

# Phase II North American Indigenous Music Project

## Participant FAQ



### What is this project all about?

Many Indigenous youth face a number of challenges including poverty, ostracism, assault, child abuse, dysfunctional families, substance abuse, depression, sub-standard education, and high suicide rates. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the challenges tribal nations must face. Music is about vibrations. It is a source of healing and provides sacred space. Our project will facilitate inter-tribal connections, facilitate the building of a new student musician support group, create new friendships, promote Native cultures and music to the world, provide holistic healing, and instill pride and unity across Indigenous communities. Music is medicine.

### Who is running the project?

This project is conceptualized and managed by a Maryland-based (USA) nonprofit organization called, *The Global Z Recording Project*. We seek to serve and improve the socio-cultural good of mankind by embracing diversity, encouraging democratic processes, fostering dialogue, and promoting peace through out-of-the-box, educational, youth-oriented, music-related projects.

### Who can participate?

You may participate if you are an Indigenous student musician age 5–24, and are recognized as a member of a tribal nation located within the boundaries of the United States or Canada. We also ask that you are willing to share your stories, actively get to know your peers, and be open to exploring how culture, religion, history, art, and other aspects of the human experience shapes the music we love. You also must be a professional. If you are selected to participate, a number of people are depending on you to do your part. You must practice your part and be ready to record on the date agreed by you, the producer, the program manager, and the audio engineer.

## **What is in it for me?**

Lots of great stuff! For starters, you will get to meet and get to know a bunch of Indigenous student musicians who, much like you, are serious about the music they play and make. You will learn technical skills on how to work with commercial-quality audio production hardware and virtual recording and collaboration technologies. You will also learn how to virtually collaborate on a professional audio production project. We will also explore – together – what it means to be an Indigenous musician, the power of music, and how you can make a positive difference in the world with the music you make. You will work with NAMMY Award-Winning singer, songwriter, and producer Wade Fernandez (Walks With The Black Wolf). We will create a song that will be made available on commercial streaming services so you might even make a little cash out of the deal! And, you will be seen and heard on the project's documentary-style music video.

## **What other requirements are there in order to participate?**

You will need to find a sponsor at the school you attend, preferably a sponsor in the school's music program. There are technical requirements to address as well.

- Locate a quiet space in your school where you can record
- Access a computer with 64-bit Windows v7/8.x/10 ~ or ~ Mac OS X 10.11/Mac OS 10.12; 64-bit Intel or AMD multi-core processor (Intel i5 or faster recommended); 4 GB RAM; 100 MB free HD space
- Computer must have a USB 2.0 or 3 port available
- Computer must be able to download a free recording application
- Provide an Ethernet cable to hardwire your computer to a high speed Internet connection with a minimum upload speed of 1MB per second
- A webcam

## **Do I need to have any audio production recording experience?**

Nope, not at all. We will help you with the recording process every step of the way.

## **Do I need to have any audio or video production equipment?**

Another nope! We will provide what is needed.

## **Can I use my own audio or video production equipment?**

Well... maybe. It depends. The benefit of using our gear is it has been tested and we know it will achieve the quality standards we have established for the project. That said, if you *DO* have some audio/video gear, please let us know as if it is something we think we might

be able to use for the project (thank you!), doing so will save our nonprofit significant shipping expenses, for which we would be most grateful ☺

### **Can I keep the audio/video equipment that is sent to me?**

Nope again. We have purchased equipment and send it out on loan to project participants for two reasons: 1) The gear we own has been tested and we know what it is capable of; 2) We want to provide you the gear to use on the project so you don't have to worry about buying or trying to borrow gear in order to participate. Essentially, by providing the equipment, we are removing potential equipment barriers to you so you can focus on being a musician! Once you are finished with the equipment, you send it back to Global Z (we pay the shipping) so we can put it to use in future projects.

### **How do I get help understanding the participation agreement?**

Understanding participation agreements can be confusing. We are extremely excited to have secured an agreement with [PennState University's Arts, Sports, and Entertainment Law Clinic](#) to assist project participants with understanding what the language and terms used in the agreement means to the songwriter and the musicians. We wholeheartedly encourage student musicians take advantage of this incredible and free resource! You are also more than welcome to seek input from your own legal resource.

### **What steps do I need to take to participate?**

Keep an eye on [our website](#) and social media for the latest project information!

### **Are songwriters limited to submitting traditional songs?**

Traditional songs are welcome – and so are other genres! You know, one of the coolest things about music being made by Indigenous artists these days is it can cross over into a wide range of musical genres. The main thing we want to hear is, whatever you submit, we would like to hear an Indigenous influence that stands out in your song.

### **Are songwriters limited in what their lyrics can say?**

To a degree, yes. First of all, I want to clarify Global Z is not a big fan of censoring music. That said, there are several things we must consider. We will not record or endorse any songs that go against the principles for which we stand. Also, please keep in mind we have this contest open to student musicians with an age range of 5–24. As such, we will not accept songs whose lyrics are offensive, promote unhealthy practices, or might make any of your peers feel uncomfortable. If you need additional guidance, reach out to us via email for clarification.

## **Does my song submission need to be commercial quality?**

No, not really. However, try to record it with the best quality you can so we can hear as much of the instrument(s) and vocals as possible. Also, if you have a vision of the instruments and types of vocals you think would sound best on your song, try to include as many of them in the recording as possible. For instance, if you think the sound would sound great with a 10 piece brass band, try to recruit as many musicians to get this point across as possible. If you think the song works best as a singer and one acoustic guitar, record the song reflecting this point of view. If all you have available to you is a piano or even just your voice, the bottom line is a great song will shine through with a minimal amount of instrumentation. We will know a great song when we hear it whether it is presented to us with one instrument or a 20 piece orchestra.

## **How do I use the audio recording equipment?**

Not to worry. Our lead audio engineer, Dr. Jonathan Cresci, is a highly experienced audio recording guru and an educator. He will be working with you and your sponsor to ensure you know how to use the audio production gear we provide.

## **Who will record the musicians?**

As mentioned above, our lead audio engineer/guru Dr. Jonathan Cresci will take care of the recording, mixing and mastering tasks. And he will do a great job!

## **How does the recording of the music video work?**

A big part of our project is the creation of a documentary-style music video that we release to the public on YouTube. You can see an example of a similar video we created (with not-so-good video equipment) [here](#). If you have a smart phone capable of recording excellent video, we ask you have a friend or family member – or maybe your sponsor – record video of you as work on the different parts of the project. You would then send the video files to us to edit in post-production. If you do NOT have access to a video camera, we will send you one on loan to use for the project. When you are done participating in the project, just ship it back to us (we cover shipping) with any audio production gear we have provided.

## **Why do I need a sponsor?**

Having a sponsor is important for several key reasons. First of all, we highly recommend and prefer you find a sponsor at your school. This way, the sponsor can assist you with getting permission to recording on school property in a space that is suitable for recording, and, provide you with access to a computer and the school's broadband signal. This is *really, really* important. Also, it helps to have an established business/school address we can ship the equipment to for tracking purposes. You would be surprised (or

not!) with how many shipments disappear or get seriously delayed these days! If you cannot secure a school-based sponsor, let us know and we will work with you.

## Who is Wade Fernandez?

Wade Fernandez (Walks With The Black Wolf – Menominee) is a multi-award winning, NAMMY Award-winning, internationally touring singer, songwriter, producer and educator. He is an incredible soul who has shared the stage and recorded with a number of 'A-List' musicians. We are truly honored to have him work with us as the project's producer.  
<https://wadefernandezmusic.com/>

## Can we really record the song and do everything else over the Internet?

Absolutely! We have spent years researching and developing best practices for projects just like this. We know what it takes to make this project a success. In addition, our team is constantly exploring the ever-changing advances in virtual audio production and collaboration technologies and how we might apply them to current and future projects.

## Will all musicians record their parts at the same time?

Not yet, but hopefully someday. It all depends on the evolution of technology ☺  
For this project, each musician will record their part – virtually – one at a time.

## Can I get a digital copy of the finished song?

Sure, *however*, you are limited in your use of the recording of the song. The copywrite to the song will be retained by the songwriter, and the copyright to the final actual recording (mechanical rights) of the song will be retained by *The Global Z Recording Project*. As participation agreements will be in place and the song will be made available on commercial streaming servers, you are not allowed to post the song file where it may be downloaded by others. Keep in mind, you and your fellow artists may potentially profit from the sale of the song through streaming services, so to be fair to all involved, we must limit the use and public access to the song. You may use the file as a means to promote yourself to a music industry professional or as part of an educational music portfolio. If in doubt, please check with us via email.

## When will the recording be available on streaming services?

This will depend on a number of dynamic factors. Our best guess is Summer 2022.

## **When** will the music video be available to view?

This will depend on a number of dynamic factors. Our best guess is Summer 2022.

## **Is** there a similar project music video available to view?

Sure. [This music video](#) was produced during our *Proof of Concept Project*. While we were very happy with the quality of the audio produced, much of the video was shot using a less-than adequate smart phone. The video equipment we currently have available will definitely elevate our current project's music video to a higher level of excellence!

## **What** is the project timeline?

There are a few aspects of the project that challenge locking in a definite timeline. As we progress through the project, a more firm timeline can be established. We estimate the project will come to full completion by Summer 2022. Check in with our web and media sites for timeline specifics as we progress.

## **Where** can I get additional information?

You can find more information [on our website](#) as well as [on this video](#) posted on our educational YouTube channel titled, *From A To Global Z*. For other project-related questions, please contact *The Global Z Recording Project* at [globalzrecording@gmail.com](mailto:globalzrecording@gmail.com)