

Temporary Variance Application for 3591 Elliott Road

West Kelowna Music School's (WKMS) primary vision over the past 9 years has been to nurture a love of music in a supportive and positive environment. We have provided excellence in music education for all ages since 2013. Our current student enrolment represents over 200 families and is growing. Our teachers are specialists offering programs for everyone in the community from preschooler to University prep to continuing education for adults.

Over the years WKMS has offered annual community performances at local senior residences, community concerts, Westbank Museum Christmas fair, performances at the Westside Culture Days, Westbank Christmas Light-up and is scheduled to have our choir, Vox-Forte! perform at the West Kelowna Remembrance Day ceremonies this year. We are supporters and co-founders of Westside Music Festival, which brings Canadian Composers to West Kelowna each year for a non-competitive music festival open to all West Kelowna music students. As well, WKMS was nominated and a finalist in the Westside Board of Trade's Key Business Awards for Performing Arts in 2018.

We have had a successful 3 years at our new location, despite the challenges of the pandemic. This space affords us the ability to offer a mentorship program for new teachers to ensure the longevity of music education in West Kelowna. Our desire is to keep West Kelowna music students in West Kelowna rather than have them leave the community for other music schools. We have grown from our initial 4 teachers to 13 as of February 2022. Our music co-operative provides affordable space for music entrepreneurs in West Kelowna. This all leads to a community school we originally envisioned.

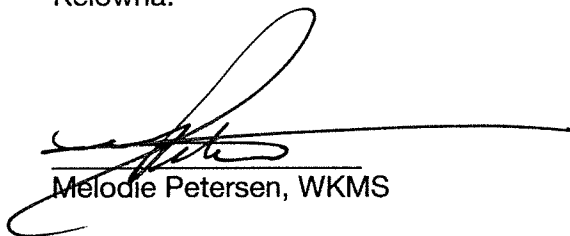
After an exhaustive two-year search, this property (3591 Elliott Road) was the only suitable option and still is, in West Kelowna because of its affordability, location, parking and configuration.

Our hours of operation have been Monday through Saturday between the hours of 9:00am and 9:00pm, September to June. Our summer hours of operation are much reduced.

We have seen a 95% decrease in transient behaviour (drug-use, vandalism and camping out) since we have opened our doors in 2019. In regards to this, we feel our business has been a very positive influence in the neighbourhood.

Our lease at our current location expires July of 2022, however, our students register for Fall classes in May and we need to have our TUP approved by then end of April so we can sign our new Lease and assure our music families that we have a school location for the Fall.

We count on your support in our efforts to continue to provide music education in West Kelowna.



Melodie Petersen, WKMS



Sandra Mitchell, WKMS

