



**LISTEN  
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NORTH VALLEY  
**MUSIC SCHOOL**



## FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

This past year was extraordinary. Since launching Be Instrumental, the capital campaign to build a new music school, NVMS has seen unprecedented, widespread community support, validating the project as not only merited but essential to the lives of hundreds of families. A new facility is needed to meet the explosive demand for music education and to continue enhancing lives through the power of music.

Teamwork, perseverance, and good old-fashioned work ethic contributed to the school's success in reaching some important milestones this year. NVMS received unanimous approval from the City of Whitefish and Project Whitefish Kids. Building permits have been issued, geotechnical tests are complete, and construction estimates are being fine-tuned. Above all, the collaborative effort of the fundraising team has played a crucial role in bringing NVMS within reach of its \$6.5 million target. If the recent success in raising a record-breaking \$366,962 in the 2023 Great Fish Community Challenge is any indication of how vital NVMS is in our community, we will meet that goal.

Thank you to our donors who have gotten us this far. You make it possible to impact the lives of 675 NVMS students. You are the reason we're able to provide scholarships, extend free programming to veterans, and host concerts and workshops at no cost. You are the reason we will be able to serve our beloved community for decades to come.



North Valley Music School exists to serve this community and I consider stewardship of the organization a true privilege. I look back with gratitude for our NVMS leadership, staff, student families, our fully engaged Board, capital campaign team, and advisors who selflessly dedicate their time and talent to this endeavor, The City of Whitefish, Project Whitefish Kids, Whitefish Community Foundation, nonprofit grant foundations, and community partners.

**-Christine Rossi, Board President**



It's amazing how quickly a year rolls by. I remember celebrating my children's first birthdays, they felt like long years...Before we knew it, pre-K, sports, music lessons, and now, we're celebrating teenage birthdays. Where does the time go?!

I'm sure the NVMS Founders and the first Board Members felt like their first year was a long one, too. I guarantee they were very excited, somewhat nervous, and a bit overwhelmed. Hundreds of students and thousands of lessons later, here we are celebrating 25 magical musical years and still going strong!

Launching a capital campaign has been similar: it's exciting and nerve-wracking at the same time. The first million dollars seemed like such a stretch, but here we are, a couple of years later with about \$5M raised! In no time, we will be at our new school, enjoying recitals with a beautiful backdrop of Big Mountain, reminiscing about the good ol' days in the lovely historic home at 432 Spokane Avenue.

Yes, we still have a ways to go and a lot of work to do, but it's important to look back on all these momentous events and cherish all the memories and progress. We all work so hard to do the best we can, and for that, we should celebrate!

Thank you to everyone who has made North Valley Music School what it is today and to all of you who believe in its future! It is a huge honor leading this wonderful organization through its many verses. The chorus stays the same: we are changing lives through music. **-Deidre Corson, Executive Director**





# 2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

North Valley Music School celebrated its 25th anniversary in grand musical style this past year!

The program year started with a record number of students enrolled and some great new hires. We welcomed Catherine Robinson (piano and voice), Jennifer Hawken (flute), Beth Thomas and Mary Millington (Music Together), and Elsa Michelsen (piano and oboe).

Music Together, Learn to Play classes, Glee Club and Acoustic Jams filled our old house once again with musical sounds from all ages.

NVMS saw great support during the 2022 Great Fish Community Challenge, as well. NVMS raised

almost \$90,000 and together, the community raised over \$5M to benefit local charities. Another record-breaking year. We are stronger together!

More violins, guitars, an accordion and a banjo were added to our Instrument Lending Library. Over 30 students made use of this accessibility program.

At our fabulous Fall Faculty Concert, we put on a lovely social with food and drink to celebrate the music school's silver anniversary and share news on the progress of the capital campaign.

NVMS also hosted several music appreciation events and workshops beginning with the return of Mare and Nomad and a great presentation on Turkish

music. Thanks to a grant from Montana Arts Council, the Drum Brothers performed a public concert and drumming workshop in the fall. In the spring, a grant from Humanities Montana supported a lecture on "Your Brain on Music" by former NVMS faculty Diane Volkman. NVMS's summer Workshop was a full-house. Bill Rossiter had a very entertaining performance in Kalispell at the Northwest Montana History Museum.

NVMS also awarded its first American Indian Music Scholarship; read more about the impact on page six.

After 25 years of changing lives through music, we have so much to celebrate! We are certain the next 25 years will be great, too.

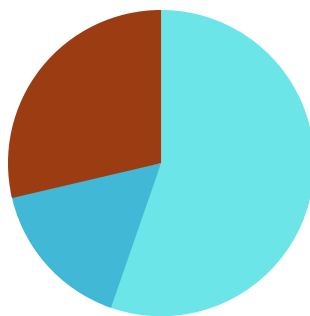
## NVMS BY THE NUMBERS 2022-2023

Total registered students:  
**675**

Private lessons throughout the year  
**15,156**

Group classes and ensembles  
**249**

Scholarships awarded:  
**\$26,600 TO  
44 STUDENTS**

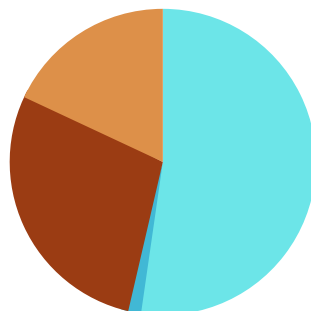


ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET: \$495,678

ANNUAL INCOME 2022/2023

- Restricted Income \$674,400 (inc. capital campaign: \$654,354)
- Fundraising/Events \$183,321
- Programs \$323,588

Total Annual Income: \$1.1M



ANNUAL EXPENSES 2022/2023

- Restricted Expense \$567,600 (inc. capital campaign: \$541,061)
- Fundraising/Events \$14,455
- Programs \$289,415
- Operations \$206,263

Total Annual Expense: \$1M

## FAMILY/MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT: THE COLEMANS

“Music has been an organic part of our lives for a few years now. It started off with piano for our oldest daughter Kassidy at age 6. Then a year later when Zoey turned 5, she hopped on board and of course, Marley eagerly followed suit a year later at age 5, too. We home school and music has imprinted so much of what we are trying to teach naturally: repetition, patterns, numbers, counting, timing, and so much more. Having three girls so close in age, we have learned that they are vastly different, especially in their learning styles and development levels. Music has helped us fill in so many gaps where we have struggled with traditional learning techniques.



After a year of piano, the kids started to listen to the world around them so much more and expressed curiosity in other sounds. They each asked to try another instrument in addition to the piano. Kassidy chose violin, Zoey chose guitar, and Marley picked the ukulele (of course they all had to be different). At this point, we officially joined NVMS again (years prior, we had done Music Together). We were excited to hear that Christian could teach all three girls a different string instrument. Plus, Christian was so encouraging and totally up for taking on Marley for the ukulele at a fresh five years old!



The kids look forward to music every week. They love their teachers, socializing with EVERYONE in the office, petting Monty, and coloring the sidewalks in the sunshine with sidewalk chalk. When they get the opportunity to play something for friends, family, or at recitals, the joy is felt by everyone. They realize that feeling: music is truly magical.



At a recent piano recital, the kids did duets with their piano teacher, Catherine, which I had never heard before, and I was floored! I remember having one of those emotional “mom moments” where I had to swallow and take a deep breath as tears formed in my eyes hoping to avoid a full on happy-cry moment.

It was so moving for me to witness their accomplishment. Music will carry them through the most awesome and roughest times; it does that for all of us! We are so grateful to be a part of NVMS. The staff, teachers, and other parents and students we crisscross with are some of the best! Thank you, NVMS.” -Tracy Coleman



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



ROSS BRIDGEMAN  
KEYS, GUITAR, DIGITAL MUSIC



“I grew up in Phoenix and heard about Montana from my dad, who had spent a year or two in Great Falls doing musical theater back in the 70's. When I was a kid, he worked at Grand Canyon University and they had a great piano prep program there for kids. I took classical piano lessons, learned to read music, and even took competitive tests for music theory. And I liked it! From what my mom says, once I sat down to play piano, I didn't want to stop.

Even for someone who loved music, I do remember hitting a wall when I was in about 2nd or 3rd grade. You get past some of the easy stuff and the piano gets harder. I wanted to quit, but then my grandparents got me a Yamaha keyboard with all sorts of beats, sounds, and ways to make songs. I'm old enough to have made a cassette tape full of my original songs! I stayed engaged in music through the learning pains and now I'm a professional pianist. I'm glad NVMS is incorporating music tech into their curriculum because whether it's keyboards or iPads, it's never been more fun to make music in creative and non-traditional ways.

After cutting my teeth in the commercial music scene, first in Nashville where I studied piano and songwriting at Belmont University and then in Los Angeles when I continued to try my hand a myriad of musical endeavors, my wife and I decided to move to Whitefish in 2017. NVMS welcomed me in, first as a substitute guitar teacher and then full-time as a piano teacher. I'm excited for what the future holds for school and the the students I've taught.”

**“It was all the teachers who helped me along - patient, generous and caring people who've made me the musician I am today. I'm grateful to them and hope I can pass the love and joy of music to others in the same way.”**

## SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT

### ALICIA ARCHAMBAULT



Ali, a soprano majoring in music at the University of Montana School of Music, was awarded NVMS's American Indian Music Scholarship for 2023.

After graduating from Browning High School, Ali moved to Missoula to attend the University of Montana. After three years of collegiate work for her major in History, Ali decided to audition to add a double major in music. She has also been accepted into a top voice studio at UM and has begun her work on the music curriculum.

"Music has done everything for me. I've gotten some of the best opportunities because of my love and passion for music," says Ali. "Music is the way to the soul; I've never felt more empowered and passionate about something in my entire life. My biggest dream for myself and my fellow indigenous people is to create a space where it's normal for indigenous people to write choral music in our language, but to also show other indigenous people like me that it's possible to pursue their dreams in music and in anything they put their minds to."

Ali is a proud member of the Assiniboine people in Fort Belknap, Montana. She was raised by her grandparents in Browning, Montana. Ali has been a member of the University of Montana Chamber Chorale for two years. This is the top choral ensemble at UM and Ali is a valued member who has performed in England, Germany, and Washington State, among other local community events.

**"Ever since I was little, I remember traditional music being a part of our school life. My choir teachers at Browning changed my life with music."**

"Our choirs need more Indigenous representation," says Dr. Coreen Duffy, Director of Choral Activities and President-Elect of the American Choral Director's Association NW Division. "Ali is a role model to BIPOC students at UM and encourages them to join the choir and express themselves through singing. Ali's pride in her identity as a member of the Fort Belknap community radiates from her. She deserves this scholarship so that she can continue to be a shining light to Indigenous students on campus and beyond."



# PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS



## LARK SKOLA



Thanks to a grant from the Angora Ridge Foundation, NVMS partnered with Lark Skola, a new educational offering in Northwest Montana. The Skola is an independent nonprofit school that uses mixed-age groups for classroom activities, community projects, and nature immersions.

Lark Skola approached NVMS about doing their big block program in the backyard and it led to a natural collaboration. NVMS provided weekly music classes to the children and reinforced Lark Skola's philosophy that all children are natural learners. Together, NVMS and the Skola expanded where learning can happen and created many meaningful music moments.

## VETERANS LEARN TO PLAY GUITAR

Music connects people in many ways. Thanks to a partnership with the Kalispell Vet Center and Veterans Upward Bound, NVMS is helping veterans engage with their community while restoring their health.

The veterans who take part in the Veterans Learn to Play Guitar classes at North Valley Music School can use this skill to help in their recovery and mental health.



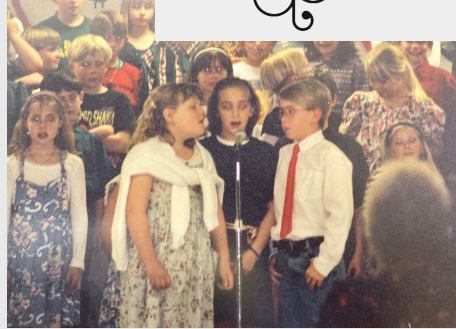
"It doesn't matter what you're going through, whether it's physical pain, mental anguish, PTSD...if you're on active duty, on a long road march, or you know, in combat," NVMS student and veteran Jesse Nelson explained. "Music can bring you back to a place of peace and tranquility even in some pretty dark times."



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# 25 YEARS



432 Spokane Ave #2001



From modest beginnings serving under 20 students in church basements to consistently serving over 500 music students of all ages and backgrounds, North Valley Music School looks back fondly on all the musical moments in its 25 years of service.







# OF MUSIC





# SUMMER SPOTLIGHT

## CAMP FESTIVAL AMADEUS



Established in 2008 by Artistic Director, Jenanne Solberg, CFA is a one-of-a-kind chamber orchestra music camp for intermediate to advanced string players hosted in downtown Whitefish, Montana.

Camp faculty were comprised of musicians from Glacier Symphony's summer pops ensemble. This year, they premiered an unbelievable faculty concert for the campers and the public. Don't miss this next year!

Each day, campers participated in orchestra sessions, small ensembles, sectionals, and elective classes. They attended workshops and interactive presentations "How to Care For and Feed Your Instrument," and "Self-care for Musicians." Fun camp activities included a student recital, a Whitefish Lake picnic outing with a drum circle, performing at the downtown farmers market, a final student concert, and a closing celebration at the Big Sky Water Park, including a great light show!



**"I look forward to camp all year. It's where I found my people. It's great playing with others who also love to play music!" - 2023 CFA Camper**



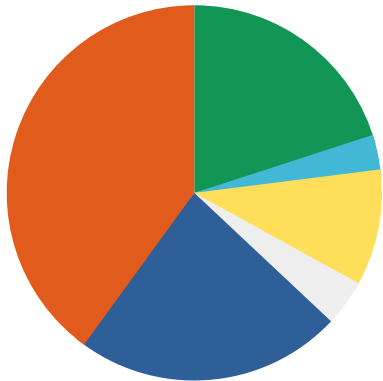




## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SPOTLIGHT BE INSTRUMENTAL UPDATES

Since launching the capital campaign, NVMS has reached some important milestones. With the help and expertise of our design partners, the state-of-the-art school plans are complete. Building permits have been issued and NVMS has been endorsed 100% by the city and the mayor. To date, the capital campaign fundraising team has raised nearly \$5 million of our \$6.5 million goal.

Thank you for being a cherished patron of Be Instrumental and for the efforts to build a new school and campus. “No Student Left Untuned” is a reality because of you!



### DONATION SOURCES

- Foundations (40%)
- NVMS Endowment (10%)
- Individuals (23%)
- Existing building value (20%)
- Corporations (4%)
- In-kind (3%)



### MILESTONES

- Building permits issued
- 100% endorsement by the City of Whitefish and Mayor Muhlfeld
- Endorsement by Senator Tester and Congressman Zinke
- Lease signed with City and Project Whitefish Kids
- 7 Studio Sponsors secured; several naming opportunities remain

[WWW.NVMS.ME](http://WWW.NVMS.ME)

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# CHANGING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC



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