



Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7124 www.rockheightsmusic.com

Fall In!

Rockheights Middle School Fall Concert,
6pm and 7pm, Wednesday, November 24th, 2021

Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

I'm enormously proud of all the students and the huge effort they have made to pursue music this year. They've shown tremendous resilience and they are excited to perform for you in our first concert of the year, dubbed *Fall In!* Please note that this letter contains links, which have been emailed home. You can also view it at www.rockheightsmusic.com

***Fall In!* Rockheights Middle School Fall Concert**

Two shows: 6pm and 7pm, Wednesday, November 24th, 2021 and online over Zoom

Under the latest Provincial Health Order, we are allowed to hold indoor, in-person concerts provided we follow these rules:

- The audience will be **limited to 75 people**, which when combined with 75 student performers, is **less than half the capacity of our gym**. RSVPs are required. Each student will be allowed to have 2 in-person guests, who will sit together. A Zoom link will be available for anyone to watch at home.
- **Everyone must wear a mask** at all times, even when seated in the audience. The exception will be for students whenever they are playing a woodwind or brass instrument.
- **Everyone (audience and students alike) will have an assigned seat**. A record will be kept of all attendees and where they were sitting.
- **Movement will be limited**. Washrooms will be available, but please try to go at home before arriving. Audience members will be asked to go directly to their seats and to exit directly to the outside.
- **Hand sanitizer** will be available at the entrance to the gym.
- **No food or drinks** will be served or consumed during the event.
- **The concert will be less than 45 minutes**.
- **Gym doors will be open for ventilation**.
- Schools are not allowed to ask for proof of vaccination for school activities, but the BCTF and school boards **strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated**.



Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7124 www.rockheightsmusic.com

How to RSVP for the concert:

- Please RSVP by completing the [Google Survey](#) with the names and contact info of the two people attending. This link will be emailed to you, and also posted to the events page of www.rockheightsmusic.com
- You must RSVP by Monday, November 22nd to allow time to plan the seating. **There will be no extra seating available for guests who show up at the door.**
- **You will receive an email** letting you know which show to attend and where to sit, and a seating plan will also be posted when you arrive.

How To Watch At Home:

- [Click on this link to watch the 6pm show at home.](#)
- [Click on this link to watch the 7pm show at home.](#)

How to Acquire a T-Shirt Uniform:

We are always proud of our students. Having a quality and attractive **uniform** contributes to that sense of pride and belonging. Students who are new to the program are asked to please purchase a **red logo t-shirt for \$13**, which will be ready to pick up on the day of the concert. The t-shirts are pretty cool looking and they get to keep them forever. Buying a shirt also cuts down on costs for the program – please purchase one if you can. They will need it for every concert from grade 6 to 8.

There are two ways to pay for the t-shirt:

1. Pay online using [School Cash Online](#).
2. Pay by cheque. Please make cheques payable to “Rockheights Middle School” and write “[student’s name] t-shirt” on the memo line and bring it to me, Risa McDonell.
3. **Please do NOT send cash to school.**

If purchasing a t-shirt is a financial hardship at this time, your child may borrow a t-shirt for the concert and return it immediately afterwards (please bring a shirt for them to change into). They will have to sign it out. If you know a student who graduated last year, you might ask if you can have their old t-shirt, too.

In addition to the t-shirt, they are asked to please wear:

- **Black skirt with black tights or black dress pants, black leggings or black or dark blue jeans.** Please try to avoid wearing ripped jeans, bare legs or sweatpants with white or coloured stripes.
- **Comfortable shoes** (they will be lugging equipment).



Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7124 www.rockheightsmusic.com

When Students Should Arrive:

All set-up will happen during the school day that day. **Every student performer is asked to please arrive no later than 5:30pm.** When they arrive, they will pick up their instrument from the music rooms and proceed to the gym.

Admission is free. Donations in support of the Music Program gratefully accepted

The costs of running a quality music program are enormous – purchasing instruments, repairing instruments, purchasing supplies and technical equipment, paying clinicians and accompanists, paying festival fees, and more. Typically we collect donations at the start of our concerts. These generous gifts to the Music Program are hugely important. Please consider bringing a small cash donation, or make a donation using School Cash Online. Simply click on the [“Make a Donation”](#) button and choose “Rockheights PAC”, and indicate in your message that the donation is for the Rockheights Music Program. Thank you!

Celebrate, but please don’t leave early!

Many families like to take their children for a treat afterwards – what a GREAT idea! Please keep in mind that they are very much needed and expected to help with take-down for about 20 minutes after the concert. Your engagement with their learning sends a profound message of love and support.

Parent Volunteers Needed, Please!

If you are able to help with any of these tasks on the day, please get in touch with me!

- Helping to take-down equipment after the last concert. (Please note: ALL students help for a minimum of 20 minutes).
- Encouraging concert-goers to sanitize their hands at the door.
- Providing a gift for a door prize to be awarded at the concert (a bottle of wine works best).
- Watching over the donation box and counting it afterwards.

Music Parents’ Meeting Over Zoom

There will be a Zoom Meeting for all Music Program Parents at 7pm on Tuesday, November 30th. [Here is the link.](#) All parents warmly encouraged to come. We will be discussing plans for the Winter Concert on December 8th, the Spring trip to Camp Pringle, fundraising and spending projects.



Rockheights MIDDLE SCHOOL music

1250 Highrock Ave. Esquimalt, BC V9A 4V7 Ph: (250) 384-7124 www.rockheightsmusic.com

MUSIC NEWS! Here are some other quick news items and things to celebrate:

- Rockheights Music **received two generous donations**, totalling \$1100! The money was used to purchase three beautiful flutes, which are being used by grade 6 students. Thank you to everyone who paid a \$20 to borrow a school instrument. It really helps!
- **Ryan Cole, trumpeter with the Victoria Symphony, has been in working with our trumpet players** and will be in again on Monday, November 15th, thanks to the generous support of the Victoria Symphony! We also welcomed professional trumpeter **Dave Fello** and pro cellist **Karen Whyte** this term.
- The Choir and Intermediate Strings students performed beautifully at the **No Stone Left Alone Ceremony last week**. Check out the story on the [front page of The Times Colonist](#).
- **The Choir will be singing at the Esquimalt Celebration of Lights at 6pm on Sunday, December 5th**. We are excited about the return of this awesome community event! More information for choir members to follow very soon.
- UVIC is once again running **Music Discoveries, a low-cost music camp specifically for middle schoolers, January 21 – 23**, run by UVIC teacher-candidates. Our students attended in 2019 and had a BLAST. [Find out more info, or register here](#).
- **I will be guest conducting for the Greater Victoria Concert Band (Intermediate Group)** this Spring. I'm excited to work with this community group! Students will be warmly invited to attend.

Concerns? Please Communicate!

All of the students have been working hard and deserve to give a performance that reflects their hard work. All absences impact the group considerably (imagine a jazz band with no drummer for a moment!) Therefore, **all music students are expected to be at the concert**. If there is a *very compelling* reason why your child cannot attend this evening performance, please let me know as soon as possible at rmcdonell@sd61.bc.ca.

Thank you for supporting your child's music education! I look forward to sharing this special night with you!

Sincerely,

Risa McDonell
Music Teacher, Rockheights Middle School