

# THE ORAC OUTLOOK

## OAK RIDGE ARTS COLLECTIVE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### MALLETS, RECORDERS, AND DRUMS...OH MY!

There's exciting news at Oak Ridge Arts Collective! ORAC has been awarded an Innovation Grant from Salem Presbytery!

The grant supports creative community initiatives that foster outreach, connection, and growth. We are incredibly grateful for this support, which helped provide ORAC with a class set of multiple instruments and launch a brand-new collaborative music experience for children in our community.

Drum, Strum, & Play! is designed for children in K-5th grade, giving young musicians hands-on experience with West African djembes, xylophones, recorders, ukuleles, and more as they collaborate and create music together.

The class is led by Oak Ridge's own Christine Royal, a National Board Certified music educator and one of the best in our field! The experience will culminate in a special showcase for family and friends.

**All experience levels and learning styles welcome!**

**Wednesdays at 5:30 PM**  
**September 30 – January 20**



The poster features the Oak Ridge Arts Collective logo at the top, which includes a stylized musical note with red, blue, and yellow segments. Below the logo, the title "DRUM, STRUM, & PLAY!" is written in large, bold, black letters, followed by "MUSIC FOR COMMUNITY" in a smaller font. The main text area is light blue and contains the following information: "Learn music and make new friends!", "Wednesdays 5:30-6:15pm", "September 30 - January 20", and "\$20 / week". It also describes the class as a "fun, hands-on 12-week group class led by national board certified music educators" and lists the instruments: "Explore drumming, ukulele, mallet instruments, and more in a fun, hands-on 12-week group class led by national board certified music educators." It specifies "Grades K-5" and "All experience levels welcome! Instruments are provided." The bottom of the poster includes the contact information for Oak Ridge Arts Collective: "2614 Oak Ridge Rd, Oak Ridge NC 27310" and "336-298-6165". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. On the right side of the poster, there are four circular images showing children playing various instruments: a djembe, a ukulele, a xylophone, and a recorder.

Oak Ridge Arts Collective  
2614 Oak Ridge Rd, Oak Ridge NC 27310  
336-298-6165



## ORAC ROCKS RIDGEFEST 2026

Beautiful weather, an enthusiastic audience of friends, families, and neighbors, and a whole lot of great music made Ridgefest a night to remember!

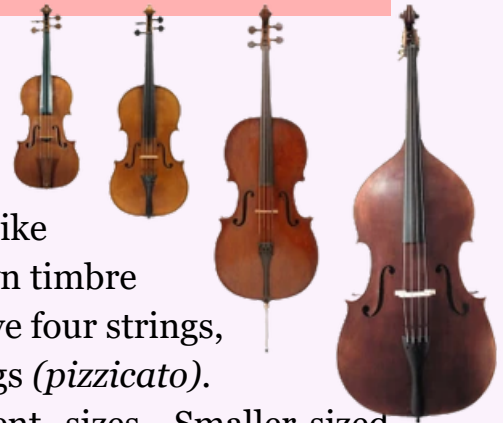
The ORAC Faculty Band rocked the amphitheater with Leah Landau (Music Together Triad) on vocals, Mary Boudreault (ORAC Executive Director) on vocals, keyboard, and guitar, Ken Brown (ORAC Creative Director) on guitar, Peter Zlotnick (percussion teaching artist) on drums, Mark Boles (ORAC supporter and student) on bass, and Jeff Cameron (ORAC supporter) on rhythm guitar.

But the real stars of the night were our ORAC students, who joined the band on stage and absolutely rocked the house with music by Nirvana, Noah Kahan, Johnny Cash, the Eagles, and more!

It was a great night of music, bringing our teaching artists, students, and community members together. We hope it's the beginning of an annual Ridgefest tradition!



## ORAC MUSIC MINUTE

**Is the Double Bass Just a Big Violin?**

Not quite! The violin, viola, cello, and double bass may look like one instrument that keeps getting bigger, but each has its own timbre and range. All four belong to the orchestral string family, have four strings, and can be played with a bow (*arco*) or by plucking the strings (*pizzicato*). Just like musicians, string instruments come in different sizes. Smaller-sized instruments allow younger or smaller players to play comfortably as they grow.

**Violin** — The smallest and highest-pitched of the four. It often gets the soaring melodies in the orchestra and is played under the chin.

**Viola** — A little bigger, a little lower, with a warm and rich sound. Its strings are tuned a fifth lower than the violin.

Fun fact: Our ORAC Director of Communications, David, is a violist!

**Cello** — Much too big for your shoulder! Cellists sit to play, resting the instrument on an endpin. Its deep, expressive sound is often compared to the human voice.

**Double (Upright) Bass** — The biggest and lowest - and a bit of a standout in the string family! While violin, viola, and cello are tuned in fifths, the bass is tuned in fourths - just like the four lowest strings of a guitar. Bass players usually stand or sit on a tall stool to play.

While they may look like siblings, the double bass definitely isn't just a giant violin!

And speaking of basses... ORAC has a beautiful new addition to our instrument family! Thanks to the generosity of Brian and Jill Swierenga, Oak Ridge residents and wonderful supporters of music education, ORAC is now the proud home of a gorgeous double bass. We can't wait to hear all the music it will make in the hands of our students!



**ORAC ON THE TOWN: BISTRO 150**

Come celebrate our adult music students with a casual evening of live music, delicious food, drinks, and community at Bistro 150!

We can't wait to cheer them on as they share their music!

**Thursday, September 24**

**6:30-8:30 PM**

**Bistro 150 in Oak Ridge**



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## Upcoming Events

**ORAC Adult Musician Showcase at Bistro 150 – September 24**

**Drum, Strum, & Play! – September 30**

**Gentle Yoga and Sound Healing with Sarah Cheffy – October 1**

**October On the Lawn Student Showcase – October 18**

**Yoga Classes: Thursdays @ 6 PM and Fridays @ 12 PM**

**Music Together Triad Classes: Fridays @ 4 PM**

**STAY CONNECTED!**

