



TAHOE TRUCKEE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

By **DIANE CAMPBELL**, Tahoe Donner Giving Fund Committee Member

“Music transcends age, gender, nationality, religion and politics. Once the music starts, we all come together!” It is hard to argue with this quote by Ben Martin, founder (in 2009) and director of the Tahoe Truckee School of Music, one of the 13 nonprofits recently awarded grants by the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund.

MUSIC FOR EVERYONE



The goals of this vibrant music school are to provide access to musical instruction and experiences for the North Tahoe/ Truckee community at either very affordable rates or completely free of charge. Services found at the Tahoe Truckee School of Music include private lessons for kids and adults, hands-on music workshops for schools, summer camps and youth organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club, performance opportunities (both as performing musicians and as audience members), weekly song groups and professional music booking services. The Truckee Senior Center was recently treated to a Christmas performance, showing again that music appeals to all ages.

Martin notes that in 2022, the Tahoe Truckee School of Music gave over 5,000 private lessons, reached over 1,000 community members through workshops and classes, and performed for over 35,000 local audience members. In fact, last summer, children in our own Tahoe Donner summer camps benefited from the fun provided by the school’s workshops with singalongs for students and counselors.

A LIBRARY OF INSTRUMENTS + MUSIC BOOKS

The Tahoe Truckee School of Music offers an “instrument library.” Martin describes this as being akin to a library of books. Any student may choose from a large variety of musical instruments, check it out from the library free of charge and keep it indefinitely – as long as it is being used. The immediate impact of this service for the community is that those in need, regardless of age, have access

to a free instrument rental. The library also offers free music books for checkout.

Partial funding for the Tahoe Truckee School of Music comes from the income generated from its many services. However, as Martin explains, “If there is money available to be paid for our services, that is great. But, if there are no funds, we will provide our services pro bono or in scholarships.”

On behalf of the Tahoe Truckee School of Music, Martin thanks the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund for its generous grant, which will help with expenses related to its workshops and unique instrument library. Let us all sing the praises of our mighty TDGF donors and their willingness to promote music for everyone!



WHY I GIVE

“As an educator and a frequent visitor to Tahoe Donner, I am inspired to give to an organization where 100% of my donation supports first-generation, college-bound students. Supporting these students changes the trajectory of an entire family for generations to come.”

- Leanne C.,
Tahoe Donner vacationer

The Tahoe Donner Giving Fund is chartered by the TD Board of Directors. All contributions are voluntary tax-deductible gifts from TD members and friends. The Giving Fund is administered through the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation. For more information on the Giving Fund or to make a contribution, visit our webpage at tahoedonner.com/giving-fund. Contact tdgf@tahoedonner.com with questions or to volunteer for the committee. We thank and are grateful for our founding partner, Elements Mountain Company, for their continuing support.

