



Let's keep the beat going in families as they help their children at home during this challenging time...



March 16, 2020

Hello Parents and Families,

Music for Minors II (MFMI) is the 501(c)(3) nonprofit music enrichment program keeping music in the schools since 1988 by recruiting, training, and supporting community volunteers most of whom are parents of the children we serve.

These volunteers become MFMI Music Docents in school classrooms. Your children have received our program during the school day thanks to our wonderful volunteers who share fun-filled and standards-based lessons with your children each week.

Unfortunately, since schools have had to close in FUSD, NUSD and CVUSD due to the coronavirus issue, Music for Minors II (MFMI) will not be able to serve the children but we will make every effort to make-up the lost classes, if classroom teacher schedules permit, once schools reopen. We will miss being with the children during the closures as all of our volunteer MFMI Docents really enjoy making music with your children which is a highlight of their week.

Classroom teachers' feedback verifies the positive impact our program has had on students learning. School site performances and our recent **Children's Showcase 2020** performance at Harbor Light in the community when 300 children made music together, demonstrate clearly that when children make music together, it's magical!

It is our hope that music will continue to be magical in homes with families as nothing lifts the spirit and keeps us positive and joyful as making music together. MFMI offers some musical activities that can be done at home with families on our [website](#), where we also provide links to other age-appropriate online resources including "[20 Ways Parents Can Create a More Musical Home Environment](#)."

Children can even learn how to play the piano or another instrument online, make homemade instruments or learn some signing too. Visiting websites of [Charlotte Diamond](#), [Red Grammer](#), [Linda Arnold](#) and many more children's recording artists' songs, will enable families to continue making music together with joy.

Let's keep the beat going in families as they help their children at home during this challenging time. We know that music enhances learning and can be that break time or "at home recess" between their school work.

If you would like to know how you can help us keep music in your children's classrooms, please see the [docent training flyer](#) on our website for more information. All it takes is a love of music and children and your commitment to only 11 sessions of fall training and 1/2 hr. in a classroom each week where you too are filled with musical joy and fulfillment.

Thank you for your support of **Music for Minors II**, and we look forward to making classroom music again soon.

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March 18, 2020

Music for Minors II is so happy to share that Red Grammer, a long time friend of MFMII and someone we have sponsored in concerts for many years and whose songs we sing in class, will be doing weekly free online concerts for the foreseeable future. Anyone can access them by going to Red's Facebook Fan Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Red-Grammer-412289435495620/>.

His first live concert will be tomorrow, Thursday, March 19 (9am Pacific).

These concerts can also be accessed anytime afterwards by going to Red's Facebook page at the above link and looking for the most recent entry in the Video listings on the page.

Red Grammer is such a special person and all of his music is child-focused teaching and feeding their brains while touching their hearts with messages of love, caring, and positive thinking. Children thrive when they make Grammer music like Hello World, Down by the Sea, I Think You're Wonderful and many more.

Don't miss these weekly free concerts for families during these challenging times. We hope that these ½ hour concerts will help add some lightness, fun, laughter and love during these challenging days.

Wishing everyone good health and safety from Music for Minors II.

April 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

Music for Minors II (MFMII) would like to connect with you during this difficult time as we continue to practice social distancing, working from home, and creatively developing other means of communication and service to our teachers and children in need of music, now more than ever. I'm sure you agree that **music can calm, heal, or invigorate us and offers people a means of self-expression** which is so important now.

MFMII volunteer music docents have remained busy preparing their music lessons via **Zoom** or **YouTube** for their students and classroom teachers. Others have sent **song lyrics and mp3s** (via the classroom teacher) to their students or shared links to age-appropriate **musical activities**. Many docents have commented how wonderful it was to see their students' smiling faces and how much they enjoyed making music again. Since classroom teachers forward these lessons to children's parents, MFMII is hopeful that these parents will be empowered to share more music in their homes and then become one of our volunteer MFMII music docents by taking our free fall training class and serve classrooms in the 2020-2021 school year.

In addition, some of MFMII **free school presentations will be offered via Zoom** eg Blues in the Schools and Red, White & Blue (patriotic songs), provided by local community member, Barry Walter. This enrichment enables students to learn the history of our culture, as well as music.

The MFMII staff communicates with our docents, liaisons and Board of Directors to offer each other mutual support and encouragement. Our **WhatsApp** group effectively unites our docents and staff, and it was wonderful to see and hear from them when we "Zoomed" with each other last week for our **virtual docent sharing** session for mutual support.

The MFMII staff continues to work from home and welcomes anyone interested in our program, especially our fall training class which will expand our program with new recruited community volunteers who commit to the **training and sharing ½ hour weekly music lessons** to students in their classrooms. **We would appreciate your help in promoting our free docent training class given our on-site recruitment opportunities at school sites have been eliminated due to school closures.** Feel free to share our fall docent training flyer which is also on our [website](#).

Please email info@musicforminors2.org or call 510-733-1189 for more information and visit us at www.musicforminors2.org and www.facebook.com/MusicForMinors2. We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope that you and your families stay safe and healthy.

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