

## Let's Return Music to Designated Music Spaces!

Knowing what we know now, music educators and administrators can make music spaces safe for singing and musical learning. It is time to see music teaching and learning back in the spaces designed for music teaching and learning.

Choral and music teachers consider designated music rooms among the necessary supports and resources for providing students with an optimal learning environment. **Most teachers (84%) who completed this survey were teaching in spaces devoted to music education at their schools prior to the pandemic. Now, only 27% of those same teachers are teaching from a space designed for music education<sup>1</sup>.**

Survey results also indicate that almost 1/3 of teacher respondents fear they will not have access to dedicated music rooms moving forward. These numbers reported in the preliminary report for the *Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID-19 Impact Survey* demonstrate that the immediate pandemic response to move music teachers to carts and music instruction into traditional classrooms – while perhaps a necessary adjustment at the time - cannot become a continued norm.

As policies evolve, music educators have made significant progress, developing safe guidelines that are best implemented in music rooms. These are the spaces designed for music teaching and learning, with access to instruments and space for student movement. These are also the spaces that best support the distancing required for safe singing practices.

It is time to see students learning in the physical spaces designed for music learning and music making!

### ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The *Singing in Canadian Schools: COVID-19 Impact Survey* paints an authentic picture of our experiences as Canadian music educators. The survey sample pool was substantial and representative, with almost 1000 respondents from across the country. Comprehensive survey results hold the potential to guide policy and practice related to singing in schools in the upcoming year, keeping students engaged AND safe. Final report publication to follow.

<sup>1</sup> Morin, F., & Mahmud, M. N. (2021). Singing in Canadian schools: COVID 19 impact survey. Unpublished preliminary findings. Choral Canada.