

GAELYNN LEA

CURRICULUM

CLASS NOTES[®]

PRESENTED BY CLASSICAL MPR

THESE MATERIALS ARE MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE MINNESOTA LEGACY
AMENDMENT'S ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND.



WELCOME TO CLASS NOTES ARTISTS!

We are so excited to bring live music into your school—thank you for hosting a concert. This curriculum includes:

- Learning prompts for *before*, *during* and *after* the concert experience
- Standards-based, K-6 lesson plans based on themes and ideas from your Class Notes Artists concert

Everything is designed to help you and your students get the most out of the experience. Please share your experience with us!

Katie Condon, Education Specialist, Classical MPR, kcondon@mpr.org

BEFORE THE CONCERT

LEARN WHAT YOU WILL HEAR

- Gaelynn Lea’s Class Notes Artists concert program will include works from her albums:
 - › *Learning How to Stay*
 - › *The Songs We Sing Along the Way*
 - › *Deepest Darkness, Brightest Dawn*
 - › *All the Roads that Lead Us Home*

LISTEN TO AND WATCH GAELYNN LEA

- [Gaelynn Lea’s NPR Tiny Desk concert performance](#)
- [The Gaelynn Lea Playlist](#)

MEET THE PERFORMER

- Gaelynn Lea is a violinist, singer, and songwriter from Duluth, MN.
- Gaelynn Lea has a disability. She wants everyone to know that people with disabilities can write and perform music.



MEET THE INSTRUMENTS

VIOLIN/FIDDLE

- Gaelynn Lea plays the violin, which can also be called the fiddle.
- The violin is the smallest member of the string family.
- There is no difference between a fiddle and a violin—the instrument is often called a fiddle when it plays a certain style of music.
- Fiddle players often learn *by ear* instead of reading notes on a page. This means they listen to music and try to imitate it back. It means a musician must use listening instead of written music.



LOOPING PEDAL

A looping pedal records sounds and plays them over and over again.



LISTEN TO AND WATCH SOME FIDDLE MUSIC

- [Alison Kraus](#) playing a variety of fiddle tunes. Notice some are fast and lively, others are sort of sad.
- The super fast and super famous fiddle tune “[Orange Blossom Special.](#)” Note the very first notes the violin plays. Do you notice they sound like a train?
- “[Ashokan Farewell!](#)” by Jay Ungar. Fiddle music sometimes has a sad and melancholy feel.

DISCUSS IN CLASS

- How can we use our bodies to listen?
- How can we show respect to performers and other audience members?
- What does it mean to be an *audience*?
- [Watch a video about concert etiquette.](#)

DURING THE CONCERT

• NOTICE

- › Gaelynn often does a lot of things at once. Notice how she adds layers to her music using a looping pedal. Notice when certain things start and other things stop. Sometimes her voice sings a melody and the fiddle and the looping pedal add sounds to go along with it.

• WONDER

- › How often do you think Gaelynn practices?
- › How did she get her start?
- › Gaelynn writes many of her own songs. What do you think inspires her?
- › How can music help us express and feel emotions in a positive and healthy way?

• THINK ABOUT

- › How the human voice makes sound. Think about how the violin/fiddle makes sound.
- › The different *kinds* of sounds the voice and the violin/fiddle can make.
- › The feelings or images that pop into your mind as you listen. Do you think the composer/songwriter wanted to make you feel a certain way with his or her music?

• IMAGINE

- › You are a composer. What sounds would you want the violin/fiddle to make? What would you want the singer to sing? Would you use a looping pedal?

AFTER THE CONCERT

• DISCUSS

- › Your favorite piece of music from the concert. What did you like best, and why?

• TELL SOMEONE AT HOME

- › Two things you heard or saw or learned at your Class Notes Artist concert.

• DESCRIBE

- › How the music made you feel. Maybe different pieces of music made you feel different feelings.

• REMEMBER

- › How the violin/fiddle made its sound. Can you explain how those sounds are produced? How many different kinds of sounds did it make? What did the looping pedal do to the sounds?

• CONNECT

- › Something from the Class Notes Artists concert to something you've learned in school. Explain the connection to a partner, a teacher, or someone at home.