

Music and libraries can be a winning combination

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FULL TEXT

Music at a library may seem like an unlikely pairing, but with the popularity of concerts, singalongs, ukulele classes and dance parties, it is clear that music has found a place in our communities.

Much like reading, music has the ability to teach, making the library an ideal environment. Libraries in the Fox Cities have found great success incorporating music into a variety of events for all ages.

Concerts at the library provide a unique opportunity for people to attend live performances in both a familiar and accessible venue. From jazz to opera to punk rock, the library has the best ticket in town! Libraries are also the perfect location to hold recitals for music students, with instructors utilizing large community rooms and access to beautiful pianos.

Along with an entertaining performance, concerts at the library allow for artists to connect with audience members, providing insight into the musical process and answering questions. Taking time to explain the history of an instrument or the inspiration behind a favorite song creates an exceptional experience. A variety of musicians ranging in styles and backgrounds perform at Fox Cities libraries. It is a wonderful way to expose our community to musicians from around the state.

In addition to musical programming and events, libraries have started lending instruments. Ukulele kits put together through a partnership with Heid Music have been very popular at the Neenah Public Library. The kits can be checked out for two weeks and include everything to start playing. The library also holds ukulele classes for all ages and levels. To add to the fun, ukulele students meet at the library for jam sessions to practice their new skills.

Next time you visit a local library; don't be surprised if you hear music floating through the stacks. Fox Cities libraries have seen the benefits of incorporating music into presentations, outreach visits, exercise classes, Memory Cafe programs, Footloose Friday programs for children and more. Countless concerts and events have proven that people are more likely to engage with each other and let loose with music in a comfortable, fun space at the library.

Fox Cities libraries transform into the perfect setting to showcase live music and partner with local organizations to perform, teach and inspire community members. Visit a Fox Cities library today to join in on the fun.

Upcoming concerts and musical events:

Appleton Public Library: Aug. 3 -6, time TBD. Mile of Music. apl.org

Menasha Public Library: Aug. 9 at 1:30 p.m. Tom Pease concert. menashalibrary.org

Kaukauna Public Library: Aug. 10 at 10 a.m. Disney Singalong. kaukaunallibrary.org

Neenah Public Library: Aug. 10 at 6 p.m. Ukulele Open Jam. Visit neenahlibrary.org

Meghan Odegard is an adult services librarian at the Neenah Public Library. Representatives of Fox Cities libraries write a monthly column on the joys and attractions of public libraries.

Illustration

Caption: Odegard

DETAILS

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