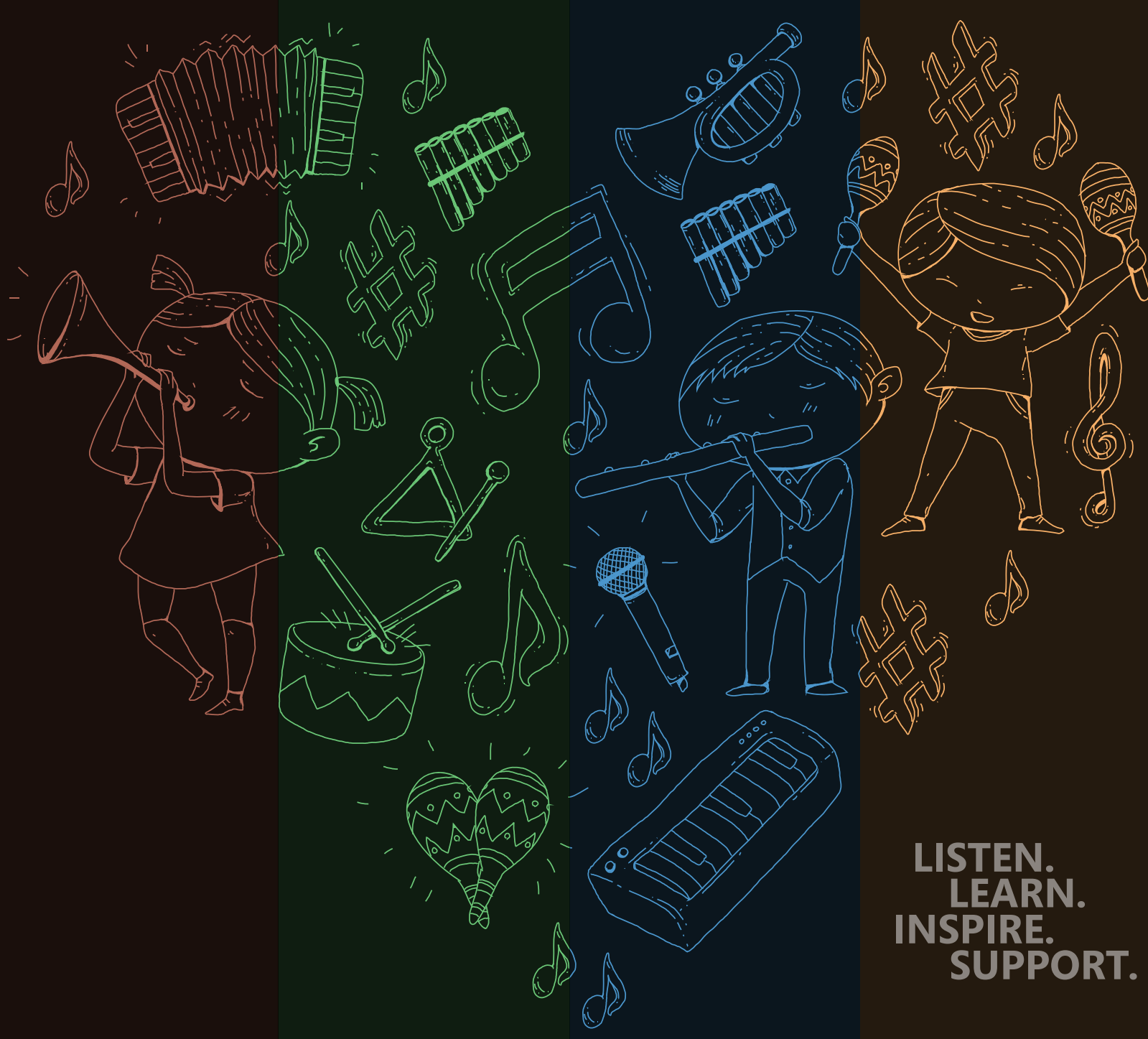


NORTH VALLEY MUSIC SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



**LISTEN.
LEARN.
INSPIRE.
SUPPORT.**

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Dear Friends of North Valley Music School,

For most nonprofits across the Flathead Valley, it's been a difficult year, but it's also been one that brought about unprecedented creativity as leaders developed new ways to serve our community.



Christine Rossi,
NVMS Board President

Over the past year, with careful leadership, North Valley Music School has proven that music education and performance can persevere and thrive even in the most challenging situations.

Weekly private lessons increased compared to last year and teachers pivoted quickly to a virtual teaching model so students of all ages had the option of remote learning. Our Founders' Circle was relaunched in July and our scholarship program ensures no child will be left "untuned."

There are many people to thank for helping NVMS. We are thankful for the support and guidance from our NVMS Board of Directors and Advisors, both comprised of a diverse group of involved community members who are committed to changing lives and our community through music. We appreciate our parents and students who make music a priority in their lives. A huge thank you goes to our individual and foundation donors, and our corporate partners who stepped up this year to help turn our fundraising goals into reality. Last, but certainly not least, we are grateful for our trusted Executive Director, Deidre Corson, and the passionate, hardworking staff and instructors at NVMS.

North Valley Music School is a safe, welcoming, and joyful musical environment for students of all ages, teachers, and community members. Stop by and say hello when you have a chance and remember it's never too late to learn how to play an instrument!

Christine Rossi, NVMS Board President

Dear Friends and Music Lovers,

Music unites, music heals, and when there are no words, music speaks. I include these words in most of my donor thank-you notes because I believe them to be some of my ultimate truths. In the midst of isolation and sheltering-in-place, music pulled us together. Through the windows, from the porches, across the digital waves, music is a language we all understand. When we were feeling down, burnt out, and overworked, we turned to the musicians in our lives for peace, solace, and respite. Music healed our worried and tired souls. And when we faced loneliness, exhaustion, anger, social injustice, it was music that helped fill our hearts.



Deidre Corson,
NVMS Executive Director

In early March when lockdown began, North Valley Music School realized there was an opportunity to move operations to an online model. Faculty and students connected through Zoom, Facetime, Google Hangouts, and Skype. Classes were offered at nocharge to support financially challenged and isolated families. We weren't sure it would work, but the feedback was positive. Even when safe and socially distant, in-person lessons returned, our remote lessons and classes remained an option for all students. Relatives and friends from across the globe can even attend their loved ones' recitals. We realized we can change more lives through music despite our distance!

There is a silver lining hidden in all this chaos. I'm reminded of a quote from Edith Eger, a 92-year-old Holocaust survivor who managed to uncover her own silver lining as an Auschwitz survivor. She said, "I can walk through the valley of darkness, but I won't camp there." Those are powerful words! Eger and her sister helped each other see hope despite their situation. Her words have helped me push through through these uncertain times, this unprecedented year, and through the fear of not knowing what will come next. Let's follow their example and ask ourselves, "what's next?" instead of succumbing to negativity. Dust off your ukulele or guitar, plug in your keyboard and use music to help change your life, your community and your world. Push through your own valley of darkness and grasp the light of opportunity.

North Valley Music School is open and we can't wait to see you. Visit our website or give us a call to discover what's next. We offer flexible lesson options and scholarships are available.

Gratefully yours,

Deidre Corson, NVMS Executive Director

2019-2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

NVMS was honored to once again take part in the Whitefish Community Foundation's 2019 Great Fish Community Challenge. Together we raised \$83,990.57 plus a matching grant for the Community Foundation of \$9,800 totaling \$93,416.74 to help change lives and our community through music. Thank you to everyone that helped support North Valley Music School!

The NVMS Faculty Concert was held at the Presbyterian Church this year. It was a Halloween treat with programming from Phantom of the Opera to Elton John. If you haven't seen this free community concert, it's a one of a kind show put on by our diverse and extremely talented faculty every year.

Fall music programs included private lessons for all ages, pre-school classes, adult Learn to Plays, our weekly Acoustic Jam, and the NVMS Glee Club, our free

children's choir. The ever popular cross-generational Music Together classes were held at the Springs at Whitefish. We added a music therapy program, group music classes for 5-7 year olds, a pre-school holiday program, and Music Tech classes. New free offerings included: Songwriters Night, a beginner community orchestra, a monthly Teen Open Mic, and outreach support in the Whitefish School's music ensembles. New private studios for saxophone, trumpet, double bass, and percussion were added to our offerings. Two rooms are being rented at the Presbyterian Church and NVMS expanded into a satellite location in Eureka. Our wings are spreading! Thank you, Great Fish Challenge donors, Corporate Partners, and NVMS supporters!

On March 16, 2020, at the decade high of NVMS enrollments, the Governor of Montana declared

a shelter-in-place. NVMS leadership acted quickly and moved all operations online and remote. Several teachers and students began their online musical journey that same day! We are grateful so many students were able to continue enriching their lives through music from home!

Due to the pandemic, the NVMS spring concert, Montana Music Event and Music Matters Luncheon were all canceled, but we did an online concert series for the Day of Giving and raised \$6590. During the 2020 Great Fish Challenge we also opened the online concerts and did a PPP (Pandemic Porch Performance) Series to raise awareness of the campaign. As of September 18, 2020 we had raised almost \$80,000 from over 200 donors! Thank you to everyone that supports NVMS programs! Together we are changing lives through music.

NVMS by the Numbers 2019-2020

Total registered students:

540

Private lessons throughout the year:

380

Group classes and ensembles:

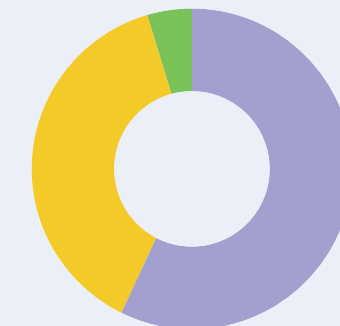
150

In-Schools Music Program:

60

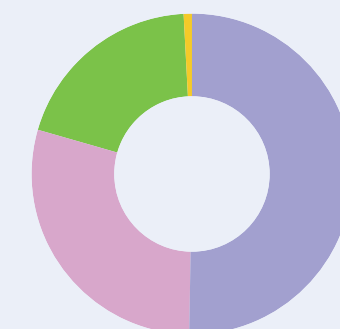
Scholarships awarded:

**\$14,000 to
32 Students**



Annual Operating Budget \$299,675

ANNUAL INCOME	2019/20
Restricted Income	16,900
Fundraising and Events	138,262
Programs	205,224
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME	360,386



ANNUAL EXPENSE	2019/20
Restricted Expense	74,000
Fundraising and Events	10,075
Programs	174,043
General Operations	112,775
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSE	370,893

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT – CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

CHRISTIAN JOHNSON, INSTRUCTOR AT NVMS

For those that do not (or choose not to) recognize me, my name is Christian Johnson. I have been performing around the US and abroad since I was 12yrs old. On a bet, I hitch-hiked from Carson City, NV to Billings, MT in 1970 to join an established rock band. It was then, I adopted this outstanding state as my home. Most notably, I was an original member of the Mission Mountain Wood Band that made quite a bit of noise at the national level through the years and remains a musically important part of Montana history. I have mostly retired from that extensive road life to become a local performer, luthier, and music teacher.

I started teaching guitar, mandolin, fiddle, violin, uke, and electric bass for the North Valley Music School in early 2008 and much to my surprise, have been enjoying it immensely. I never would have guessed how rewarding it is to see a student suddenly light up when they feel the pulse in real-time and hit the notes or chords with confidence! Sharing music has always been a part of my career but teaching the step by step process of achieving competence on an instrument is awesome, especially in the warm and welcoming environment of the little Victorian on Spokane Avenue with the sign out front, The North Valley Music School.



Christian Johnson teaches guitar, mandolin, fiddle, violin, uke, and electric bass

Victorian on Spokane Avenue with the sign out front, The North Valley Music School.



On-line class offers children the opportunity to participate and enjoy all aspects of music during the 2020 pandemic.

“
Music produces a kind of
pleasure which human
nature cannot do without.
”

CONFUCIUS

PUSHING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC



Students and teachers masking up for lessons

"When the schools closed for the COVID-19 pandemic, NVMS seamlessly and successfully transitioned to online instruction. Amidst all of that uncertainty, when our instinct was to hunker down and cut down on extracurriculars, North Valley was able to offer us a scholarship. This generosity allowed the boys to continue their education with some semblance of normalcy through all of the upheaval."

– Ashley, COVID19 scholarship family

FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

"North Valley Music School has become part of our family and we have become part of theirs. We have three children, 10 years old twins and an 8-year-old. Three years ago we wanted to get them started in piano and were looking for a warm welcoming environment to do so. No one could be luckier than to fall into lessons with Jenny Wickland. She exudes kindness, smiles, and warmth while instilling an enjoyable and fun foundation of piano. Each week, our kids enjoy their 30-minute lesson, and all of a sudden I hear them with a new piano song that they are excited to play for their next recital! We spend an hour and a half at the music school each week, I usually wait there.



The Shors Family
(Heidi, Andy, Jake,
Allie and Sammie),
NVMS Family

During their piano lessons we learned about Glee Club. Glee Club is a program run by Karen Pogorzelski. It is funded by grants from the Cadeau Foundation and the Great Fish Community Challenge Donors. Glee Club invites children ages 7-12 in the community to learn choir singing and performance skills. It is truly amazing to see these kids grow in their comfort of being in front of audiences and big rooms full of adults. Karen is a warm, laughing, kid-loving, talented musician that has grown this program from a few students to a packed class with a waiting list. This is our third year with Karen and Glee Club. Our week is filled with North Valley Music School all year and we are so grateful."

– Heidi Shors, NVMS Family

“
We support NVMS
because we know music
can change the lives
of children in many
positive ways from
stimulating creativity,
developing confidence,
a sense of
responsibility,
accountability and
accomplishment
at a young age.
It's a great investment
in the children and
a well balanced
community.
”

– John Kramer & John McBride,
NVMS donors

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Gifts and Pledges received Sept 1, 2019 through Aug 31, 2020

Disclaimer: NVMS strives to accurately recognize and thank its generous contributors. If you discover an error in your listing or omission, please accept our apologies and kindly contact us to correct the error. Contact Deidre Corson at deidre@northvalleymusicschool.org or by calling 406-862-8074.



Hi, Ho the Derro, a zooming we will go...



The dedicated faculty at NVMS continue to inspire new generations of musicians.



Outdoor learning provides greater access to live instructors, in a safe environment.



Online learning with Jenny Wickland.

THANK YOU 2020 GREAT FISH CHALLENGE DONORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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