

OCTOBER 28, 2021

# ALICIA RESCHNY

Resources Tips and Tricks for Virtual Performances



## OVERVIEW:

### Perfect way to Advocate!

For many music educators this is the second fall you are teaching since the big shut down of March 2020 due to COVID-19. Not only do we work in uncertain times, many students have lost interest in music programs or music programs are not being currently offered or being offered in a modified setting which is all directly affecting record time low enrolment. This leads to fears of your program not having the same support or face budget cutting.

While many educators find themselves struggling to build up their music program in their community we want to provide resources for you to advocate for your program and there is no better way to do that than to showcase the amazing work your students are doing!

- Great way to Advocate
- Which programs to use
- Sample Template and recommendations
- Permission Forms and Privacy Considerations
- Quick Tips on where to go from here
- Expanding Virtual Concerts Beyond the Christmas Season



## Advocacy

Every music educator knows the importance of advocating for resources - whether it is for a designated space or for funding for a music program.

### Music Education can be delivered safely

Knowing what we know now, music educators and administrators can make music spaces safe for singing and musical learning.

### Startling Statistics

Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID-19 Impact Survey -2021 paints an authentic picture of Canadian music educators and the results are devastating! Most teachers (84%) who completed the survey were teaching in spaces devoted to music education at their schools

prior to the pandemic. At the time of the survey (Spring 2021) only 27% of those same teachers are teaching from a space designed for music education.

The survey also indicates that almost 1/3 of teacher respondents fear that they will not have access to dedicated music spaces moving forward.

Smaller and more frequent "shows" or "snapshots"



of the wonderful activities in your classroom is a great way to advocate not just to your administrators but to the community too!

The kids just love to see their work displayed in such a fun and interactive way - you will hear them asking for more!

It doesn't need to be complicated or time consuming. Alicia will share a video similar to a classroom generalist posting notes on SeeSaw, it is a great way to communicate!



## Mentimeter

*Interactive Presentation Software*

### **Less Prep Time Required!**

Build interactive presentations with the easy-to-use online editor. Add questions, polls, quizzes, slides, images, gifs and more to your presentation to create fun and engaging presentations.

### **Higher Engagement!**

Your audience uses their smartphones to connect to the presentation where they can answer questions. Visualize their responses in real-time to create a fun and interactive experience.

***This is a great way to host a virtual concert and include family engagement while they watch!***

## Putting it Together

The most important consideration to keep in mind is permission to showcase your students.

Alicia recommends being creative in how you compose your virtual performance to overcome situations where it might be difficult to obtain permission. One strategy Alicia has used was to use the audio of the performance and apply it to a slideshow of art projects the students did in conjunction with the learning of the song.

Using this strategy you are not using video or pictures of your students, removing the requirement for a media/permission release. This can be especially useful if you know obtaining permission slips might be a barrier for your particular class.

### Think Advocacy

At the back of every music educator's mind we know the importance of including Administration because the more they are exposed to the many wonderful benefits of music education for our students the more likely they are going to be a stronger advocate for you.

Alicia suggested inviting your Principal or librarian to read a Christmas book as a great insert to your project. Alicia used two or three songs from each class but then added in fun little inserts which make it more interesting and fun!



### Choosing the Software

Many of us have iPhones and have access to iMovie, this is a really easy way to upload various pictures and an audio file to create a quick and efficient way to produce a virtual Christmas concert song.

If you are wanting to edit videos, animate photos, record your screen, add text and music Alicia recommends WeMovie. It is the complete video package for today's classroom!

## Media Releases

### Pro Tip:

Every school division seems to be interpreting the media restrictions differently. The Principal of each school should create the form according to their Division policy.

## Repertoire and Resources

*Feel free to use and contribute to the shared*

*Google Jamboard:*

Click [here](#) to go to the Jamboard

**16 Resources have been shared already in the following areas:**

**7 Choir, 3 Concert Band, 3 Orff,  
1 Jazz Band, 2 Top Tech Resources**

## How to Choose Software

*The main differences between iMovie vs WeVideo include:*

- iMovie is for free, whereas WeVideo is a paid subscription. Pricing starts at \$4.99/month.
- iMovie is a desktop platform for Mac users, whereas WeVideo is an internet platform
- iMovie offers support tickets, whereas WeVideo does not.
- iMovie is available in a slew of different languages, whereas WeVideo is only available in English

## Don't Limit it to Christmas Concerts

You aren't just doing the good stuff at Christmas! You are working hard all year long and don't overlook the many times throughout the year where you can use this model to communicate all of the amazing things your students are doing!

Alicia recently applied these strategies to showcase what her class was working on for their recent project for "One Drum" by Leela Gilday. Alicia was able to connect with the composer of an Indigenous song to obtain permission to do an arrangement of the song with her students. The students were asked to find pictures that represented what the song meant to them and she used the audio and the pictures.

This is a great way to celebrate students learning while focusing on school's strategic goals, advocating with Administration and with your student's families.

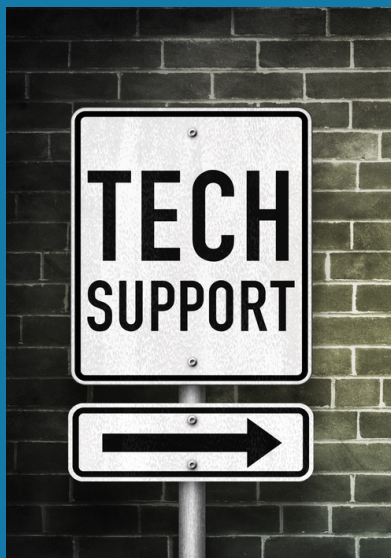
A third way to advocate for music in your school is to ask any student in your school whether they play piano, guitar or play any instrument - request them to submit their



their own recording and you can use those audio clips and showcase your school as the video and/or pictures. Alicia created a Winter Art Show where she took images of how the school hallways, doors, billboard (any type of student art).

*"The students love seeing the finished project - they feel as if they were in a movie!"*

*Alicia Reschny*



## Let's Talk Tech!

*Quick Tips from Alicia*

- Add Google Drive to your phone.
- Record a video of your students or record just the audio using the Voice Memos app on your iPhone.
- In the Voice Memos app, press the red button to start and stop recording, click done, click share, select Google Drive.
- To import a video to Google Drive open the app, click the plus sign, and select the video you want.
- Remember to change your privacy settings so everyone can see your video.
- Insert the video into a powerpoint presentation if you are creating this as well.