



## Our Roots are Showing!

### Interactive Performance Study Guide

**Warm-Up (before show):** *At the beginning of class, write and share your response to the following questions.*

<b>Brainstorm Activity</b>	
What is your favorite genre (style) of music? Why?	
Describe what music can tell us about a society or the culture of an era.	

**Vocabulary (before show):** *Write down what you know about the following list of terms before the show. Provide a definition for each term. **Make sure to revisit this list after the show for a follow-up to see all that you have learned!***

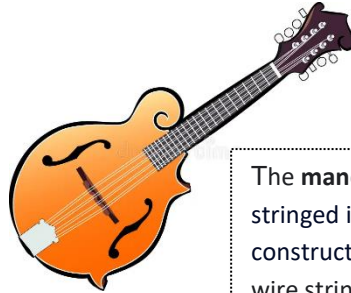
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Songwriter	
American Roots Music	
Old-Time Country Music	
Folk Music	
Genre	
Instrument	
Celtic Music	

Bluegrass Music	
Jazz Music	
Blues Music	

**Instruments (before show):** During Wild Carrot's performance, you will hear and see the following instruments.



The **guitar** is a six-stringed instrument. It creates sound when its strings are vibrated. The guitars Wild Carrot uses are acoustic instruments made of wood. The guitar consists of a body, neck, and head.



The **mandolin** is a small stringed instrument constructed of wood. Its eight wire strings are tuned in pairs to the same notes as those of a violin. The sound of the mandolin is created by movements of the plectrum (pick) across the four pairs of strings.

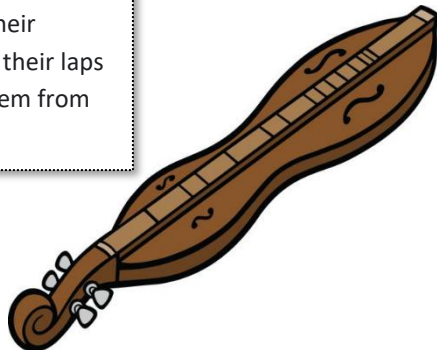
The **concertina** is a free-reed instrument. It consists of hand bellows, fastened between two sets of boards that hold the reeds. Air is passed to the reeds by valves and finger buttons, creating the sound.



The **ukulele** is from Hawaii. Like the guitar, the ukulele is a wooden stringed instrument.



The mountain **dulcimer** has four strings (two are a pair to make the melody louder). Most players put their dulcimers on their laps and strum them from above.



The **Upright Bass** has several names: Upright Bass, Double Bass, Acoustic Bass, and Contrabass. It is a member of the String Family because it is played by plucking or bowing the strings.



The **banjo** has a tambourine-like body called the "belly" or the "head". It has five strings, and frets like the guitar. African banjo players brought this instrument to America over 200 years ago.



**Instruments Matching Game (after show):** *Circle the Instrument name and draw a line to the match it with its picture.*

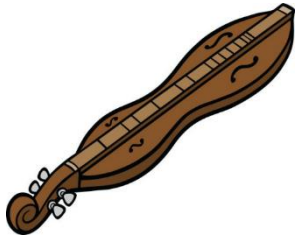


Banjo



Mandolin

Ukulele



Guitar



Upright Bass

Concertina



Dulcimer



**Quizlet (after show):** *Answer the questions below, share, and discuss with your class!*

How old is the guitar?	
Most of the instruments Wild Carrot played are from what continent?	
Where is the banjo from? What was it made from originally?	
What genres of music are part of American Roots Music?	
How does the concertina make sound?	
<p>What parts of the country and the world did we hear about in the performance? Can you find them on the map?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appalachian Mountains</li> <li>• Ireland, Scotland and England</li> <li>• The Atlantic Ocean</li> <li>• Midwest, Northeast and Southeast regions of the United States</li> <li>• Rural South/ Mississippi Delta (Mississippi, Alabama, etc.)</li> <li>• Africa</li> </ul>	
What is the history, role, and origin of different styles of Roots music in America?	
Who are some important Folk singers and their songs?	
What can we learn about American history through music?	
How does music communicate with us?	
When was the radio invented and why was it important in developing American Roots Music?	

**Closure (after show):** *Using what you learned in the lesson, use the space below to complete the following prompt(s).*

What was your favorite instrument from the performance? Draw a picture of it and tell why you liked it.  
What was your favorite song from the performance?  
Draw a picture of your favorite memory of the performance.  
Write a story that tells how music is important in your life.

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for students to draw and write their responses to the prompts above.

## About the Artists



**Pam Temple and Spencer Funk are Wild Carrot**  
Pam Temple and Spencer Funk met through music. They got married, and together, they formed the band Wild Carrot. They couldn't decide what kind of music they loved most, so they decided to try it all! Rooted in traditional American music, their repertoire branches in diverse directions: jazz, blues, traditional folk songs, not-so-traditional folk songs, show tunes and originals. They do interesting arrangements

with guitar, mandolin, concertina, ukulele, banjo, and mountain dulcimer.

Their music took them two times to Chile South America as cultural ambassadors with the US Embassy in Santiago! They love to write songs and have won awards for their songs. Their favorite thing to do is to spread their love of music with audiences all over the country and wherever their guitars take them! They believe we all need music in our lives, and say, "If you can't sing well, sing loud!"

### What's in a Name?

So, where did the name "Wild Carrot" come from? A wild carrot is the same as Queen Anne's Lace. Wild Carrot's music has been described as rooted in the solid earth of tradition, while displaying a delicate intricacy, like the flower of Queen Anne's Lace.

### About You, The Audience

"Performing for you  
is our favorite thing to do!"



You will see that a live performance is very different from watching TV or a movie. At our performance we want the audience to be part of the show. Sometimes we will ask you to clap, or sing, or move. Sometimes we will ask you to be very, very still and quiet. Whether you are quietly listening or participating, we all get to have fun.

*Enjoy the Show!*

### Additional Ideas & Resources

#### Play disk jockey for a day.

Offer the students examples that illustrate any of the styles we discussed. The students could also play the role of the disk jockey and bring in their own examples. Either way, the disk jockey should 1) Name the artist or group 2) Give the name of the song 3) Explain which branch of American Roots Music is represented by the song.

#### Read, Watch, and Listen.

Watch the PBS series by Ken Burns called "American Roots Music" and check out the companion book. It explores America's musical heritage, documenting blues, gospel, folk, country, and other traditional genres and the contributions of the seminal artists and musicians who brought them to life.

#### Visit Wild Carrot online:

Website:

[www.wildcarrot.net](http://www.wildcarrot.net)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/wildcarrotmusic](https://www.facebook.com/wildcarrotmusic)

YouTube Channel:

[www.youtube.com/wildcarrotmusic](https://www.youtube.com/wildcarrotmusic)

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