

# Ukulele Is Back With A Vengeance

## Professional Development Fund Report

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As a relatively new teacher, I look for opportunities to grow as a music educator. Completing most of my professional development for music education at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto over the past few years, I seek finding music education colleagues and innovative instruction for elementary music in Alberta.

Although I had to travel to Edmonton for this professional development, attending **Monica Dear's Ukulele is Back with a Vengeance** workshop put on by the Alberta Kodaly Association, was worth the drive. For those interested in music education and PD in Alberta, **Edmonton has an active music community** and provides professional learning for educators in a variety of ways. Both the Alberta Orff and Kodaly associations are strong in Edmonton and I would recommend searching this area if interested in music education learning opportunities.

Ukulele is a staple again within elementary music classrooms and with recent funding at Banff Elementary to purchase a class set, I've found my ukulele skills from University needing a refresher. Monica's workshop addressed all of my questions and needs.

**Tunings, proper playing technique and graduated unit plans for Grade 4, 5 and 6**, including warm-ups, melody and chord work and next steps for those students who need a challenge, were all discussed and tried on our ukuleles.

Ensuring my **students have proper posture** when playing, **correct finger technique** when moving between chords and **developing skills in singing while playing** were all points I took away from this workshop. The **provided grade level unit plans** will help me teach ukulele to multiple .

Music teachers who are beginning a ukulele class or classroom teachers who are required to teach their own music would benefit greatly from looking at the sample handouts I've attached or attending Monica's workshops in person. Thank you ATA!

