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## **Winnipeg Folk Festival – MTS Future First Musical Mentors Program**

Over the past several years, the Winnipeg Folk Festival has been making strides in turning a weekend Festival into an organization that brings music to the community year-round. Initiated in 2010, the Musical Mentors program, works with schools to bring groups of students together with professional folk/roots musicians for musical discovery and learning.

By pairing students with mentors, the program helps youth explore the craft of songwriting and music making. Students are able to discover music from a more personal perspective through the development of their own skills - learning to write and perform music and understanding the craft of music making. Through this mentorship, the program demonstrates how folk music is ultimately about expression, reflection, creativity and community. There is no better way to embrace the roots of folk music and connect with the community than learning the act of storytelling via songwriting.

Running over a period of 8 weeks, the Winnipeg Folk Festival offers a professional folk musician mentor that will come to the school on a dedicated day and time each week for 1.0 – 1.5 hours during the school day. Over the course of the program the group will learn to approach songwriting as a creative outlet to explore and express the issues relevant to their lives while incorporating basic musical arrangements. Whether it is an instrument a participant already plays, a handclap, a vocal harmony or a tambourine, all participants will have the opportunity to take part both in the musical approach as well as the writing process. The program culminates in an afternoon recording the song in a professional studio setting. All participants will receive a compilation CD of all of the participating groups' recordings.

In addition, the Festival plans to introduce the youth to folk music, the Festival and our community through its Guest for a Day program. For those participants and families that might have financial constraints, an invitation package for students to attend with family members will be offered to those who complete the program. The Guest for a Day package includes day tickets to the summer festival, orientation prior to the Festival weekend, a guided tour on the festival grounds, meals and transportation to and from the Festival site. This opportunity can be discussed once a school group is signed on for the program season.

Interested schools are asked to select the students individually to form a group of 8-10 youth (Grade 8 and up) who either have an interest in writing, singing and/or performance, have experience playing musical instruments, or could benefit from learning music as a creative outlet.

If you are interested in having a student group from your school participate and/or discussing the program in more detail, please contact Morgan Hamill at [mhamill@winnipegfolkfestival.ca](mailto:mhamill@winnipegfolkfestival.ca) or 231.0096 Ext. 224.

**Musical Mentors – School Group Application, 2016/17 Season**

Participating School:

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Address/City/Postal:

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Contact Person/Role:

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check preferred method of contact above*

Age Range/Grade(s) of Group:

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Preferred Start Dates (Program runs 8 weeks from the chosen start date)

(2016/17 Session Start Dates: October 3 - October 21, 2016, January 23-February 17, 2017)

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Day of Week (Monday-Friday Or School Day #1-5):

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Time of Day:

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Main Reasons you would like to Host the Program:

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