A Strange Year

When schools closed in mid-March due to the global health crisis, EPIC Music and our parent organization, Catamount Arts, had to reinvent ourselves. In the spring, no longer able to gather all together at St. Johnsbury School, 17 students took violin, viola, and cello lessons online with Jason Bergman and Lewis Botelho-Gomes, and we hosted two virtual gatherings for students, staff, and volunteers, to chat and share stories of their experiences staying at home. This summer, we are offering free, in person private lessons to 26 students while maintaining social distancing.

Looking Back...

Fall’s highlight was undoubtedly New Year’s Eve, when the students of EPIC Music and the North Country Youth Chorus performed with the Kingdom All Stars at First Night North in St. Johnsbury. We were planning to perform with the Northeast Kingdom Community Orchestra in May, but that concert was cancelled.

Jason Bergman, Lewis Botelho-Gomes, and Anne Campbell traveled to Durham, NC in January for the El Sistema USA Symposium, an intense week of learning with and from professionals from other El Sistema-inspired organizations.

Looking Ahead...

While we are still uncertain about where or how we will keep students engaged in the 2020-21 school year, we are committed to offering regular music instruction in some form.

We are grateful for the many people and organizations who continue to support EPIC Music with their time, money, and talents. In particular, we are deeply grateful for two significant grants for next year’s programming, from Jane’s Trust and the Windham Foundation.

THANK YOU:

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