



Objectives of ART's School Program:

Upgrade environmental education, with a special focus on sustainability.

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Increase student interest in ecological issues, recycling and composting.

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Bring more music and singing into schools.

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Raise funds for school projects.

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Provide students an opportunity to take part in a concert with professional musicians

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Voices of Nature School Program *The ART of integrated studies*

The Voices of Nature School Music Program is an integrated educational program that the Artist Response Team Inc. (ART) has developed, using music as a cross-curricular approach to teaching children about the environment. Subject areas include science, social studies, language arts, fine arts, math and physical education.



Holly Arntzen and Kevin Wright with students. Brant Wildlife Festival Nanaimo, 2008

Program Overview

The Voices of Nature team (Holly Arntzen and Kevin Wright) work closely together with schools to tailor this integrated program to the unique needs and wants of each school community. Whether you are looking for a basic program, a cool school-wide theme, or a community event, ART can provide a full range of supports and linkages to other community resources that can help enrich your school's Voices of Nature experience. Here's an overview of our basic VON School Program:

- € VON team meets with the school to select a program of songs from ART's current catalogue of music CDs.
- € Three performing groups are formed—Group 1: little kids, Group 2: middle kids, and Group 3: big kids. Each group learns two songs appropriate for their age. Everyone learns two mass songs that are performed together by the whole school. Through the program, each student learns four new songs.
- € Teachers introduce the songs to students, review new vocabulary, and play the CDs. Rehearsal CDs are made up for each classroom. Students sing along and memorize the lyrics.
- € Award winning educational handbooks provide activities linked to song lyrics that fulfill prescribed learning outcomes. The *Cycle of Life/Recycle* handbook links recycling of beverage containers with reducing ecological footprint and protecting habitat for endangered species. The *Salish Sea* handbook focuses on marine conservation.
- € Songbooks are available with piano scores, guitar chords and lyrics so that songs can be rehearsed in school with an accompanist.
- € Four-day workshop with Holly and Kevin who work directly with students and staff to rehearse the show. Holly sings for 40-60 minutes with each group every day—first thing in the morning, after recess, and after lunch.
- € Song introductions and Reader's Theatre scripts are written by students for presentation in the concert.
- € The final concert is presented for the whole school community and celebrates students' learning about the environment through music.

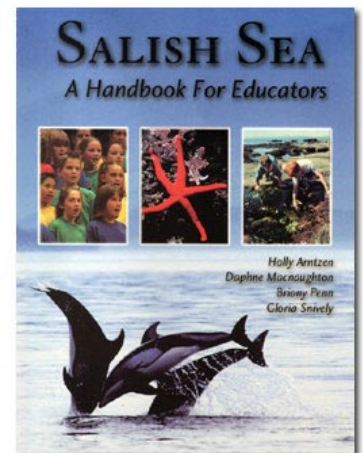
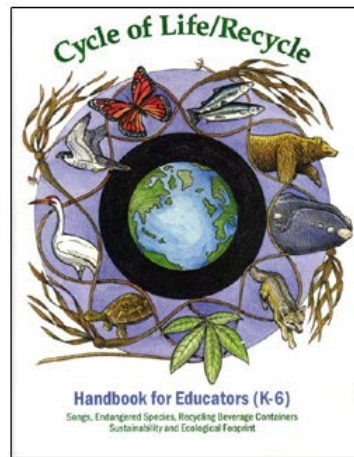
Making it work

ART has developed a simple method for delivering specialized programming in schools. Here's a snapshot of the components, and individual roles and responsibilities, and how we can work together as a team to deliver an excellent program that the students will enjoy and remember for a lifetime.

Educators' Handbooks

Use the *Cycle of Life/Recycle* and *Salish Sea* Educator's Handbooks to connect curriculum to the songs. They are handy, classroom-proven resources that offer a multitude of lesson ideas that are linked to the song lyrics and fulfill Prescribed Learning Outcomes. Both handbooks are Provincially Recommended for B.C.'s K-7 Science Curriculum, and are available in French. As new songs are introduced, activities in language arts, science, social studies, math, physical education, and fine arts can be shaped to reflect the issues raised in the lyrics. This gives teachers the most benefit from having the music in the school because:

1. Student understanding of what they are singing about is deepened;
2. The music enlivens and stimulates learning in other subjects;
3. Connections are made in a way that makes complex issues understandable.



Get the most out of the Voices of Nature program

€ Teachers' energy and enthusiasm brings out the very best in their students. Their leadership and understanding can enable a school to achieve the maximum benefit from ART's integrated learning model. The ART program gives teachers a proven turnkey approach to integrating environmental themes across the curriculum. Other resources are also available to enhance your school's enjoyment of the Voices of Nature program. ART can put you in touch with a network of community resources that can expand the impact of your Voices of Nature program.

€ Help students memorize the songs by playing CDs in class prior to the 4-day workshop. Beginning about 4 - 8 weeks prior to Holly and Kevin's arrival, teachers introduce new songs so that kids can memorize lyrics. Each student learns four songs—two songs by their particular group, two mass songs sung together by the whole school.

€ Encourage students to write five-sentence paragraphs about the issues raised in a song. Express what the song is about, why they like it, and what they want the audience to do to help. This activity makes students think about the words they are singing, formulate their own opinions, and communicate them to others. Students can take turns introducing songs in class before playing the CD. At the concert, songs are introduced by students. Kids have a voice and a chance to be in the limelight, and as adults know... what comes "out of the mouths of babes" is often profound, humorous or enlightening!

€ Reader's Theatre—Part of the concert performance can include children performing speaking parts and a script concerning environmental issues in the songs.

€ The Concert—The final concert takes place in the school auditorium or a local theatre. ART provides production expertise as part of the music program. Professional musicians are often part of the show. The combination of children's voices, virtuoso musicianship and songs about issues of deep concern to everyone in the school community makes the show very enjoyable for adults. Teachers provide proactive leadership for the students, most of whom are experiencing their first "professional performance". Holly and her trusty dulcimer lead an entire school in song.

The four-day Artists in Residence with Holly and Kevin

- € **Monday:** Three rehearsals:
Group 1 in the morning, Group 2 after recess, and Group 3 after lunch.
Holly and Kevin rehearse with students to develop a group sound, phrasing and expression of songs.
Rehearsals last 40-60 minutes.
In schools that have a music specialist, additional choral and musical parts are developed.
- € **Tuesday:** Rehearsals in the morning, after recess and after lunch.
- € **Wednesday:** Whole school run-through in the gym.
All groups gather together and listen to each other perform their songs.
Students sing mass songs all together.
- € **Thursday:** **Morning dress rehearsal** at the venue, including songs and student introductions.
(students either walk or are bussed to the venue)
Evening Concert takes place from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
(parents bring students to venue at 6:30pm)



Holly and the kids in full on performance mode, Spring 2008

The real point of Holly Arntzen's songs are what you believe for our Earth, animals and almost everything else can come true. If a change can come from voices in a choir or on the evening news, our world could become a better place. The appreciation of life and the thrill of nature can make anything come true. We have watched animals and life forms become extinct. Hope is in our future, help it come closer. People are cruel to each other but life can be different. Hope is in our future and everything can rest at peace.

Meghan B. (10 years old)



Parents

Connectors—Parents are the connectors, the conduits between the lessons learned at school and how they can be applied and supported at home. Parents can help enrich the Voices of Nature experience their children receive by becoming actively involved with the school program.

To get the most out of the program, parents are asked to:

- € Enable your children to practice the songs at home. Talk about the environmental issues discussed in the lyrics.
- € Work with your children on improving your family's ecological footprint.
- € If your child/ren are interested in getting environmentally active, encourage them! There are plenty of choices, depending on the interest of the child.
- € Support environmental initiatives at the school.
- € Publicize the school concert and in the community—make a big noise on behalf of your children learning about local oceans, habitats and organisms!
- € The Voices of Nature School Program is often brought to the school as a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) initiative. Parents support the integrated learning approach to issues of global importance, and the community-building opportunities that a special concert event can provide. It's the ultimate win/win. School PACs can even realize a modest profit when they take on the challenge of generating ticket revenue for their school.

Program costs and cost-recovery opportunities

Program costs are: Mid Vancouver Island: **\$2500.00 +hst** Victoria & Metro Vancouver: **\$3500.00 +hst**
Fees for outside these areas depend on travel costs.

Basic program fees cover:

- € Services of Holly and Kevin for the 4-day artist in residence program (including concert performance)
- € Resource materials (educators' handbooks and CDs)
- € Personalized rehearsal CDs (songs for the concert)
- € Concert program master for the school to print for audience members (includes lyrics)
- € ART travel expenses, and production services
- € All pre-production and communication

Concert expenses such as venue rental (you can choose to have it in your gym), sound/lights, bussing (if required), additional musicians for the concert etc., are not included.

Schools can sell concert tickets, with all additional revenues retained by your school.

ART will also assist with fundraising to local sponsors to help cover extra costs required to enhance the concert with components not covered by the basic fee.



High school students performed along side elementary students, Spring, 2008

Voices of Nature School Program

What people are saying about ART's innovative school programs ...

"Please accept this letter as a small gesture of my appreciation of a truly enjoyable experience. As a parent of four, I've attended my share of concerts, and while all were equally wonderful, none have been so full of energy and enthusiasm from the students. They were a joy to watch and listen to. When Mrs. Porte first presented the possibility to me I will admit to having concerns that this was a complete pro-environment, anti-logging, anti-oil etc venture. I was thrilled to be mistaken. The messages that the audience heard and the students learned were lessons that apply to all areas of our daily lives. Respect, for all things. As a Parent Advisory Council member I see this as money well spent. What an experience for the kids! I support fundraising for opportunities like this one. As a School Trustee I thank you for giving the students the chance to participate in this program and to be able to learn so eagerly what you taught them about our world, our ocean-which we live so close to but likely don't understand nearly well enough-and our role in preserving it all. Keep up the great work, and we'd love to see you again!"

(Tina Last, Lax Kxeen School, Prince Rupert)

"It's been two weeks since you left our school and your beautiful songs are still ringing in our hallways. WOW! What a tremendous impact your Voices of Nature program has made on our students, both in song and in their thinking. I've heard more mature, thought-evoking conversations in the past three weeks than I've heard in my entire teaching career. You found a way to touch our senses and probe our collective conscience. Teachers and students alike are reflecting about important environmental issues that we can no longer ignore. You'll be happy to know that my two compost bins, which have been out of commission for half a year due to yard construction, were promptly rebuilt the weekend after your concert. Your message that "Big Change Starts Small" was an effective, non-confrontational way to remind us all that we each have a responsibility to take care of this planet, and it needs to start now.

I was especially impressed at the way you approached the logging issue. As Kelowna is a community that relies heavily on the forestry industry, you obviously knew that you were addressing a sensitive topic. Your direct yet compassionate lyrics were brilliant. Holly, I can't express how important your visit was to our school. You promised the "Greatest Show On Earth" and you and your Artist Response Team certainly delivered. The musicianship and passion displayed by yourself and the Dream Band was second to none, and our students had an experience that they will never forget."

(Katherine Key, Watson Rd. School, Kelowna)

"What a week it was! Having you and Kevin Wright at Mary Hill School provided an unparalleled experience for our children. It is not often that students and teachers at the elementary school level have the opportunity to work with professional, multi-talents musicians. The highlight of the week was the Thursday night concert where we had 275 students singing and nearly twice as many parents watching. All of the songs that you chose for the choirs to sing were very special because of the environmental messages each contained. At one point, all the students, all the staff and all the parents were singing together. It was an electrifying evening. The entire project was well organized. Your communication prior to visiting was clear and timely. The CDs with your songs and the supporting curriculum guides arrived early so that the students and staff could learn the material. From beginning to end, all the planning went smoothly. Your ability to handle large groups of young children with humour and grace was much appreciated by everyone. Many parents have already asked if you can come back next year and the children would like you back right now! "

(Margo McKnight, Principal, Mary Hill School, Port Coquitlam)

"Over the course of the week, Holly Arntzen's music and message of caring stewardship of our planet resonated through our school community. It resonated in our children, who sang powerfully and emotionally; and, delivered by 300 innocent voices singing in unison, it resonated in us, their parents. We were both moved to tears throughout the performance not only because of the emotion the music and singing evoked but also because of what our children had accomplished in one short week. What was the impact of that week? Time will tell, but going to bed after the concert, our daughter Megan began to cry because, "Holly won't be here tomorrow," and we resolved to take a little more care in protecting our children's planet."

(Kim Stack & Bob Schubak, parents)

"Our school was so fortunate to be part of this remarkable project. Both Holly and Kevin are talented and passionate artists and it was amazing to watch them ignite students' enthusiasm as they led them through the journey, from learning songs, to co-creating a professional concert. Our students were inspired and enlivened by Holly's beautiful and meaningful music and they loved being an integral part of the final celebration at the Port Theatre. The children of NBES will not forget the dazzling high energy concert that they sang their way through. Nor will they forget the deeply felt environmental message of Holly's poignant lyrics."

(Steve Hamilton, Nanoose Bay School)

ABOUT ART



Holly Arntzen



Kevin Wright

*"Myth and magic,
wave and ocean
across a galaxy
constantly in motion
Who understands
sustainability?
What will
the future bring?
Think about eternity!"*

"Eternity"
Holly Arntzen &
Stephen Foster, 2004

Founded in 1990 by Holly Arntzen and producer/songwriter Stephen Foster, ART is a "cultural SWAT team" that responds peacefully to environmental issues through music, art, humour and live events. ART has established itself as one of Canada's leading media production houses specializing in eco-entertainment and education.

Holly Arntzen, ART President

Singer, songwriter and producer, Holly Arntzen is blazing new trails in entertainment, education and eco-music in Canada, and is recognized for her extensive library of songs and works dedicated to the environment and related issues. The innovative learning programs developed with her late husband, Stephen Foster, and a virtual who's who of environmental education, have gained national recognition and popularity. The success of *Voices of Nature* is driven by the fact that students love to sing her songs...and Holly's ability to inspire them through her voice and love of music.

Kevin Wright, ART Producer

Kevin has been working with ART since 2003 bringing his multimedia skills and long musical history into the mix. Starting out as *Voices of Nature* radio show editor and recordist, Kevin has become an integral part of the working force that propels ART forward into the future. His musicianship and song-writing skills shape the "new edge of environmental music" being produced by ART. He works alongside Holly in the schools, delivering the *Voices of Nature* school program.

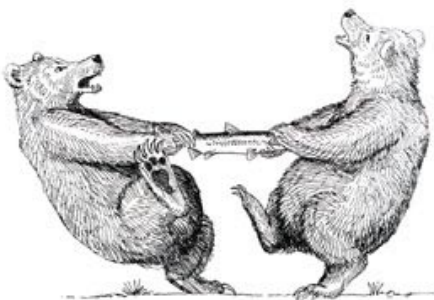
The Dream Band

World class musicians who raise the roof at *Voices of Nature* concerts! Guitarist, **David Sinclair** (Sarah Maclachlan, k.d. lang), has worked with Holly since the late 80s. Renowned pianist, **Karel Roessingh**, has played a key role in developing the music since 1999. Bassists, **Brian Newcombe** and **Steve Moyer**, drummer **Shawn Soucy** and keyboardist **Bill Sample** are the backbone of the group whose members, collectively, have backgrounds in scoring movies and TV series, music directing, writing and recording on major commercial albums, touring clubs, festivals - the world!

Holly, Kevin and the Dream Band, take young people on a journey of ecological exploration and discovery. They help kids connect with their world and show them ways to protect it.

WINNER

2006 Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Educational Products & Services
2006 Environmental Achievement Award from the Recycling Council of BC



Two bears discussing salmon

**VOICES OF NATURE BRINGS
THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER
AND HELPS TO ADDRESS
CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES...**

LIKE SALMON!

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