

THE OK FACTOR BIOGRAPHY

Olivia Diercks and Karla Colahan, cellist and violinist of The OK Factor, have one word to describe their musical connection: lucky. The ease with which they write and perform their original music is organic, and their new-classical crossover style has caught the attention of the Minnesota music community in which they live and work. It continues to bring them success on stages such as The Dakota Jazz Club, The Cedar Cultural Center, The Aster Cafe, The Stone Arch Bridge Festival and more.

Olivia and Karla are passionate about educational outreach and community engagement. They conduct workshops for string students of all ages, using their instruments as vehicles for creative and innovative musical thinking. Olivia and Karla also provide programming to reach community members where they're at, creating an experience that inspires and encourages communities to explore music, and cultivate a curiosity about its role in their lives.

Following four years of writing, performing, and regional touring, The OK Factor is excited to share their fourth studio album, "That's Enough of That", released in August of 2016.

OLIVIA DIERCKS

Cellist Olivia Diercks is a performer, composer, teacher, and arts advocate. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Luther College in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in music performance. While at Luther, Olivia sat assistant-principal for both the Symphony and Chamber orchestras, participated in a hip-hop string group called Stranz, and co-founded the new-classical crossover duo The OK Factor.

Olivia teaches private cello lessons at Ovation Academy of Music as well as the Mount Olivet School of Music. She also directs the Burroughs Elementary School 4th and 5th Grade Orchestra. The bulk of Olivia's playing and performing is with The OK Factor, in which she and violinist, Karla Dietmeyer, compose and arrange original music in the new-classical crossover genre. The duo continues to gain presence in the Midwest and beyond, performing at notable venues, recently releasing their fourth studio album, That's Enough of That, and being chosen as Minnesota Public Radio Class Notes Artists for 2016-2017.

KARLA COLAHAN

Karla Colahan is the violinist and co-composer for new-classical crossover duo, The OK Factor. She and duo partner, Olivia Diercks, perform concerts, workshops, and showcases around the Midwest, sharing original compositions and passion for their art with students, audiences, and music lovers of all ages. The OK Factor has been increasingly successful through their performances, studio work, educational outreach, and partnerships with local Minnesota artists and organizations.

Aside from performing, Karla has developed her educational artistry through faculty positions at MacPhail Center for Music, Luther College Dorian Summer Music Festival, and the Aspen Music Festival, as well as maintained private studios through Mount Olivet School of Music and Ovation Academy of Music. She graduated from Luther College in 2013, served as concertmaster of the Luther College Symphony Orchestra for three years, and often soloed with the Luther College Jazz Orchestra during her college career.