



# OrKidstra Annual Report 2020-21



# Music: The Power to Change Lives

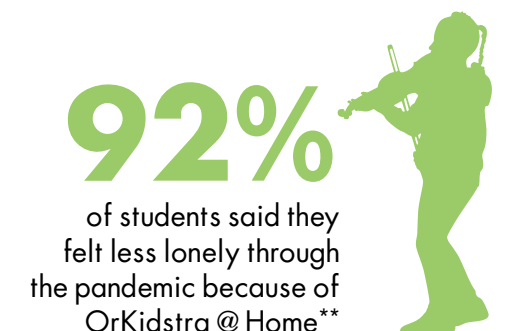
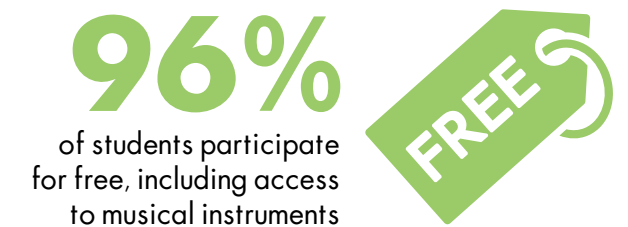
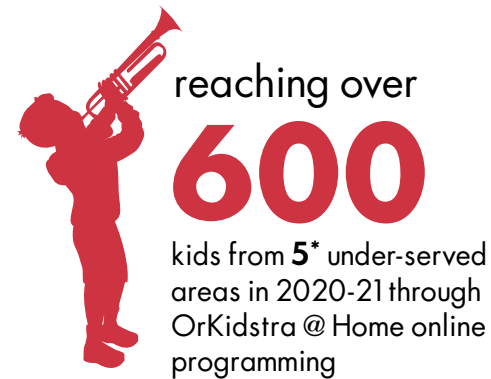
**Your support is changing kids' lives through the power of music!**

OrKidstra gives children and youth from under-served Ottawa communities the opportunity to learn essential life skills — such as responsibility, teamwork, respect, and compassion — through the joys and challenges of singing and playing music together. In 2020-21, OrKidstra helped keep kids connected to music, their friends, and their community through OrKidstra @ Home online programming.

“At the beginning of OrKidstra @ Home, I was pretty nervous, but playing the violin online and keeping in touch with my friends has really helped me through the pandemic.”

Anna Paula, OrKidstra student (violin)

## Your support makes a BIG impact!



\*Centretown, Vanier, Overbrook, Heron Gate, and Lowertown  
\*\*2020-21 OrKidstra Student, Parent and Teacher Survey. Participants indicated their perception of growth from September 2020 to June 2021.

# 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 kids 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).



## Programs\*

**KiddlyWinks** is a fun music and movement program. Ages 5-8. (in-school/after-school)

**KidSingers** is an upbeat choir program. 8 years + (after-school)

**KidPlayers** explores the joy of playing wind and brass instruments. 8 years + (after-school)

**KidStringers** explores the joy of playing string instruments. 8 years + (after-school)

**KidDrummers** explores the world of rhythm, music theory, and creativity. 8 years + (after-school)

**OrKidstra** senior level students explore playing wind, brass, and string instruments. 12 years + (after-school)

To creatively meet the challenges of online programming, OrKidstra also introduced new programming to OrKidstra @ Home in 2020-21 including a Masterclass, Buddy Mentors, KidComposers, Improvisation and much more.

\*All programming was online (OrKidstra @ Home) in 2020-21



Mark Sutcliffe and Tina Fedeski, MSM.

## A message from the Chair and the Executive & Artistic Director

The idea of singing, playing and being *together* has always been at the heart of OrKidstra. Over this past year, OrKidstra has actively reimagined what *together* truly means as we continue to adapt and innovate, guided by the spirit of love, determination, creativity, and the power of music. Even amid a global pandemic, the music played on...*line!*

Thanks to your ongoing support in 2020-21, our OrKidstra @ Home online programming helped kids stay connected to their friends, music, and the OrKidstra community with over 125 hours of virtual programming each week. Witnessing how the students of OrKidstra have been building resiliency and creating joyful music during such a tough time has been deeply inspiring to us all. Our entire OrKidstra family – including our students, families, teachers, staff, board, volunteers, and supporters – have stepped up and gone beyond to ensure that our kids continue to have the opportunity to reach, through the computer screen, for success through music.

From challenges also sprouted opportunity. OrKidstra’s Kid-Powered online Masterclass developed as a way for our older students to newly imagine what it means to play and sing *together*. And our innovative Buddy Mentors program helped participants work together virtually to develop their musical and leadership skills.

None of this would have been possible without your support: thank you for your generosity. As we slowly begin to emerge from the pandemic, we understand the road ahead will also have its challenges. Many kids in our community still face persistent barriers. Still, we know the adaptability, creativity, and heart that has guided us over this past year can also help us rebuild a better world for *all*.

Music truly has the power to change lives, and you help drive this tempo of change. Thank you again for your support for OrKidstra.

Mark Sutcliffe, Chair

Tina Fedeski, MSM, Executive & Artistic Director

**“The thing I like most about the OrKidstra program is the community treats us like family and friends.”**

Ely, OrKidstra Graduate (viola)

# Key Events of 2020-2021

- July 13 - August 21, 2020** – OrKidstra offers its first-ever online summer programming with OrKidstra @ Home: Summer Edition!
- October 13, 2020** – OrKidstra begins its 14<sup>th</sup> season with OrKidstra @ Home online programming.
- December 18, 2020** – The online premiere of “OrKidstra’s Virtual Winter Celebration!”
- February 15, 2021** – OrKidstra virtually performs as part of the BeaverTails Ottawa Ice Dragon Boat Festival.
- March 11, 2021** – Beginner and Junior students perform a virtual showcase.
- March 24, 2021** – OrKidstra marks one year of OrKidstra @ Home online programming.
- April 29, 2021** – Intermediate and Senior students perform a virtual showcase.
- June 1, 2021** – OrKidstra celebrates Intergenerational Day through a collaboration with the Canadian Showtime Chorus and iGen Ottawa.
- June 3, 2021** – Premiere of the original OrKidstra documentary “You Are Your Own Best Teacher: OrKidstra’s Masterclass Story.” This short documentary was created and produced entirely virtually in collaboration with local filmmaker Landon Arbuckle.
- June 10, 2021** – The premiere of “OrKidstra End-of-Year Virtual Celebration,” featuring a graduation ceremony for seven OrKidstra Graduates!

“I’m deeply inspired when I witness how the kids of OrKidstra have been building resiliency and creating joyful music during such a tough time. The majority of our kids are telling us they are less lonely because of OrKidstra – for me, that’s validation of just how vital this work is.”

Mark Sutcliffe, Chair



ILLUSTRATION BY ORKIDSTRA GRADUATE LILY HOLT

## ORKIDSTRA @ HOME!

**GROUP CLASSES**

LIVE online group music classes help students connect to their instrument and each other to build creativity, teamwork and resiliency!

**ONLINE LESSONS**

LIVE online individual instrumental lessons for students expertly guided by caring and experienced Teaching Artists!

**"BUDDY" MENTORS**

Mentorship benefits EVERYONE! "Buddy" Mentors help students reach their potential. Over 31 "Buddy" Mentor pairings at OrKidstra in 2020-21!

**VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES**

It's ON(line)! Through fun activities, social times, on-demand videos and workshops, kids stay connected socially with their friends and the OrKidstra community!

**LIVESTREAM EVENTS**

And we're LIVE(stream)! Stay connected with OrKidstra through our exciting livestream performances and virtual events. Don't miss our June 10 virtual celebration!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT **ORKIDSTRA.CA** MARCH 2021

## Bringing Music Education Home

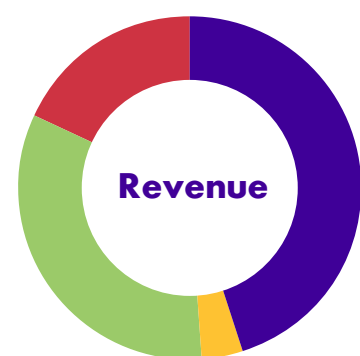
Throughout 2020-21, OrKidstra @ Home online programming helped students stay connected to music, each other, and their community. First launched in late March 2020, as an innovative response to the challenges of COVID-19, OrKidstra @ Home and OrKidstra @ Home: Summer Edition combined creativity and technology in a fun and accessible way to help benefit OrKidstra students of all ages and empower them to continue building success – and brighten their days – with music at home.

Thanks to your generous support, in 2020-21, OrKidstra @ Home grew its weekly, after-school online programming to over 125 hours per week of live programming including group and individual music lessons, virtual celebrations, online activities, and new programs like Masterclass, Buddy Mentors, and improvisation and composition classes.

“OrKidstra @ Home was a savior. It really helped motivate me to practice my instrument and seeing people online has been amazing.”

Julien, OrKidstra Graduate (tuba)

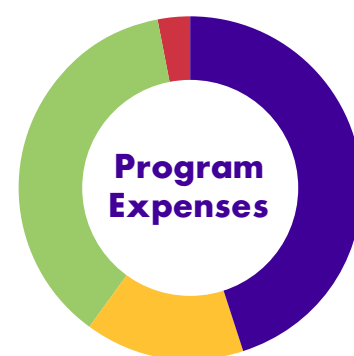
## Financial Highlights



**Individuals 45%**  
 Corporations **4%**  
 Charities/Foundations **33%**  
 Governments **18%**



**Program 79%**  
 Administration/  
 Management **13%**  
 Development **8%**



**Professional Teaching Services 45%**  
 Instruments and Program Delivery **15%**  
 Program Staff and  
 Volunteer Coordination **37%**  
 Community Outreach **3%**

## Statement of Financial Position *(as of June 30, 2021)*

	2021	2020*
<b>ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	314,121	456,602
Short Term Investment	330,638	100,494
Accounts Receivable and HST	25,229	2,397
Prepaid Expenses	5,734	2,013
	675,722	561,506
CAPITAL ASSETS	62,598	71,703
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>738,320</b>	<b>633,209</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	16,813	22,121
Deferred Contributions	100,000	100,727
	116,813	122,848
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	57,594	67,801
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>174,407</b>	<b>190,649</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>563,913</b>	<b>442,560</b>
	<b>738,320</b>	<b>633,209</b>

\*restated to provide retrospective comparison due to change in capital amortization policy.

Please visit [orkidstra.ca](http://orkidstra.ca) to view the full audited financial statements.

## Our Donors are a special part of our OrKidstra family!

**2020-21** (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)

### Inner Circle (\$5,000 and up)

Casey, Cheryl & Doug	Fox, Gloria	Nabatian, Martha
Cosgrove, Elizabeth & Wylie, Dave	Hendelman, Walter	Shenkman, Dasha (OBE)
Duck, Gary & Cornelia	Higham, Robin & Louise	Teron, Jean
Estate of Helen Patricia Richardson	Holdsworth, David & Senecal, Nicole	Van Dine, David
Estate of Pauline Fedeski	Huus, Evan	Wells, Paul & Samson, Lisa
Estate of Penelope Feather & Robert Vaughan	Marshall, Claire	

### Individuals (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

Amundrud, Don & Patricia	Furlong, Greg	McMillen, Charles & Marilyn
Bennett, Norman	Gray, Charlotte	Newton, Jacqueline
Carpenter, Graham	Halpenny, Suzanne	Oldham, Peter
Churchfield, Camille	Hicks, Jennifer	Stiles, Mark
Dawson, Marilyn	Laister, David & Susan	Sullivan, Kevin
Dearham, Deborah & Wesley	Lapointe, Elise	Swan, Carole
Dequincey, Charline	Lutes, Chayanika & Michael	Tennant, Robert
Drapeau, Suzanne	Maxwell, Judith	Valois, Pierre & Shirley
Fedeski, Tina & McMillen, Gary	McDermott, Elizabeth	Van Loon, Jean & Richard
Ferguson, Karen	McLellan, Chloe	Westeinde, Shirley

### Thank you to our generous Corporate, Foundation and Community Supporters for 2020-21!

Aerographics Creative Services (in-kind)	Harry P. Ward Foundation	Rob Marland & Jane Forsyth of Royal LePage
Andy Cohen OCF Fund	J.P. Bickell Foundation	Performance Marland Realty
Arnold Shinder Scholarship Fund	Jill & Cedric Nowell Fund	Ross & Ardath Francis Charitable Foundation
Baytek (in-kind)	Kun Shoulder Rest Inc.	Spruce Creative Inc. (in-kind)
Brodhead OCF Fund	Low & Stone MPC	Stargazer (via Mackenzie Investments)
Cajole Inn Foundation	Minto Foundation Inc.	StrategyCorp Inc.
Centre for Canadian-Assyrian Relations	Nelligan Law – Nelligan O'Brien Payne LLP	Swan Family Testamentary Trust
City Of Ottawa	Ontario Arts Council	The Azrieli Foundation
Crabtree Foundation	Ottawa Catholic School Board	The Matt Foundation
D'Addario Foundation	Ottawa Carleton District School Board	The Merry Dairy
Five B Family Foundation	Ottawa Community Foundation	The Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation
Friends Of The National Arts Centre Orchestra	Perley-Robertson, Hill & McDougall LLP	Trigon Insurance Brokers Ltd
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation	Rich Little Endowment Fund	United Way East Ontario
Green Shield Canada		

Please visit [orkidstra.ca](http://orkidstra.ca) for the full list of our OrKidstra supporters!

Please note: donations for the Annual Report are calculated cumulatively based on OrKidstra's fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021).

# Our philosophy

OrKidstra was inspired by the renowned El Sistema program that has, over the last 46 years, proven to the world that music can be an agent of social change. OrKidstra's successful adaptation of this philosophy lies in the beautiful combination of musicianship and citizenship, which is ever present in our day-to-day programming.

## OrKidstra:

**Advocates** kid-powered performance — passion over precision.

**Encourages** playing together to teach kids how to build a harmonious community.

**Supports** peer-to-peer structure, which breaks down barriers and fosters friendship.

**Develops** a sense of belonging with joy and fun.

**Creates** extensive and intensive community connections.

**“Mentoring and teaching is not easy – especially over Zoom! I learned to be more patient and developed better leadership, problem-solving, and communication skills as well as a deeper respect for our amazing teachers.”**

Amy, OrKidstra Graduate and Buddy Mentor (violin)



Music education helps kids from at-risk backgrounds

**grow!\***

*\*Journal of Neuroscience*



## OrKidstra Staff\*

**Tina Fedeski, MSM** – Executive & Artistic Director  
**Carrie Olivo** – Finance & Logistics Manager  
**Rebecca Russell** – Senior Development & Communications Officer  
**Emily Porter** – Program Administrator  
**Mark Constantine** – Artistic Administrator  
**Keanna Louis-Charles** – Program Coordinator  
**Inga Vitols** – Administrative Assistant  
**Lucas Olsen-Willford** – Program Coordinator  
**Kathryn Patricia Cobbler** – Teaching Artistry Facilitator

## OrKidstra Ambassadors

**Angela Hewitt, CC, OBE**  
**Alexander Shelley**  
**Kellylee Evans**

\*As of June 30, 2021

## OrKidstra Board of Directors\*

**Mark Sutcliffe** – Chair  
**Salim Charabati** – Interim Vice-Chair  
**Marie-Josée Lambert** – Treasurer  
**Jeff Heynen** – Secretary  
**Chayanika Abeysekera-Lutes** – Director  
**Lynda Heyden-Carroll** – Director  
**Jeanne Inch** – Director  
**Sean McGee** – Director  
**Paul Wells** – Director  
**Yasir Naqvi** – Director

## OrKidstra Founders

**Gary McMillen, Margaret Maria Tobolowska and Tina Fedeski, MSM**

## OrKidstra Teaching Artists

Please visit [orkidstra.ca](http://orkidstra.ca) for a full list.

A big thank you to Claire Marshall, David Van Dine, Leslie Ram, Sharon Rusu, and Penny Reddie who stepped down from the OrKidstra Board of Directors in 2020-21. After collectively volunteering over 24 years on the Board, these hard-working supporters will always have a special place in the OrKidstra family!



**“What OrKidstra has done for Ottawa is really immeasurable. Bravo to all the staff who give so much of their time and of themselves to bring joy into the lives of these wonderful kids.”**

Angela Hewitt, CC, OBE



PHOTO BY GREG ALLISON



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[orkidstra.ca](http://orkidstra.ca)



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