

VOICES FOR THE SALISH SEA

45-minute School Presentation: Voices For The Salish Sea

The *Voices For The Salish Sea* educational concert can be presented for elementary and high school audiences. Our starting point is the watershed where students are living—everyone lives in a watershed! Songs make the connections between species, ecosystems, the ocean and the atmosphere...and the pioneers, explorers, sea captains and Indigenous people who derived their living from the Salish Sea and its watersheds.

A package of teaching resources is sent ahead of time for students to learn two or three songs and teachers do cross-curricular activities in the ecological sciences and social studies. Educators are given copies of *The Watershed Handbook*, which supports the re-designed BC curriculum.

Voices For The Salish Sea engages students from K -12 in singing and themselves becoming voices for salmon, Orcas, old growth trees and rivers....and celebrating the history of their communities.

Current environmental partners of the Wilds/ART

Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF): PSF has been sponsoring annual *Rock The Salish Sea* tours since 2015. These tours involve *Voices Of Nature*-style school programs where we send rehearsal and curriculum materials out to schools; students learn songs and teachers provide connected activities, and the culmination is a concert for family and community members. They also sponsored *The Watershed Handbook*, our most recent music-based learning resource which supports the re-designed BC curriculum. PSF is the Main Applicant in a proposal we have before the Vancouver Foundation for a Test Grant for *The Sea Among Us* project. So we are partnering actively with them.

I know PSF will support in principal what VFSS is doing because of the messages we are taking out about watershed, ocean and salmon conservation. They might be willing to have their logo displayed on the VFSS website and be indicated as a “community partner in education and conservation” or something to that effect.

Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition (SWCC): SWCC sponsored a third (2011, 2013 and 2019) *Up Your Watershed!* Tour to the Skeena watershed, with school programs and performances in Prince Rupert, Terrace and Kitimat. We will be going back up there in spring 2020 for another *Up Your Watershed* tour to Smithers, Hazelton and Houston.

I'm sure SWCC would be willing for us to display their logo on the VFSS website as a community partner. Especially if we are doing shows up in that area.

In addition, in the past we've done *Up Your Watershed!* tours to Fraser Basin communities and partnered with local conservation groups who led guided field trips for students and put up information tables in the theater lobbies:

- Prince George (Recycling and Environmental Action Society; Prince George Naturalists Club);
- Quesnel (Baker Creek Conservation Society)
- Williams Lake (Cariboo Chilcoten Conservation Society)
- Lillooet (Walking With The Smolts)
- Mission (Fraser Valley Watershed Conservation Society)

And many many more groups around the province.

If VFSS is doing a show in one of these communities, we can reach out to them. In Creston we might contact the Kootenay Conservation Program. We can offer information table space at the concert; see if they can help promote the show. Find out what they are doing and help to give profile.