

PEG + CAT

"The Ukulele Problem"

by

Macie Soler-Sala

PRIMARY CONTENT: sound, pitch

SECONDARY CONTENT: measurement, estimation

LOGLINE: When Cat accidentally breaks Peg's ukulele string before the big talent show, they set out to find the perfect string that vibrates just right.

SHOW OPEN

The tree. Peg is TUNING her ukulele. Cat is marching around in a feathered marching band hat while he beats a tin drum.

Cat hits a drumroll for Peg.

SONG: "Peg + Cat"

PEG
(shouts to camera)
One, two! A one, two, three, four!

Peg sings, strums, stomps. Cat marches around proudly. He beats the drum to the beat of the trombone solo, adding the occasional flourish.

PEG
Peg plus Cat!

CAT
(beats drum)

PEG
Peg plus Cat!

CAT
(beats drum)

Off-screen KIDS sing along.

The feather in Cat's marching band hat is actually three chicks stacked on top of each other! The chicks roll off of Cat's hat and wander around aimlessly on the ground.

PEG AND KIDS
One, two, three!

PEG
Yeah c'mon let's go!

Cat bonks each chick on the head lightly with a drumstick, causing a light xylophone sound with each bonk.

PEG AND KIDS
Four, five, six!

PEG
Hey what do you know!

Cat leaves the drum and scurries up the tree. The chicks fly away SR with the heavy drum set.

PEG AND KIDS
Seven, eight nine!

Cat beats his drumsticks on the tree trunk as Peg sings.

PEG
Whoa! What comes next?

Cat catches his breath on a tree branch and file his claws with a drumstick. He holds up ten sharpened claws to camera.

CAT
Uh, ten?

PEG AND KIDS
Ten!

PEG
You're the best!

KIDS
Wooh!/Yeah!

Cat clicks his claws as if they're castanets.

PEG
*We are two
 Na na na na na*

PEG
*Me plus you
 Na na na na na*

Cat carves $P + C = <3$ into the tree branch with his sharpened claws.

PEG
We're Peg plus

CAT
Cat!

PEG
Peg plus

CAT
Cat!

PEG
Peg plus

CAT
Cat!

PEG

Peg plus

Cat leans just a little too close to Peg's ukulele and snaps one of her strings with his sharpened claws! He notices, but Peg does not.

CAT

(laughs nervously)

Cat?

PEG, CAT, KIDS

(laugh)

CUT TO:

GRAPH PAPER CARD

The card says "The Ukulele Problem".

BEETHOVEN spins into frame SL at his piano.

BEETHOVEN

(reads) The Ukulele
Problem. (shakes head)

Oh, nein-nein-nein.

He spins out SR.

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM - DAY

PEG and CAT paint a sign being held up mid-air by a few chicks. In the background, we see a makeshift stage.

Cat uses his tail as a paint brush as he dips it into a bucket of paint and paints the sign. Peg adds the final touches to the sign.

PEG

...and done! Hit it, Chicks!

The chicks fly the sign up to position it over the stage. It reads: TALENT SHOW.

CAT

It really is some of our best work.
(beat) Nice job, Peg-asso.

Peg and Cat give each other a cool high five.

PEG
 Today, we are having a talent show
 on the farm!

Peg holds out her ukulele to camera. The string is still broken, but Peg hasn't noticed yet. She spins around excitedly, causing the string to twist around her.

PEG (CONT'D)
 I'm going to play my ukulele, and
 Cat's going to back me up on drums!

Cat tries to sneakily untangle her as she talks.

Peg holds up four fingers and wiggles them.

PEG (CONT'D)
 We are going to have *four* different
 performances in the talent show.

CLOSE UP on the sign as we pan across it to reveal painted images of each performer.

PEG (CONT'D)
 Me and Cat, that's
 one...Beethoven...Billy
 Holiday...and Pig!

Pig pops into frame SR.

PIG
 (singing)
That makes foouur!

Cat pops up SL.

CAT
 We're gonna be famous!

Cat puts on sunglasses. A chick comes up and gives him a notepad to sign an autograph.

CAT (CONT'D)
 (Signing notepad) No photos,
 please.

PEG
 Each performer will play a
 different genre of music.

Cat looks confused.

CAT
 Gen-HUH?!

PEG

You know how music can sound so
different with different
instruments and singers?

Cat taps his chin.

CAT

Like...some music is (pulls out a
guitar) rockin' and some music is
(switches guitar with a harp)
peaceful?

PEG

Yeah! That's because there are
different types of music that each
sound unique, called genres!

CAT

Well, what kind of genres will we
hear at the talent show?

Song: "The Genre Jam"

PEG

The genre jam! Genre jam!

CAT

*We're playin' different genres at
the talent show, man!*

Beethoven rolls into frame on his piano.

PEG

Beethoven plays the classical hits!

BEETHOVEN

*Classical is known for its
elegance! Yah!*

Beethoven plays a proper, classical flourish on the piano.

Billy Holiday enters SR, crooning into an old microphone.

PEG

*Billy plays jazz! It's funky with
some swing!*

BILLY HOLIDAY

*It's famous for all it's
improvising!*

CAT

Time to scat with Cat, Billy!

Billy scats to camera, backed up on a sax by Cat.

PIG enters dramatically.

PIG

*I sing opera...it's rather, rather
proper-ahhh!*

PEG

*And Me plus Cat play folksy-folk! I
strum on my ukulele and it ain't no
joke!*

Peg goes to play her ukulele...and it sounds awful!

The song abruptly ENDS. Peg looks at her broken string.

PEG (CONT'D)

Whoa, the string on my ukulele is
broken! And if the string on my
ukulele is broken, I can't play in
the talent show! And that's a
REALLY BIG PROBLEM!

SFX: Big Problem sting

Cat paces back and forth.

CAT

(wailing) Oh, it doesn't matter who
did it, only that we fix it!

He puts his head in his paws and notices his sharpened claws,
then hides them behind his back.

We cut into the ukulele which animates.

CUT TO:

GRAPH SKETCH PAPER

Peg is in the foreground with graph paper behind her. She
doodles four strings over the mouth of a sketched ukulele.

PEG

I had four strings. But now one is
broken!

The string pops.

PEG (CONT'D)

So if one of four strings is broken...that means one-fourth of my ukulele is broken!

Peg doodles out the equation: $1 \text{ of } 4 = 1/4 \text{ Broken.}$

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM - DAY

PEG

We need to find *one string* that makes the *right sound*. Or else I can't play in the talent show! I'm totally freaking out!

Cat stands in the foreground of the talent show sign, revealing the painted line up of BEETHOVEN, BILLY HOLIDAY, FIG...

CAT

Hmmm...if only we knew some musical people who could help us. (pause)
Oh well!

PEG

Cat, you got it! Let's go ask a musician who is playing at the talent show about finding the perfect string! Let's start with Beethoven. I bet he can help!

CAT

He's the man! I mean, maestro!

CUT TO:

INT. BEETHOVEN'S STUDIO

PEG and CAT enter from SR. Beethoven is playing piano in his studio near SL. He stops playing.

BEETHOVEN

Hallo, Peg undt Cat!

PEG

Beethoven! We have a REALLY BIG PROBLEM!

SFX: Big Problem sting

BEETHOVEN

Oh, nein. It makes me so sad when you have unt lud-big van problem.

Peg holds up her ukulele.

PEG

Cat broke my ukulele string.

Cat clicks his claws nervously.

CAT

Well, we're not entirely sure, who did it...

PEG

And we need *one new string* to make the right sound!

BEETHOVEN

Well. For your ukulele to make the right zound, it must first make zound waves.

CL on Cat, now in board shorts and sunglasses holding a boogie board in one hand and the last of a sandwich in the other. He tosses the last of the sandwich into his mouth.

CAT

(mouthful of sandwich) I just ate a sandwich, so I can't swim for 30 minutes (burps).

BEETHOVEN

These are not waves in ze ocean, but waves...in ze air...follow me to *Zound Wave Island*.

SFX: Magical, tropical sparkle

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUND WAVE ISLAND - DAY

Peg, Cat and Beethoven are now on a tropical island. We see a wooden sign in the foreground that says SOUND WAVE ISLAND.

Beethoven holds up Cat's ukulele.

BEETHOVEN

Welcome to Zound Wave Island. Here, we can learn all about zound waves on ze seashore.

CAT
Sally sold sound waves by the
seashore!

Cat points finger guns to camera.

CAT (CONT'D)
Now say that five times fast
(pause) ...because I cannot.

BEETHOVEN
Zound waves are created when an
object (body shakes) vibrates.

CAT
(body shakes) Vibra-wha?

BEETHOVEN
Vibration is when an object shakes
(body shakes) back and forth.

BEETHOVEN (CONT'D)
So when the string vibrates...it
makes zound waves. Vatch!

Beethoven plucks a string on Peg's ukulele, causing it to vibrate. Visible sound waves float out of the mouth of the ukulele.

BEETHOVEN (CONT'D)
And those waves travel through ze
air...

Peg and Cat follow the waves as they move from SR to SL. Cat runs underneath the waves from SR to SL, trying to catch it with his paws.

BEETHOVEN (CONT'D)
...right into your ear!

The waves enter Cat's ear, causing him to spin around.

CAT
(giggles) Hoo-hoo, that tickles!

BEETHOVEN
And your ear tells your brain...

Cat lifts the top of his head like a little hat, and we see a tiny Cat, playing tiny drums.

TINY CAT
 (drumroll; in a higher-pitched Cat
 voice) Rock on, yo!

PEG
 Are all sound waves the same?

BEETHOVEN
 Nein. All zounds around you are
 different because of different
sizes and shapes of ze zound waves.

Cat's ears change sizes to reflect the size of the sound waves Beethoven is talking about. His ears grow really big, then really small.

BEETHOVEN (CONT'D)
 Some zounds are (loudly, echoes)
 loud and some are (quietly
 whispers) very quiet.

BEETHOVEN (CONT'D)
 When you pluck your ukulele really
 hard...

MEDIUM WIDE on the ukulele as Beethoven plucks a string hard while Cat watches intently. Cat's eyeballs move up and down wildly with the string movement. Big, visible waves roll out of the ukulele. Cat chases the waves off SL.

BEETHOVEN (CONT'D)
 The big vibration makes the sound
 wave is *bigger*. So the sound is
louder!

Cut to a wide shot of the ocean. Cat paddles into frame SR.

CAT
 Whoaaaa it's a sound tsunamiiii!
 (fist bumps) PLUCK IT HARDER,
 MAESTRO DUDE!

Off camera, Beethoven plucks it even harder.

SFX: Loud plucking sound

This sound causes a wave to appear behind Cat. It pushes Cat to the shoreline on his boogie board quickly as we track with him. Beethoven and Peg are standing on the shore line.

BEETHOVEN
 And when you pluck it very
 softly...

Beethoven gives the ukulele a light pluck. The string barely moves. The waves coming out of the uke are very small.

Peg is catching on.

PEG

It doesn't vibrate as much! So the sound is quieter...because the waves are smaller!

BEETHOVEN

You're so smart, Peg! Yes!

PIG enters licking an ice cream cone in a luau shirt. He leans into the ice cream like a microphone.

PIG

And what about sounds that are way up hiiiiighhhh like miiiineee!

We see fast sound waves coming from Pig's mouth. The force of his voice blows the ice cream off its cone with a splat.

Cat jumps in front of Pig.

CAT

(low voice) And sounds that are wayyyy down lowwwwwha-cha!

We see slow, rolling sound waves come from Cat's mouth. The slow sound wave picks up Pig's ice cream that fell in the sand and plops it back on his cone.

Billy Holliday rolls up to shore on a pink float from SL in the BG.

BILLY HOLIDAY

I got this one, Beethoven!

PEG, CAT, BEETHOVEN, PIG

(excitedly) BILLY!

CL on Billy.

BILLY HOLIDAY

When a sound is (sings high) *high* or (sings low) *swingin' low* it is called pitch - and *that's the sitch, scoobedoobah!*

PEGS

And that's still because of sound waves?

BILLY HOLIDAY

You got it, Peggy-peg!
When sounds are high, that means
the waves are very fast! Hand me
that Uke, maestro!

Beethoven hands her the ukulele and she references the strings.

BILLY HOLIDAY (CONT'D)

On your ukulele, Peg, you can make
the sounds higher by making the
strings here just a *little bit*
shorter.

PEG

How do you make the string shorter?

BILLY HOLIDAY

By tightening the strings at the
top. Like this!

CL on the uke fret as Billy adjusts it while plucking it, causing the sound of the string to get higher and higher.

Cut wide on Peg and the gang on the shoreline.

PEG

So when the sounds are high, the
waves are faster, and the string is
shorter. And when the sounds are
low...that must mean the waves are
slower, and the string is longer!

BEETHOVEN

Okay, I am supposed to be ze
musical genius here! (giggles) Yes!
So that is how you will find ze
perfect string.

He hands Peg back her ukulele.

PEG

So we need a string that will
vibrate to make sound...and a
string that's just the right
length...to make the and pitch!

BEETHOVEN AND BILLY HOLIDAY

Yes!

CAT
 Hey! Does all this musical talk
 make anybody feel like...singin'?!

SONG: "Surfin the Sound Waves"

A beachy pop song a la The Beach Boys "Surfin' USA":

Peg strums her three strings, which cause the waves on the beach to kick up.

PEG, CAT, BEETHOVEN, PIG
*And we're gonna go surfin...surfin
 the sound waves!*

Cat careens by on his boogie board on a big wave, splashing the screen.

PEG
*(loudly) Oh, the bigger the wave,
 then the louder the sound!*

Cut to Cat now splashing in the shallow water quietly.

CAT
*(quietly) And the smaller the wave,
 it'll quiet right down!*

PIG backstrokes by.

PIG
*The quicker the vibration, the
 higher pitch it'll be!*

CAT
*And the slower the vibration...then
 lower pitch comes from me.*

Cut to Peg, Cat, Pig, Beethoven and Billy Holliday dancing on the shoreline.

PEG, CAT, PIG, BILLY HOLIDAY AND
 BEETHOVEN:
*'Cause when an object...shake-shake-
 shakes then it make-makes the sound
 waves!*

PEG
*My string vibrate-ate-ates to make-
 make-make the sound waves!*

CUT TO:

DREAM SEQUENCE: FARM

Peg and Cat play a song on stage at the talent show. Fans clamor below them as if Peg and Cat are The Beatles.

PEG

*Oh, we're learnin' a lot about
pitch and sound!*

CAT

*How size and shape of the waves
make it quiet or loud!*

PEG

*How the strings of my uke are short
and long!*

CAT

*It mamkes the pitch high and low
when we sing our song!*

Peg does a really cool ukulele solo. She moves up a string to make it high, then moves down it to make it low.

PEG AND CAT

*'Cause when the string vibrate-ate-
ates then it make-makes the sound
waves!*

CAT

Everybody!

The fans join int:

PEG, CAT AND FANS:

*When the string vibrate-ate-ates
then it make-makes the sound waves!*

The crowd cheers. Peg and Cat take a bow.

DREAM SEQUENCE ENDS.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUND WAVE ISLAND - CONTINUOUS

Peg and Cat giggle.

PEG

Cat? It's time to go on a mission
for the perfect string!

CAT

Let's do it, Miss Thing! (Pause)
But can we boogie board for a
little bit longer? The waves are
gettin' totally tubular from all
these sound waves now!

CUT TO:

INT. PEG'S PIZZA PLACE - KITCHEN

Peg and Cat dance around the kitchen.

PEG

*We're on the prowl for the perfect
string!*

CAT

*It's gotta be bouncy...so it's
vibra-ting!*

PEG

*And it can't be too short and it
can't be too long!*

CAT

*And when we find that perfect
string, we'll sing our talent show
song!*

MAC is making a big bowl of spaghetti.

PEG

Mac! Twirl me a piece of spaghetti,
please!

MAC

You da boss, Peg!

He twirls up a single string of spaghetti on a fork and
tosses it to Peg like a lasso. She holds up her ukulele and
the spaghetti string lands perfectly into place on it.

PEG

Let's try it!

She strums the spaghetti string...and no sound comes out.

PEG (CONT'D)
 Hmm...not bouncy enough to vibrate
 and cause those sound waves. Onto
 the next!

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM - DAY

Peg and Cat dance around the farm as they sing.

PEG
*Lookin' for a string that's vibra-
 ting! Gonna find the right one and
 sing-sing-sing!*

The FARMER with a piece of hay in his mouth.

PEG (CONT'D)
 Farmer, could I borrow that hay?!

FARMER
 (effort) I guess, so!

He spits out the piece of hay and hands it to Peg. Cat holds it up to her ukulele.

CL on the ukulele. The piece of hay is much shorter than the string?

PEG (O.S.)
 Hmm...This piece of hay is too
 short for my ukulele. It won't
 work!

The Farmer puts the Hay back in his mouth and slowly exits SR.

RAMONE enters eating licorice SL. His shoelace is untied.

PEG (CONT'D)
 Ramone! Can you help us find the
 perfect string for my ukulele?

RAMONE
 Of course, Peg! Let's go! Oop-

Ramone goes to take a step, but realized his shoelace is untied.

RAMONE (CONT'D)
 Oh no! Gotta tie my shoelace.

PEG

Ramone, you genius! Could I try
your shoelace as my string?

RAMONE

Sure thing, Peg!

He unravels his shoelace and holds it up to Peg's ukulele.

CL on the ukulele string. His shoelace is much longer than
the ukulele strings.

RAMONE (CONT'D)

This string is way too long for
your ukulele.

PEG

You're right.

Peg paces around.

PEG (CONT'D)

What else, what else...

Ramone takes a bite of licorice. It wiggles back into place.

SFX: Wiggly licorice

Peg notices the licorice.

PEG (CONT'D)

Ramone! Could I try your licorice?!

RAMONE

Let's give it a go!

They tie the licorice to the ukulele.

PEG

It's just the right length! And it
looks super cool and yummy. But
let's see if it vibrates enough to
make sound waves!

She strums the licorice...and it snaps in half in silence!

CAT

Oh, *licorice sticks* it doesn't
work! (pause) dibs.

Cat slurps up the licorice like spaghetti.

CAT (CONT'D)
(mouthful of licorice) Sorry,
Ramone.

RAMONE
(laughing) It's all good, Cat.

Cat slurps up the remaining licorice and gives his tummy a satisfied pat.

CAT
Mmm it certainly *WAS* all good!

PEG
Oh, we'll never find the right
string! I'm totally freaking out!

CAT
Sugar rush FREAK OUT TIME!

CAT bounces up and down and shoots up out of frame like a rocket.

The FARMER enters SR lugging a bushel of corn tied up with a rubber band.

FARMER
(effort) Thank goodness I have this
strong yet bouncy rubber band tied
around my bushel of corn so I can
carry it all...

Cat parachutes down back into frame and lands next to Peg.

PEG
Did you say that rubber band
holding all your corn was *bouncy*?!
Cat...?

Peg walks over to the bushel of corn and plucks the rubber band.

CL on the band as it vibrates against the bushel of corn.

PEG (CONT'D)
Look! It's vibrating! Cat?

CAT
Way ahead of you!

Cat takes his sharpened claw and slices through the rubber band, causing corn to go everywhere.

FARMER

Aw. Well. That's okay. Anything for the talent show, I s'pose.

Peg picks up the bouncing rubber band and fastens it to her guitar. She plucks. It vibrates back and forth quickly. Yes!

PEG

We did it! We found a string for my ukulele that vibrates! This rubber band is really bouncy, so it vibrates when I put it on my ukulele!

She plucks each string, landing on her rubber band. It sounds slightly off!

PEG (CONT'D)

Oh no. It's sounds funny!

CAT

Peg, remember! You just have to make it a little bit shorter! To make it the right pitch!

PEG

Oh yeah! Just by tightening the string, up here!

Peg tightens the string on her ukulele. It tunes up-up-up...to perfection!

CAT

Now that's the stuff!

PEG

Now, we have a string that makes the perfect sound and pitch! We're ready for the talent show, Cat!

CUT TO:

EXT. FARM - LATE AFTERNOON

The talent show is in full swing. Fans in the audience clap as Beethoven finishes his performance.

BEETHOVEN

Thank you! Danke!

Peg and Cat walk up on stage giving Beethoven a high five as he exits.

Ramone hops up on stage and acts as the M.C. He taps the mic.

RAMONE
 (echoing) Next up, we have...Peg
 Plus Cat! Singing...Uke Vibrations!

SONG: "Uke Vibrations"

A beachy song a la The Beach Boys "Good Vibrations":

Peg and Cat both put sunglasses on. Cat counts them off with his drumsticks.

CAT
 One! Two! A one, two, three, four!

Peg strums her guitar. We see the rubber band bouncing around.

PEG
I'm pluckin' up big vibrations!

CAT
She's pluckin' up big sound waves!

PEG
I'm pluckin' up big vibrations!

CAT
*They're movin' through the air,
 hooray!*

The sound waves travel from Peg's ukulele into the crowd. We see them softly hit the audience and it blows some of their hair and sunglasses back.

Cut back to Peg and Cat on the stage as Peg continues.

PEG (O.C.)
*Learnin' all about how sound waves
 move, how the waves growin' big and
 small make us groove!*

Peg hits a high ukulele solo.

PEG (CONT'D)
*And when my strings are shorter,
 then the sound's real high!*

Peg then hits a low ukulele solo.

CAT
*And when she plays the longer ones
 it's lower-ified!*

PEG AND CAT
*'Cause we're pluckin' up uke
 vibrations! We're makin' more and
 more sound waves! We're learnin'
 'bout sound and pitch now...we're
 musical maestros today!*

They giggle. Everyone cheers. Peg and Cat take a bow.

SHOW CLOSE

EXT. TREE - LATER

Peg and Cat are under the tree. Peg strums her uke, Cat lays on the grass, munching on an apple.

PEG
 We learned a lot about sound waves today. And how they make sound and pitch!

CAT
 You know what else sounds good, Peg?

PEG
 Yes, Cat?

PEG (CONT'D)
 A nap! All that boogie boarding at Sound Wave Island really tuckered me out!

PEG AND CAT
 (laugh)

Cat starts to snore. We see small sound waves coming out of his mouth. Peg gives him a little pat on his head with a giggle.

THE END