

EXPLORE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM. LEARN INSIDE OUR STATE.

Got Music?

Rio Grande County Museum

Explore the exhibits and hands-on activities at the Rio Grande County Museum. Make your way to the pump organ that kids can actually play! Hint: If you have some extra time, complete the museum scavenger hunt.

Background:

Popular in the 19th century and early 20th century, pump organs operate by allowing air to flow over a piece of metal. [Watch this video](#) to hear the unique sounds this action creates.

The various sounds are made by opening the knobs and pressing different keys. The knobs, called stops, make a sound louder or softer. Due to the nature of these organs, they have very low deep sounds and high eerie sounds. If you are interested in the technical aspect, [watch this video](#) that shows the inside of a pump organ.

Spend some time just playing around with the pump organ to produce various sounds..

Questions to Ask:

1. *What end of the keyboard produces low sounds? left*
2. *What end of the keyboard produces higher sounds? right*
3. *What happens when you pull out or press in the knobs?*
4. *What are the foot pedals for?*

Activity: Fill out the chart either by drawing a picture or writing a response. Have him/her play the key where the chart says to push it and then come up with how it makes them feel. Be sure to pump the pedals! Music generates feelings and emotions.

Place on the keyboard to push	How does that make you feel?	Pull out one of the stops, does it change the sound?
Way to the left side		
Way to the right side		
Towards the middle		