

'I think I should have no other mortal wants, if I could always have plenty of music. It seems to infuse strength into my limbs and ideas into my brain. Life seems to go on without effort, when I am filled with music.' George Eliot (1819 - 1880)



Nothing in this world unites people like music. Whatever differences there may be quickly fad away at the first note. The Gjilan School of Music needs your help to continue bringing the people of Kosovo closer together.

Established in 1979 and part of the municipal school system, the School of Music is the pride Gjilan. 70% of the students accepted into the School of Music at the University of Pristina come from Gjilan. Professor Izet Kallaba, the school's director, oversees 37 instructors who make as little as 170-190 € a month. Teachers provide lessons on piano, accordion, violin, viola, cello, bass, guitar, clarinet, flute, French horn, and trumpet to approximately 425 primary and high school students annually. To see the size of the building and how small practice rooms are, it is hard to comprehend the amount of coordination there must be to teach so many students on all the different instruments.

The building is in total disrepair and has no indoor plumbing. The school lacks a generator which is needed because of intermittent power. The school has no sound system, recording equipment, up to date computer equipment, and only limited furniture. The school only has 3 music stands of its own. Despite this the music plays on.



Building dates back to 1890s



School of Music Bathrooms

However, without your help it may not. The school is in desperate need of musical instruments. Most families struggle to put enough food on the table and can ill afford to purchase an instrument for their son or daughter. Any instrument, new, used, or even slightly damaged will be graciously accepted. Director Kallaba has the ability to instruct on other instruments than those listed above if available.



The school stays open all summer for practice



Professor Kallaba with one of the few stands

In addition to instruments, the school is in serious need of sheet music. The school is open to any donations and/or assistance you can provide to continue the peace process in Kosovo with the encouragement of music. Please send all donations to the point of contact below. When sending instruments, please consider the journey they will make through the mail system when packing. A donation presentation is planned for early December at the school, please take into account this and the fact that mail can take up to 3 weeks for delivery when sending out donations.

Please send donations to:

Sergeant First Class John David Craemer
353rd Civil Affairs Command Detachment
Camp Monteith
APO AE 09340

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or are interested in exploring other donations and/or assistance, please contact SFC Craemer at john.craemer@us.army.mil
On behalf of Professor Kallaba, the music school teachers and students, and all of the people of Kosovo; thank you!