



MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE

TUSARNAARNIQ SIVUMUT ASSOCIATION



Connecting, Teaching and Mentoring in Nunavut

The 2024 Fall Fiddle Workshop and 28th in-person visit to Nunavut since 2009 was held September 7-20, 2024. Instructors, Stacey Read and Kaitlin Ganong worked with students in grades 7-12 in Igloolik and in grades 4-12 in Pond Inlet. They worked with 194 students during their two weeks in Nunavut.

While in Igloolik, Stacey and Kaitlin worked with students at both Igloolik High School

and Sivuniit Middle School and were especially happy to have Rihanna, a student mentee with them while at Sivuniit. Rihanna spent most of her time working with beginner students and was able to teach them in Inuktitut. According to Stacey and Kaitlin, Rihanna was able to pick up teaching techniques very quickly and it was great to see younger students being taught in their own language by a student who has gone

through our program. In partnership with TSA, Rihanna will be continuing to support the middle school students by providing weekly lessons after school. "This speaks to the power of having a student that has come through the program now traveling on the path to become an educator" said Stacey. Way to go, Rihanna!

(continued on page 2)

Connecting, Teaching and Mentoring (continued)

(continued from page 1)

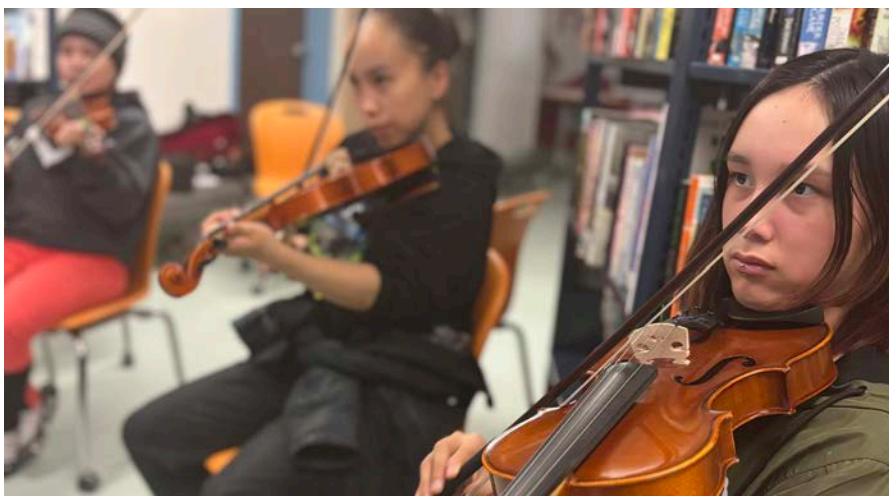
The second week was spent in Pond Inlet, a community where our instructors are now teaching the children of former TSA students. After arriving in the community on the weekend and spending time in both the elementary and high schools getting ready for the week, Stacey and Kaitlin performed at the local Coop store and it

was enjoyed by many. Lots of people including many students stopped to listen, say hello and welcome them back to the community.

They worked with between 130-140 kids on any given day while in Pond Inlet and saw a lot of successes with music while they were there. One of the highlights was at

the elementary school on the final day of the workshops when they performed for a school assembly and two classes were brought up to play in front of the school followed by their teacher, Janika, who also got up and played some tunes with Stacey and Kaitlin.

Stacey and Kaitlin look forward to returning in March... stay tuned for details and photos from their trip!



◀ Students learning in Igloolik.

▼ Rihanna, Stacey, Kaitlin and Carol waiting for a flight in one of many airports during their trip.



2nd Annual Ukulele Workshop in Baker Lake

TSA - Music for the Future was pleased to partner with the Hamlet of Baker Lake once again this year to arrange for Aasiva to travel to host Ukulele Workshops and to perform at their annual Festival by the Lake, which took place over the weekend of September 13th. While the weather didn't cooperate with the exciting and full schedule we had planned,

Aasiva used her time in the community the best she could to connect with her Ukulele students, gaining new ones along the way, and was blown away by the talent of her group as they performed with her on stage at Festival by the Lake. Aasiva was proud of her students and how quickly and eagerly they learned.

Aasiva not only conducted ukulele workshops during her time in the community, she also visited the elementary school for a presentation and as a result will be connecting virtually in the new year with classes in the elementary school facilitated by Connected North in partnership with TSA.

(continued on page 4)

A few of Aasiva's students in Baker Lake. ▼



2nd Annual Ukulele Workshop (continued)

(continued from page 3)

In the meantime, Aasiva is connecting with her ukulele students during virtual lessons on Tuesdays after school!

- ▶ Aasiva (right) throatsinging with Aukpaksaq from Rankin Inlet during this year's Festival by the Lake.
- ▼ Performing with Uke Students in Baker Lake.



Qarasaujakkut Nijjausijariursaniq

We are pleased to be in our fourth year of offering virtual music lessons in Nunavut, many of which are through Connected North, an organization providing live, interactive virtual learning experiences and access to educational resources for students and teachers in remote communities in the North.

What are we doing?

- Guitar lessons in Resolute Bay with guitar instructor, Alanna Jenish.
- Fiddle lessons in Pond Inlet and Igloolik with instructor, Kaitlin Ganong.
- Ukulele lessons in Baker Lake with instructor, Aasiva Nakashuk.

What's coming up?

- Guitar lessons in the new year for Pond Inlet.
- Supporting music teachers virtually...stay tuned!

Music in the Mail

Earlier this month, we sent a donated guitar in a new hard shell case, along with 8 sets of strings and 5 new tuners to Qarmartalik School in Resolute Bay.

We'll have more supplies heading to Nunavut again soon and remain grateful for donations to Music for the Future that enable us to support new and ongoing music programs and classes in Nunavut. Qujannamiik.. Nakurmiik!



▲ Guitar and Supplies for Resolute Bay.

Trip of a Lifetime (Pan-Northern Youth Fiddle Summit)



▲ The Youth Summit Ensemble performing “Gucho Hin” at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition with the band, Dena Zagi (featuring Dennis Shorty and Jennifer Fröhling).
Photo credit: Mark Kelly Photography.

Hosted by the Yukon 2024 Organizing Committee, the first-ever Pan Northern Youth Fiddle Summit was held this summer in Whitehorse, Yukon leading up the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Competition. TSA sent two students, Rihanna and Carol, both from Igloolik, to this once-in-a-lifetime event that was held from August 21-24, 2024. The youth summit was planned as a unique platform for young fiddlers

to come together, exchange cultural insights, hone their musical skills, and showcase their talent on a national stage over the course of four days. It was the first time that fiddlers from all three territories had the opportunity to meet and share fiddle traditions, tunes and techniques.


The Summit included daily workshops in two areas, the first was to practice the specially commissioned

arrangements of Northern tunes that would be performed by the Pan Northern Youth Fiddle Ensemble during the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition on August 24th and second, workshops based on skill development, focusing on additional playing skills and learning new tunes to take back home. The Summit

(story continued on page 7, with more photos on pages 8–10)

(continued from page 6)

On a cultural, musical and personal level, this Summit was a profound experience and we are so very grateful for the funding and donations that helped make this happen.



Jordan's
Principle



www.musicforthefuture.ca

Trip of a Lifetime (Continued)



▲ Youth Summit Ensemble performing “Sanngiyuulauqtut – How Strong They Were” with Mathew Nuqingaq from Iqaluit, NU. Photo credit: Mark Kelly Photography.

Trip of a Lifetime (Continued)



▲ Sharing the stage and making lasting memories. Photo credit: Mark Kelly Photography.

Here's what one of our Instructors, Stacey Read had to say...

"Students deserve to have an opportunity to share and bond over music. Geographically speaking, many northern communities are remote, making this a challenge to gather outside of their home community. The PNYFS provided us an occasion for not only musical growth, but personal growth as well. From packing to

flying, eating and sleeping, rehearsing and performing, students had a chance to see what the life of a musician tends to look like, and found like-minded individuals to share in their experiences.

Traveling with Rihanna and Carol was a truly amazing experience. Watching their confidence grow

as they navigated long days, new cities and new food was exciting. Seeing them blossom as fiddle players, immersed in such an intensive weekend, meeting each and every challenge they faced with positivity, left us with big feelings about their choice to attend PNYFS."

(See photo on page 13.)



▲ TSA Instructors Kaitlin Ganong and Kyle Burghout (who was also a CGMFC competitor coming in 7th place) with Carol and Rihanna after the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition.

Where are they now?

Recent high school graduate Liam Milton from Pond Inlet is attending college in Ottawa this year. He met up with his mentor/teacher Kyle Burghout and they performed together at the Gatineau Hills Fiddle Festival this October. Way to go, Liam!

- ▶ Liam Milton performing with their mentor/teacher Kyle Burghout at Gatineau Hills Fiddle Festival in October.



Exploring the Traditional Foods of Nunavut: A Culinary Journey into the North

Nestled in the far reaches of Canada's Arctic, Nunavut is a vast and remote territory, home to rich cultural traditions that have endured for thousands of years. One of the most important aspects of life in Nunavut is its unique and diverse food culture. The traditional foods of the Inuit people are deeply connected to the land, sea, and the changing seasons, providing not just sustenance, but also a profound sense of community and heritage.

In Nunavut, much of the traditional diet is shaped by the natural environment, with hunting, fishing, and gathering at the heart of food procurement. The Arctic landscape is harsh and unforgiving, but it provides a wealth of unique ingredients that have sustained Inuit communities for generations.

Seal is one of the most iconic foods of the region, with both the meat and fat offering vital nutrition. Seals are hunted in the spring and fall, and their skin, blubber, and meat are all used in various ways. Seal meat is often eaten raw, dried, or boiled, while the fat is prized for its high energy content and is often consumed in small portions.

Whale and *caribou* also play a significant role in the diet of Nunavut's people. Whaling, though not as common today as in the past, is still an important tradition in some communities. The meat of the bowhead whale, for example, is often dried, fermented, or made into stews. Caribou, with its rich and lean meat, is another staple, providing a source of protein and nutrients through the long winter months.

Fish, especially Arctic char and lake trout, are caught in abundance, providing another key element of the traditional diet. Fish are commonly eaten raw, frozen, or dried, and are often served with a side of

berries or wild greens, which are gathered in the brief summer season.

Another notable traditional food is *muktuk*, which is the skin and blubber of the whale, often eaten raw or frozen. Its chewy texture and distinct flavor may be an acquired taste, but it's packed with nutrients and a prized part of Inuit heritage.

Berries, although not as abundant as in southern regions, grow in the short summer months in Nunavut's tundra. These wild berries, including *crowberries*, *blueberries*, and *cloudberries*, are an essential source of vitamins and are often eaten fresh or preserved for winter use in jams and jellies.

(continued on page12)

▼ Drying char near Pond Inlet. Photo credit: Julie Lohnes.



Traditional Foods of Nunavut: (Continued)



▲ Fresh seal meat that is going to be turned into stew.

▲ Seal stew cooked outdoors using Arctic Heather (*qijuktaat*) to make the fire.

(continued from page 11)

In the close-knit communities of Nunavut, food is far more than just sustenance—it is a central part of social life and cultural identity. Traditional foods are often shared among family and neighbors, with feasts serving as important social gatherings. These communal meals, whether celebrating a successful hunt or marking an important occasion like a wedding or holiday, strengthen bonds and help preserve cultural practices.

Despite the rich culinary traditions of Nunavut, there are ongoing challenges in accessing traditional foods. The high cost of living, particularly the cost of hunting gear and travel, can make it difficult for many

families to obtain the same quantities of wild food as in the past. Furthermore, the effects of climate change are being felt across the Arctic, impacting hunting patterns and the availability of certain animals.

Nevertheless, many communities in Nunavut are working to address these challenges by promoting food sovereignty, encouraging the harvesting and consumption of traditional foods, and supporting local food systems. Initiatives that focus on education, community-based hunting programs, and sustainability are helping to preserve both the cultural and nutritional value of traditional foods.

The traditional foods of Nunavut are a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of its people, offering a deep connection to the land, the sea, and the history of the Inuit culture. From seal and whale to berries and fish, these foods are much more than sustenance—they are a living link to the past and a crucial part of community life today. Whether enjoyed in the heart of winter or during a summer feast, these foods continue to nourish both body and spirit in one of the most unique and beautiful places on Earth.

Stay tuned for more stories about the culture, people, and landscapes of the North in our upcoming newsletters!

[illegible]

Share
Joy



- 1. Empower Young Musicians:** Your contribution provides access to instruments, lessons, and mentorship for children and youth who might otherwise miss the opportunity to explore their musical potential.
- 2. Your donation will help your 2024 tax filing, as it's deductible as a donation to a registered charity.**
- 3. Create Lasting Impact:** Every dollar you give invests in a brighter future, where music builds confidence, fosters community, and opens doors to lifelong opportunities.
- 4. The perfect gift:** It's so hard to buy for so many people - why not make a donation on behalf of a special person in your life to give a gift that makes waves.
- 5. New programs:** TSA has been offering a number of new programs and opportunities to respond to the need and desires of youth in Nunavut with a deep commitment to building capacity in remote communities. Your funds make that all possible.

MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE

A Charitable Organization that provides music education for youth in Nunavut.



1,420+

individual youth participated in fiddle workshops, many of them returning year after year.



11

total communities



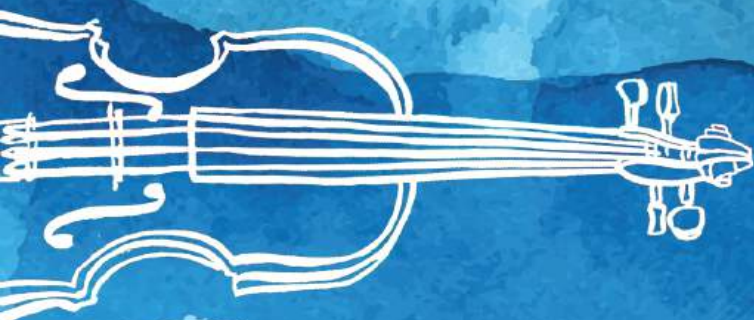
28

trips to Nunavut



101

unique in-person workshops



61

community concerts & events

131

fiddles provided



340

teaching days

this means:
improved mental health, positive impact, opportunity, new skills, mentorship, brighter futures

20

ukuleles provided

8

guitars provided

148

individual & group virtual lessons
(since Oct 2021)

All information as of
November 13, 2024

