

## Family Superstar

### OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- **Identify** the properties of sound and the characteristics of Country Music.

### OVERVIEW

Welcome to "Family Superstar!" Gather your family and loved ones to discover how sound is produced and identify the distinct sounds of Country Music in a fun, interactive experience. Family members of all ages will have the opportunity to use country karaoke or instrumental music to sing and share a song of their choice.

Each player will select a song that they would like to sing and share with the group. If a player is feeling shy and does not want to perform alone, group up and form a Country Music Duet! Once everyone has made their choices, decide the order of performances.

As each player sings, you will use a rubric and score card that focuses on distinguishing the specific sounds associated with Country Music. These characteristics include folk harmonies, string instruments, twangy vocals, confessional lyrics, and frequent duets. The *real* question is, "Who will be the next 'Family Superstar' by receiving a standing ovation?"

This activity encourages you to enjoy and create music together as a family. Regardless of the genre, we hope that music brings your family and friends together to share in the joy that is music.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Sound is a type of energy, just like light and heat. Sound allows us to listen to music and distinguish what is happening in the world around us. Sound energy moves through the air in waves and enters our ears, which allows us to both hear and feel sound energy.

When you combine different vocal and instrumental sounds together in harmony, you create music. Music brings people together, promotes bonding, and allows us to share cultural and emotional experiences. As your family participates in the activity, listen for the different sounds that are working in harmony to create Country Music. Consider all the diverse people and sounds that are foundational to the Country Music experience.

## MATERIALS

- Speaker and device of your choice or a computer
- Family Superstar Capture Sheet
- Pencil or pen
- Optional microphone

## FAMILY SUPERSTAR INSTRUCTIONS

- Before playing the game "Family Superstar," watch the [CMA Sounds of STEAM Country video, featuring Aaron Farmer](#). Begin a family discussion using the following questions:
  - What did you notice about the music that you heard?
  - What patterns or sounds were you able to distinguish?
  - What does a music director do?
  - Where did you see the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) throughout the video?
  - What makes music a universal language (bringing us together), regardless of genre?
- Explain to your family that the sounds of Country Music have various characteristics that make the genre unique: folk harmonies, string instruments, twangy vocals, confessional lyrics, and frequent duets. Let them know that today they will all test their skills at being able to identify these unique sounds.
- Have everyone decide if they will be singing a solo or duet. Afterwards, allow time for all team members to choose a song that they would like to perform.
- Give everyone a "Family Superstar" Capture Sheet that includes the instructions, rubrics and scorecard. Answer any questions about how to play the game prior to beginning!
- Play several rounds of "Family Superstar" to give everyone an opportunity to become THE family superstar.
- Have fun encouraging each other as you make Country Music together and learn more about the genre!
- Visit the site [www.cmaworkinginharmony.com](http://www.cmaworkinginharmony.com) for more CMA STEAM Country Activities.

# Family Superstar

**It all begins with the first tone! Become your family's next country superstar.**

Sing along with America's hottest country music artists of today like Luke Bryan, Kane Brown, Jimmie Allen, and Brittany Spencer, just to name a few. As a family, you will be reminded of or be introduced to the distinct sounds of Country Music in this interactive experience.

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Each family member will have the opportunity to use country karaoke or instrumental music to sing and share the song of their choice.
- The audience will use a rubric that focuses on distinguishing sound in Country Music to rate their family members on their ability to discern the characteristics of Country Music (folk harmonies, string instruments, twangy vocals, confessional lyrics, and frequent duets).
- Have Fun! Enjoy and create music together.

## RUBRIC

<b>Characteristics of Country Music</b>	<b>Needs Practice 1</b>	<b>Nice Performance 2</b>	<b>Stage Ready 3</b>	<b>Standing Ovation 4</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Folk harmonies</li><li>• String instruments</li><li>• Twangy vocals</li><li>• Confessional lyrics</li><li>• Frequent duets</li></ul>	Performing using at least 1 of the characteristics of country music.	Performing using at least 2 of the characteristics of country music.	Performing using 2-3 of the characteristics of country music.	Performing using 4 or more of the characteristics of country music.

