Ukulele Is Back With A Vengeance

Professional Development Fund Report

By Grace Gadon Elementary Music Teacher- Banff Elementary School

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!



Grade a Ulo	and I tune in D6 tuning		tion ensur	
	and I tune in Do turing	(Converse		
. Tuning. Edo IC-	and fro SAFELY			
 Instruments to 1 	and fro SAFECT ur ukulele. Rest and P	loy position	15	
. How to hold yo	dalo	NOID	one	
· Parts of the uks		ng h	andur	anal
 Open strings, es 	odies. By fret number.	Twinkle Th	vinkle ollo	ex
 One string melo 	idies, by meens Twin	kle	ha	nd
QUIZ: open stri	ng names; parts; 7win		THU	nder
• 🗉 D chord [on	e, two, three, there's	the DJ	111,	
Read chord cha	irts			
• § One chord so	ings:			
Frere Jocques; I	Row, Row, Row; Fire's	Burning; F	armer in t	the Dell
(🗏 Brn, one chor	d songs: Land of the Silve	er Birch; My	Paddle's Ke	en and Bright)
Strum with thus	mb just gently brushi	ne down a	l four stri	nes
		PIN	ter",	De
The Bass and its	function	0	neach	- dealer
			String	Peach
 Hand/finger/wr 	ist position for			
 Hand/finger/wr 	ist position for strur	nming	che	kfor
		nming	che	ndent
 Hand/finger/wr NEW <u>Straight</u> st 		nming	cha	ndent

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