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May 6, 2010

Cara Brown
Alberta Music Education Foundation
5401-39th St.
Red Deer, AB, T4N 1A1

Dear Cara,

I am writing to commend the Alberta Music Education Foundation's Alberta Music Heritage Project. I had the pleasure of participating in the musical portion of the project that was conducted in Fort McMurray in the spring of 2009, and I observed it to be extremely successful in using music to bridge the gap between seniors and youth in our community. Besides having fun myself, I saw that the students involved had a great time performing the vignettes supplied by senior interviewees, and that they were moved by the response they received for their performance. I like to think that the experience helped the kids to realize more acutely that the elderly folk watching were, at one time, as young and nimble as themselves. At the same time, the seniors were able to hear many of their old favourite songs while reliving a small piece of their personal history. It was as if, for a few minutes, they saw themselves as young again, remembering through the youthful performers on the stage.

I can think of few better ways that an organization such as yours can use music to build community, and I hope that you are able to bring the Alberta Music Heritage Project to many more communities in our province.

Most Sincerely,

Bill Prouten
Woodwind Instructor
Keyano College