Tilghman Elementary School Arts in Residence Workshop

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Tilghman Elementary Artist in Residence Ukulele Workshop

Fifth graders received their very own Kala Concert Ukulele, a soft case and an electronic tuner, as part of a *Ukes on the Move* workshop last week. The uplifting tones from their instruments were heard throughout the school the entire week, as students were captivated by the instruction they received each day. Students performed several songs at an assembly for students, parents and the community on Friday morning, March 27th. The audience especially enjoyed *Stand By Me* and *The Lion Sleeps Tonight*.

The major goals for this project were to teach life-long skills, spark a passion for playing the ukulele, and for music in general. Joyce Crow, principal of Tilghman Elementary School said, "We are thrilled that our fifth graders were given this opportunity! This type of program increases student engagement and achievement. We are especially grateful to the organizations that provided funding of the workshop."

The students received instruction from Victoria Vox, an award winning songwriter who has performed at ukulele festivals around the world – including Australia, Europe, and Canada, as well as across the USA. These artists specialize in harnessing the arts as tools for learning, and are available to lead hands-on, intensive arts workshops in schools. Rachael Sandri participated in the workshop as a volunteer teaching assistant to Ms. Vox.

The Ukes on the Move program was made possible through grants from the Tilghman Area Youth Association, The Talbot County Arts Association, Carpe Diem Arts Outreach Fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, Kala Brand Ukuleles, the House of Musical Traditions and the Dock Street Foundation. The student's enthusiasm for the program was on full display at their performance and they have made a commitment to take good care of their instruments and continue to practice every day.