

NORTH VALLEY MUSIC SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

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



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD AND STAFF

Dear Friends of North Valley Music School,

North Valley Music School is such an incredible place for all ages to learn to play a musical instrument or perfect their vocals. As we continue to expand our program offerings, even more interested students of all ages will be able to pursue their wishes to explore learning opportunities. As a student at NVMS, I can attest to the quality of instruction as well as the fact that “all ages” are welcome. If you have ever regretted your youthful decision to discontinue music lessons just remember, that it is never too late to resume. We all need to be learning and challenging ourselves, so why not enroll in a class that interests you at NVMS. Scholarships are always available for anyone needing assistance with the cost of the lessons. Music does change lives and is proven to be an enhancement for academic success in all areas of learning.

I also want to personally thank our friends and supporters of NVMS as we enter the 23rd year as a nonprofit making a difference in our community.

Terry Nelson, NVMS Board President

Dear Friends

We are so lucky to have North Valley Music School located in the Flathead Valley. We serve students of all ages from across our valley and beyond, from adult Learn to Play Guitar and Ukulele classes to preschool group classes for our littles. Through our strong scholarship program, No Child Is Left Untuned, AND No Student is Left Untuned. Learning is often very centered around our youth, but we are never too old to start music. We can learn, appreciate, and perform music our entire lives!

This winter or all year long, give the gift of music. Maybe it's a CD or record (yes, they still sell them!). Or make an old school mixed tape! OR you can give the gift of music lessons! NVMS has gift certificates for your friends and loved ones. It is the gift that keeps on giving!

Thank you to all the individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations that support music education in the Flathead Valley. We are forever grateful for your commitment to North Valley Music School. YOU are changing lives and our community through music.

Gratefully yours,

Deidre Corson, Executive Director

Studies have found that musical training increases the blood flow to the left hemisphere of the brain. That can be helpful when you need a burst of energy. Skip the energy drink and jam for 30 minutes.



Open Jam night at the school. Learn how to play music with others, how to read chord charts, take a lead, or just play along in a safe and supportive environment.

2018-2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

A spectacular start to the fiscal year, NVMS was honored to once again take part in the Whitefish Community Foundation's Great Fish Community Challenge. You all helped us meet a generous challenge match by the Kramer Family Foundation, surpass our fundraising goals, and proudly accept the Great Fish Award! We are so grateful for our community!

NVMS kicked off the school year with our annual Faculty Concert held at the Whitefish High School Black Box Theater. 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 fall.

Fall programs included private lessons for all ages, preschool classes, adult Learn to Plays, our weekly Acoustic Jam, and free Glee Clubchildren's choir. The ever popular cross-generational

Music Together classes were held at the Springs at Whitefish.

Winter rang bright with a great performance by NVMS students kicking off the Whitefish Christmas Stroll. In addition, several studio recitals were held around the community.

The annual NVMS raffle was hosted by our Corporate Partners at Whitefish Lake Restaurant. The restaurant donated a dinner for eight by the infamous Chef Dan Crumbaker. Shelly Arbuckle was our lucky winner.

The 4th Annual Montana Music Event featured Missoula-based Russ Nasset and the Revelators and was a party like no other! Attendees danced the night away!

Along with several NVMS summer programs, this summer brought a great musical event, Under the Big Sky Music Festival

and NVMS was excited to have a part at the festival. Gibson Acoustic from Bozeman, MT, donated a beautiful guitar to raffle off and it was signed by the headliner, Dwight Yokum! The lucky winner was Jason Dougherty, a guitar player visiting from Iowa.

Another successful financial year, NVMS will be offering several new programs in the 2019-20 school year including: new private studios in saxophone, double bass, and percussion; a music therapy program; group music classes for 5-7 year olds; a preschool holiday program; and Music Tech classes. New free offerings include: Songwriters Night; a beginner community orchestra; a monthly Teen Open Mic; and outreach support in the Whitefish School's music ensembles. Thank you Great Fish Challenge donors, Corporate Partners, and NVMS supporters!

NVMS by the Numbers 2018-2019

Total registered students:

523

Private lessons throughout the year:

314

Group classes and ensembles:

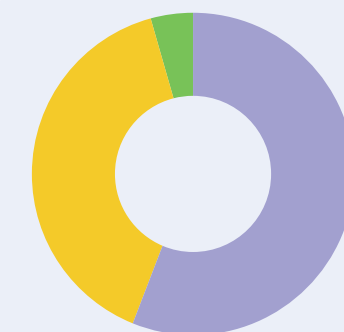
141

Students in summer camps:

68

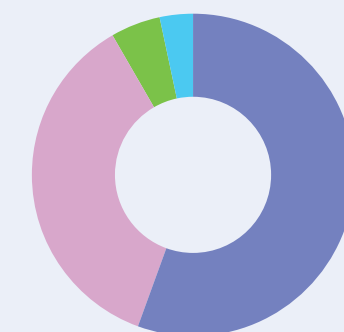
Scholarships awarded:

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



Annual Operating Budget \$286,818

ANNUAL INCOME 2018/19	
Restricted Income	15,044
Fundraising and Events	137,744
Programs	194,663
TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME	347,451



ANNUAL EXPENSE 2018/19	
Restricted Expense	15,811
Fundraising and Events	10,075
Programs	174,043
General Operations	112,775
TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSE	312,704

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT – TINA BERTRAM

TINA BERTRAM, PIANO AND BANJO INSTRUCTOR AT NVMS

Community is a key word for NVMS, a quality I've come to greatly appreciate in my 15 years working here. Living off the grid in Lincoln County, I first came to the school in 2003 when my oldest son started taking Suzuki violin lessons. With degrees in music, I felt fortunate to find this center of high quality music education, and I was pleased to be hired as piano faculty in 2004. Several children and many students later, I have had the privilege of sharing my love of music long term with many Whitefish piano students and their families.

Some of my first students are in their last years of high school now, taking their music skills in turn and sharing with the community via school ensembles or through their own projects. One of the very best parts of my job is watching students grow as musicians, from their joy in learning their first pieces to the realization that music is a valued and creative outlet in their lives. As a community-centered easy walk after school, NVMS is a place where students can explore many different instruments as well as different styles within an instrument. As a performing musician who appreciates creative collaboration with other musicians, I've found that I enjoy helping students explore piano and find what inspires them - classical or pop styles, composition, vocal accompaniment, etc. NVMS has a diversity of musical resources, lessons, classes and ensembles available under the same roof to all ages in the community, from toddlers to seniors, and I always love hearing the sounds of music learning coming from every room.



Tina with her daughter

Playing music makes you happy. McMaster University discovered that babies who took interactive music classes displayed better early communication skills. They also smiled more.



Music Together class offers children the opportunity to participate and enjoy the elements of music in a fun group setting.

DONOR|ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT ERIC SCHMIDT

ERIC SCHMIDT, NVMS ALUMNI AND NVMS BOARD MEMBER

When I was four years old my mother asked me if I would like to stand up at the Lasalle Grange to sing Christmas carols with my brother and my cousin while she played the guitar. Who was I to say no? I was only 4, and I loved being in front of a crowd. It was the Grange's Christmas Bizarre performance and up until then all I cared about was if Santa was coming to pass out toys and caramel popcorn balls. And that's when it happened, I discovered my love for music and singing. I stood up there and belted out Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer like I was Josh Groban on the stage at the Grammys.

My mom is a firm believer that music develops special parts of the brain that support the other learning centers. Finding out I could carry a tune, I'm pretty sure, wasn't a huge surprise to both of my parents. My grandfather was an avid performer in the local Flathead Valley Jam scene and my mother was a performer in her own right even though she never showed off what she could really do outside of the house, except at the Grange. I feel lucky that I was able to take on half the talent they had.



Eric Schmidt currently serves on the NVMS Board of Directors.

Growing up in Whitefish there was always the decision of what sport you were going to play. I had a huge love of soccer and I played it competitively year-round, but there was always my love for music. Luckily, I had two supportive parents who encouraged me to do both. That's when NVMS entered my life. It was 1998, I was 13, and North Valley Music School had just opened. I sang a solo performance at the eighth-grade talent show of That Old Time Rock N Roll, and the middle school music teacher suggested to my parents that I take a few voice lessons from NVMS. At that time, I was a young man transitioning into high school/adulthood AND singing, well I'm pretty sure you can figure out the struggles that I was going through at the time in terms of finding the right key!

Throughout the next four years of high school, NVMS became a part of my life. The skills I learned at NVMS helped my high school singing career excel. I was in the choir at school starting as a freshman, but I was also asked to join the Vocal Ensemble. I participated in the district and state choir competitions all four years receiving superior ratings consistently in all disciplines. After high school, I attended Montana State University where I obtained degrees in Finance and Accounting, all the while singing in the collegiate vocal chorale my first two years. I currently serve as the Flathead market real estate lending manager for First Interstate Bank. I owe my confidence in front of a crowd and ability to sing, to my high school teacher, Mr. Clawson, but more importantly, to the teachers at NVMS.

NVMS did and still does allow me to have music in my life even when we get caught in the trenches of "we are just too busy". This school didn't just teach me how to be a better singer. It helped me become more patient, instilled a work ethic, and helped me be the man I am proud to be today. I can't think of a better resource for our community to be enriched by the arts than NVMS, and because of that, I am proud to currently serve on the Board of Directors.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, SPONSORS AND FRIENDS.

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Gifts and Pledges received Sept 1, 2018 through Aug 31, 2019
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Music Together at The Springs at Whitefish, assisted living facility



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



Camp Festival Amadeus performance



Performing at the Whitefish Christmas Stroll

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