



VIRTUAL MUSICAL GREETINGS FOR BC SENIORS

December 15, 2020

KELOWNA, BC – Okanagan Mission (OKM) Secondary Jazz 12 students brightened the season for seniors living in care homes thanks to their talented playing and the video editing skills of their teacher.

"Like everyone else, I was really moved by the challenges long-term care facilities have had during this pandemic and I understand what it's like to not be able to see your loved ones at this time," said Megan Frederick, Music Director at OKM Secondary. "This project gave my students a performance goal to work towards, taught them about the importance of giving back and supporting our senior population, and hopefully brought a little bit of joy to everyone at the long-term care facilities."

Frederick reached out to three long-term care homes: Glenmore Lodge (Kelowna), Spring Valley Care Home (Kelowna), and Stuart Lake Hospital, which is in Frederick's hometown of Fort St. James, a small community particularly hard hit by COVID-19.

Family members of residents responded to the teacher's request for pictures and videos with messages for their loved ones. Students recorded individual performance tracks on their instruments to the song Silver Bells at home and Ms. Frederick edited the performances together to create a special holiday message for all employees, family members, and residents of the care homes. Watch the video created for Glenmore Lodge at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s34bVVZKauc> . All three videos are available on Megan Frederick's YouTube channel.

Quotes:

"For years, we've been delighted by the performances of the music program at OKM," said Moyra Baxter, Chairperson of the Board of Education. "It is heartwarming to see this tremendous effort by everyone to use virtual performances to find new ways to connect people during this holiday season. Thank you, Ms. Frederick and students."

"We teach students to be contributors to their communities and the world," said Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of School/CEO. "Whether they give back through personalized cards, generous donations, or creative virtual concerts, we are proud of the thousands of contributors in our school district."

For comments, please contact:

Megan Frederick, Music Director at OKM Secondary, 250-870-5000

Moyra Baxter, Board Chairperson, 250-767-6153

Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO, 250-470-3224