



## **RESIDENCY PROGRAMMING**

**EDUCATION & COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**OLIVIA DIERCKS | CELLO**

**KARLA COLAHAN | VIOLIN**

# OVERVIEW

*“The OK Factor brought **magic** to the stage of Champlin Park High School. One hundred and twenty string players selected from our middle and high school string programs were up in front of their family and friends improvising, grooving, chopping, and fiddling their hearts out...”*

## LEVI COMSTOCK, CHAMPLIN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

The OK Factor’s residency programming is the foundation of their career, with a focus on sharing their love of music with audiences of all ages in all places. They are passionate about creating an experience that will inspire and encourage both communities and students to explore music more deeply - to cultivate a curiosity about its role in their lives.

Olivia and Karla believe there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to creating a residency. It is both possible and exciting to craft something that uniquely fits your community members and their interests. Olivia and Karla share their joy and love for music in many ways, ranging from mini-performances and question and answer sessions, to multi-day classes devoted to learning and mastering new string techniques, and everything in between.

In addition to their community offerings, The OK Factor is excited to share their new educational initiative - *ATLAS: Your Road Map to No Map At All*. This hub for all of The OK Factor’s education outreach is the culmination of years of workshopping and learning, designed with students and teachers in mind. Featuring new workshops with student study guides and teacher resources created by Olivia and Karla and vetted by seasoned educators from diverse backgrounds, everything you need to create an enriching and exciting experience for students is ready to go.

More information about The OK Factor’s residency programming can be found on the following pages.

# EDUCATION CLINICS: ATLAS

ATLAS is an education initiative developed by Olivia Diercks and Karla Colahan, cellist and violinist of The OK Factor, aimed at encouraging students to be adventurous with music. Pulling from their own personal musical journeys, Olivia and Karla have found a deep sense of purpose in exciting and encouraging students of all ages to explore what music means to them, both as community members and as individuals. Each and every child - every person - has a unique musical voice. Through ATLAS, Olivia and Karla engage students in exploring what their unique musical voice is, and how they can use it to foster meaningful, life-changing opportunities.

A cornerstone of ATLAS is the *ATLAS Adventure* -- a workshop with The OK Factor -- that takes both students and teachers on a musical adventure with guided stops along the way to explore composition, improvisation, and the genres of folk, pop, and classical music. It also facilitates the learning of string techniques such as chopping and accented rhythmic patterns, which enhance the students' capabilities and options for creativity. Olivia and Karla encourage students to use their instruments as vehicles for innovative musical thinking through age-appropriate games, activities, and critical listening. The best part is, ATLAS Adventures are made for everyone! From general music programs, to public and private orchestras, from Kindergarten to high school.

In addition to ATLAS Adventures, ATLAS is home to many resources that will inspire instrumentalists from all backgrounds and walks of life, including worksheets to facilitate composition, and The OK Factor's original transcriptions for duo and quartet. Designed to reach a wide range of playing abilities, The OK Factor's transcriptions can be used throughout a workshop with the duo while incorporating the string techniques and compositional and improvisatory concepts from the ATLAS material.

ATLAS provides the road map for exploration and discovery of this new musical world, in hopes that it will lead all musicians to create their own adventures using no road map at all.

**For more information on ATLAS and ATLAS Adventures, visit [www.theokfactoratlas.com](http://www.theokfactoratlas.com).**

# COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

## PERFORMANCE Q&A

Performance by The OK Factor integrated with a student-led or community-led question and answer session. Audiences hear original pieces composed by Olivia and Karla, and ask any questions they might have about their music, life as a musician, etc. Olivia and Karla can also provide truncated versions of their Performance Q&A for pop-up concerts or other short performances.

## COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE

The OK Factor joins a student or community ensemble for a performance. Performance repertoire can include particular pieces and techniques covered in a clinic, in which students/community members would directly participate.

## SENIOR EDUCATION

The OK Factor has developed an hour long program designed specifically for adults ages 55+. The program engages this community in the comfort of their own space, bringing the music to them. Sharing classics from various genres (jazz, folk, show tunes, etc.) as well as their own original music, Olivia and Karla speak to the versatility of the violin and cello and the various techniques they have cultivated as a duo. This program often includes a brief Q&A session.

## JAM SESSIONS

The OK Factor engages all ages and skill levels with community jam sessions. Community members are encouraged to have at least one year of playing experience. Participants meet with The OK Factor for an hour of music-making, during which the duo will teach various tunes and melodies using a combination of sight-reading and playing by rote. This provides an opportunity for instrumentalists and music lovers who may or may not be affiliated with a particular ensemble or studio to make music with friends in a relaxed and exciting environment.

**We can't wait to collaborate with you to create an residency experience that  
uniquely fits your community!**

For booking inquiries, please contact:

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