

**No musician works completely alone ....  
some of the people in this project include  
music maker extraordinaire ...**

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## **Louis Lefaive**



When I first met Louis, he had a young family (Laura, Jill, Kelly) and I had a different career. It has been a blessing in so many ways that I was able to reconnect with him during this project. Days spent with him and his family (now including Nicole) have punctuated my solitary computer time with life, music and friendship. It is due to Louis that our music ideas have become arrangements accompanying the songs.

Many might point first to his accomplishments as composer, arranger, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, but I value most his gift of wanting to help the music that is in others live. Now retired from high school teaching, he is free to spend more time working alone or with others in his home studio and performing.



An active musician, Louis plays throughout Ontario and Quebec, with his family band "Ariko" (Celtic and French folk music), "Louis Lefaive and the Kings of Swing", "Rubber Soul" (a Beatles tribute band) and Par Hasard (French original music). If you've been on a Thursday evening dinner cruise out of Orillia, he and a friend (Brent) are the ones you've enjoyed there.

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## and the singers ...



Singers listed here are amongst many who willingly offered their time, talent and trust to become a part of the recordings that make this curriculum come to life. I have learned much, and enjoyed working with each and every one.

**Liyana**  
**Kabir**  
**Mithila**  
**Momo**  
**Katelyn**  
**Alijah**  
**Nicole**  
**Alyssa**  
**Charlotte**  
**Jaime**  
**Sarah**  
**Hannah**  
**Darah**  
**Emily**  
**Lily**

## **Anna-Giselle**

It is a joy to have Anna-Giselle sing with me. For over three years she has practised songs, had patience with glitchy recording software, and given her musical gifts. We even turned a school assignment poem into a song that is included in the Grade 3 repertoire (I Have a Little Sister). Anna-Giselle's personality comes out in her singing which is not only in tune, but clear and inviting. She and her family have become friends.



## Alyssa Tess Polan

Louis introduced me to Alyssa the first summer I recorded a few songs in Penetang. A couple of years later we re-connected while she was studying in Toronto.

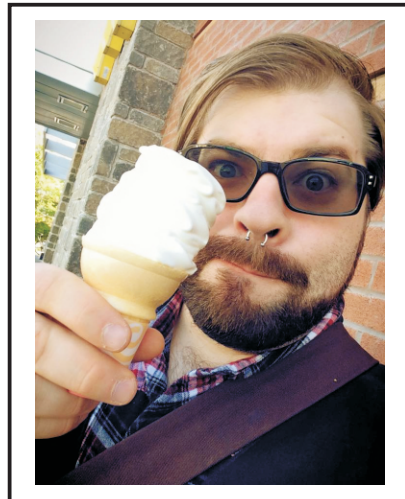
Alyssa's family says she started singing before she could talk. Now she is a hardworking songwriter and performer. Music is a huge part of her life. She says, "Working on this project has reconnected me with my inner child. I've enjoyed every minute of it."

And I have enjoyed the joy she brings with her.

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## William Ford

I contacted U of T's music department to find out if they had a "we'd like to perform" list. Will (William Ford) was my reward. He is a hard working, gifted tenor. Although his career path is opera, he willingly added his voice and presence to many of the songs I recorded. This project is richer because of his spirit and singing.



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The beautiful baritone voice that grounds some of the songs was also a connection made through U of T's music department. He's chosen to remain anonymous even though his voice is memorable.

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Twenty years ago Sarah sang with me, and now she's grown up and singing with me again. But now she also sings and teaches music as a chosen career. Last year I was delighted to be able to attend a performance of my favourite Gilbert & Sullivan, with Sarah in the cast of a professional company. It's her beautiful clear tones that you'll hear singing the lead for students to echo as they learn songs or warm-up with solfa.

If you think you hear a bit of an English accent as Sarah sings it's because she's presently living in England. Her favourite book is Le Petit Prince, her favourite song is "You Are My Sunshine", and her favourite colour is purple. She says that, amongst other things, England has taught her that a good cup of tea can fix anything.



**Sarah Parkin**



A different Sarah, from a different project, but the same joy for life. This Sarah I met when I was living in New Brunswick. She's now a family doctor in Ontario. Her mom --Nancy (directing her) is a music teacher in P.E.I.







## Recording Memories





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I'm the cat.



## Lesley J Clare

I first started working with "little kids" when my brothers, then 3, had trouble staying in their preschool classroom. I was recruited to help. It was much more interesting than being with my own age group, so I liked it. With me in the room, my brothers stayed put. I was 6.

Since then I've worked with children as a teacher, counsellor, music maker, project developer, storyteller, artist and caregiver. I've taught in many venues --and with children of all ages: 2 to 6 year olds in Montessor; JK to Grade Six with TDSB; youth at summer camps and in faith communities and varying subjects (including communication, parenting and supervision) with adults.

My official credentials include degrees in the sciences and arts. After earning my doctorate (right/left brain learning focused on music) I promised myself future study would just be for fun. And it has been --with courses in visual arts, computer, music and learning on the go as I work on projects. I've had articles in various journals and two other curriculum projects published. Still makes me smile when I think about children in Australia singing songs I've composed (I'm used to the idea of them being sung closer to home.).

Unable to continue working at a second career, I returned to volunteering within schools. Not a surprise that schools had changed since the 70s! But one thing has stayed the same --demands on classroom teacher time and energy continue to explode.

This project began as a way to help classroom teachers add music to their schedules without needing to spend a lot of planning or preparation time to do it. Since teaching music began, for me, as a supplement to ESL programs in inner-city schools, my bent is towards integrating music with other subjects, and building the connections especially between language arts, math and music.

Plus, I believe that music and the arts bring joy and an enjoyment of life. In a public school classroom, when students and teacher make music together, they strengthen bonds that help in the learning of all subjects. Singing is a powerful way to connect with each other.

Singing with children and teachers has helped me to make my way through many changes in my life and the world. I hope these ideas and songs will help others.

