

# Activity Idea

## Make Music with Yo-Yo Ma

*Recommended for Adults*

Winner of more than 18 Grammy Awards, cellist Yo-Yo Ma possesses astounding technical brilliance and an awe-inspiring artistic sensibility. He virtually defined the standard for future cellists, over his prolific career he has recorded over 75 albums, between 1983 and 2020. Ma never hesitated to explore fresh musical terrain and the music of other cultures, and often explored the musical forms outside of the Western classical tradition. Ma immersed himself in projects as diverse as native Chinese music and its distinctive instruments, the music of the Kalahari bush people in Africa, and tango music. Ma became one of the most sought-after cellists of his time, appearing with eminent conductors and orchestras throughout the world. He also gained a deserved reputation as an ambassador for classical music and its vital role in society. Ma was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2009 for his contributions to classical music. (Gale in Context, Biography)

### Music:

*The Essential Yo-Yo Ma* on Freegal <https://bit.ly/3c631Z5>

*Yo-Yo Ma: The Classical Cello Collection* on Freegal <https://bit.ly/2RuYZI5>

*Cello Concertos: Yo-Yo Ma* on Freegal <https://bit.ly/2RrrQH9>

*Classic Yo-Yo* on Freegal <https://bit.ly/3ec7U4Q>

### Films:

*Classic Yo-Yo Ma* on Hoopla <https://bit.ly/34pbfJg>

### Books:

*The History of Classical Music for Beginners* by R. Ryan Endris on Hoopla <https://bit.ly/2y6KwoF>

*The Classical Revolution* by John Borstlap on Hoopla <https://bit.ly/2yberw5>

*Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Classical Music but Were Afraid to Ask* by Darren Henley on Hoopla <https://bit.ly/2JUmfot>

### Databases:

Biography in Context: Yo-Yo Ma <https://bit.ly/2K3j0eC>



**Activity:**

Yo-Yo Ma is using his music to offer some comfort, in the midst of a pandemic that has sparked widespread anxiety. He started posting videos of himself performing on cello in what he dubbed #SongsOfComfort on social media. He encouraged people to create and share their own art from home during this time and use the #SongsOfComfort hashtag on different social media platforms to showcase those creations. See his videos here <https://bit.ly/2RyKfBD>

Bring solace to others by participating in #SongsOfComfort. Record and share your musical talents with others on social media (or, simply post your favorite song of comfort) and be sure to tag @LACountyLibrary.

Additionally, you can compose your own musical masterpieces using the following websites

Song Maker <https://bit.ly/2xpZG8w>

Patatap <https://bit.ly/3efUwZ>

Typatone <https://bit.ly/3b7ytGd>