



CARMEN KURJATA

Music Maker, Community Creator

PROFILE

Facilitating the formation of safe, inviting, fun, multi-generational musical events, I use music making to connect people, young and old. I have been called a Jam Whisperer, Kid Whisperer, Musical Force, Visionary, Hope Generator, and Musical Ray of Sunshine, and have seen and felt the powerful impact of my work in schools, parks, community centers, pubs, living rooms, and seniors' homes. On a mission to make the world a better, more musical place, I hope to make a living spreading inclusive community jams around the world.

CONTACT

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PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS

Big Yellow Taxi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p36Cd1K-kkM>

Family Jam Project:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0oVhD_y7ws&feature=youtu.be

EDUCATION

University of British Columbia

Master of Education, 2018.

University of Alberta

Bachelor of Education (Elementary Music Minor), 2007.

Malaspina University-College

Jazz Diploma (piano), 2003.

Royal Conservatory of Music

Grade 8 Piano, 1999.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Dawson Creek, B.C., Volunteer

May 2019-present

While on medical leave, I have worked with organizations such as the special needs community, churches, seniors' homes, social service groups, and the Dawson Creek Music Festival to bring a fun, musical, confidence boosting, community building element to their events.

School District 8, Nelson, B.C., Elementary Music Teacher

Sept 2014-Nov 2018

Using a balanced combination of musical reading, writing, listening, moving, creating, singing and playing, I created yearly programs to share age appropriate concepts with students in biweekly classes. I provided many extra-curricular musical opportunities to encourage community engagement (choir, Christmas Caroling fundraiser, busking with the Recess Rockers, Family Jam Night, Singing with the Seniors).

Nelson, B.C., Private Music Teacher

Jan 2017-Nov 2018

I taught weekly, private 45-minute piano lessons to children. I led a weekly "Rock Band" group lesson to four fifth grade students in which they chose songs for me to arrange and teach on drums, percussion, bass, ukulele, and piano.

Edmonton Catholic Schools, Edmonton, AB, Elementary Music Teacher

Sept 2007-June 2010

I organized celebrations, performances and concerts for over four hundred students in kindergarten through grade six. I conducted a handbell choir for sixth grade students.

Nanaimo, B.C. & Edmonton, AB, Musician

2000-2010

I played keyboards, and sang in various gigging cover bands.

SKILLS

I connect easily with others, and collaborate well with co-workers, friends, strangers, children, parents and grandparents. People tend to hop on board my ideas and eagerly help me turn them into realities.

I effectively use technology (email, websites, video conferencing tools, lyrics/chord PDFs, youtube song and tutorial playlists, google docs) to connect and engage, while communicating information, ideas and logistics.

I am a relentless encourager, and can direct and enthruse a large group of people (voices/actions/instruments). Utilizing a bag of tricks I tote which may include the likes of prizes, mixer games, dance-offs, instruments, song books and costume pieces, I find creative ways to make people feel welcome, comfortable, and important.

I understand and can teach music theory, piano, bass guitar, ukulele, recorder, various rhythm instruments, and beginner voice and guitar. I strive to make learning music a fun, creative process.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Each of the three years we entered, South Nelson School's video submissions (choreographed and arranged by me for up to two hundred children) for the CBC Canadian Music Class Challenge were awarded a place on the top 10 list in Canada. Joni Mitchell tweeted about our "Big Yellow Taxi" video: "If this doesn't warm your heart in these troubled times, nothing will." (@JoniMitchellcom Oct 29, 2018)

I completed a Family Jam (participatory action-based research) Project to attain my master's degree. It was the only project presentation to receive a standing ovation from our local cohort of teachers, and was featured in a 2-page spread by the Nelson Star Newspaper in Nelson, B.C.

I wrote, choreographed and directed two full length musical screenplays for over two hundred children and received standing ovations for both from an audience of 500 at the Capitol Theatre in Nelson, B.C.

*Beneath my contact information there are video links to South Nelson School's rendition of "Big Yellow Taxi," and a 10-minute summary of our Family Jam Project.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

I sit on the review committee of the Arts and Wellness Society in Dawson Creek, B.C.

I am a member of the International Society for Music Education (ISME).