

Children's Music Album Criteria

Album Concept

Young children are fierce learners and songs are powerful tools that aid their brain and language development while conveying information that helps them understand their world.

This collection featuring local Edmonton-area musicians will inspire babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grownups to sing, dance, laugh, and cuddle while experiencing our diverse community expressed through music and song.

The album of original songs will help young children recognize and celebrate the world around them, whether that is bundling up on a winter day, visiting the library, trekking through the river valley, cuddling with a grandparent, or experiencing any one of the many other small adventures possible in daily life in Alberta.

Album Length:

The total runtime for the album will be determined by the song selection but will be within the range of 30-60 minutes.

Number and length of songs:

There will be approximately 20 songs on the album. Each song will be approximately 1-2.5 minutes in length.

Audience:

Young children from birth – three years and their parents, siblings and other caregivers.

Promotion and distribution:

This album will be promoted and distributed primarily through the Welcome Baby packages given to babies at their two month immunizations in Edmonton or Enoch and babies admitted to neonatal intensive care units in Edmonton. This averages around 9400 babies each year.

Spread the words.

Song Selection

What we're looking for:

Original, lyric-based songs that appeal to young children and their families and encourages repeated listening and participation.

Only songs from artists living in the Edmonton Metropolitan area, Treaty 6 First Nations, or a Métis Settlement in Alberta will be considered. Songs from artists outside of these areas and purely instrumental submissions will not be considered for this project.

Clean lyrics only (no explicit content).

We welcome and encourage submissions from both new and established artists, First Nations, Metis, and Inuit artists, and artists of different backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, religions, and gender and sexual identities. Artists may choose to self-identify in the selection process and/or choose to reflect their identity through musical styles and lyrical choices.

Selection process and criteria:

A jury comprised of members of EPL's Early Literacy and Family Services team will select songs based on perceived appeal to young children from diverse backgrounds within Edmonton as well as fit within the overall collection of songs for the album.

Songs should be short (under 3 minutes in finished form). Songs of any tempo, style, and genre will be considered. Songs may be multilingual, but a portion of the work should be in either English or French. Translations of non-English lyrics must be provided.

Topics should be relevant to young children's interests and lives in Alberta. They may reflect more universal experiences, such as winter and bedtime, or more specific experiences drawn from cultural and family life, etc.

Song qualities that enhance early literacy skill development in young children may also be a factor in selection, e.g. songs that emphasize words and build awareness of the sound of words, encourage young children to join in, increase vocabulary, etc.

Each artist or group can submit up to three songs for consideration; however, no more than 2 songs will be selected for the album.

Edmonton Public Library cannot guarantee that artists/groups whose songs are not selected will be notified or receive feedback.

If you are selected:

You will be asked to complete your full composition, bringing your submitted sample to the 1-2.5 minute mark.

You will receive an honorarium of \$250 CAD for your composition.

You will be invited into the EPL MakerSpace Recording Studio to record your composition with the house band.

You will maintain 100% ownership over your composition, and as a result, will still receive royalties on your composition should it gain any via radio or streaming.

PLEASE NOTE:

The selected composers are not required to arrange the music for the house band, as that will be done by the project producer.

Contact Us:

If you have any questions, please contact KidsMusic@epl.ca