



# THE LEADING NOTE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



# 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.



*"If I could describe OrKidstra in one word I would chose the word "family" because OrKidstra is family. The atmosphere is friendly and everyone is friends with each other, like family.*

– Peter, 14, clarinet

*OrKidstra Dedication Level Student and principal clarinet 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 2013-14 season has seen the *KiddlyWinks*, *KidSingers* and *KidPlayers* programs grow and deepen. The programs operating out of the Bronson Centre are lively and enthusiastic and the halls echo with music and delight daily. The plans for programs to be offered in several neighbourhood schools is also moving forward, providing more and more children with exposure to the pleasures and community benefits of making music together.



Susan Carter, Chair 2012-14 (left),  
Tina Fedeski, Executive Director (right)

This past year we lost a key member of our Board of Directors to cancer. Anne Taylor made a huge contribution to the work of The Leading Note Foundation and memorial donations in her name will be used to support a summer program for senior students featuring further music education, community engagement and some physical recreation – a fitting tribute. Highlights of the past year include several wonderful concerts put on by the students and open to the public.

As I complete my term as Chair, I want to applaud the excellent work of the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly and energetically to deliver and support this wonderful organization. You are all a pleasure to work with.

Special recognition must go to our Executive Director Tina Fedeski. Without Tina, this program and its growth and progress would not be happening. Brava, Brava Tina.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Carter".

Susan Carter, Chair, Board of Directors 2013-14

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It has been another exceptional and exciting year. It is hard to believe that seven 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 (two of whom recently graduated from high school and are both in university)!

In 2013-14 we initiated an historic two year pilot project with the support of the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to introduce the delivery of *KiddlyWinks* programs in-school. A large part of this pilot was to share our experience with class teachers in order to build their capacity to engage their students with music-making. It is exciting to see the impact it is having on the teachers, their students and the entire school community. With this success, we are moving on to the second year of the pilot which will bring us to the next stage of our five year strategic plan: to expand through decentralization by extending a musical pathway for children in after-school beginner instrumental *OrKidstra* classes in their school sites.

The progress by the students from all of the programs has been impressive and their concerts overflow with skill, joy and energy. Whether 5 or 18 years old, the most inspiring part for me is witnessing their teamwork and how much they care and support each other. Friendships bonded through music have been further deepened by the opportunity to play chamber music together – so much so that it inspired a Friday Night Youth Group. It has become *the* place to be for the older *OrKidstra* students socially as well as musically! These chamber groups performed in many of the special events that took place over the year including playing for TV shows, working with the amazing Afiara Quartet, and for our dear Anne.

None of this could happen without the incredible work and dedication of our remarkable Chair and board, teachers, staff, volunteers and community support – and the continuous commitment, curiosity and joy of our beautiful *OrKidstra* students. The seeds of the powerful partnership of musicianship and citizenship planted in 2007 are flowering in Ottawa! We are moving forward with the “quiet” confidence of musicians celebrating the beauty of life through the joy of making music together. I am honoured to share this extraordinary journey with you – thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tina Fedeski".

Tina Fedeski, Executive Director

# HOW ORKIDSTRA WORKS

## MENTORSHIP



GARETH

### *From student to mentor*

Gareth has been with OrKidstra since the first class in 2007. He has embraced the program and the cello with passion and energy and displayed strong leadership skills that led him to become a mentor for the younger students. Gareth expressed interest in teaching and began helping Ms. Karen with the beginner cello class. His passion for music and teaching allowed him to excel as a student teacher.

"Teaching has taught me so much about my own playing. It's a lot of fun and sometimes challenging. It's so awesome to watch the kids get better and better!"

## VOLUNTEERISM



SUE

### *Harmony beyond music*

Sue has dedicated many years to greeting OrKidstra children as they arrive for lessons and rehearsals.

"The world of OrKidstra is a world of smiles, encouragement and mutual respect. I enjoy meeting families from such diverse backgrounds and realizing that their children have access to first rate musical learning and community involvement on various levels. It's wonderful to see so many children thriving and achieving high standards of excellence. Their harmony extends beyond music."

## STUDENT TEACHING



AMANDA

### *Music as a fluid craft*

Amanda attends the University of Ottawa and became part of OrKidstra through the Experiential Teaching Artist Program course. Clarinetist, Amanda helped both the beginner and senior bands weekly.

"Why should music teachers be constantly trying to improve? Without improvement in a craft the craft becomes out-dated. Music is such a fluid craft that is constantly changing and growing. As musicians and teachers it is our duty to keep with the changes. "

## TEACHING ARTIST



ERIN

### *Genuine happiness*

"I feel so lucky to be a Teaching Artist with the OrKidstra program. The students are truly remarkable. I learn from them just as much as they learn from me. There is such a sense of community and belonging with everyone involved – the minute I walk the door the children, parents and other teachers greet me with a smile. It is a safe, warm haven full of love. It feels like home. It is with this foundation that we can build something wonderful together. We constantly push the children to reach their personal best and they meet that challenge fearlessly. The result is choirs and ensembles that achieve a very high level of performance."

Inspired by the renowned El Sistema program in Venezuela which has, over the last 40 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 2013-2014 program year, the *OrKidstra* program was involved in a number of exciting opportunities:



In March 2014, *OrKidstra* was chosen by the Ottawa Chamber Music Society [OCMS] to be the recipients of an in-house residency with the Afiara Quartet from Toronto. The string quartet spent 3 days at the Bronson Centre with the *OrKidstra* students. The days were filled with rehearsals, Chamber music coaching and interactive concerts. The final concert featured the Afiara Quartet, Despax Quartet, the *OrKidstra* String Quintet and *OrKidstra* chamber players. We are so thankful for our amazing community partner, OCMS.

Due to the success of the *KiddlyWinks* program, a two-year partnership pilot project with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board began in-school classes at York Street Public School, Cambridge Street Public School and Centennial Public School.



## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

To better meet the demand for our growing programs, we extended our part-time Program Coordinator to full-time for the end of this program year and for the upcoming 2014-2015 program year. All administration staff are located in the Bronson Centre in the main office.

## NEW WEBSITE

After many years of thought (and wishful thinking) we received support to re-design our website. Our goals were to restructure the website into a user-friendly site with clear content and communications by tailoring the content as needed to reach four identified audiences: 1) information and opportunities for *OrKidstra* children and parents; 2) potential corporate and public sector sponsors; 3) donors and other interested citizens and 4) people around the world interested in programs inspired by the well-known El Sistema social development music program in Venezuela. We are pleased with the final result that reflects both our fun and professional approach. We would like to extend thanks to Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Pluralism Fund for their support.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

We take pride in our growing professionalism as a young non-profit organization. The 2013-2014 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 second full external audit which recognized the integrity of our systems with a clean audit opinion.

# 2013-2014 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



OrKidstra Holiday Concert 2013

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

September 28, 2013:  
OrKidstra Chamber Ensemble and KidSingers perform at the annual Peace Day Event

October 11, 18, 25, 2013: OrKidstra Youth Group have lots of fun every Friday watching movies, playing musical Jeopardy or just hanging out!

November 8, 2013:  
OrKidstra String Quintet performs on CTV morning live.

November 16, 2013:  
OrKidstra String Chamber Ensemble performs at the NAC for TD Family Adventures: TUNETOWN

November 18, 2013:  
OrKidstra Wind Chamber Ensemble performs at the annual Canadian Institute of Child Health Gala

January 22, 2014:  
Centennial Public School's KiddlyWinks Concert

January 29, 2014:  
Cambridge Street Public School KiddlyWinks Concert

December 13, 2013:  
York Street Public School's KiddlyWinks Holiday Concert

December 15, 2013:  
NAC Fanfare

December 18, 2013:  
OrKidstra Holiday Concert

CTV Morning Live 2013

OrKidstra String Chamber ensemble at NAC TUNETOWN

OrKidstra Holiday Concert 2013



# 2013-2014 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



OrKidstra End of Year Concert 2014

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

February 1, 2014: OrKidstra chamber ensembles perform at the Viennese Opera Ball.

February 17, 2014: The Leading Note Foundation launches its new website

March 4-6, 2014: Afiara Quartet residency at OrKidstra

March 12, 2014: CTV Morning Live pays an early morning visit to OrKidstra

March 22, 2014: OrKidstra debuts its Cultures in Concert series

April 9, 2014: Three of OrKidstra's dedication students, Ngoc Kim, Gareth and Declan, performed in the annual We Day celebrations at Canadian Tire Centre with OYO

April 30, 2014: OrKidstra chamber ensembles perform at the Museum of History for the Lotus Vision Gala

May 1, 2014: Junior and Intermediate OrKidstra perform in an in-house mini-concert

May 9, 2014: KidSingers perform with The Orpheus Choral Group at Centretown United

June 12, 2014: OrKidstra End of Year Concert held at Dominion Chalmers United Church.

Viennese Opera Ball



Afiara Quartet working with OrKidstra Chamber Strings



KidSingers performing with Orpheus Choral Group



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013-2014



**Front** (left to right): Sylvia Gazsi Gill, Susan Carter, Claire Marshall. **Back** (left to right): Robin Higham, Craig MacDonald, Sheilah Craven, Penelope Feather, Lynda Heyden-Carroll, Raymond Murray, Fran Ward, Gary McMillen & Cheryl Casey. **Absent:** Chris Tan

**Susan Carter** – Practitioner, analyst and teacher in the Third Sector, addressing well-being of the sector and its relationships with governments and the private sector. Relearning piano and member of Shout Sister! Chair 2012-14, Governance Committee.

**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** – Chartered Professional 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.

**Lynda Heyden-Carroll** – Had a varied career working in public relations and administration. Has been an active volunteer in the community including sitting on the Boards of the Variety Club of Ontario and The Rideau Squash and Tennis Club.

**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** – Former Canadian ambassador. Since retirement from Foreign Affairs, consultant on management and trade policy issues, executive volunteer with the Federal Superannuates National Association and Canadian International Council. Abandoned the violin after high school but continues to play piano. (Communications and Governance Committees since 2010. Strategic Planning Working Group since 2013)

**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. Fundraising, Governance & Communications committees – since 2011.

**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.

**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, 2014)

ASSETS	2014	2013
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	57,867	94,012
Accounts Receivable	-	2,070
Prepaid Expenses	-	816
HST Receivable	4,080	5,983
	61,947	102,881
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	92,524	85,377
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>154,471</b>	<b>188,258</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	7,396	13,496
Government Remittance Payable	-	7,157
Deferred Contributions	7,750	38,667
	15,146	59,320
<b>DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	85,721	77,819
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>100,867</b>	<b>137,139</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>53,604</b>	<b>51,119</b>
	<b>154,471</b>	<b>188,258</b>

Selected Notes to Financial Statements:

### \*Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits include program, pedagogical and artistic 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 \$22,230 in the current year.

## Statement of Operations (as of June 30, 2014)

REVENUE	2014	2013
Donations	207,555	181,573
Government Grants	71,667	51,958
School Board	18,000	-
Special Events	3,677	7,775
Tuition Fees	4,855	4,073
Other Income	215	2,550
Donated instrument contributions*	14,328	30,957
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>320,297</b>	<b>278,886</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Advertising and Promotions	661	1,425
Conferences	1,093	2,061
Fundraising	7,849	11,981
Insurance	2,533	1,880
Office Supplies	5,975	7,955
Other	8,323	12,326
Pedagogical Costs	26,211	1,000
Professional Fees	4,955	6,079
Rent	20,765	19,045
Salaries and Benefits*	127,832	88,849
Teaching Services	85,378	81,223
Telecommunications	2,973	2,364
Travel	290	316
Website	7,882	101
Amortization	15,583	32,079
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>318,303</b>	<b>268,684</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>10,202</b>

	COST	ACCUMULATED AMORTIZATION
<b>Musical Equipment</b>	\$	\$
Donated	162,739	77,018
Purchased	11,083	4,280
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>173,822</b>	<b>81,298</b>
	2014	2013
<b>Musical Equipment</b>	<b>Net Book Value</b>	
Donated	85,721	77,819
Purchased	6,803	7,558
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>92,524</b>	<b>85,377</b>



## Thank you to our generous supporters of 2013-2014!

### PUBLIC FUNDING



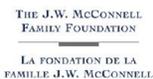
### COMMUNITY PARTNERS



### CORPORATE SUPPORT



### FOUNDATIONS



### IN KIND SPONSORS

Harry P. Ward Foundation

Anonymous

Crabtree Foundation



**THE LEADINGNOTE FOUNDATION**

... making OrKidstra happen!

Charitable No. 83246 7153 RR001

www.leadingnotefoundation.org

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