



Mini Page Hero: Yo-Yo Ma



photo by Jason Bell

Mini Quote:

"I just want to take music to wherever it can go, to people who are open."
— Yo-Yo Ma

Music. It's almost everywhere. You dance to it, march to it, worship with it, celebrate with it . . . and many of you make it — you are musicians. Meet one of the world's greatest musicians — Yo-Yo Ma.

An early start

Can you remember what you were doing when you were 5 years old? Yo-Yo Ma was giving his first public cello recital. A cello is a stringed instrument, larger than a violin but smaller than a string bass.



Yo-Yo Ma has become a world-famous ambassador for classical music. (An ambassador is someone who spreads a message.) He travels all over the world and plays with great orchestras and other famous musicians. He has made more than 90 albums. Eighteen of them have been honored with Grammy awards.

Reaching out with music

Yo-Yo Ma is always trying to find new and different ways to reach more people with classical music. In the early 1990s, he joined Bobby McFerrin for an unusual performance in Boston. McFerrin is a jazz musician who uses his voice as an instrument. The pair teamed up with the Boston Philharmonic and put together a concert of all kinds of music — classical, fun, mournful and lighthearted.

Yo-Yo Ma does not think classical music is just for grown-ups. He has taken his cello to "Sesame Street" and "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." Whenever he goes on a concert tour, he schedules time to teach students, both musicians and nonmusicians.



photo by Ralph Daily

Yo-Yo Ma in 2013 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Sharing with the world

He also encourages young people to create music, and he teaches them how. He has been known to share his instruments with them.

The cellos that Ma plays are very valuable, worth hundreds of thousands, even millions, of dollars. But on more than one occasion, he has invited young cello students to experience the thrill of playing one of his practically priceless instruments.

This is what Yo-Yo Ma does. He loves music so much that he wants to share it with the world.

Thinking about music

Music can build bridges of understanding between cultures. In many ways, it is the truest international language.

We can enjoy a song even if we don't understand the words. Yo-Yo Ma's talents are so special because each time he draws his bow across the strings of his cello, he reaches across cultures, generations and types of music. He makes music universal.

Think of the many types of music you may have never listened to. Then look for some. Explore music from other cultures. Look around online for new and interesting types of music. Or ask your friends who have different cultural backgrounds to share their music.



Appreciating the music of others helps you to appreciate them as well. Understanding and acceptance begin by learning to see that "different is OK."

Resources



This issue of *Mini Page Heroes* is based on a chapter from "50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet" by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe. To order the book, go to heroes4us.com and click on "50 American Heroes Book" and "Order a Book."

On the web:

- yo-yoma.com/about-2
- youtu.be/IRixaQ4hpEI

At the library:

- "Yo-Yo Ma" by Annie Buckley
- "Yo-Yo & Yeou-Cheng Ma, Finding Their Way: Amazing Asian Americans" by Ai-Ling Louie

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Yo-Yo Ma are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AMBASSADOR,	N	J	B	F	C	U	L	T	U	R	E	S	R	G	O
AUDIENCE, AWARDS,	S	A	A	R	T	S	E	H	C	R	O	O	O	Y	L
CELLO, CLASSICAL,	H	Z	N	R	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	S	D	J	L
CONCERT, CULTURES,	A	Z	L	A	S	R	E	V	I	N	U	C	A	S	E
DANCE, GENERATION,	R	N	W	D	W	O	R	L	D	F	V	O	S	D	C
INSTRUMENT, JAZZ,	E	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	N	E	G	N	S	R	D
MUSICIAN, ORCHESTRA,	T	N	E	M	U	R	T	S	N	I	P	C	A	A	A
SHARE, STUDENTS,	S	E	C	N	E	I	D	U	A	H	X	E	B	W	N
UNIVERSAL, WORLD.	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	A	L	E	J	R	M	A	C
	M	U	S	I	C	I	A	N	E	H	L	T	A	L	E

Cook's Corner

Sugar and Spice Nuts

You'll need:

- 1 egg white
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 pound walnuts or pecans
- 1/2 cup brown sugar

- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons ground cinnamon



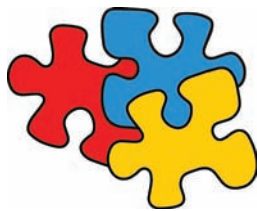
What to do:

1. Separate egg white from yolk into a medium-size bowl. Add 1 tablespoon water. Whisk until frothy. Add nuts and coat with mixture.
2. Combine sugars, salt and cinnamon in a large plastic bag. Add nuts to the bag and shake thoroughly to coat.
3. Spray a large rimmed cooking sheet with cooking spray. Spread the nuts out and bake at 250 degrees for 30 minutes.
4. Allow to cool. Eat as a snack, on salads, or on ice cream.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of music.



rcoes _____

sneols _____

traicel _____

lnatet _____

Answers: score, lessons, recital, talent.

Mini Jokes



Lindsey: Why did the musician get grounded?
Lance: Because she got in treble!

Eco Note



Not all power plants make pollution. Some power plants use renewable energy. That means they aren't burning things to make electricity. **Hydropower** plants get energy from water. **Solar** power plants get energy from the sun. **Wind** power plants get energy from spinning wind turbines.

adapted from climatekids.nasa.gov

Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Dennis Denenberg, former teacher, principal, superintendent and university professor, and Lorraine Roscoe, a champion of heroes of every kind, for help with our Mini Page Heroes issues.

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



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