



ORKIDSTRA

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016



WHO WE ARE



OrKidstra is a social development program for children aged 5 to 18 living in under-served areas of Ottawa, Canada.

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 like 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.

Our mandate is to give children from under-served communities the opportunity to learn and make music together, and the chance to benefit from the individual skills and community values inherent in music-making.

OrKidstra is a registered charitable organization (83246 7153 RR0001)

Most photos in this year's annual report are thanks to Robert S. Vibert of RSV Photography.

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

450

OTTAWA CHILDREN

FROM OVER

42

 CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS

AGES RANGE FROM

5-18

PROVIDING OVER

\$ \$205,000

 WORTH OF INSTRUMENTS DONATED BY THE OTTAWA COMMUNITY

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The past year has been one of consolidation and preparation. We have strengthened internal governance and policies, and increased our outreach efforts to the community all the while ensuring that programming for the children maintains its high standard. Tina Fedeski, the Office Staff and teachers have been key to maintaining the balance and continue to make *OrKidstra* a leading light in Sistema-inspired programs worldwide.

In the Spring, we legally confirmed our name as *OrKidstra*. Although 'The Leading Note Foundation' served us well in the early years, the clever *OrKidstra* name had become what people knew us to be. Hence we find that the name change has strengthened our recognition in the community and it certainly makes life simpler.

A second major decision was taken late in the 2015-2016 year. Following many hours and days of work by the Strategic Planning Working Group (spearheaded by Craig MacDonald), Tina and Staff, the Board decided *OrKidstra* was ready financially and pedagogically to establish a second hub, serving the Vanier area of Ottawa. Classes will start in the Fall and early indications from community leaders, schools and parents in the area are that this new hub will follow in the successful path of the Bronson Centre.

OrKidstra is a dynamic organization and there are always new challenges on the horizon. In the coming year, we look forward to expanding into Vanier, to consolidating our Bronson Centre programming and also to celebrating what will be our Tenth Anniversary year. With the generous support of donors and sponsors who tread the path alongside us, we are turning our tag line into reality: empower kids...build community.



Claire Marshall, Chair, Board of Directors 2015-16

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2015-16 was another extraordinary year of growth and renewal. Bursting with activities, the kids were involved with over 40 performances which were all invaluable opportunities for the kids to share the joy of making music together, to give back to their community and celebrate their friendship. The kids are glowing with a joy and confidence that happens when they find their voice and they know they are being heard. They see and feel the love and commitment of the teachers, staff and volunteers and they match it with their kid-powered commitment to excellence. Of course none of this could happen without our dedicated board and staff.

The year began with a journey in July to Toronto with 14 younger senior students to play with Canadian and European Sistema-inspired programs. This experience deepened their relationships and transformed and prepared these younger players to step into the senior leadership roles left open by our recently-graduated students. Many of these graduating students began with *OrKidstra* in 2007-2008 and, after they received their high school certificates, their future plans included not only university or college, but also returning to *OrKidstra* as *OldKidstra* (mentors, teaching assistants and performers.) Another vital circle of growth and renewal completed, with more seeds planted for the future.

As our tenth anniversary year approaches *OrKidstra* is blossoming!
Many, many thanks to all who make *OrKidstra* happen!



Tina Fedeski, Executive & Artistic Director, OrKidstra



Claire E. Marshall (left) & Tina Fedeski (right)

HOW ORKIDSTRA WORKS – *Our Stories*

MENTORSHIP



RINILA

Giving back

Rinila is a 16-year-old student at Lisgar Collegiate Institute.

Rinila first started coming to *OrKidstra* in 2008 after they performed a concert at her elementary school.

“My life without *OrKidstra* would be utterly incomplete! About a year and a half ago, I came to a point where I realised that because *OrKidstra* has done so much for me, I wanted to find a way to give back. That is what brought me to mentoring young violinists. I love to teach music, especially the violin, and seeing younger children who have the same passion as me makes me feel even prouder to be playing that instrument.”

VOLUNTEERISM



GINA & JAVIER

OrKidstra is a second home

“We are a Colombian family that arrived to Canada in 2010. The discoveries made through the language of music have brought our sons enormous support and confidence in various aspects of their lives. We are very proud to call *OrKidstra* our second home, and that is truly what *OrKidstra* means for us and our children.

To be volunteers in *OrKidstra* is undoubtedly an honor. It makes us just a little bit more proud of being part of something so unique, as well as it brings us the opportunity to grow beside our amazing children and all the amazing people that make up our beautiful and insightful second family.”

STUDENT TEACHING



DECLAN

Teaching is rewarding

Declan Kinghorn joined the *OrKidstra* family at age 11 in 2008. He is now studying at the University of Ottawa in the Bachelor of Music program specializing in Education. Declan plays a variety of instruments and teaches brass at *OrKidstra*.

“I find teaching at *OrKidstra* really rewarding because I love seeing the kids accomplish their goals. I’m really invested myself and I’m reaching my goals with them as I teach. I would totally do this for free if I didn’t have to eat! *OrKidstra* has really given my life meaning: I feel like I’m really giving back in a positive way.”

TEACHING ARTIST



KATHRYN

Each student is a gift

“Being a teaching artist with *OrKidstra* has been an amazing experience. It is wonderful to be a part of such a dynamic community where there is a wealth of creativity from our faculty & staff.

I feel fortunate to be working amongst such creative minds, who bring a high level of skill to their teaching and artistry. The most incredible part of working with *OrKidstra* is interacting with our students. It is a joy to watch them build community and find belonging while learning their instruments. Each of them is a gift. It has been a pleasure to be part of their growth and development.”

HOW ORKIDSTRA WORKS – *El Sistema*

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.



In July 2015, *OrKidstra* was invited to Toronto to play with Sistema Toronto along with students from European Sistema programs like Sistema England and Sistema Italy as part of Great Big Music Week. *Photo by Sistema Global*

2015-2016 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



July

September

October

November/December

January

July 2, 2015
Westport Chamber Music Festival and Masterclass with Afiara String Quartet

July 3, 2015
MusiCounts TD Community Music Program in TD Place

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

July 17 and 18, 2015
14 *OrKidstra* students travel to Toronto for Great Big Music Week with 55 European students from Sistema-inspired programs hosted by Sistema Toronto

September 2015
Programming starts!

September 29, 2015
Carleton University – Presentation to Music & social Justice graduate seminar

October 16, 2015
Tina Fedeski keynote speaker at Creativity and Aesthetic Experience Symposium, with a performance by the chamber group

October 20, 2015
OrKidstra performed "O Canada" at Canadian Institute of Citizenship Ceremony in City Hall. Mayor Jim Watson was present

October 23, 2015
OrKidstra students give back to the community by playing at the Centre 507 Fundraiser

November 12, 2015
OrKidstra gives back to the community by playing at the Rotary Club of Nepean-Kanata fundraiser for Latrines in Ghana

December 13, 2015
FanFair in NACO foyer with NACO orchestra with Chamber group, KidSingers and KiddyWinks participating

December 2, 2015
Cambridge Street School Holiday concert & KiddyWinks/KidSingers Highlight concert in Bronson Centre

December 9, 2015
Centennial Holiday Concert

December 10, 2015
York Street Holiday Concert

December 11, 2015
Viscount Alexander Holiday Concert

December 17, 2015
Holiday Concert in Bronson Centre

January 2016
Programming restarts after the holiday break

January 27, 2016
New teachers information night

2015-2016 PROGRAM YEAR HIGHLIGHTS



February & March

April

May

June

February 9, 2016

OrKidstra youth group goes skiing in Camp Fortune compliments of Camp Fortune

February 12, 2016

OrKidstra senior Peter performs at the French Ambassador's Residence for WaterAid fundraiser

February 17, 2016

Presentation by Tina Fedeski to RHOMA (Retired Heads of Missions Association)

February 20, 2016

Viennese Winter Ball

February 22-24, 2016

KiddlyWinks Teacher Training Workshops

April 2, 2016

OrKidstra chamber group gives back to the community by playing for Catherine McKenna's Open House and for Music for Humanity in Unitarian Church organized by West Ottawa Rotary Club raising money to eliminate polio

April 6, 2016

OrKidstra chamber group performs at Debra Dynes event. Present was Sophie Gregoire Trudeau as keynote speaker

April 27, 2016

20 junior/intermediate *OrKidstra* violinists go to Rideau Hall to be part of James Ehnes 40th birthday celebration along with 80 other young violinists

May 6, 2016

Showcase to introduce *OrKidstra* to Vanier in Rideau High School. The concert is a huge success on every level with over 500 people attending and much interest from new students

May 11, 2016

Nicola Benedetti, internationally renowned Scottish violinist and soloist with NACO, visits *OrKidstra* (with Donnie Deacon from the National Arts Centre Orchestra). She coaches and plays with senior strings.

May 11, 2016

Junior String Showcase

May 12, 2016

Junior Band and Intermediate Showcase

May 18, 2016

OrKidstra Chamber ensemble performs for MPI (Meeting Professionals International) Annual Prix Prestige Awards Gala held in the National Arts Centre.

June 1, 2016

KiddlyWinks and *KidSingers* Showcase

June 16, 2016

End of Year Concert, Glebe Collegiate Institute

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016



Front (L to R): Leslie Ram, Craig MacDonald, Claire E. Marshall and Fran Ward.

Back (L to R) David Van Dine, Lynda Heyden-Carroll, Penelope Feather, Gary McMillen, Tina Fedeski and Hugh Porteous.

Absent: Julia Huffman, Raymond Murray. **Honorary Directors:** Barbara Clark and Margaret Tobolowska

Claire E. 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.

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.

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 diverse career working in fields ranging from construction to public relations and administration. Is an active volunteer in the community and served 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.

Gary McMillen – Co-Founder of The Leading Note Foundation (now *OrKidstra*) and 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.

Hugh Porteous – Retired Rio Tinto Alcan executive, responsible for Government Relations and Sustainable Development in Ottawa and subsequently, in Brussels. Current other volunteer activities: Secretary-treasurer, Canadian Rhodes Scholars Foundation and Class leader, Rhodes Trust. Former pianist and violinist. Chair, Communications Committee 2015-16.

Leslie Ram – Retired Financial Officer at EKOS research and WEConnect Canada, as well as other small businesses and initiatives. Extensive past experience supporting *OrKidstra*, Chamber Music Festival, and Museum of Canadian History, chorister and overall music education enthusiast.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Statement of Financial Position (as of June 30, 2016)

ASSETS	2016	2015
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	230,351	153,919
Accounts Receivable and HST Receivable	3,799	29,966
Prepaid Expenses	2,112	–
	236,262	183,885
CAPITAL ASSETS	109,562	92,569
TOTAL ASSETS	345,824	276,454
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	14,602	26,597
Deferred Contributions	102,696	98,500
	117,298	125,097
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	105,170	86,978
TOTAL LIABILITIES	222,468	212,075
NET ASSETS	123,356	64,379
	345,824	276,454

Selected Notes to Financial Statements:

*Salaries and Benefits

Salaries and benefits include program design & delivery, teaching, event coordination and fundraising.

*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 \$205,887. Accumulated amortization is \$100,717, for a net book value of \$105,170.

Statement of Operations (as of June 30, 2016)

REVENUE	2016	2015
Grants	135,090	126,357
Donations	274,336	214,688
Other income	13,465	19,132
Tuition Fees	6,750	7,300
Donated instrument contributions*	29,173	16,808
TOTAL REVENUE	458,814	384,285
EXPENSES		
Other	15,142	20,656
Amortization	30,372	18,020
Advertising and Promotion	–	–
Salaries and Benefits*	179,127	151,473
Conferences	–	–
Fundraising	13,125	6,045
Teaching Services	112,814	103,284
Insurance	4,011	3,885
Office Supplies	2,776	3,345
Rent	22,024	21,623
Professional Fees	6,278	25,895
Pedagogical	8,652	11,216
Telecommunications	3,168	2,983
Travel	2,348	5,085
TOTAL EXPENSES	399,837	373,510
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSE	58,977	10,775

CAPITAL ASSETS*	2016	2015
Musical Equipment		Net Book Value
Donated	105,170	86,978
Purchased	4,392	5,591
Ending balance	109,562	92,569





Thank you to our generous supporters of 2015-2016!

Public Funding



Fondation Trillium de l'Ontario



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CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
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