



# THE LEADING NOTE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015



# 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.

ORKIDSTRA BY THE NUMBERS:

## 4 PROGRAMS

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

**KIDSTRINGERS:** Beginner string programs located in local schools

**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

# 350

OTTAWA CHILDREN

FROM OVER

# 42

 CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS

AGES RANGE FROM

# 5-18

PROVIDING OVER

# \$170,000

 WORTH OF INSTRUMENTS DONATED BY THE OTTAWA COMMUNITY

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2014-15 was an extraordinary year, welcoming Angela Hewitt as our First Ambassador; hosting an International Symposium; bringing OrKidstra members to Sweden and to Toronto. And all this on top of a steady stream of performances and ongoing classes. At the same time, OrKidstra developed both in-school and after-school programs and cemented partnerships with Public School officials. This lays the ground for the exciting expansion foreseen in our updated Strategic Plan.

We continue to be very grateful for the ongoing support of our individual and corporate donors, and to granting institutions that help us give life to our simple but transformative goal: empowering children...building community.

I would like to thank our past Chairs, Gary McMillen and Sylvia Gazi Gill for blazing the trail and Susan Carter for broadening the path so that OrKidstra can move confidently into the future. Enormous credit for OrKidstra's success goes to Tina for her leadership and boundless dedication to the children and the program. Her very personal commitment daily encourages staff, teachers and volunteers to create positive change in our community, which in turn earns the trust of our donors and supporters.



**Claire Marshall, Chair, Board of Directors 2014-15**



**Tina Fedeski, Executive & Artistic Director (left),  
Claire Marshall, Chair, Board of Directors (right)**  
Zip-lining, by invitation at Camp Fortune

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year was an exceptional year and a year of many memorable firsts. The year's highlights give an overview of the extraordinary events but what they can't really capture is how the students have grown as citizens as well as musicians. We are proud to share that our students played in over 30 outreach community concerts – mentorship has exploded! Nine of our students graduated from high school and all are pursuing secondary education – and four of our graduate students [OldKidstra] are now assistant OrKidstra teachers! The circle of giving continues to grow and deepen.

The aspirations of our OrKidstra students both as musicians and citizens keeps our inspiration high. Many thanks to the incredible dedication and hard work of our incomparable board and volunteers, led by our remarkable Claire the Chair, our dynamic teachers and outstanding staff. As we venture into our ninth year the future is looking bright and we are being enthusiastically welcomed into new priority neighbourhoods. New partnerships and collaborations are enabling exciting new possibilities and we thank the community of Ottawa for its invaluable support on so many levels. With pride, we can now look back and see the effect OrKidstra has had on our older students as they now enter university and college life; every day we see the kids blossoming in front of our eyes and know, without a doubt, that the OrKidstra experience is changing lives for the better.



**Tina Fedeski, Executive & Artistic Director, OrKidstra**

# HOW ORKIDSTRA WORKS

## MENTORSHIP



**NGOC KIM**

### *OrKidstra is a Gift*

Ngoc Kim joined the OrKidstra family in 2007 in the very first class. She was also one of our first graduates! We are so pleased to announce that Ngoc Kim spent the 2014-15 season teaching violin and viola at OrKidstra!

"Maybe this is cheesy but this is what OrKidstra means to me: a family that I chose myself, a second home that always welcomes me back, and a gift that taught me many invaluable lessons. I am so happy to be able to give back to OrKidstra & come in a full circle from student to mentor to teacher!"

## VOLUNTEERISM



**BEA**

### *Awe, Praise & Wonder*

"Volunteering with OrKidstra has felt, to me, like a major shot in the arm of joy, adrenalin, awe, praise, wonder, amazement and an extra dose of music appreciation of what music can do for kids, both young and old.

"I learned very quickly how efficiently and lovingly this organization is run and am thrilled to do whatever I can to be part of it all.

"Thank you Fran for 'hooking me in'!!"

## STUDENT TEACHING



**DEREK**

### *Influential & Beneficial*

Derek joined the OrKidstra family as an Experiential Teaching Artist through the ETAP program. Derek was an enthusiastic, key member of the program.

"I have learned so much about teaching, changed my career goals and have done so in a rewarding environment where I feel like I am making a difference. It is an amazing feeling to know that I can learn through the practical experience of mentoring children but also being able to learn different theories and ideologies on teaching through OrKidstra.

"I am continuously in awe at how influential and beneficial the OrKidstra program is to students & teachers."

## TEACHING ARTIST



**LOU LOU**

### *The Language of the Heart*

"OrKidstra is the best thing that has ever happened to me. It allows me to share my knowledge about teaching with children, mentors, ETAPs and teachers. Being part of a big family where respect, love, passion & commitment are constantly stimulated by the dedication of a solid team that is working in the same direction is an inspiration.

"I know that what we do for the children in OrKidstra is above all helping them to build their future life as a citizen of the world. Music is the language of the heart and what they learn with OrKidstra will stay with them forever. My contribution to this path gives me wings."

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 2014-2015 program year, the *OrKidstra* program was involved in a number of exciting opportunities:



In September 2014, The Leading Note Foundation celebrated the inauguration of the first *OrKidstra* Ambassador, world-renowned pianist & Ottawa-native, Angela Hewitt! "This program embodies the values of unity, trust, creativity & hope for the future which are so needed in the world today. Bravo, *OrKidstra*!"

Due to the success of the *KiddlyWinks* program at York Street Public School, Cambridge Street Public School and Centennial Public School, we started our *KidStringers* after-school program in Cambridge Street Public School & Centennial Public School.



In February, The Leading Note Foundation hosted the "Symposium on Instrumental Change." The symposium brought attendees in from England, Italy, USA and from coast-to-coast in Canada. *OrKidstra* was chosen as one of the Sistema-inspired programs to take part in an international exchange. The exchange was made possible due to the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union.

In June, as part of the exchange *OrKidstra* was able to take nine senior students to Gotëborg, Sweden to take part in the "Side by Side" music festival hosted by Sistema Sweden. Here the students were given the honour to play Side by Side with the Gotëborg Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Joshua Dos Santos of El Sistema in Venezuela. The following month, Sistema Toronto hosted "Great Big Music Week" which invited Sistema programs from Europe. *OrKidstra* was able to take 14 students to take part and play in an orchestra made up of almost 200 students from Canada, Italy & England!



All photos from Sweden & Toronto are courtesy of Tegan Patmore & Gary McMillen.

# 2014-2015 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

JANUARY

**October 3 2014:**  
OrKidstra Youth Group have lots of fun playing laser tag at LaserQuest!

**December 1, 2014:**  
OrKidstra Chamber Group performs at the inauguration of the 2014-2018 City Council

**September 25, 2014:**  
First Lady of Germany, Ms. Daniela Shadt, visits OrKidstra!

**November 17, 2014:**  
The Leading Note Foundation hosts its AGM.

**December 3, 5, 17, 2014:**  
Holiday Concerts: Cambridge St., York St. and Centennial Schools

**September 28, 2014:**  
OrKidstra appoints Angela Hewitt as their first ambassador

**November 17, 2014:**  
The Joseph sisters form a trio and perform at the annual Canadian Institute of Child Health Gala at the Conference Centre.

**December 14, 2014:**  
KidSingers & KiddyWinks take part in the annual NAC Fanfair

**January 10, 2015:**  
OrKidstra performs at the annual NAC Tunetown Show

**December 18, 2014:**  
OrKidstra Holiday Concert

**January 22, 2015:**  
Ms. Angela visits OrKidstra!

First Lady of Germany visits OrKidstra

Ambassador Event with Angela Hewitt

NAC Fanfair 2014



# 2014-2015 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



*OrKidstra's 9 Graduates at the OrKidstra End of Year Concert 2014*

## FEBRUARY & MARCH

**February 12 & 13, 2015:** OrKidstra hosts "Symposium on Instrumental Change"

**March 23, 2015:** OrKidstra String Quintet performs in the East Building at Parliament for a World Vision event

OrKidstra Symposium Concert

## APRIL

**April 17, 2015:** OrKidstra's Chair of the Board, Claire Marshall, is awarded the Provincial Leading Women Building Community Award

**April 30, 2015:** OrKidstra is invited to attend an Afiara Quartet Performance at the NAC Fourth Stage

## MAY

**May 11, 2015:** OrKidstra hosts Wine, Cheese & Chamber Fundraiser. Surprise conductor, Alexander Shelley (NAC Musical Director), joined the students on stage.

**May 31, 2015:** OrKidstra Chamber Groups perform during the Chinatown BIA Community Day

Wine, Cheese & Chamber Fundraiser

## JUNE

**June 9, 2015:** The Joseph Trio performed at Rideau Hall for the Vanier Institute of the Family

**June 11, 2015:** OrKidstra's End of Year Concert

**June 13-22, 2015:** Nine OrKidstra students travel to Sweden to take part in the Side by Side Music Festival.

TD MusiCounts event at Lansdowne Park

## JULY

**July 3, 2015:** Camp Afiara takes place in Westport, Ontario and OrKidstra is invited!

**July 4, 2015:** TD MusiCounts presents OrKidstra with \$15k to put towards new instruments & the students got to sing on stage with Serena Ryder!

**July 17-19, 2015:** Fourteen OrKidstra students travel to Sistema Toronto to be part of Great Big Music Week!



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014-2015



**Front** (left to right): Cheryl Casey, Claire Marshall, Susan Carter **Back** (left to right): David Van Dine, Fran Ward, Lynda Heyden-Carroll, Penelope Feather, Julia Huffman, Tina Fedeski & Gary McMillen **Absent:** Craig MacDonald, Hugh Porteous, Ray Murray

**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.

**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.

**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!

**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.

**David Van Dine** – Retired University Secretary, Carleton University. Former President, Rideau Curling Club. Served on the board of the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra. Amateur cellist, Ottawa Chamber Orchestra, Ottawa Summer String Ensemble. Former Canadian Mixed Curling Champion.

**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. Amateur ukulele player.

**Julia Huffman** – Consultant in the charitable sector, helping organizations communicate the transformative results of donors' generosity and commitment. Has a BA in English Literature from Carleton University and a Diploma in Marketing Management from the British Columbia Institute of Technology. Music lover.

**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.

**Gary McMillen** – **Co-Founder of The 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.

**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, 2015)

ASSETS	2015	2014
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
<b>Cash</b>	153,919	57,867
Accounts Receivable	25,919	-
HST Receivable	4,047	4,080
	183,885	61,947
CAPITAL ASSETS	92,569	92,524
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>276,454</b>	<b>154,471</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	26,597	7,396
Deferred Contributions	98,500	7,750
	125,097	15,146
<b>DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	86,978	85,721
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	212,075	100,867
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	64,379	53,604
	<b>276,454</b>	<b>154,471</b>

## Selected Notes to Financial Statements:

### \*Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits include program design and delivery, teaching, event co-ordination, fundraising and administration.

### \*Capital Assets

#### Donated Musical Equipment:

Donated musical equipment is recorded at appraised fair value at the date of donation. Total of donated instruments to date is \$180,804. Accumulated amortization is \$93,826, for a net book value of \$86,978.

## Statement of Operations (as of June 30, 2015)

REVENUE	2015	2014
Grants	126,357	71,667
Fundraising (from Special Events)	15,854	3,677
Donations	198,834	207,555
Other income	19,132	18,215
Tuition Fees	7,300	4,855
Donated instrument contributions*	16,808	14,328
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>384,285</b>	<b>320,297</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Other	20,631	8,323
Amortization	18,020	15,583
Advertising and Promotion	0	661
Salaries and Benefits*	151,473	127,832
Conferences	25	1,093
Fundraising	6,045	7,849
Teaching Services	103,284	85,378
Insurance	3,885	2,533
Office Supplies	3,345	5,975
Rent	21,623	20,765
Professional Fees	25,895	4,955
Pedagogical	11,216	26,211
Telecommunications	2,983	10,855
Travel	5,085	290
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>373,510</b>	<b>318,303</b>
<b>EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSE</b>	<b>10,775</b>	<b>1,994</b>

NET	2015	2014
<b>Musical Equipment</b>	Net Book Value	
<b>Donated</b>	86,978	85,721
<b>Purchased</b>	5,591	6,803
Ending Balance	92,569	92,524

# ORKIDSTRA FAST FACTS



**3 Priority  
Neighbourhoods**



**94% participate  
free of charge**

**100% of OrKidstra students  
graduate from high school**  
*(Provincial drop-out rate: 17%)<sup>1</sup>*



**100% of OrKidstra graduates  
pursue post-secondary  
education**  
*(Provincial rate: 66%)<sup>2</sup>*



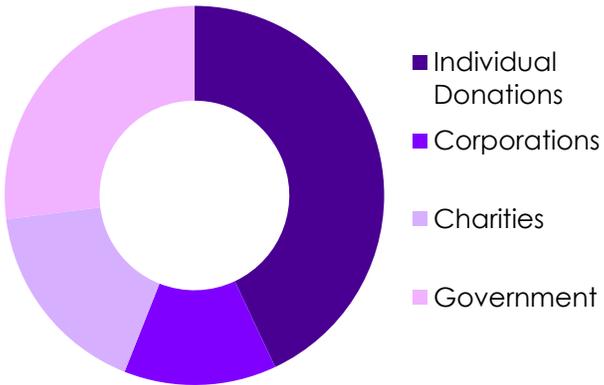
**350 children  
ages 5-18**

**42**

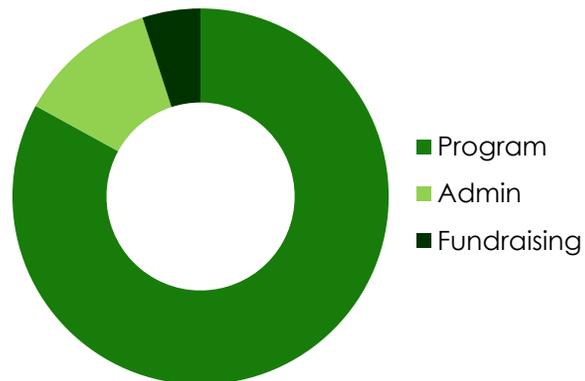
**Linguistic & Cultural  
Backgrounds**

# YOUR INVESTMENT AT PLAY

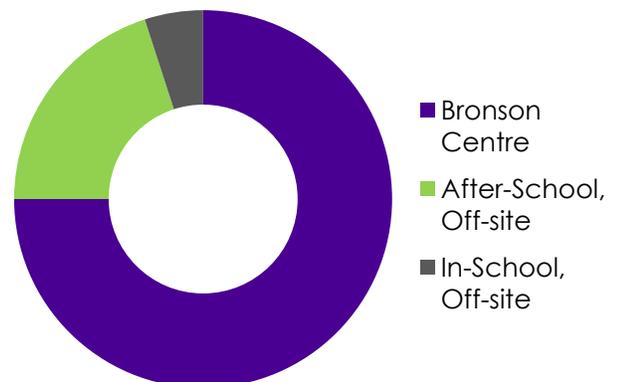
## Revenue



## Expenses



## Program Breakdown





## Thank you to our generous supporters of 2014-2015!

### PUBLIC FUNDING



### COMMUNITY PARTNERS



### CORPORATE SUPPORT



### FOUNDATIONS



### IN KIND SPONSORS



**THE LEADING NOTE FOUNDATION**

Charitable No. 83246 7153 RR0001

[www.leadingnotefoundation.org](http://www.leadingnotefoundation.org)

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