Music and Memories

Lesson Plan for Adult Special Needs ukulele
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INTRODUCTION

Students will create a 1-3 minute video showcasing an influential moment or memory from their own lives. Students will compose an original piece of music for ukulele that represents their moment/memory. The piece will be set to images that help the audience understand the message.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

CREATING

MU:Cr2.1.H.Ia Select, develop, and use standard notation and audio/video recording to document melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic ideas for drafts of improvisations, compositions (forms such as theme and variation or 12-bar blues), and three-or-more-chord accompaniments in a variety of patterns (such as arpeggio, down-up strumming, and Travis picking).

PERFORMING

MU:Pr6.1.H.Ia Perform with expression and technical accuracy, in individual and small group performances, a varied repertoire of music that includes melodies, repertoire pieces, improvisations, and chordal accompaniments in a variety of patterns (such as arpeggio, down-up strumming, and Travis picking), demonstrating sensitivity to the audience and an understanding of the context (social, cultural, or historical).

RESPONDING

MU:Re7.1.H.Ia Apply criteria to select music for specified purposes, supporting choices by citing characteristics found in the music and connections to interest, purpose, and context.

CONNECTING

MU:Cn11.0.T.Ia Demonstrate understanding of relationships between music and the other arts, other disciplines, varied contexts and daily life.

DESCRIPTION

Using [Animoto](#) (or another video creating program), students will create a video showcasing an influential moment or memory from their past. Students will compose an original piece of music for ukulele that represents their moment/memory. The piece will be set to images that help the audience understand the message. Students will be instructed on how to use Animoto, and step by step tutorials will be provided. Using Animoto is not required if the student is comfortable with another program. The finished product will include both visual and audio components. The audio will be a recording of the student performing their original piece. The visual can be personal photographs, stock images, art, or any other images that relate to the topic of the music. When complete the video will be 1-3 minutes long.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Ukulele
2. Tablet or computer with a microphone

VERIFICATION

Steps to check for student understanding

1. Original composition.
2. Compositional elements complement and enhance the message, i.e. major, minor, tempo, dynamics, etc.
3. Video with music and images that clearly convey the intended message.

ACTIVITY

Composing for ukulele

1. Make use of open chord shapes; C, G, G7, F, Am, Em, D, D7, E7, and A (not all chords listed need to be used, just 3 or 4 will suffice).
2. Try these common progressions for inspiration; I IV I V I, I V I IV I, I vi IV I, i iv V7 i, I iv IV V.
3. Create at least 2 distinct sections. For example an A section could be strummed and the B section could be arpeggiated.
4. Record your ideas so you don't forget them. You can just use your phone for this, this is for your reference.
5. Write out your composition using standard notation, tab, or chord chart. This will also help you remember your ideas.
6. Once your composition is complete you will need to time it so you know how long your video will be.

Using Animoto

1. Watch these Animoto tutorials.
    - https://youtu.be/hM2VP5G8UYM?si=yrPe-5JVwm3aiFZ4
    - https://youtu.be/hhDNpTpjOBw?si=2VcE__JuoHA1bo-I
    - https://youtu.be/RI8enBuungM?si=ziK8xtq5CqPUPY0o
    - https://youtu.be/xHaC4_UV4mg?si=RYo0tNNcG7erdfF3
2. Find your images and upload them to your Animoto slides.
3. Set each slide duration so the total length of the video is the same length as your song.
4. Record your song in Animoto and add it as an audio track that plays while your video plays.

Sharing your project

1. Share a link to your video in the Google Classroom.
2. View your peers' videos and comment on at least three.

Rubric

	Meets Standard (25 points)	Developing (20 points)
Creating	Original composition uses at least 3 chords. Two or more distinct sections; A B, A B A, A B A C, etc.	Original composition uses less than 3 chords, or does not have at least two distinct sections.
Performing	Recorded performance demonstrates steady tempo, dynamics, and ukulele techniques that change the timbre.	Recorded performance demonstrates minimal or ineffective use of musical expression, or tempo is not steady/fluent.
Responding	Musical and compositional techniques used align with the context of the video, i.e. an exciting video should be accompanied by upbeat music. A somber video could be accompanied by calm or mellow music.	Musical and compositional techniques do not fit well with the context of the video. The video and music do not align and are perceived as separate elements.
Connecting	The project is shared in the google classroom and the audience receives the message and understands the context.	The audience does not understand the message or context.