



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 (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.



Objectives of ART's School Program:

Bring more music
and singing into
schools.

..

Promote ecological literacy
with a special focus on
sustainability.

..

Put students in a leadership
role to inspire their
community to take action

..

Give students an
opportunity to perform
in a concert with
professional musicians

**For more information,
please contact:**

Artist Response Team (ART)

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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.
- ♪ Two performing groups are formed (primaries and intermediates). Each group learns two feature songs. Everyone learns two or three mass songs that are performed together in the finale. Through the program, each student learns four or five 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. Titles include *Landfill Blues*, *Cycle of Life/Recycle*, *Salish Sea* and *I Am the Future*.
- ♪ Piano scores, guitar chord charts and instrumental tracks are available.
- ♪ 4-day rehearsal workshops with Holly and Kevin prepare students and staff for the show.
- ♪ Song introductions are written by students for presentation in the concert. Soloists are auditioned for a feature in the concert.
- ♪ Other components may be included such as song-writing, dance and visual arts.
- ♪ The final concert is presented for the whole school community and celebrates students' learning about the environment through music.

Voices Of Nature: making it work

Educators' Handbooks

ART's music-based learning resources help **any** teacher to bring music into the classroom for cross-curricular, environmental education. They are handy, classroom-proven manuals that offer activities that are linked to song lyrics, and fulfill Prescribed Learning Outcomes.

Salish Sea (marine conservation) and *Cycle of Life/Recycle* (endangered species and recycling) are Provincially Recommended for B.C.'s K-7 Science curriculum, and available in French.

I Am The Future (ecological literacy for young children) is tied to the Full Day Kindergarten program, and Early Learning Framework.

Landfill Blues (4-7, recycling and ecological footprint) is available free online at www.ArtistResponseTeam.com/Handbooks/LandfillBlues



Get the most out of the *Voices of Nature* program

- ♪ Teachers are key to making the program work. Their 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. *Voices of Nature* gives teachers a proven turnkey approach to integrating environmental themes across the curriculum. ART provides Pro-D workshops to show teachers how to use the songs and Educators' Handbooks.
- ♪ Beginning about 8 - 12 weeks prior to Holly and Kevin's arrival, teachers introduce new songs by playing CDs in class so that kids can memorize lyrics.
- ♪ 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. 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 and enlightening!
- ♪ The Concert—The final concert takes place in the school gymnasium or a local theatre. ART provides production expertise; teachers do not have to worry about concert production details. An option is to include additional professional musicians as part of the band. The combination of children's voices, virtuoso musicianship and songs about issues of deep concern to everyone makes the show very enjoyable for adults. Teachers provide proactive leadership for the students, most of whom are experiencing their first "professional performance".

The four-day Artists in Residence with Holly and Kevin

- ♪ **Monday:** Three rehearsals:
Group 1 in the morning, Group 2 after recess, and both groups after lunch.
Holly and Kevin rehearse with students to develop a group sound, phrasing and expression of songs and practice the actions/movements. Rehearsals last 60 minutes.
In schools that have a music specialist, additional choral and musical parts may be 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 or gym, including songs and student introductions.
Evening concert takes place from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
(parents bring students to venue at 6:30pm)



The real point of Holly and Kevin'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)



Program costs and options

4-day artist in residence program:

Metro Vancouver: **\$3200**
South & mid-Vancouver Island: **\$4200**
(incl. travel)

Fees for outside these areas depend on travel costs. GST in addition.

Basic program fees cover:

- ♪ Services of Holly and Kevin for the artist in residence program and 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 production services
- ♪ All pre-production and communication
- ♪ Sound system for the concert



Option: Make it a band! Add guitar and bass to make it a performance with **The Wilds** —Holly and Kevin's band. Additional musicians really enhance the concert experience and can be brought in at a cost of \$250.00 each. In this case, there is an additional cost of \$250 to have a sound technician come in for the dress rehearsal and concert to mix the sound. This is necessary to ensure a quality listening experience for the audience.

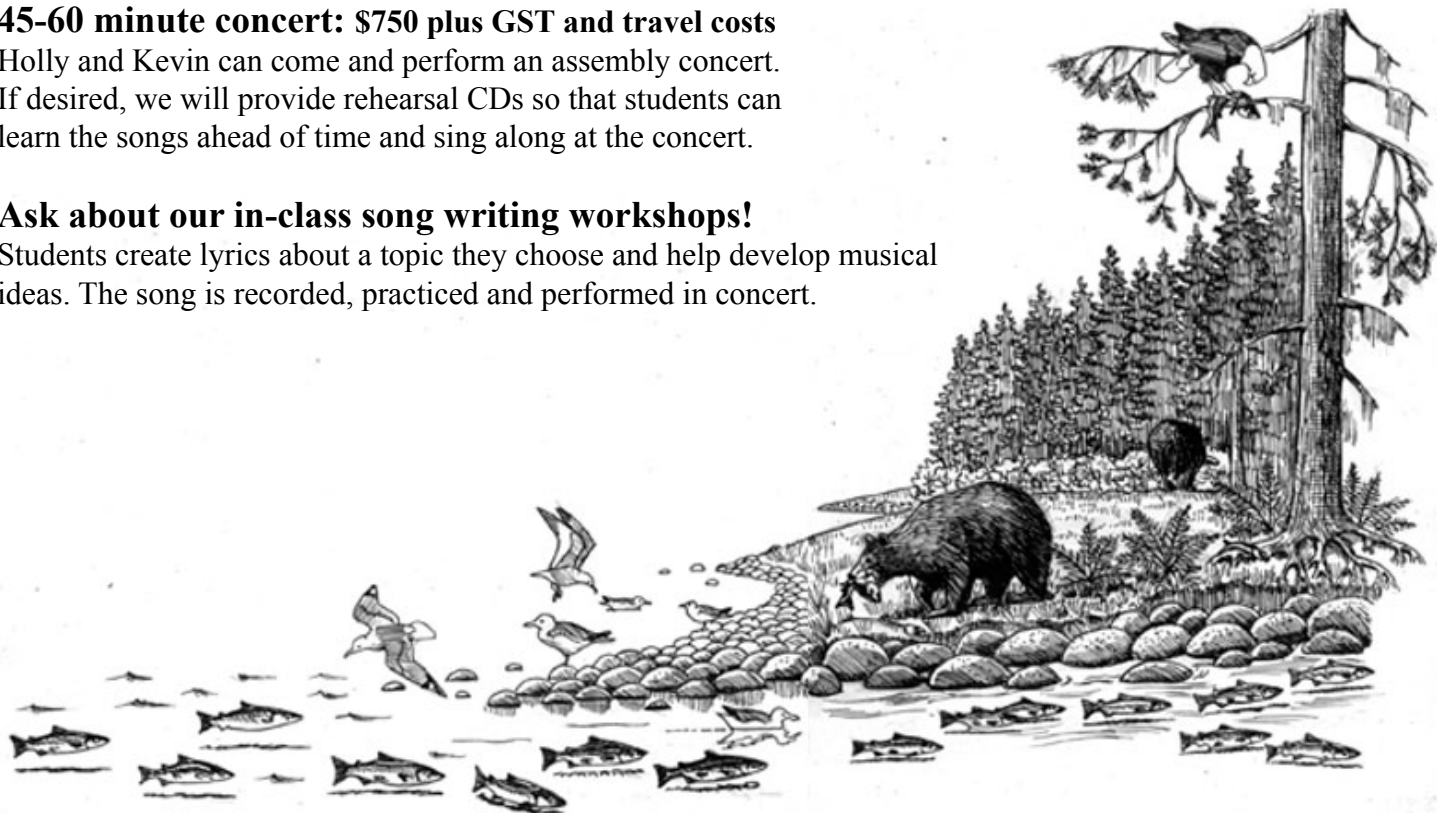
Schools can sell concert tickets or take donations, with all revenues retained by your school.

45-60 minute concert: \$750 plus GST and travel costs

Holly and Kevin can come and perform an assembly concert. If desired, we will provide rehearsal CDs so that students can learn the songs ahead of time and sing along at the concert.

Ask about our in-class song writing workshops!

Students create lyrics about a topic they choose and help develop musical ideas. The song is recorded, practiced and performed in concert.



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 and Kevin'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 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.

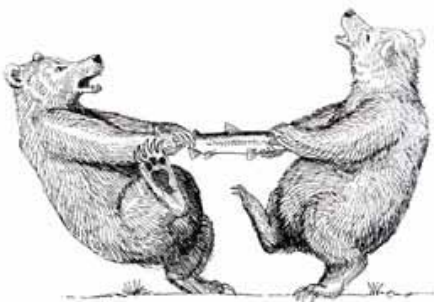
Holly, Kevin & The Wilds

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 Wilds, 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 address controversial issues...

like salmon!

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