Poland. This trip was the height of my study this summer, which saw me finally able to work with the best professionals in my field. The classes covered a wide variety of content, from practice and performance techniques to running a successful social media campaign to studio and live sound mixing. It was incredible to examine and contribute to the ongoing development of the beatbox community and to see how it crosses linguistic and cultural barriers. The technical and cultural insight I gained from the trip is immeasurable and I cannot wait to apply it as I further my practice and study of Beatbox music and culture.



**Faculty Mentor: Tracy McMullen**

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