

Donors and Impact of the Adventures in Music Program

It brings great joy to everyone involved in the project to see elementary school age children bring their families to these concerts. These free admissions make it possible for many families, who could not otherwise afford to attend, to enjoy the enrichment of live music.

The donors who make this program possible include:

The Crow Foundation	National Endowment for the Arts
Joe and Naomi Denhart	Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Field
US Bank	First Federal
Walmart	Bates Family Foundation
Albertsons	Olympic Printers

William Miller, Principal of Forks Elementary School in an interview in support of the Adventures in Music during a program at his school:

"A week ago, I had a staff meeting and told everyone that the strength of our nation is in our creativity and ingenuity. To take the arts out of our schools is to adopt the same rote teaching strategies of China, Japan, and Germany. And that will weaken America.

Harvard University said industry may come and go but the one thing that makes America strong is creativity. So it's extremely important. Also, the arts are to be enjoyed. They're part of having a wonderful life experience.

I have a doctorate in teaching reading. We've seen that when kids are given words to sing, music contributes significantly to their reading ability. Music stimulates the amygdala in the brain, so anything associated with the music can be better retained over time. Kids have much greater retention when learning is associated with music."

Donna Hollatz, 2nd Grade Teacher at Greywolf Elementary wrote:

"Thank you so much for the time and energy you devote to the programs for elementary schools. It really brings music and history alive for the children. We at Greywolf want you to know how much your efforts are appreciated."

Mary Hebert, Principal of Dry Creek Elementary School wrote:

"I am writing a letter of enthusiastic support for the Port Angeles Symphony's Adventures in Music project. As an elementary principal, I seek and support learning opportunities for our students in the performing arts that are both meaningful and developmentally appropriate. The quality of the AIM programs has continued to provide these experiences for the children in the Port Angeles School District.... The program goals teach to the Washington Essential Learning [Guidelines] and invite audience participation to increase involvement and long term learning."

Kandy Ritter, Principal of the remote Clallam Bay Elementary School tells us:

"The Adventures in Music program is very important to us because we don't have a K-12 music program in our area. So, anything we get in the area of music for the kids is vital. They love it, and so does the staff."

Virginia Kilzer, Kindergarten teacher, Reading specialist and Music teacher wrote:

"Once again I am very impressed by the variety of music and delivery of music education to our K-5 students. I feel it is a very important program because it exposes students to music that many do not have the ability to experience otherwise. Thank you to the musicians, creators of the programs, and all the "behind the scenes" people who make these programs wonderful."

Elementary teacher Lois Granum from the isolated Forks school district writes:

"Watching a gym-full of elementary students experiencing live performance of such high quality is very rewarding for me as a music specialist. Our students do not often have this opportunity. We find the curriculum you have addressed in your handouts has been very helpful in our task of sharing the musical world with children."

Adventures in Music Project Director Al Harris has reported dramatic results from the program. Especially notable was a child who had multiple significant physical disabilities and had been non-responsive and was transformed during the musical presentation. He also reported a similar response from a child with autism at another school.

He observes *"sometimes the music seems to enter their world when nothing else will."*