

The Leading Note Foundation

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **May 24, 2009, 3pm at Parkdale United Church:** Parkdale United Church Orchestra, Angus Armstrong (conductor) with Tina Fedeski (flute) and special guest appearance by some of the OrKidstra members
- **May 28, 2009, 5pm in Mac Hall at the Bronson Centre:** The OrKidstra & KidSingers year end concert
- **September, 2009:** OrKidstra & KidSingers 3rd year begins

A note from the Executive Director

What a busy time since our last newsletter! We now have over 85 students learning violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, trumpet, French horn, trombone, guitar and singing in the two KidSingers choirs! The enthusiastic music-making is so inspiring to see and hear — from little six year olds singing their first

songs ever to the senior violins and cellos playing in harmony!

The number of people involved to make this happen is extraordinary and a real tribute to the musical community of Ottawa. And I mean 'musical community' in the broadest sense — from NACO players to adult amateurs, OYO

players, undergraduate students and all socially concerned music lovers! Thank you so much for playing such an important part in helping bring such a great musical experience to these blossoming OrKids and KidSingers!

- Tina Fedeski



The year in review

We set off this past September with five violin classes, as well as cello and guitar classes. Under the directorship of Jennifer Martinez (who is herself profiled in this edition), a new band class got underway. This includes two flutes, four clarinets, two trumpets and both a French horn and a trombone.

Our KidSingers, meanwhile, expanded into two choirs: KidSingers I for six- to 8-year-olds, and KidSingers II for older children.

This year we started a partnership with the University of Ottawa Music School and Community Service Learning Department. Seven music undergraduates came to the Bronson Centre each week and assisted our teachers.

We also were very happy to see many Ottawa Youth Orchestra mentors every week who gave invaluable help to our young students.

We closed out 2008 with another

successful round of performances. On December 16, the KidSingers performed a Christmas Concert in Mac Hall at the Bronson Centre.

December 18 saw both OrKidstra and KidSingers performing together at a second Christmas Concert in Bronson Centre's auditorium.

Looking ahead, our kids will embark on another Cross-Centretown Tour this month. Our final concert of the school year is set for Thursday, May 28 at 5:00 p.m. in Mac Hall at the Bronson Centre. The community is invited to attend what is sure to be a great show.

We're also pleased to announce that, since our last newsletter, our many community supporters organized a number of wonderful fundraising concerts for our organization. Many thanks to all involved. Please visit our website for a complete list of these concerts and the performers involved.

Coming up on May 24, the Parkdale United Church Orchestra and conductor Angus Armstrong will perform a special concert for The Leading Note Foundation. Tina Fedeski will be featured as guest flute soloist and some of the OrKidstra members will join the Orchestra to play Twinkle Variations.

It has certainly been a great year—here's to many more!



The many faces of the Foundation

Barbara Riley: Sharing the joy of music



OrKidstra volunteer Barbara Riley, who describes herself far too modestly as “just a go-fer,” has a genuine, personal interest in facilitating music education for youth.

Though she began piano studies in childhood, Barbara was put off her course at just age nine by a teacher who said she simply could not sing.

Fortunately, she overcame that early blow in adulthood.

“By joining a choir I discovered the joy of singing and also the world of choral music,” says Barbara.

“Ottawa-Gatineau CAMMAC widened my musical horizons through workshops, readings, annual performances and summer music camps. I have served on CAMMAC committees and just recently stepped down after four years as publicist for Ottawa-Gatineau CAMMAC events. I also did media publicity for the Carleton University Choir and have been a volunteer with the Ottawa Chamber Music Society for 14 years.”

This new horizon before her, Barbara also wasted no time before turning her mind to how she might help others realize their latent musical potential.

“When I heard about OrKidstra and then learned more at the initial fund-raising concert, I was delighted to volunteer as it meant I could contribute to helping children experience the joy of music-making.”

Barbara’s contributions certainly go well beyond “go-fer” roles. Aside from such important duties as taking attendance and distributing name tags, she performs with great aplomb the unenviable task of supervising the children as they wait to be picked up at the end of each session.

“I believe that creative activities such as music-making, art and dance are vital to a person’s well-being; as a fully developed individual and also as a member of a creative community,” she says. “Though I haven’t studied the children who come to KidSingers, I am convinced that they benefit in many ways: discovering the joy of making music together, developing musical skills, appreciating the need for personal responsibility and discipline, meeting new friends, gaining confidence through performances and also by singing solo or in a small group during practices.”

Jennifer Martinez: ‘Breathtaking’ accomplishments

OrKidstra winds and brass teacher Jennifer Martinez didn’t need much convincing to become involved in the program’s second year.

As a flute student in her hometown of Caracas, Venezuela, Jennifer saw the many positive impacts of El Sistema, the inspiration for OrKidstra and KidSingers developed in Venezuela, on her fellow musical youth.

Jennifer fortuitously met OrKidstra/KidSingers co-founder Tina Fedeski shortly after relocating to Ottawa in 1998, when she began Bachelor of Music studies at the University of Ottawa and sought flute instruction.

“Tina mentioned she was thrilled about the Venezuelan music program and she was interested in replicating it in Ottawa. I was so excited because even though I was not part of the program, I knew many musicians from Venezuela that were, as well as [El Sistema founder Jose Antonio] Abreu who has always been a strong leader in Vene-

zuelan cultural initiatives in music education.”

Jennifer began her own musical journey in Caracas at age 8, with flute studies under Jose Garcia and later Jose Antonio Naranjo.

“It was five years after arriving in Ottawa that I decided to start my Bachelor of Music at the University of Ottawa,” she explains. “I was always inclined to Music Education and decided to complete my Bachelor of Education as a Music Specialist in 2003.”

Jennifer’s passion for music education manifests not only in her volunteer work with OrKidstra, but also in her day job as a teacher with the Ottawa Catholic School Board.

“[The program] is a worthwhile initiative because it tells the children and their parents that they too can be part of a musical journey that will enhance their creativity and their academic skills. It is definitely breathtaking when you see the smiles filled with a sense of accomplishment.”

It’s also clear that Jennifer takes pride in seeing how her students have progressed.

“How can I describe the wonders of children playing their instruments while swaying in time with the music? How can I go into detail when their eyes sparkle without taking the instrument out of their mouths, showing a smile with their eyes? I could go on and on.”



New Endowment Fund announced

The Leading Note Foundation is delighted to announce that it has established an Endowment Fund for the organization. Board Member Robin Higham has been the driving force behind this fund and he is pleased to be making the inaugural donation. The idea for the fund is derived in part from his charitable work with other organizations.

"I have always been dismayed by the large amount of time and energy that charitable organizations must dedicate to fund-raising to cover day-to-day operational expenses. Those scarce personnel resources could be so much better spent on activities more directly related to pursuit of the group's primary objectives. One solution to this problem is the establishment of an Endowment Fund which, when it eventually reaches a critical mass, can serve to liberate both board members and volunteers to focus on the project at hand." –Robin Higham.

How Our Endowment Fund Works

The **Leading Note Endowment Fund** directs your donation into a permanent fund to keep supporting the musical education of our children for generations to come. Every gift is important regardless of its size.

♪ Donations from individuals and organizations are combined to form the capital of the endowment fund, The fund is designed to grow with time into an on-going source of support for our programs;

♪ The annual income from the fund goes to our programs. The greater the value of the capital in the fund, the more support there will be each year. It's like planting an apple tree, helping it to grow, and harvesting the apples every year;

♪ A portion of the interest is returned annually to the capital to keep it growing.

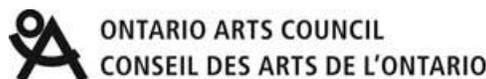
♪ **The Leading Note Endowment Fund** is administered by the professional financial advisors at TD Canada Trust. An annual financial report is available upon request.

♪ You can make a donation to the endowment fund at any time in the form of cash, securities, the proceeds of a life insurance policy, or other approved assets which can be turned into capital.

If you are interested in helping us build this fund, we'd like to hear from you! Contact the Leading Note Foundation at 613-569-7888

Thank you to our Sponsors!

Please visit our web site to see a full list of our sponsors and donors.



Newsletter Credits: Steven Fouchard (chief writer), Sheilah Craven (assistant writer & layout), Gary McMillen (layout editor)

Benefits of Giving to a Charitable Organization

Tax Credits available to Ontario residents (in any tax bracket):

- First \$200 of donation generates a 24% tax credit
- Donations in excess of \$200 generates a 46% tax credit

Tax credits to Quebec residents (in any tax bracket):

- First \$200 of donation generates a 32.5% tax credit
- Donations in excess of \$200 generates a 48% tax credit

For example, if an individual resident in Ontario donates \$1,000 in the year:

- The first \$200 of the donation will generate a 24% tax credit = \$48
- The remaining \$800 of the donation will generate a 46% tax credit = \$368
- The total tax saved by donating \$1,000 to a charitable organization is \$416!

Please note that this information is valid as of April 2009, but income tax legislation may change. Please consult your accountant or contact our advisors LOGAN KATZ LLP Chartered Accountants www.logankatz.com.

Teaching the teachers



It won't be news to anyone that OrKidstra and KidSingers has attracted many of the city's finest musicians to its teaching ranks, and Susan Rupp is no exception.

An alumnus of the National Youth Orchestra, Susan took a Bachelor's degree in music at the University of Calgary and a Master's at McGill before joining the Edmonton Symphony for a three-year tenure. Susan joined the NAC Orchestra, where she has remained, in 1984.

Susan taught the first year of OrKidstra students and is now supervisor to the seven U of O undergraduate students helping out our OrKidstra/KidSingers students under the auspices of the University's Community Service Learning program.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for them to learn to teach through the observation and mentoring of professional teachers. They then gain experience teaching short mini-lessons to follow up with individual students. By keeping detailed notes of their teaching and tracking their students' progress, they can reflect on and evaluate their work in order to become more effective teachers. I have observed that the evident pleasure of happy children making music is

more than enough reward for their volunteerism."

The benefits of the group's involvement, both professional and personal, are undoubtedly many, but the real testament to their commitment and belief lies in the high number who have already said they will return next fall.

"I was so impressed with the complete commitment the CSL students demonstrated this past year," Susan remarks. "They all took a personal interest in the children they were coaching and took pride in their charges' accomplishments."

One of those students is Mark Wilkinson. Mark is gearing up to begin work on his Master's degree in voice performance at the U of O and plans to keep performing on the way to his end goal of teaching music at the university level.

It would seem, then, that Mark's involvement with KidSingers is a true win-win situation, with the kids benefitting from his experience and Mark getting a healthy slice of real-world teaching experience.

"I wasn't exactly sure what I was getting myself into," he says of being introduced to the program. "All I knew was that I would be teaching young children choral music

with an organization I couldn't say no to — the idea of an organization that provides musical training to those who can't afford it is an exciting prospect. Little did I know how much I would learn about myself and the people around me. As a student, you learn how much of an impact musical education can have on the next generation.

It is so rewarding to know that you can be such a positive influence through something as beautiful as music. You also get the opportunity to practice your conducting every week and to learn how to teach different age groups. It is impossible to be a part of KidSingers and not learn something."

Mark notes, too, that this two-way learning street leads to benefits beyond learning music and teaching methodology.

"[The students] learn teamwork and how to create a sense of unity with their peers. They learn discipline and the importance of following instructions. KidSingers always makes a point of performing music from around the world so they learn about different cultures and different languages. They also learn about this by being in a choir with kids from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. This is not to mention the proven academic benefits of having musical training. U of O students who participate in KidSingers are lucky to know that they have been instrumental in bringing music into the lives of these kids. It never hurts to do something that makes you feel as good as KidSingers does."



Glenn Gould Foundation nod a boost

The public profile of OrKidstra and KidSingers continues to grow: with recognition from no less than the Glenn Gould Foundation in Toronto.

Not only has the organization recognized El Sistema founder Maestro José Antonio Abreu with an appointment as Laureate of the 2008 Glenn Gould Prize, but the Ottawa program he inspired are featured, along with a sister program in New York

City, in an extensive article on its Web site (www.glenn Gould.ca).

"It is a huge honour to be associated with the Glenn Gould Foundation, and this association brings our program to a much wider audience," says Leading Note Foundation Executive Director Tina Fedeski. Not only has Tina been invited to speak at an upcoming Gould Foundation symposium this fall, but the added exposure has caught the

attention of documentary film producer Noemi Weis (*The Forgotten Woman*), who has expressed an interest in our local program and others for a potential film project.

"I think the Glenn Gould Foundation is going to be playing the role of catalyst for the many programs that are springing up all over the world through their big event in October to honour Maestro Abreu," adds Tina.

THE LEADING NOTE FOUNDATION

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