



THE LEADING NOTE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



WHO WE ARE



The **Leading Note Foundation** is a registered Canadian charitable organization which administers **OrKidstra, a music program for children in under-served areas of Ottawa.**

our mission is to empower children and build community through the universal language of music. We carry out this mission by providing children from low income families with free group and individual music lessons and the chance to learn important life skills such as respect, compassion, teamwork and responsibility through playing and singing together.

our vision is a future where all children and youth have the opportunity to find their voice and build their potential through music.

In Ottawa, thousands of children are without the opportunity to learn and benefit from music-making due to financial constraints, cultural differences, language barriers, the absence of music programs in most public schools and physical challenges. **The OrKidstra program brings the joys and challenges of making music together to children who otherwise would not have the opportunity.**

Creating a musical pathway to empower children by teaching them to listen, with their ears *and* their hearts, **OrKidstra aims for the development of balanced and responsible citizens, a reduction in youth alienation, and a lifelong appreciation for the beauty and importance of music.**



"When I play with the orchestra, I feel included and I feel safe. It's a privilege to be in OrKidstra."

– Ngoc Kim, 18, violin
OrKidstra Dedication Level Student and
violinist of the Ottawa Youth Orchestra

ORKIDSTRA BY THE NUMBERS:

3 PROGRAMS

KidPlayers: Orchestra, band and chamber music programs for strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion.

KidSingers: A joyful choral program of classical, contemporary and world music.

KiddlyWinks: A high energy, fun music and movement program for young children.

REACHING OVER

300
OTTAWA CHILDREN

FROM OVER

42 CULTURAL
&
LINGUISTIC
BACKGROUNDS

AGES RANGE FROM

5-18

PROVIDING OVER

\$140,000
WORTH OF INSTRUMENTS
DONATED
BY THE OTTAWA COMMUNITY

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The 2012-13 year was marked by the creation of some major building blocks for the organizations including the creation of a Strategic Plan, an inaugural Financial Audit, a Fundraising Feasibility Study and the development of a new Website. Through all of this, programs operated very successfully, building new components and increasing the number of children exposed to music by reaching a historic agreement with the school board to pilot the delivery of programs in-school.



Chair 2011-12 Sylvia Gazsi-Gill (left) and Susan Carter, Chair 2012-13 (right)

The students demonstrated new levels of excellence with several of the senior students being accepted into the Ottawa Youth Orchestra while all continued to work very hard and deliver a number of performances across the City. We developed new partnerships and working arrangements within the Ottawa community as well as with other El Sistema-inspired programs across Canada.

The Board of Directors congratulates the Executive Director and her staff on a very successful year.

Susan Carter, Chair, Board of Directors 2012-2013

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been another extraordinary year. It is hard to believe that six years have already passed when in 2007, with the passionate belief in the transformative social power of music, we started the *OrKidstra* program with 30 students (many of whom are still with us)!

We are looking ahead with great excitement and anticipation to the next year and beyond. In 2012-13 The Leading Note Foundation developed a Five Year Strategic Plan. As demand for *OrKidstra*'s programs grows, it was necessary to create a clear vision of how to develop and expand program delivery in keeping with our mandate - *to give children from underserved communities the opportunity to learn and make music together and the chance to benefit from the individual skills and community values that are inherent in music-making.*

Our immediate priority is to intensify our current operations in Ottawa Centre and to test a new, more decentralized, program delivery model – one which will engage elementary schools and local community organizations in the delivery of our introductory-level programs. A pilot project with six elementary in-school classes is already well underway!

Our long-term goal is to see a suite of *OrKidstra* programs operating throughout the City of Ottawa, with priority given to those lower-income neighbourhoods identified as community development priorities. The extent and pace of such expansion will depend on the availability of financial support and the forging of new partnerships.

These exciting plans are built on our successful past and our vibrant present, because what we can say for sure is that the children are blossoming with the *OrKidstra* experience and the organization is thriving. None of this could happen without the inspiring and invaluable support of the Ottawa community. We are looking forward to sharing the many incredible opportunities, concerts and events featuring the *OrKidstra* students in the coming year!

Tina Fedeski, Executive Director



HOW ORKIDSTRA WORKS

MENTORSHIP



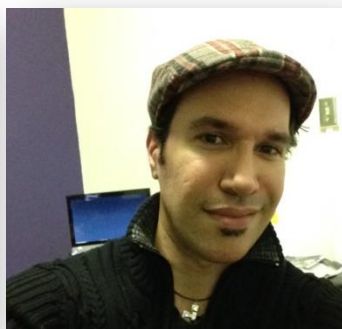
PATRICK

Learning to teach the OrKidstra way

A member of the Ottawa Junior Youth Orchestra and high school student, Patrick came to the program as a mentor to the woodwind players in *OrKidstra*, learning as he teaches.

"The environment here is like home. Everyone has the time to get to know each other. You can always find the help you need."

VOLUNTEERISM



ANTONIO

Another, better purpose

Tony came from Venezuela, the birthplace of El Sistema, to study voice at UOttawa. Once Tony learned of the *OrKidstra* program, he became involved as a teaching assistant. "I don't do it for credit. It's time-consuming but I didn't care about that. These children always make my day."

His time teaching at *OrKidstra* has opened an unexpected door: "I was studying for myself and now I may have another, better purpose."

STUDENT TEACHING



VENESSA

Special student, special teacher

As one of 60 undergraduate students earning academic credits and invaluable hands-on experience, Venessa takes part in the Experiential Teaching Artists Program with the University of Ottawa's School of Music and Community Service Learning Department.

Venessa's assignment—to assist a special needs student "I love working with children with special needs. I work so hard because they need something different from you."

PROGRAM INSTRUCTION



CENDRINE

No limits in my class!

Now teaching her fourth year of *KiddlyWinks* (xylophone, recorder and singing for children aged 5-7) at three different downtown elementary schools, Cendrine also teaches the violin to 8-12 year old students in the program.

What are her guiding principles for teaching music to young children?

"It is important to show accomplishments, that everyone can do it. There are no limits in my class."

Inspired by the renowned El Sistema program in Venezuela which has, over the last 37 years, proven to the world that music can be an agent of social change, the successful adaptation of this program lies in the beautiful combination of musicianship and citizenship which is ever present in our day-to-day programming:

The Sistema-inspired Philosophy:

- 1. Extensive and intensive community connections** - Our children, teachers, families, schools and communities take ownership of and pride in the program;
- 2. Intensity of playing and performance** - Kid-powered, high commitment, passion before precision;
- 3. The fundamental role of the ensemble** - Teaching children how to form a community out of very diverse parts;
- 4. Peer-to-peer teaching structure** - Breaks down barriers and fosters open communication and friendship;
- 5. Fun** -The joy and magic that is felt clearly reflects how much the children love being there.

YEAR IN REVIEW

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Over the 2012-2013 program year, the *OrKidstra* program was involved in a number of exciting opportunities:



A new partnership, facilitated by the National Arts Centre and the YMCA, began and developed between the **Iqaluit Fiddle Club (IFC) and *OrKidstra***. This culminated in a successful **cultural and musical exchange** between Ottawa and Iqaluit students.

A new initiative of an ***OrKidstra* Youth Group** now meets on Friday nights at the Bronson Centre where the kids play chamber music and participate in community building activities together with an emphasis on **team-building and peer leadership**.



The KiddyWinks program introduced in-school classes at **York Street Public School**. Based on the success of this pilot project, discussions ensued which resulted in a larger in-school/after-school pilot project with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board for the 2013-2014 year.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to a capacity-building grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we hired a **full-time Executive Assistant / Fundraising Coordinator** in January of 2013.

To better meet the demand for our growing programs, we hired a **part-time Artistic Administrator / Violin Director** for the upcoming 2013-2014 program year.

All administration of the *OrKidstra* moved to the Bronson Centre (211 Bronson Ave., Studio 204, Ottawa).

FEASIBILITY STUDY

In 2012, a **feasibility study was undertaken to assess the likelihood of success for our expansion initiatives**.

Fundraising Consultant, Julia Huffman was hired to conduct anonymous interviews with a number of people from various areas of expertise including politicians, corporate supporters, top donors, community leaders, members of the cultural community. The results of these interviews allowed us to gain valuable insights on the organization on aspects of the Foundation including governance, staffing, and the quality and delivery of services. Thank you to all who participated in this invaluable initiative.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We take pride in our growing professionalism as a young nonprofit organization. The 2012-2013 year reflected our continuing sound financial management, resulting in a small surplus at the end of the fiscal year. The maturation of our organization can be seen in our recent, successful and **first full external audit** which recognized the integrity of our systems with a clean audit opinion.

2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

September 29, 2012:

World Premiere of 'To Young Canadians' in honour of the late Jack Layton at City Hall on Peace Day.

October 15, 2012:

Citizenship Ceremony at Rideau Hall

October 27, 2012:

Videoconference between Iqaluit Fiddle Club and *OrKidstra*. Performance hosted by the National Arts Centre.

November 14, 2012:

KidSingers performed at 2012 Philanthropy Awards event at the Westin Hotel.

November 19, 2012:

KidSingers performed at 25th Anniversary of the Community Foundation of Ottawa.

November 19, 2012:

Tina Fedeski, Executive Director, receives Canadian Institute of Child Health Leadership Award.

January 25, 2013:

Fundraising Concert featuring Marc Grauwels and Stéphane Lemelin at the University of Ottawa hosted by the Belgian Embassy.

December 16, 2012:

OrKidstra chamber ensembles, *KidSingers* and *KiddlyWinks* participate and perform at Fanfair to support the Snowsuit Fund and Ottawa Food Bank.

December 20, 2012:

OrKidstra Holiday Concert

Peace Day 2012



Fanfair 2012



Fundraising Concert 2013



2012-2013 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

February 2, 2013:

OrKidstra chamber ensembles performed at Viennese Opera Ball.

February 14, 2013:

Angela Hewitt visits the *OrKidstra* program.

March 11-16, 2013

(MARCH BREAK):

15 *OrKidstra* students visit Iqaluit

March 23, 2013:

OrKidstra string quintet performs with the Cheng2 Duo (Sylvie and Bryan Cheng)

April 7, 2013:

OrKidstra Wind Ensemble performs at the National Arts Centre with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra.

April 23 - 18, 2013:

Iqaluit Fiddle Club visits *OrKidstra* in Ottawa

April 27, 2013:

OrKidstra performs with the Iqaluit Fiddle Club at the National Arts Centre in Southam Hall

June 13, 2013:

OrKidstra End of Year Concert held at Dominion Chalmers United Church.

May 7, 2013:

OrKidstra String Quintet performed at a reception held at the Residence of the Austrian Ambassador.

May 23, 2013:

Recognition event for the Ontario Trillium Foundation featuring the Intermediate and Senior *OrKidstra*.

Angela Hewitt 2013

OrKidstra in Iqaluit 2013

NAC Performance 2013

Trillium Recognition Event 2013



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013



The Leading Note Foundation Board of Directors 2012-2013 with OrKidstra String Quintet

Susan Carter – Practitioner and analyst in the Third Sector, addressing the development and capacity of the non-profit and community sector, and the relationship between the sector and governments. Piano player and community chorister.

Cheryl Casey – A former teacher who has devoted much of her energy to volunteer activities with the Ottawa Youth Orchestra Academy (Chair: 2003-2005), the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra and other arts groups.

Sheilah Craven – A music therapist by training; currently manager of The Leading Note print music store, flute and piano player, choral singer and member of a rock band.

Penelope Feather – Certified Management Accountant specializing in the non-profit sector; past Board member of the Kiwanis Music and Dance Festival Association-National Capital Region; music lover and banjo enthusiast.

Sylvia Gazsi Gill – Former teacher. Served on the Board of the Ottawa Symphony. Founding Executive Director, Nadasdy Foundation for Arts and Environment. Manager, Thirteen Strings Chamber Orchestra for 18 years; Executive Director for 8 years.

Robin Higham – Retired Canadian ambassador. Joined the Centre on Governance at the University of Ottawa in 1998. His policy research interests include cultural diplomacy and the governance of culturally diverse societies. Amateur flute player.

Craig MacDonald – Retired Canadian ambassador. Consultant on management and trade policy. Executive volunteer on the Federal Superannuates National Association and Canadian International Council. Plays piano.

Claire Marshall – Former Vice President of the Institute on Governance. Practitioner in policy development, citizen engagement and decision making in Canada and internationally. Broad experience in professional development. A lifelong chorister.

Gary McMillen – Co-Founder of Leading Note Foundation & owner of The Leading Note print music store. Electrical engineer for 15 years, amateur cellist with Ottawa Chamber Orchestra and former rock drummer.

Raymond Murray – Litigation and entertainment lawyer with the local firm Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP since 2005. Artist, performer and legal counsel for the Souljazz Orchestra, Phil Motion and the Easi Low-Fi, and Slim Moore & the Markays. Member of the Canadian Association of Black Lawyers and Advocates Society.

Christopher Tan – Practicing Ottawa lawyer since 1992. Member of the Canadian International Council, Ottawa Branch, the Canada/Korea Friendship Society, the Rotary Club and the Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre.

Anne Taylor – Founder and Co-Director of the Media Awareness Network, a media literacy NGO and website (1994 - 2004). Formerly National Education Coordinator for the National Film Board. Active Ottawa arts volunteer.

Margaret Tobolowska – Co-founder and Artistic Director of The Leading Note Foundation. Composer, arranger and narrator of two CD's for children. Cellist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra 1999 – 2011.

Fran Ward – Accredited professional fundraiser. Seventeen years' experience in the not-for-profit sector, culminating as the Director of Major and Planned Giving at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Foundation.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Financial Position (as of June 30, 2013)

ASSETS	2013	2012
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	94,012	35,207
Accounts Receivable	2,070	150
Prepaid Expenses	816	-
HST Receivable	5,983	3,065
	102,881	38,422
CAPITAL ASSETS	85,377	99,101
TOTAL ASSETS	188,258	137,523
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	13,496	889
Government Remittance Payable	7,157	1,105
Deferred Contributions	38,667	-
	59,320	1,994
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	77,819	94,612
TOTAL LIABILITIES	137,139	96,606
NET ASSETS	51,119	40,917
	188,258	137,253

Selected Notes to Financial Statements:

*Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits include program design and co-ordination activities, fundraising and administration costs.

*Capital Assets

Donated Musical Equipment:

Donated musical equipment is recorded at appraised fair value at the date of the appraisal of the donated equipment. Amounts donated and recorded at appraised value was \$14,165 in the current year.

Statement of Operations (as of June 30, 2013)

REVENUE	2013	2012
Government Grants	51,958	40,925
Corporate Grants	15,000	9,470
Fundraising (from Special Events)	7,775	3,105
Donations	166,573	131,736
Other income	2,550	195
Tuition Fees	4,073	6,850
Donated instrument contributions*	30,957	10,461
TOTAL REVENUE	278,886	202,742
EXPENSES		
Other	12,427	12,800
Amortization	32,079	11,011
Advertising and Promotion	1,425	2,311
Salaries and Benefits*	88,849	69,186
Conferences	2,061	6,453
Fundraising	11,981	6,219
Teaching Services	81,223	47,203
Insurance	1,880	1,930
Office Supplies	7,955	5,522
Rent	19,045	17,018
Professional Fees	6,079	-
Pedagogical	1,000	16,025
Telecommunications	2,364	5,875
Travel	316	1,049
TOTAL EXPENSES	268,684	202,602
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSE	10,202	140

	COST	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION
Musical Equipment	\$	\$
Donated	140,509	62,690
Purchased	10,583	3,025
Ending Balance	151,092	65,715

	2013	2012
Musical Equipment	Net Book Value	
Donated	77,819	94,149
Purchased	7,558	4,952
Ending Balance	85,377	99,101



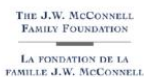
PUBLIC FUNDING



CORPORATE SUPPORT



FOUNDATIONS



IN KIND SPONSORS



"Teach children the beauty of music and music will teach them the beauty of life" ~ José Antonio Abreu, Founder of El Sistema, Venezuela

The Leading Note Foundation

www.leadingnotefoundation.org

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