

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 13, 2005

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Support for Elementary Music Curriculum

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Donna Mae Jellard, Stuart Wachowicz

INFORMATION

The curriculum unit will be providing opportunities for elementary schools to access sessions in support of the music curriculum, and for teachers to access workshops on the use of the recorder in the classroom.

This is in follow-up to work commenced two years ago which saw the collaborative development of music standards to help schools improve achievement in music and to establish greater consistency between schools in terms of achievement in music classes.

In the process of that work it became clear that music teachers often did not have access to professional opportunities in their discipline, or opportunities to help students develop an awareness of the full range of capabilities of instruments commonly used in music classes.

Under this initiative, for the 2005/06 school year, schools will have access to workshops and presentations of the Martini Quintet. This is a group of musicians expert in the use of instruments of the recorder family. The recorder is perhaps the most commonly used instrument in music classrooms, but students do not always appreciate the range and capacity of this instrument. The workshops will provide students and/or teachers with background on the instrument, examples of its potential and the variety of instruments in the recorder family. The group also dresses in period costume, and demonstrates how the instrument fits into the history of musical development. Sessions for teachers are more involved and will leave teachers with a greater repertoire of practices that will enhance student appreciation of the instrument and music, and lead to enhanced achievement in the subject.

Some sessions may also include presentation and instruction by Terri Hron, an Edmontonian, now living and performing in Amsterdam, who is recognized internationally as one of the great masters of the instrument.

School sessions will be available throughout the school year and a schedule of availability will be sent to schools and teachers. The opportunity will enhance the professional development available to our music teachers in the district, provide modeling for students and help teachers develop exemplars of some of the **Music Performance Standards** recently developed.

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