



LESSON PLAN

Target Grade - 5th Grade



Objective: Students will learn facts about the ukulele and the culture of Great Britain. Students will prepare to attend the Boerne Performing Arts performance.

TEKS:

Foundations of Music Literacy: Students will be expected to distinguish among a variety of musical timbres, including those of woodwind, brass, string, percussion, keyboard, electronic instruments and instruments of various cultures.

Critical Evaluation and Response: Students will be expected to exhibit audience etiquette during live and recorded performances; evaluate a variety of compositions, and formal or informal musical performances using specific criteria; and justify personal preferences for specific music works and styles using music vocabulary.

Lesson Plan:

1. Display photograph of a ukulele (see below) and discuss student current knowledge of the instrument.
2. Discuss Ukulele facts with students regarding the ukulele:

The ukulele is a musical instrument in the string family. The ukulele was invented in Hawaii in the 1880s, and believed to be based on several other instruments including the rajao, timple, cavaquinho, and the machete - which are all Portuguese instruments. The first three people credited with creating the four-stringed instrument were Augusto Dias, Jose do Espirito Santo, and Manuel Nunes - cabinetmakers that arrived in Hawaii in 1879. King Kalakaua incorporated the new instrument into royal gatherings, helping to increase its popularity.

For more interesting facts, click on the link for more information:

http://www.softschools.com/facts/music_instruments/ukulele_facts/3065/

3. Students will discover that they will attend a special performance of not just one ukulele, but a famous orchestra of ukuleles! The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain is coming to Boerne!

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain is a global sensation and nothing short of a UK national treasure. Their show provides pure entertainment, dead-pan British humour and irresistible foot-tapping music. Masters of the unexpected: whether re-imagining folk songs, twisting classical music, or playing the performers' all-original compositions. The Ukes have performed for the British Royal Family, the BBC Proms, Sydney Opera House, Carnegie Hall, and now...for Boerne, Texas!

<https://boerneperformingarts.com/artist-info/>

4. Watch promo video of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=H18aK9HhNSM&list=RDH18aK9HhNSM&t=121>
5. Discuss audience manners, expectations on and off the bus, expectations as enter and exit CHS, expectations of dealing with BPA members and other teachers.



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6. Students will learn a brief history of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain: The Orchestra was formed in 1985 as a bit of fun, but the first gig was an instant sell-out, and they've been performing ever since. By 1988 they had released an LP, appeared on BBC TV, played at WOMAD and recorded a BBC Radio 1 session. The current ensemble has been playing together for over 20 years, and has become something of a national institution.

The Orchestra has given thousands of sold-out concerts across the world, including Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Poland, France, America, Canada, New Zealand and Japan. They have more recently performed sell-out shows at the Sydney Opera House (2012), The Royal Albert Hall (2009, 2012) and New York's Carnegie Hall (2010, 2012). Over the last 29 years, the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain has spawned hundreds of imitators, and you can now find Ukulele Groups in nearly every major city, indeed, the Orchestra are often blamed for the current Ukulele revival which is sweeping the globe.

The Ukulele Orchestra's music has been used in films, plays, and commercials, while film clips of the Orchestra's live concerts and TV appearances on websites such as YouTube have been watched millions of times. Collaborators have included Madness, David Arnold, The British Film Institute, The Ministry of Sound, Yusuf Islam (aka Cat Stevens) and The Kaiser Chiefs.

(from <https://www.ukuleleorchestra.com/index.php/history-of-the-ukes>)

7. Students will listen to an interview from the Sydney Opera House by members of the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. Click on link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1JaN-cYn7w>
8. Students will learn to play a simple Christmas song with play-along video featuring artists from the Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain. Students can use classroom ukuleles or simply watch the play along videos and sing along.
<http://www.ukuleleorchestra.com/index.php/christmas-playaling/>
9. Upon return from performance, students will be expected to report and discuss:
*Favorite Musical Piece
*Favorite Style
*Name and discuss use of the ukuleles in live performance
*Recommendation to next years' 5th grade



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