

# RECONCILIATION



## A MUSICAL THEATRE PROJECT



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



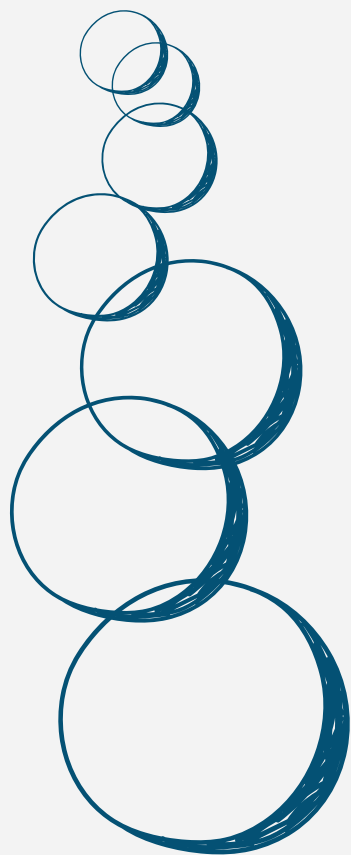
McGill



# THE PROJECT

In 2019, our grade 5 and 6 students created a musical production called Reconciliation. The script, written by students, explored Indigenous history. It included themes such as residential schools, treaties, and a celebration of the strength of culture. The scenes were woven together with song and dance in collaboration with Inuit throat singer Nina Segalowitz and Mohawk dancer Barbara Diabo. We worked with Tom Dearhouse, a community helper, to be sure our script was respectful and did not add to the body of misinformation that exists about Indigenous people. We also partnered with Dr. Mindy Carter and her team (DISE, McGill University) to make the project happen. It was a rich experience for all involved, adults and children alike, and through it we became committed to exploring reconciliation through music and with children. This led us to partner again in 2022, with new collaborators, to develop the Walking Alongside Songwriting Project.

*-Jennifer Hayden*



# COLLABORATORS

## **PARTICIPATING TEACHER: JENN HAYDEN**

Jennifer Hayden is a music teacher at St Edmund Elementary School in Beaconsfield. Over the last few years, she and her students have been exploring what reconciliation means through the arts in general, and music in particular.



## **ADVISOR: TOM DEARHOUSE**

Tom Ratehrokwats Dearhouse is Kanien'kehaka and Anishinaabe, and works in Kahnawake as a traditional support counselor, merging social work and traditional teachings to bring about healing and reconciliation.



# COLLABORATORS

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## **SINGER/DRUMMER: NINA SEGALOWITZ**

Nina is an Inuvialuit Throatsinger, hand drummer and spoken word artist. Through these mediums she shares the history of Inuit and First Nations People through music. It's a universal approach which brings in children and adults of all ages to explore the true History of Canada.



## **DANCER: BARBARA DIABO**

Barbara Kanerattoni Diabo is Kanien'keha:ka (Mohawk) of mixed heritage originally from Kahnawake, QC. She is an award-winning choreographer and dancer who specializes in creating works that highlight Indigenous themes / stories / perspectives by combining powwow, Haudenosaunee dance, and mainstream contemporary styles to create a fusion of dance that speaks to many different audiences.



# COLLABORATORS: MCGILL UNIVERSITY

## **PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: DR. MINDY CARTER**

Dr. Mindy R. Carter is an Associate Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE). She conducts research in curriculum studies, drama, and theatre education primarily with in-service and pre-service teachers with a focus on questions of social justice, art processes, and the relations of schooling.



## **RESEARCH ASSISTANT: ELAINE YING-SYUAN YUANG**

Elaine is an educator and researcher in the field of science and sustainability education. She is a doctoral student in the Ph.D. program in Educational Studies (Mathematics and Science Education Concentration) at McGill University. Her doctoral research focuses on the interactions among Confucian learning traditions, modern science and sustainability education in Canada and Taiwan.



## **RESEARCH ASSISTANT: ALISAN FUNK**

Alisan Funk is the Head of the Bachelor in Circus at Stockholm's University of Dance and Circus (DOCH). She is a circus coach, performer, and creator, pursuing a PhD in Education at McGill University. She researches circus education, including the technical and creative aspects of contemporary and classical circus performance.



# BEGINNINGS: THE KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE

## **THE KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE**

is an "experiential learning tool" that invites participants to explore nation-to-nation relationships as they practice reconciliation (see: <https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org>)

### **Intention in this context:**

To help the non-Indigenous students from St. Edmund gain a more comprehensive understanding of Canadian Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples' complex history

**Participants :** Jenn Hayden and students (St. Edmund) Tom Dearhouse (Mohawk, Kahnawake; KBE facilitator), Lisa Byer (KBE facilitator)



# PREPARATION

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# PREPARATION

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# ABOUT THE SHOW

The students wrote the script for *Reconciliation*, in consultation with community helper Tom Dearhouse. The narrative followed two elders as they shared aspects of Canadian Indigenous history with a group of children. As the actors (representing community elders) told their stories on the upper stage, other performers acted out the tales on the lower stage.

The subjects of the scenes were:

1. The Creation Story and Turtle Island
2. Mother Earth
3. Culture
4. Loss
5. Residential Schools
6. Standing Up/ the Resilience of Culture to Survive

All of the music featured Indigenous musicians in Canada, and two of the students wrote an original song that they shared.

Overall, it was a very rich experience for all of us. We learned so much together, students, staff, parents, and the community at large. We were so grateful for the Indigenous partners that shared their culture and perspectives with us.

*-Jennifer Hayden*



# INVITATION TO SCHOOLS

St Edmund presents:

## **Reconciliation**

An original musical production

We would like to invite you and your grade 5 students to see this musical production on May 6th at 10:30am at St Edmund.

Reconciliation is an original musical production written by our grade 5 and 6 students. The show was written to celebrate and raise awareness about Indigenous history in Canada. It features six scenes which visit the following themes: the Creation story; nature; culture; loss of land; the breaking of treaties, residential schools, and standing up for what is right. Between scenes, our students perform songs and dances from various Indigenous musicians across Canada. To ensure that our show was respectful, appropriate and accurate, we worked with various Indigenous partners and elders in the creation process.

This show could serve as an introduction for your students, or as a way to extend their learning about Indigenous culture and history in Canada. If your students can attend, we will provide you with a brief (1-page) outline to read with your students in advance to ensure that they get the most from this experience.

Please see the link below for a clip of one of the songs from our show, featuring Nina Segalowitz, an Inuit throat singer:

<https://www.facebook.com/stedmundschool/videos/877627372581243/>

See you then!  
St. Edmund Team

# PROGRAM

## **St Edmund Presents:**

### **Reconciliation**

An Original Cycle 3 Musical

March 27th, 2019

6:30 pm

### **Special Thanks To....**

Our Indigenous partners Barbara Diabo, Lisa Byer, Tom Dearhouse and  
Nina Segalowitz

Our McGill partners Mindy Carter, Alisan Funk and Ying Huang  
Josee Lusignan and Iain Speirs from I Love First Peoples  
Actor Teachers: Miss Carroll, Miss Pina, Miss Steph, Miss Crystal, Miss  
Macalanda, Mme Peronace, Miss Janet, Miss Sabrina, Mr. Trevor, Miss  
Jennifer

Art work: Mme Guylaine, Miss Edgar, Mme Legault, Miss Marie, Mme  
Peronace, Miss Hall

Sound and Lights: Mme Emma Annett

Conducting and Technology Club: Mr. Trevor

Miss Malowany for helping to organize and find great resources  
PPO for helping to set up the stage

Miss Carroll and Miss Kollman for giving up the gym

Mr. Steve and Miss Liz for helping setup and cleanup

Miss Jennifer for organizing the show

### **Crew**

Stage Manager Joey Walker

Lights Liam Geurtsen Olena Walker

William Mouflie Isidro Nicolau

Sound Olivia Brault Sienna Duniz

Jack Griffin

Backstage Jesse Dollimore Christopher Alfonso

Holland Bjorn

# PROGRAM

## Actors

Elders.....Keira Cloetta and Ryan McJannet  
Children.....Sienna Carson, Ginger and Amber Hlipka-  
Beeby,  
Jude Kopal  
Sky Chief and Sky Woman.....Layla Girdwood and Sam Turnbull  
Settlers.....Matthew Driscoll and Adam Msefer  
Mom and Dad.....Giulia Mazzocco and Graham Nelson  
Shi Shi Etko and Shin Che.....Ilora Bland and Logan Morcos  
Teachers.....Chloe Chaput and Abigael Lenet  
News Reporters.....Angelina LeBlanc and Shayne Bouhafs  
Hunters.....Sabrina Valente and Karolina Brown  
Mohawk Friends.....Maria Del Tedesco and Taylor Muraca  
Haida Friends.....Jaime Gagliardi and Kamila Blanchard  
Indigenous Peoples.....Thea Zeeman, Emmie  
Legault, Christopher Zoghby,  
Charlotta Brown, Daphne Bergeron, Annalyn Tardy, Ava Bucci

## Technology Club

Adrien Jarosz, Adam Kamal, Liam Dubè, Charlie Noftall, Ollie  
Robinson, Harrison Carter-Hayes, Matthew McComb, Cooper Law,  
Sydney Corman

## Art Club

Cassandra Lefebvre, Zakary Sirois, Jack Griffin, Olena Walker, Kristen  
Osman, Lucas Zaccheo, Lauren Benard, Anthony Nicolas, Cozette  
Levitt, Ryan Dalton  
Ali Schreyer-King, Anna Humes, Sydney Corman, Sarah Way-Rene,  
Megan Love, Hannah Anson, Dolores Del Tedesco, Eva Bolanis,  
Addison Palfy, Eva Ricciardi, Caitlin Stirling, Alinna Diao, Keira  
Emberg, Delaney Danovitch

# PERFORMANCE



Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaDezDV\\_00M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HaDezDV_00M)

# PERFORMANCE



# MORE INFORMATION

\*The full script for the play can be found in the appendices of **Smallest Circles First** (2022)

Drawing from studies with pre- and in-service teachers in Quebec, *Smallest Circles First* looks at how teacher agency engages with the educational calls to action from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Using drama education and theatre, *Smallest Circles First* explores how the classroom can be used as a liminal educational site to participate in reconciliatory praxis.

*Smallest Circles First* presents several arts-based educational research examples that illustrate how the arts provide a space for students, teachers, and communities to explore and learn about reconciliation praxis and responsibilities. By implementing arts-based counter-narratives set against settler Canadian history and geography, *Smallest Circles First* considers the implications of systemic racism, colonization, and political, social, and economic ramifications of governmental policies. Tangible examples from the book showcase how teachers and students can use the arts to learn specifically about their responsibilities in engaging with Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in addition to how this work can still meet curricular learning outcomes.

-from University of Toronto Press:  
<https://utorontopress.com/9781487523831/smallest-circles-first/>

