

“Jamming on the Job”

Episode 6: Airport Operations Manager

[PBS KIDS music]

PBS KIDS Announcer: From your friends at PBS KIDS.

[overhead announcements inside airport]

Andrés: Vamos amigos, it's time to go.

Christina: Get ready BoomBox, we have a show.

[airplane taking off]

Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox: (singing)

Jamming on the Job
Ja, Jamming
Jamming on the Job
Wooh Ooh

I'm Christina,
Y yo soy Andrés
And we play music
All over the states

We jam and learn
With people who
Work in jobs
They love to do!

If we get stuck
Or something goes wrong

An expert helps us
And we write a song!

[BoomBox beats]
Hey...Go BoomBox...¡Vamos!

Jamming on the Job
Ja, Jamming
Jamming on the Job
Wooh Ooh

[airplane taking off and sounds of overhead announcements at airport]

Andrés: Hey Jam Fam! We have a concert in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!

BoomBox: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, P-P-P-PITTSBURGH,
PENNSYLVANIA!

Andrés: But right now... Can you hear those sounds all around us?

[overhead announcements inside airport]

Andrés: We're at the airport!

Christina: Yup! Sometimes our shows are too far away for us to drive our tour bus and make it to the venue in time, so... ¡volamos en avión! Uh-huh! We fly in an airplane!

BoomBox: WE FLY! YEAH, YEAH, WE FLY!

Christina: This airport is huge. Jam Fam: Have you ever been on an airplane or been in an airport before? Airports are really busy.

Andrés: ¡Siempre hay mucha gente! There are planes and people and bags and food and security. Oh! I see a sign up ahead that says "Baggage Claim," so let's go in that direction, Jam Fam!

[people walking through airport, overhead announcements]

Christina: Here come the bags! Uh-huh! I see our purple polka dotted bag... I'll get it! Oomph!

Andrés: And I see our blue and orange stripey bags coming, too. No mistaking *those* for anyone else's. (grunts and lifts bags)

Christina: Great! Now we just need your guitar and then we can get going!

Andrés: Mmmhmm, my guitar should be here any second. Any minute now. (laughs nervously) ¿Guitarrita, dónde estás? Oh, look, there it is. Oh, no...

Christina: I'm sure it'll come out soon, Andrés. Don't worry. ¡No te preocupes!

Andrés: I'm not worried, no estoy preocupado, no, not at all.

[buzzing, background music starts slowing down]

Andrés: Uh oh! The carousel stopped moving! But... where's my guitar?! Ay no, esto es terrible, this is so bad! What are we gonna do!? We can't do the show without my guitar! Oh dear. Ok, Christina, we have to go buy a new guitar. That's it. [Christina: Uh...] A new guitar, right now. Let's go buy a new guitar! Vamos.

Christina: Whoa, Andrés! Espera un momento. Let's try to *stop, think*, and *decide*.

Andrés: Stop, think, and decide?

BoomBox: STOP, THINK, DECIDE!

Christina: ¡Sí, así mismo! First, let's try to *stop*.

BoomBox: STOP

Christina: Stop panicking and try to take a deep breath together.

Christina and Andrés: (*inhale and exhale together*)

Andrés: Ok...

Christina: Ok! Next, let's *think*...

BoomBox: THINK

Christina: Where could your guitar be?

Andrés: Hmmm... that... I am not sure!

Christina: Right! So then let's *decide*...

BoomBox: DECIDE

Christina: ...To ask for help!

Andrés: I don't even know who to ask!

Christina: No te preocupes, Andrés! Don't worry, we'll figure this out together. Oh! Look! I see a sign for the airline's luggage department. Maybe someone in that office will help us. Now vamos, vamos a ver...

[music]

Andrés: Ok, Jam Fam. We talked to an airline employee about my lost guitar, and they told us to check back here at the desk in an hour since it might take a little while to find it.

Christina: An hour? What could they do in an hour?

Andrés: No sé, Christina. You know, we've been in a lot of airports, but I've never thought about how they work [Christina: Huh!] or how they keep track of all the travelers' bags!

Christina: Me neither. Pero me da mucha curiosidad... Now I'm getting curious. How does this aeropuerto work?

BoomBox: HOW DOES THIS AEROPUERTO WORK? HMM... HOW DOES THIS AIRPORT WORK? AEROPUERTO, AEROPUERTO, WORK.

[beeping]

Christina: (gasps) ¡¿Qué fue eso!?

Andrés: Huh?

Christina: What was that sound?

Darius: (clears throat) Sorry, excuse me, that was my walkie talkie. Hi! I'm Darius.

Christina: Oh, hi Darius!

Andrés: Were you looking for your lost guitar, too?

Darius: (laughing) No, no, I wasn't looking for my lost guitar. But I'm sorry to hear that yours didn't come out of the baggage claim! Don't worry, our baggage team is on the hunt. They'll find it soon.

Christina: Uh, how do you know all that?

Darius: I'm this airport's operations manager, which means that I oversee just about every single part of this airport...

Andrés: Wow!

Darius: ... to make sure everything is working and operating safely and efficiently, like this baggage area.

Andrés: ¡Encantado de conocerte, Darius! I'm Andrés, this is Christina, and this is BoomBox, our magical music machine. Say "Hola," BoomBox!

BoomBox: ¡HOLA, BOOMBOX!

Christina: We're also here with our Jam Fam. They're the listeners of our podcast.

Darius: Oh hey, Jam Fam! Well, listen, since you were wondering about how this airport works...

Christina: Uh-huh.

Darius: ... would you all like to come along for a tour with me?

Christina: Yeah! Claro que sí, ¡nos encantaría!

Andrés: ¡Vamos Jam Fam!

Darius: Ok! Come with me this way.

Christina: Wow, thank you, Darius! Hey actually... do you think we could also take what we learn today about your work and write a song about it?

Darius: Wait, you mean, a song about *my* job?! Yes, please!

Christina: Jam Fam, come along with us.

Christina and Andrés: We've got a job to jam on!

BoomBox: WE'VE GOT A JOB TO JAM ON! WE'VE GOT A JOB, WE'VE

GOT A JOB, JAM, OHHHH...

Darius: Oops! Watch your backs! As you can see, we're pretty busy today!

Andrés: Jam Fam, we're following our new friend Darius through the airport right now, ¡y hay mucha gente! There are lots of shops, lots of restaurants, and so many people!

Christina: Darius, can you tell us what you do as an airport operations manager?

Darius: I sure can! It means that I'm responsible for all of the safe operations in the airport.

Andrés: Operations?

Darius: Yep! Operations here means a lot of different things. For example, airplane traffic on the runways... is an operation. Same with airport police, firefighters, medical emergency services, and custodial services. Now those are the people who help keep the airport clean. And I oversee all of it...

Andrés: Wow!

Darius: ... to make sure the airport is safe for people who work here, and the people who visit!

[bird chirping]

Christina: That sounds like a lot of responsibilities!
[bird chirping]

Andrés: ¡Mira! ¡Un pájaro! In the airport? How did a bird get in here?

Darius: Oop! One second while I handle that.

[walkie talkie beep]

Darius: Uh, Darius to control. Yeah, I've just spotted a bird in the northeast section of Terminal A. Let's keep an eye on that.

Airport Maintenance Worker: Copy Darius.

[walkie talkie beep]

Darius: I guess I forgot to mention that another part of my job as an airport operations manager is to keep an eye on the wildlife around here.

Christina: Really?

Darius: We tend to let the birds be since they usually find their own way out. We still alert the staff just in case the birds need a little extra hand or wing, finding the exit.

[laughing, bird wings flapping]

Christina: Uh, Darius, what do you do if something goes wrong?

Darius: Well for starters, I try not to act without thinking. For instance, last winter we had a *huge* snow storm which dropped so much snow on the runway, it was almost as tall as our cars!

Andrés: No way!

Darius: Right away, I thought, "We need to close the airport!" But then I stopped and thought about it, remembered that we have really powerful snowplows, and decided to get them to help remove the snow. And it worked! We didn't have to close the airport.

Andrés: So you're saying that in your job, you also have to *stop, think* and

decide?!

BoomBox: STOP, THINK, DECIDE

Darius: Oh, yeah. Around here, I always have to stop, think, and decide. It helps me to keep everyone safe!

Christina: Wow, Darius. So it's up to you to decide whether or not the runways are safe for the planes?

Darius: Oh yes. At least twice a day I drive around and inspect the runway where the airplanes land and take off.

Christina: Wow! There is so much that goes into keeping an airport running and safe! Hey Darius, where are we headed to next?

Darius: Well I've got an idea. How about next we take a tour of the baggage makeup area?

Andrés: (laughing) There's an area where the bags put on lipstick?

Darius: (laughing) No! The baggage makeup area is where everybody's luggage goes when they're getting ready to go on the plane or when they're getting unloaded off of the plane.

Christina: Maybe we'll find your guitar, Andrés!

Andrés: ¡Vamos, Jam Fam!

[Music. Door unlatching and whirring sounds.]

Darius: Well here we are in the baggage makeup area! After you've checked in your bag with the ticketing agent, we send the bags down a series of conveyor belts that bring the luggage down here to this room.

Christina: Wow! Hey, BoomBox, can you capture some of the sounds of these machines?

[conveyor belts and machine noises]

BoomBox: RECORDING! AIRPORT SOUNDS, AIRPORT, AIRPORT SOUNDS. CONVEYOR BELTS, WALKIE-TALKIE, X-RAY... SAMPLES RECORDED!

[remixed sounds of walkie-talkie beeping, conveyor belts, whirring]

Andrés: ¡Perfecto!

Christina: I see that the baggage is going into some sort of box-shaped structure. What's up with that, Darius?

Darius: Oh that there, *that's* the x-ray machine where we scan every single piece of luggage to make sure that it's totally safe to be put on the airplane. Once a bag has been cleared through security, it continues on the conveyor belt to a sorting area, right over there. See how each bag has a tag?

Andrés: Uh-huh.

Darius: Well, we scan it, and that tag tells us which airline and which flight that bag is going to.

Andrés: Pero... then how would my bag get lost?

Darius: Well, to be honest, the scanner is really good, but it's not perfect. Almost every bag finds its way though, so don't worry! We'll find your guitar, Andrés.

Andrés: Gracias, Darius.

Darius: How about we head back up to the terminal areas where it's a little

quieter? Here, follow me!

Christina: Ok! ¡Vamos!

Andrés: ¡Vamos!

[music]

Darius: Hold up! [record scratching and music stops abruptly] Watch your step! It looks like someone spilled their milkshake... Hmm, let me think here... Oh!

[walkie talkie beep]

Darius: Uh, Darius to maintenance, we've got a spill over here in Terminal C.

Airport Maintenance Worker: Copy that, we're on it!

[walkie talkie beep]

Andrés: Awesome!

Christina: How did you know what to do, or who to call? Did you go to a special school to become an airport operations manager?

Darius: Oh, I did indeed. I went to a college that specialized in aviation programs and aviation degrees. Now, you don't need to have a college degree for this type of job.

Andrés: Huh! ¡Muy interesante! Well, one thing that seems awesome about this job is that you get to see airplanes every day!

Darius: (laughing) Oh, you're not kidding. Airplanes are the coolest. It's my favorite part of the job!

Andrés: Pero, how do you concentrate when there are so many things happening at the same time?

Darius: When there is a lot going on and I feel like I want to move through a task really quickly, I just tell myself to *stop*, *think* about the consequences of me skipping over details, and *decide* that I need to get each task done so that people are safe. We focus on one task at a time.

Andrés: So you stop...

Christina: Then you think...

Christina and Andrés: ...and decide!

BoomBox: STOP, THINK, DECIDE!

Darius: Exactly!

Andrés: Yay!

[walkie talkie beep]

Airport Baggage Handler: Baggage to Darius. We've located the passenger's guitar.

Darius: Copy that! Great news! Please have someone run it to us here in Terminal A outside of Gizmo's Gadgets store.

[walkie talkie beep]

Andrés: Did you hear that, Jam Fam!? They found my guitar! ¡Muchas gracias, Darius!

Darius: (laughing) Not a problem. Everyone here is happy to help!

Andrés: Hey, would you like to come to our concert later?

Darius: Oh, thank you! I absolutely would love to come to the concert! Oh, look! And here comes your guitar.

Airport Worker: Here ya go!

Andrés: ¡Muchas gracias! Thank you, thank you! ¡Hola guitarra bonita!
(makes kissing noises) Yay.

BoomBox: LA LA LA LA LA, LA GUITARRA

(kissing noises)

Airport Maintenance Worker: Maintenance to Darius, we've got some baggage stuck in one of the carousels...

[walkie talkie beep]

Darius: Copy that, I'm on my way... Well, Christina, Andrés, BoomBox, it looks like my time with you is up!

Christina: Tranquilo, Darius, no hay problema. And we should really get going ourselves, so that we can get ready for our concert. Let's go Jam Fam!

Darius: See you soon! Can't wait to rock out!

Andrés: ¡Adiós!

[music and crowd cheering]

Andrés: Hey Pittsburgh!

Christina: (laughing) It's been a great time playing for you here tonight.

Andrés: We want to thank you all for coming out to our show!

Christina: ¡Gracias! Now, we have time for one more song, but before we sing it, we wanted to introduce you to our friend Darius who was the inspiration for it.

Andrés: Give it up for our favorite airport operations manager, Darius!

[crowd cheering]

Andrés: (laughs) Come over!

Darius: Thank you all! It was a pleasure to have you around the airport and thank you for having me at the show!

Christina: Of course! Claro que sí. Now this is “Stop, Think, Decide.” Let’s do it. Hit it, BoomBox!

BoomBox: HIT IT!

[music]

Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox: (singing)

There’s an airplane delayed

Traffic on the runway

Ten lost bags and a missing guitar

And on top of that

There’s a storm in the weather report

What else could go wrong?

[walkie talkie sound effect]

(spoken)

Baggage to airport operations manager

Yes this is the airport operations manager here, come in.

Well, there's a giant unicorn floatie stuck in Baggage Carousel 2!
(groan)

It's a lot on my mind
But when I'm in a bind
I can stop, think, decide

I can pause, gather thoughts
Keep my head on the job
When I stop, think, decide

Take things one at a time
Stop, think, decide

Look at those clouds!
Looks like there will be snow
And I'm not sure which way to go

There's security, and birds
What should I do first?
It's a big job, a lot to maintain

[walkie talkie sound effect]
(spoken)

Maintenance to airport operations manager
Copy, I hear you, come in Maintenance.

A bird in the terminal pooped on the boarding pass scanner at Gate 12, and
it's not working!
(groan)

It's a lot on my mind
But when I'm in a bind
I can stop, think, decide

I can pause, gather thoughts

Keep my head on the job
When I stop, think, decide

It's a lot on my mind
But when I'm in a bind
I can stop, think, decide

I can pause, gather thoughts
Keep my head on the job
When I stop, think, decide

Take things one at a time
Stop, think, decide

(spoken)

Ok, I can send the crew to get the baggage carousel unstuck. Oh! And I just remembered! We have a replacement boarding pass scanner we can use.

It's going to be another great day at the airport!

[walkie talkie sound effect]

Airport Operations Manager here, copy!

[cheering crowd]

Andrés: Haha! Everybody, give it up one more time for Darius!

[cheering crowd]

Darius: I would have never guessed that I'd get to hear a song about being an airport operations manager. Thank you, Andrés and Christina and BoomBox and thank you Jam Fam!

[cheering crowd]

Christina: What an awesome day. Now, what do ya say we head back to the airport and onto our next gig?

Andrés: Back to the airport! ¡Vamos!

Christina: Jam Fam, that's all for today's Jamming on the Job adventure!

Andrés: BoomBox, are you ready to finish this up?

BoomBox: Ready!

Christina: Let's do it! Catch you all next time on... Jamming on the Job!

BoomBox: JAMMING ON THE JOB!

Andrés: And this time, I won't let my guitar out of my sight!

Christina, Andrés, and BoomBox: (singing)

Jamming on the Job

Ja, Jamming

Jamming on the Job

Wooh Ooh

BoomBox / Pierce Freelon: (singing and rapping)

Uno, dos, tres!

Jamming on the Job is hosted by a trio

Christina Sanabria, Andrés Salguero and me, yo

It's BoomBox but my momma named me Pierce Freelon

And for this podcast the three of us wrote these songs

Darius from the airport was played by John Eleby

Jackie Payton wrote this episode eloquently

Terence Bernardo did the mix with

Sound editing by Aaron Keane

Don't our team sound interesting?

Produced by Daniel Rinaldi and Isaac Klein

Executive Produced by David Huppert

From Durham, North Carolina we appreciate ya listening

Tell your friends about this podcast and jam with us again

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[Music fades]

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