



Music Resource Kit

Introduction

This kit was designed for small and rural libraries who want to host a music program without the expense of buying materials. Kit contents are meant for in-library use, and not intended to be checked out to individual patrons.

The Colorado State Library (CSL) has launched the *Let's Learn About It!: CSL Big Red Resource Kits* initiative to help small libraries within the state provide STEAM programming for their patrons at little to no cost. The program ideas inside can be implemented by library staff who have little musical expertise.

Who is this kit for?


The kit is designed to be used by library staff who may know next to nothing about music themselves. Staff can use their preparation time to learn the basics, or find a musician in their community to teach a program.

The materials in this kit are primarily for aspiring musicians, ages 9 and up. Adults and children who want to learn to play an instrument will be able to dip their feet into the world of music and have fun making noise in the library.

Why teach music in a library?

Music programs are a great way to introduce low-cost STEAM programs into your library. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics. Educator Anna Feldman writes, "Rather than focus on rote memorization or mastery of separate topics, STEAM uses project-based students' skills in creativity, design thinking, tech literacy, collaboration, and problem solving" ("STEAM Rising" Slate.com 6/16/2015)¹.

Many libraries engage their communities through unorthodox, hands-on programming that teaches STEAM principles. Music education obviously taps into the Arts, but there are also mathematical principles that underlie all instruments and composition.



Music is used every day for self-expression, entertainment, religion, therapy, forging personal connections, and inspiring every kind of emotion. Music teaches us to listen carefully. It's also an activity that builds community in a way that can appeal to diverse groups of people.

Dr. Ann Marie Stanley, a music educator, writes “Students who learn and make music get to practice all sorts of skills: choosing interpretations, making inventive decisions, solving problems, breaking down difficult issues into manageable subsections, practicing perseverance, and being creative” (foreword to publisher Dorling Kindersley’s *Help Your Kids with Music*).

¹http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/future_tense/2015/06/steam_vs_stem_why_we_need_to_put_the_arts_into_stem_education.html

Inside this binder

- Activity & program ideas
- Community Resources Worksheet Template
- Additional resources
- Kit contents (on back cover of binder)
- Feedback Form (on clipboard)

Feedback

Please help us improve this kit by sharing your comments, experiences, and suggestions. You can contact Madison Basch (basch_m@cde.state.co.us) at any point along your journey. When you return the kit, please fill out and include the Feedback Form found at the end of this binder. We will update this kit’s Online Resources page <https://cslkits.cvlisites.org/stem-discovery-kits/#ukes> with the ideas and activities your library shares. Help us learn from your experiences and share that learning with others.

Loan period

The loan period for the Music Resource Kit is 2 months. If you would like to keep it longer, please contact Madison Basch (Basch_M@cde.state.co.us) to make arrangements before the loan period expires. If it is not on hold for another library, we will do our best to extend your loan.

Kit contents are not intended for circulation outside of the library.

Returning the kit

As you prepare to return the kit, verify that it is complete using the Kit Contents checklist in this binder. Be sure to include your completed Feedback Form so that we can improve the experience for everyone.

We know that materials may get damaged in transit or by patrons. If that happens to you, please contact Maddie Basch (Basch_M@cde.state.co.us) and let us know right away!

Kit Contents

Please verify that this resource kit is complete before returning it to: Colorado State Library, Madison Basch, Courier Code 912.

You may copy any of the pages from the binder, or download a copy from the red key shaped USB flash drive. You can also find information on <https://cslkits.cvlites.org/stem-discovery-kits/#ukes>. Contact Madison Basch (Basch_m@cde.state.co.us) with any questions.

Items

- 1 1" red resource kit binder containing:
 - 1 red key-shaped USB flash drive containing printable documents
- 1 clipboard
- 1 2" red resource kit binder containing:
 - 1 book (*How to Play Ukulele: A Complete Guide for Absolute Beginners*, 9781908707086)
 - 2 blue kazooes and cleaning wipes
 - Picks (including 2 pick holders, 1 white, 1 yellow)
 - ___ complete sets of replacement strings, plus ___ strings from incomplete sets
 - 2 finger shakers, one black, one blue
 - 8 4"x6" Ukulele Chords Cheatsheets
 - 2 Kala quick start guides: "Learn to Play Ukulele"
 - 2 white booklets: "How to Play Ukulele"
 - Contact tuner manuals (in sheet protector)
- 8 ukuleles:
 - 2 Lightwish mahogany concert ukuleles (with straps attached)
 - 2 black Kala Color Chord ukuleles
 - 2 red Mahalo ukuleles
 - 2 purple Hola! ukuleles
- 8 assorted black ukulele cases
- 1 24"x36" popular ukulele chords poster (in poster tube)
- 2 CDs (*The Old Silo* by James Hill and *Travels* by Jake Shimabukuro)
- 1 DVD (*Mighty Uke: The Amazing Comeback of a Musical Underdog* documentary)
- 1 black velvet bag containing:
 - 5 black contact tuners

Basic Ukulele Workshop

Introduction

Teach aspiring ukulele players the basics of tuning, holding the instrument, strumming, fingering simple chords, and how to play a simple song. No theory or sheet music reading skills required.

Intended Audience

Recommended for ages 9 and up.

Activity Goals

- Players learn the names of the four strings
- Players learn how to hold and strum the instrument
- Players learn a few simple chords
- Players learn how to play a simple song or two

Description

Kit materials (ukuleles, picks, etc.)

Additional materials from your library that players can check out after the program


A big room where learners can be noisy!

What staff need to know

If you're teaching the program yourself, you should be practiced at performing at least the basic skills you are trying to teach participants. However, you do not need to be an expert or a musical genius to teach an introductory ukulele program!

If you plan to invite a guest instructor, you should let that expert or performer know what equipment you will provide, and what you want the goals of the program to be. Inviting a ukulele expert is recommended but not required.

Plan time to tune each of the instruments before the program starts. The instruments may need additional tuning during the session, so keep the contact tuners provided handy.



There are instruction pamphlets for the tuners in the 2" red resource kit binder, and further instructions can be found online.

The kit contains multiple sources of basic information about playing the ukulele. There are also many, many tutorials online or listed in the Resources section of this book.

Promotion

Make a plan for promoting this activity or program. Your plan doesn't have to be extensive, but it should address:

- Age range for attendees (9 and up);
- BYOU (Bring Your Own Uke) is optional
- Budget;
- Any existing library marketing or branding guidelines;
- How you will promote the activity, which could include:
 - Social media
 - Website
 - Email newsletter
 - Printed materials like posters or bookmarks
 - Cross-promoting with partner organizations
 - Local news media
- Creating promotional materials, such as graphics, press releases, or printed materials;
- Timeline



Intermediate/Advanced Music Workshop Ideas

Introduction

Either you've already completed the beginner workshop or you happen to know there are many advanced ukulele players or musicians in your community. You may have access to an expert musician eager to share knowledge. If you're ready to move beyond the basics, there are plenty of ways to offer intermediate/advanced music workshops using ukuleles.

Intended Audience

Recommended for knowledgeable musicians ages 9 and up.

Possible Activity Topics

- Advanced ukulele playing techniques and songs
- The basics of reading music
- Basic rhythm
- Styles/forms of music - their histories and what makes them different from one another
- The science behind sound
- The basics of harmony and scales

Expanding Your Music Program

Your advanced or intermediate workshop can encourage those who may be struggling with the perseverance learning music requires. Inspire them by creating a community of musicians they can lean on.

Here are some potential ways to expand your music program:

- Is your area full of interested beginners or advanced ukulele players? Form a ukulele choir! Be sure to schedule a public performance to give your group a goal to work toward. Being able to show off their skills to family and friends may be just the incentive new players need.

- Hold an instrument drive to donate to schools. There are many local, state, and national nonprofits who may benefit from your community's generosity!
- Create an instrument lending library! Brooklyn Public Library has created a Musical Instrument Lending Library in partnership with a local music conservatory (<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/locations/central/musicloan>), and all of the instruments for the program are in extremely high demand.
- Lean into the mathematical aspects of music by creating more STEAM programming around the fundamentals of music theory. Even knowing a little bit about rhythm, scales, harmony, notation, etc., can enhance a person's enjoyment of music in daily life. Putting theoretical knowledge into practice right away on a ukulele can ensure that learners won't be bored or confused!
- Invite local symphony players or other professional musicians to come to your library. You can have a discussion about timbre, the science of how different instruments make sound, how those instruments work together, and ask guests to share what it takes to become a professional musician.

Promotion

Make a plan for promoting this activity or program. Your plan doesn't have to be extensive, but it should address:

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Worksheet: Identifying Community Resources

Instructions

Use this worksheet to document any people, programs, entities, or other relevant resources. The data fields in this worksheet are suggestions only; you may wish to create your own worksheet based on your library's needs.

To maximize its usefulness, be sure to update the worksheet regularly and make it accessible to library staff.

Contact Name, Title, & Organization	Contact info	Notes
Ex: Jane Doe, Music Teacher	jane.doe@ukulelemaster.org 720-333-3333	Contacted 11/21/18
Ex: Jane Doe, Music Teacher	jane.doe@ukulelemaster.org 720-333-3333	Contacted 11/21/18
Ex: Jane Doe, Music Teacher	jane.doe@ukulelemaster.org 720-333-3333	Contacted 11/21/18
Ex: Jane Doe, Music Teacher	jane.doe@ukulelemaster.org 720-333-3333v	Contacted 11/21/18
Program or Entity	URL	Notes
Ex: Local music store	https://	Add to our online community resources page.
Ex: Local music store	https://	Add to our online community resources page.
Ex: Local music store	https://	Add to our online community resources page.

Other Resource	URL	Notes
Ex: City Arts Council	http://	Partner to increase community interest.
Ex: City Arts Council	https://	Partner to increase community interest.
Ex: City Arts Council	https://	Partner to increase community interest.
Ex: City Arts Council	https://	Partner to increase community interest.

Resources

Where else you can find this information

We have included a red flash key with this kit. It is a USB flash drive containing these pages from the binder and other resources. Updated resources can be found at <https://cslkits.cvlites.org/stem-discovery-kits/#ukes>. You can also create your own a list of local resources to distribute at your library. See the Worksheet: *Identifying Community Resources* included in this kit.

General

WEBSITES

►► UkuleleSongs.com

<https://www.ukulelesongs.com/>

Free tabs and sheet music, including many popular songs.

►► EasyUkulele.com

<http://www.easyukulele.com/>

Free video lessons, including some that teach popular songs.

►► The Ukulele Site

<https://www.theukulelesite.com/free-resources>

Free videos, beginner tutorials. Advanced tutorials. Instrument reviews and care guides. Free sheet music and tabs.

APPS

There are many apps available for iOS and Android for ukulele learners. Some online research and testing can tell you which app has the best features for you and your patrons.

PODCASTS

►► NPR's All Songs Considered

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/510019/all-songs-considered>

From the website: "Hosts/nerds Bob Boilen and Robin Hilton are your friendly music buddies with the week's best new music discoveries, including conversations with emerging artists, icons and more. Hear songs that can completely change your day, with humor, heart and (sometimes) a whole lot of noise."

►► Song Exploder

<http://songexploder.net/>

From the website: "Song Exploder is a podcast where musicians take apart their songs, and piece by piece, tell the story of how they were made. Each episode is produced and edited by host and creator Hrishikesh Hirway in Los Angeles. Using the isolated, individual tracks from a recording, Hrishikesh asks artists to delve into the specific decisions that went into creating their work. Hrishikesh edits the interviews, removing his side of the conversation and condensing the story to be tightly focused on how the artists brought their songs to life."

►► Switched on Pop

<http://www.switchedonpop.com/>

From the website: "A podcast about the making and meaning of popular music hosted by musicologist Nate Sloan and songwriter Charlie Harding. We break down pop songs to figure out what makes a hit and what is its place in culture. We help listeners find 'a-ha' moments in the music. Switched on Pop will make you laugh, dance, and ask ridiculous questions like: does the falsetto in One Direction's 'What Makes You Beautiful' essentially make them our modern day Castrati?"

BOOKS

►► *Ukulele in the Classroom* series

<http://www.ukuleleintheclassroom.com/>

Book series for both teachers and students. Great if you plan on a deeper dive into this type of programming, or if you just want to learn for yourself.

►► *How Music Works: The Science and Psychology of Beautiful Sounds, from Beethoven to the Beatles and Beyond*

By John Powell; 978-0316098311

This is an excellent often funny guide to the foundations of sound and music for adult learners. His style is very accessible, and you may find that certain chapters form perfect jumping-off points to shaping your own STEAM programs. I especially suggest chapter 11 "Making Music" for adult learners interested in mastering an instrument.

►► *Help Your Kids With Music: A Unique Step-By-Step Visual Guide*

DK Publishing; 978-1465436047

Like all DK books, there are plenty of visuals and these materials about the basics of music theory are broken down into short pieces that could each be a lesson in themselves. There is also a CD for audio demonstrations of the concepts, a great help for non-visual learners.

YouTube

►“The first 20 hours -- how to learn anything” by Josh Kaufman at TEDxCSU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MgBikgcWnY>

Description: “Josh Kaufman is the author of the #1 international bestseller, *The Personal MBA: Master the Art of Business*, as well as the upcoming book *The First 20 Hours: Mastering the Toughest Part of Learning Anything*. Josh specializes in teaching people from all walks of life how to master practical knowledge and skills.”

Colorado-specific music resources

Bringing Music to Life

<http://www.bringingmusictolife.org/#sthash.MQgO02QI.lDnhPVuh.dpbs>

A Colorado-based nonprofit that collects donations of money and musical instruments for schools. They believe that teaching music is valuable because “In addition to learning the value of teamwork, listening skills improve, along with critical thinking, self-discipline and self-esteem. Children become better students and more creative, compassionate people.”

Learn more about them in a Colorado Public Radio article from February 2018: “Instrument Drive Inspires New Sounds at Small Colorado School”

(<http://www.cpr.org/classical/story/instrument-drive-inspires-new-sounds-at-small-colorado-school>).

Colorado State Music Teachers Association (CSMTA)

<http://www.comusicteachers.net/>

Affiliated with the Music Teachers National Association, Inc., “The Colorado State Music Teachers Association exists to encourage and advance the standards of teaching and performance, to enhance the professional status of its members, to provide a collegial and fraternal relationship among its members, and to foster the advancement of music education in Colorado through relationships with schools and community organizations” (from their website).

For Inspiration

Jake Shimabukuro

<https://www.jakeshimabukuro.com/home/>

A professional ukulele player & ukulele advocate. Multiple TED Talks available online (<https://www.ted.com/>). YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/jakeshimabukuro>

James Hill

<https://www.jameshillmusic.com/>

A professional ukulele player & singer/songwriter. Site includes videos of his unorthodox methods, which include using chopsticks and combs. In a few videos, he even adds the kazoo. YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1Y9jKaN4WrwGIbfxkyzIVA>

Other artists

►► Honoka & Azita, <https://www.honokaandazita.com/>

►► Israel Kamakawiwo'ole, album *Somewhere Over the Rainbow: The Best of Israel Kamakawiwo'ole*

►► Taimane Gardner, albums *Ukulele Dance* and *We are Made of Stars*, <https://taimane.com/>

Feedback Form

Instructions

Please help us improve this Music Resource Kit by completing either this paper feedback form or the online version, found at <https://cslkits.cvlites.org/stem-discovery-kits/#ukes>. If you are completing the paper form, please return it with the kit.

Part 1: Evaluation

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Community awareness about music has increased as a result of this kit.					
Staff awareness about music has increased as a result of this kit.					
I am satisfied that the resources in this kit met the library's needs.					
This resource will help improve library services to the public					
The loan period was adequate.					
I would recommend this music kit to another library.					

Which parts of the kit did you find useful, and why?

Were there any parts of the kit that your library didn't use ? Why not?

How can we improve this kit?

Part 2: How Your Library Used the Kit

Please describe any of the activities or programs you used from this kit. Be as specific as possible. Include links, comments, and/or evaluation data when available.

** Want another way to keep the conversation going and share your experiences with others? Visit our forum on the CSL Resource Kit website (<https://cslkits.cvl/sites.org/discuss/>) and share what you are doing there.**