Grade 4 General Music - Unit 3 - Let's Play Ukulele!

Unit Focus

In this unit, students will learn how to strum and practice simple chords by playing the ukulele. Students will apply their ukulele skills to accompany a varied repertoire of songs. Learning experiences will typically include informal strum sessions and basic ensemble skills.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

National Core Arts
Standards General Music: 4

- Apply teacher-provided and collaboratively-developed criteria and feedback to evaluate accuracy and expressiveness of ensemble and personal performances. (MU:Pr5.1.4.a)
- Rehearse to refine technical accuracy and expressive qualities, and address performance challenges. (MU:Pr5.1.4.b)
- Perform music, alone or with others, with expression and technical accuracy, and appropriate interpretation. (MU:Pr6.1.4.a)
- Demonstrate performance decorum and audience etiquette appropriate for the context, venue, and genre. (MU:Pr6.1.4.b)

Madison Public Schools Profile of a Graduate

- Collective Intelligence: Working respectfully and responsibly with others, exchanging and evaluating ideas to achieve a common objective. (POG.3.1)
- Self-Awareness: Examining current performance critically to identify steps/strategies to persist. (POG.4.1)

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to...
T1 Develop and refine techniques and skills through purposeful practice and application to become more fluent
T2 Make appropriate choices as a responsible, respectful participant within a communal artistic experience

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Students will understand that...
U1 The ukulele is a string instrument that can be used in a varied range of musical genres.
U2 The ukulele can be used for accompaniment or as a solo instrument in music.
U3 Varied strumming patterns can add musical interest to a performance.
U4 Chords are two or more notes played at the same time.

Essential Question(s)

Students will keep considering...
Q1 How does the ukulele produce sound?
Q2 How do chords complement a melody?
Q3 How do musicians improve the quality of their performance?

Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill

Knowledge

Students will know...
K1 A steady tempo is essential to align lyrics and chords.
K2 The ukulele can be strummed with downstrokes and upstrokes to create interesting rhythmic accompaniments.
K3 Chord tablature is a picture diagram showing where to place the fingers on the fret board to play a specific chord.

Skill(s)

Students will be skilled at...
S1 Strumming with downstrokes and upstrokes to create interesting rhythmic accompaniments.
S2 Shaping fingers on the neck of the instrument to play specific chords.
S3 Strumming chords to accompany a sung melody using various strumming patterns.