

Music for Life

Music for Life is a Winnipeg-based volunteer project* organized to support music projects for children and youth in Indigenous communities and inner-city neighbourhoods in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and northwest Ontario.

We partner with local community groups (schools, musicians, healing and wellness workers, Jordan's Principle teams, churches, etc.) who plan and run the music programs and recruit local musicians as teachers. *Music for Life* provides musical instruments and raises funds to pay for musicians' fees, snacks and other costs. The local group determines what ages of children the program is for (usually around 10 to 16 years), which instruments and what kind of music to teach, whether to organize public concerts ... in other words, the local community group is in in charge of the project.



Summer music camp at Mikisew High School, Cross Lake, Manitoba, August 2019

Music for Life was organized in 2018. To date we have supported music programs in Cross Lake (Mikisew High School), Thompson (Wapanohk Community School) and Winnipeg (Indigenous Family Centre). We welcome new partnerships with groups who want to run a music program.

For more information please contact co-chairs Ellen Wood (204) 467-8530 or Robert Miller (204) 255-1131; or email *community-works@shaw.ca*. We can also put you in touch with music teacher Starlett 'Star' Beardy from Pimicikamak Cree Nation who was instrumental in organizing the music programs in Cross Lake and Thompson.

* Current partners in *Music for Life* are Winnipeg Quaker Meeting, Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church, Kairos (Manitoba and North West Ontario Region) and Community Works Manitoba Inc.