

THE
ok
FACTOR



RESIDENCY PROGRAMMING FOR
EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OLIVIA DIERCKS, CELLO | KARLA COLAHAN, VIOLIN



OVERVIEW

The OK Factor's residency programming is a vital part of their career, with a focus on sharing their love of music with audiences of all ages in all places. They are passionate about creating an experience that will inspire and encourage both communities and students to explore music more deeply - to cultivate a curiosity about its role in their lives.

Olivia and Karla believe there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to creating a residency. It is both possible and exciting to craft something that uniquely fits your community members and their interests. Olivia and Karla share their joy and love for music in many ways, ranging from mini-performances and question and answer sessions, to multi-day classes devoted to learning and mastering new string techniques, and everything in between.

In addition to their community offerings, The OK Factor is excited to share their educational initiative - ATLAS: Your Road Map to No Map At All. This hub for The OK Factor's educational outreach is the culmination of years of workshoping and learning, designed with students and teachers in mind. Featuring new clinics with student study guides and teacher resources vetted by seasoned educators from diverse backgrounds, everything you need to create an enriching and exciting experience for your community's student population is ready to go.

Read on for more information about The OK Factor's program offerings.

“THE OK FACTOR BROUGHT MAGIC TO THE STAGE OF CHAMPLIN
PARK HIGH SCHOOL.

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY STRING PLAYERS SELECTED FROM
OUR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STRING PROGRAMS WERE UP
IN FRONT OF THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS IMPROVISING, GROOV-
ING, CHOPPING, AND FIDDLING THEIR HEARTS OUT...”

Levi Comstock
Champlin Park High School

EDUCATION CLINICS: ATLAS

ATLAS is The OK Factor's education initiative aimed at encouraging students to be adventurous with music. Pulling from their own personal musical journeys, Olivia and Karla have found a deep sense of purpose in exciting and encouraging students of all ages to explore what music means to them, both as community members and as individuals. Each and every child - every person - has a unique musical voice. Through ATLAS, Olivia and Karla engage students in exploring what their unique musical voice is, and how they can use it to foster meaningful, life-changing opportunities.

The cornerstone of ATLAS is an ATLAS Adventure, a clinic with The OK Factor that takes both students and teachers on a musical adventure with guided stops along the way to explore composition, improvisation, and the genres of folk, pop, and classical music. It also facilitates the learning of string techniques such as chopping and accented rhythmic patterns, which enhance the students' capabilities and options for creativity. Olivia and Karla encourage students to use their instruments as vehicles for innovative musical thinking through age-appropriate games, activities, and critical listening. The best part is, ATLAS Adventures are made for everyone! From general music programs, to public and private orchestras, from Kindergarten to high school.

In addition to ATLAS Adventures, ATLAS is home to many resources that will inspire instrumentalists from all backgrounds and walks of life, including worksheets to facilitate composition, and The OK Factor's original transcriptions for duo and quartet. Designed to reach a wide range of playing abilities, The OK Factor's transcriptions can be used throughout a clinic with the duo while incorporating the string techniques and compositional and improvisatory concepts from the ATLAS material.

ATLAS provides the road map for exploration and discovery of this new musical world, in hopes that it will lead all musicians to create their own adventures using no road map at all.

For more information on ATLAS and ATLAS Adventures visit:

WWW.THEOKFACTORATLAS.COM



EDUCATION OFFERINGS

PERFORMANCE Q&A

Performance integrated with a student-led or community-led question and answer session. Audiences hear original pieces composed by Olivia and Karla, and ask any questions they might have about their music, life as a musician, etc. Olivia and Karla can also provide truncated versions of their Performance Q&A for pop-up concerts or other short performances.

COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE

The OK Factor joins a student or community ensemble for a performance. Performance repertoire can include particular pieces and techniques covered in a clinic, in which students/community members would directly participate.

SENSORY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE Q&A

An interactive educational program with language sensitive specifically to the visually impaired. This program discusses basic introductions to the cello and violin, improvisation, and composition. The program concludes with a Q&A and a sensory friendly “instrument petting zoo” in which audience members are welcomed to the front to touch the instruments and experience them up close.

COMPOSITION WORKSHOP

A two-hour workshop designed to introduce community musicians or students to composing through exercises in improvisation, understanding form, melodic structure, and basic music theory. Participants will leave the workshop with 8-16 measures of music with their own melody and chord progression.

Potential for two-session offering

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT SESSION: IMPROVISATION

An hour-long improvisation workshop for teachers in which The OK Factor will explain a concrete method for teaching improvisation to students. Techniques, tools, and ideas will be shared in order to further enhance teachers' experience and comfortability with this sometimes tricky skill! This workshop is hands on and interactive, including teacher playing, demonstration and performance with the duo.

Potential for two-session offering

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT SESSION: CREATING A CAREER IN MUSIC

A two-hour, open conversation about what it means to have a career in music. Whether you're just starting out, have been performing for years, or are simply contemplating trying a career in music, this session is for you. The OK Factor will provide tips and tools for marketing, branding, strategic planning, and prioritizing your personal life, as well as dive into the personal aspects of your career and where you want to see more growth.

RECORDING INTENSIVE

Interested community members/musicians join The OK Factor at a local recording studio to record live tracks. Depending on specific community interest, time will be spent either learning how best to mic acoustic stringed instruments and the differences/uniqueness in their sound/tone qualities, or the studio musician experience, layering string tracks with pre-existing musical recordings.

This offering is also a great fit for communities with a college with a recording studio on campus.

Potential for two-session offering

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS

SENIOR EDUCATION

An hour long program designed specifically for adults ages 55+. The program engages this community in the comfort of their own space, sharing classics from various genres (jazz, folk, show tunes, etc.) as well as their own original music. Olivia and Karla speak to the versatility of the violin and cello and the various techniques they have cultivated as a duo. This program often includes a brief Q&A session.

JAM SESSIONS

Participants meet with The OK Factor for an hour of music-making, during which the duo will teach various tunes and melodies using a combination of sight-reading and playing by rote. This provides an opportunity for instrumentalists and music lovers who may or may not be affiliated with a particular ensemble or studio to make music with friends in a relaxed and exciting environment. Community members are encouraged to have at least one year of playing experience.

Karaoke

A two-hour open mic night in which community members are welcome to bring their own songs, cover tunes, arrangements, etc. for an informal performance. The duo will provide "back up strings" for all songs. No rehearsal necessary! Music/chord charts optional.

POP UP CONCERT

A brief appearance in a popular community gathering spot to promote The OK Factor's culminating performance. The duo will play selections from their program for 15-20 minutes while passersby get a chance to experience their music up close.

COMMUNITY STORIES THROUGH MUSIC

Ex. International Falls: Stories Through Music

The OK Factor will spend two hours chatting with community members in an open forum style. This is a casual meeting to allow the artists to hear stories from community members about their lives, experiences, relationships, and memories there. Community members are encouraged to bring pictures, artifacts, and other items to help them further personalize their stories and the impact their community has had on them. Information or research about the land and specific geographical markers are also of interest.

The OK Factor will then compose an original piece for the community to be premiered on their final evening concert. The duo will hold a live writing session/rehearsal the night before the performance for which community members are welcome to be present. The entire experience will be recorded live and turned into a podcast to be featured on The OK Factor's website and wherever the podcast is hosted. It will also include the duo's composition.

Potential for two-session offering

↑ one of olivia and karla's favorites!

SAMPLE RESIDENCY SCHEDULE

Below is an example of what a three-day residency with The OK Factor could look like. This example includes school outreach, adult education, pop-up performances, visits to special community locations like hospitals, and culminates in a final performance on the last day.

DAY ONE

9:00-10:00am Performance Q&A at a local school

10:00-11:00am Teacher Development Session

11:00-12:00pm Composition Workshop with collegiate students or continuing education group

Lunch

1:00-2:00pm Senior Education Program

2:00-3:00pm Pop-Up Performance

7:00-8:00pm Jam Session

DAY TWO

9:00-10:00am Performance Q&A at a local school

10:00-11:00am Recording Intensive workshop with collegiate students or continuing education group

11:00-12:00pm Senior Education Program

12:00-2:00pm Artist Development Session over lunch

2:00-3:00pm VA hospital/hospice house/Children's hospital performance

7:00-8:00pm KaraOKe at local live music venue

DAY THREE

9:00-10:00am Sensory friendly performance or live radio interview/performance

10:00-11:00am Performance Q&A at local school

11:00-12:00pm Senior Education Program

7:00pm Evening performance

WE CAN'T WAIT TO COLLABORATE WITH YOU TO
CREATE AN EXPERIENCE THAT UNIQUELY
FITS YOUR COMMUNITY.

To chat directly with The OK Factor about
offerings or residency questions, please contact:

THEOKFACTOR@GMAIL.COM

THE OK FACTOR

© 2020 THE OK FACTOR
WWW.THEOKFACTOR.COM