

Music and Singing in our Schools... Music and Singing in our Lives!

It is hard to imagine a school music program without singing, yet many music educators have had to reimagine music education without singing throughout the pandemic. Their creativity and flexibility is commended. Now, as research continues to emerge to support safe singing practices, music educators look forward to returning to singing in schools, building the foundation for all future music learning.

More than ever, this pandemic experience has made us all realize the importance of music and the arts in our lives. According to the *Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID-19 Impact Survey*:

- **71% of respondents' students are unable to engage in music learning through singing in the music classroom due to COVID-19 restrictions on school-based music making;**
- **91% of students who previously enjoyed the benefits of participating in extra or co-curricular singing programs or choral ensembles are missing out on those experiences¹.**

Music is core to our lives and singing is core to music. This is why singing is a key component of music curricula. Music educators apply vocal and choral teaching and learning strategies that provide the foundation, not only for more specialized vocal and choral music programs available to students through middle and high school programs, but for all later music learning and making.

Music educators have demonstrated incredible resilience and creativity and will continue to do so. They CAN implement safe singing, given the resources, space and time to do so. Within both the constraints and possibilities that may exist moving forward, music educators look toward solutions that engage students in safe singing practices in all Canadian schools.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The *Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID-19 Impact Survey* paints an authentic picture of our experiences as Canadian music educators. The survey sample pool was substantial and representative, with almost 1000 respondents from across the country. Comprehensive survey results hold the potential to guide policy and practice related to singing in schools in the upcoming year, keeping students engaged AND safe. Final report publication to follow.

¹ Morin, F., & Mahmud, M. N. (2021). Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID 19 Impact Survey. Unpublished preliminary findings. Choral Canada.