



MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE

TUSARNAARNIQ SIVUMUT ASSOCIATION

“Rivers know this: there is
no hurry. We shall get
there some day.”

—A.A. Milne
(Winne the Pooh)



OH 2020!: NAVIGATING THE YEAR WHEN COVID CAME

2020 got off to a great start for TSA – Music for the Future, with a successful Winter Workshop led by Ameena Bajer-Koulack on her second visit to Nunavut. 291 students connected with TSA during that trip, a huge number given that this was only our second time visiting the communities in winter. We are so grateful that we were able to get this trip in, as not long after the end of the workshop, COVID-19 took hold. Sadly, both our Spring and Fall

workshops had to be cancelled due to this worldwide pandemic. While a necessary decision, it was a hard one for us to make, knowing that during times of stress and difficulty, music can be such a healer. But rest assured, we will be back and our instructors look forward to visiting again, in person, as soon as it is safe to do so.

While we were so relieved that Nunavut was able to stay

COVID-19-free for as long as it did, due in large part to the number of restrictions that were in place, the virus did enter the territory at the beginning of November. It is our sincere hope that, by continuing to adhere to the regulations, case numbers continue to decrease and COVID does not spread. Our fondest wish for all Nunavummiut and the entire TSA family: stay safe and healthy.
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Oh, 2020!: Navigating the Year When COVID Came

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TSA has been reaching out to our communities and schools to offer support and keep connected in these trying times.

While restrictions still remain in communities (i.e. travel restrictions, cohorting of schools and teachers, no after-school activities, size of gatherings, etc.), we continue to work to find ways to connect with our students. With our lead fiddle instructor, Kim de Laforest, now assisting, plans are in the works including virtual and video lessons, and, when allowed, how to safely reestablish our after school Music Clubs.

There is no doubt that the challenging impact of COVID-19 has been far reaching, and will be into 2021. As a board, we are doing our best with the resources available, to look at the opportunities that exist to continue to connect with youth from a distance. We remain optimistic and excited about the horizon of Music for the Future and look forward to sharing more good news with you soon!

Do you have Money Mojo?

If you know how to sashay your way around a spreadsheet and have a few spare hours, we could really use and would truly appreciate your volunteer assistance. TSA needs a Treasurer. Thanks to the dedication and diligence of our dear friend Juanita Swinamer, who served as Treasurer for the past 11 years, the books are in great shape and ready for you to step in. Please email us at tsamusicforthefuture@gmail.com and let's have a chat about this position on the TSA Board.

Joy to the World: Baby Cashin is born!

We are thrilled to announce the birth of Ivy Mae Jean Cashin, on November 23, 2020, keeping her Mom (TSA Co-Founder Julie Lohnes-Cashin) and Dad (Doug Cashin), up all night for her 2:38AM, 7lb 6oz delivery. Big sister Laurel is already helping to change diapers for this bundle of love.



Memories of Fundraisers Past

A huge part of TSA's fundraising is our annual concert, a joyful event usually held in mid November. Of course, the reality of the pandemic meant that such a gathering was not possible this year but we wanted to share a few photos of fundraisers past to remind you of all the fun we've had, and will have again.

With the loss of the funds from this major annual event, our donors are more important to us than ever. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your monthly and one-time gifts. We hope that you will continue to remember us with your generous support. And remember, the gift of music, in the form of a donation to TSA, makes a great contactless Christmas present. You can contribute here >>>



Our wonderful past performers have included (left to right, top to bottom)) Riverport and Area Community Choir; Jonathan Pitseolak and Lindsey Qanguq; Dave Gunning; Old Man Luedecke; Ira Reinhart-Smith; Greg Simm, Colleen Nakasuk, Avery Keenainak, and Gordon Stobbe; Colleen and Avery, throat singing; Stephanie MacLeod, Eilidh and Paul Buchanan, and Martin King.

So This is Christmas... *in Nunavut*

While holiday celebrations will certainly look very different this year, with gathering restrictions, social distancing, and no singing, we wanted to give you the gift of a glimpse into the wonderful activities that normally herald Christmas and New Years in Nunavut.

Contributor Pat Parks moved to Nunavut from Saint John, New Brunswick 42 years ago with her husband, David Parks. The teaching couple went to Pond Inlet via Nova Scotia after their University studies, arriving on July 30, 1979. David eventually became Principal of Nasivvik High School and both Pat and David retired in 2008 from Nasivvik. They are permanent residents of Pond Inlet and have raised their family (three grown children and many grandchildren now), spending summers at their cottage in New Brunswick. Their children have made their lives in Nunavut too. We thank Pat for sharing some of her memories of the holiday season.

Celebrations begin shortly after schools close and carry on until they resume in January. People of all ages, babies to elders, gather for evening events at the community hall. Games and dancing carry on into the wee hours of the morning.

On Christmas Eve people join the candlelight service at the Anglican church and Midnight Mass at the Catholic church. A community feast on Boxing Day complements the private family gatherings.

New Year's Eve is joyful! Multitudes, regular church-goers or not, pack into the largest church for fellowship, hymns, singing of Auld Lang Syne in Inuktitut, shaking hands, and offering New Year's greetings. Outside, fireworks are set off and

folks join a vehicle parade around town. Those on snowmobiles continue the parade onto the sea ice, lining up to face their lights towards the community. Then dancing and games resume, carrying on until afternoon!

Well... this year will be different! Find your creative joy! Have a safe and healthy celebration! Happy Holidays from Nunavut!

Contributed by Pat Parks
Pond Inlet, Nunavut



Pat and David Parks

FROM ALL OF US AT
TUSARNAARNIQ SIVUMUT ASSOCIATION
MUSIC FOR THE FUTURE

Happy Holidays
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