



Tuning into challenges

Many kids in Ottawa encounter a lack of equity, including limited access to after-school programs that keep them safe and engaged while boosting their development.

- 100%** of the neighbourhoods OrKidstra serves have Ottawa's highest Economic Opportunity equity concerns.
- fewer than 45%** of kids in low-income areas have access to extracurricular activities, while opportunities for free programs are even scarcer.
- 74%** of OrKidstra students identify as visible minorities and may encounter significant systemic barriers.

Composing solutions!

Together, we empowered children and youth from Ottawa's equity-deserving communities to reach for success and build life skills through music. Your generosity makes a lasting impact—see for yourself!

Through our free in-school* & after-school music programming, OrKidstra served over

750

kids from equity-deserving Ottawa communities.

At our new Hub in the high-priority Heron Gate neighbourhood, we welcomed almost

60

students to participate in our free programs.



"Some of the skills I developed in OrKidstra are commitment and collaboration. In an ensemble, not only do we make music together, but we also learn how to work together."

Mariam, 2025 OrKidstra Graduate,
9 Years at OrKidstra

*Sources: Neighbourhood Equity Index, OrKidstra Parent/Student Survey (2024-25), People for Education. OrKidstra serves the Ottawa communities of West Centretown, Vanier, Overbrook, Heron Gate, and Lowertown. OrKidstra in-school programs are funded by the school boards.

Photos by Greg Allison Photography and OrKidstra.

"OrKidstra is a great organization mentoring and raising children for a brighter future for greater responsibilities through music empowerment which also affects all facet of life."

OrKidstra Parent



"I could not imagine my life without OrKidstra and the positive difference it has made!"

Val, 2025 OrKidstra Graduate,
7 years at OrKidstra

Love • Courage • Excellence • Belonging

OrKidstra's 2024-25 season was filled with remarkable achievements, international highlights, and deeper community connection, thanks to your support!

OrKidstra served almost

350

students at our free after-school program Hubs in Centretown, Vanier, and Heron Gate.

OrKidstra performed at over

35

community events, from local charity shows to a performance for Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla!



 100%

of OrKidstra graduates completed high school and pursued post-secondary education.

 98%

of students said they are more aware of how important it is to be kind to others.

 96%

of students improved essential life skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

 98%

of OrKidstra parents say their child is doing better in school.



"OrKidstra means a sense of community – it allows you to not only learn music, but also build friendships and learn new skills." Ali, 2025 OrKidstra Graduate, 9 years at OrKidstra, violin