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**ArtSpirit Summerland**

PRESS RELEASE

SUMMERLAND MUSIC CAMP set for adventure

Local community initiative provides music for children on all margins

“Music Will Make You Happy for the Rest of Your Life”

For a second summer, ArtSpirit Summerland is offering a diverse musical programme to children of the South Okanagan. The daycamp, which runs Monday to Friday mornings 8:30am-12:30pm from July 11-15, 2106, will teach 3 main areas of the arts: 1) Singing (choir) 2) Ukulele 3) Hip Hop Dancing. The programme culminates in a performance at the Summerland Ornamental Gardens Centennial weekend celebrations on Saturday, July 16. Camp is held throughout the week at the Summerland United Church.

**Practitioners**

Linnea Good - group singing (LinneaGood.com)

Yanti Rowland – Ukulele (yanti.ca)

Jake Evans – Hip Hop (feelinthebeat.com/jedi-urban-dance-studio)

“There are a number of things that make this camp unique,” says organizer Linnea Good. “We have the top leaders in the Okanagan in these particular arts. The camp incorporates 3 different disciplines of music and so all parts of our body and brain are engaged. These are all interwoven with an incredible daily Art session with Marian Rudisill, and Games that are music skill-based and fun.”

The programme is aimed primarily for the children and families of the South Okanagan district: Summerland, Peachland, Penticton, Kaleden, Naramata. However, children visiting from out of town are also welcome to register.

Cost: $100. Bursaries up to 100% are available to families that can demonstrate need.

**Camp Goals and Objectives**
 - to explore self-expression in shared music-making
 - to gain individual music skills and confidence
 - to support positive community values like mutuality, listening, interdependence,
 - to provide a place for children to forge deep friendships
 - to offer adult leadership for children's emotional wellbeing

“Music involves a kind of deep listening and teamwork. Jake, Yanti, Marian and I come at this in very different ways but we are all aiming for the same result: that children come away with joy, increased self-esteem, a clearer sense of what the next step will be for them in music, knowledge that they are capable learners, and new friendships.”

**Unique Features**

Summerland Music Camp is supporting newcomers to Canada to register, with the added bonus to the SMC community of understanding themselves in a multi-cultural context.

A Youth Leadership module offers training and supervised leadership opportunities for secondary students aged 13-18.

The performance at the Ornamental Gardens Centennial Celebration on the weekend of the 16-17 July is a special bonus for children who will have learned singing, ukulele playing and dance routines in a short 5-day span.

The camp engages a large number of teen and adult volunteers – most significantly the *Ukulele Buddies*. “There has been quite a ukulele revolution going on,” observes Yanti. “Because of this and because adults in the Okanagan really want to support children, we have created a programme to teach adults – especially those who already plan an instrument - how to play the uke super quick. With this, they can buddy up with young learners at camp. It’s totally taking off.”

**Our Sponsors**

The Pro-Vision Fund of the **United Church of Canada** has provided funds to allow this camp to operate at a reasonable cost per camper, with significant bursary assistance to those who need it.

**Summerland United Church** sponsors and hosts the event

**Bad Robot** Electronics, downtown Summerland, sponsors the “Send a Kid to Camp” and “Send a Uke to Camp” bursary project – which invites donations of $100 and $40 respectively.

**For further information**

Please feel free to email, web site message, phone, Facebook message or skype meet with Linnea Good. Contact information is above.

**ArtSpirit Summerland is an affiliation of South Okanagan Music Leaders, Teachers, Performers and Practitioners, inspiring and empowering children through music.**