

Together we are changing lives through music

An initiative led by the *Hamilton Music Collective* (HMC) in partnership with the *Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra* and the *Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board*,

An Instrument For Every Child (AIFEC) is a visionary music project aimed at providing Hamilton's elementary school children with the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.

The program is modeled on a similar initiative offered in Germany and is based on 'El Sistema', a music program which has dramatically changed the life path of hundreds of thousands of children in Venezuela, 90 per cent of them from poor socio-economic backgrounds.

Through AIFEC, students in grades 1-4 will learn to play a musical instrument and receive general music education within the school curriculum. AIFEC will be launched as a pilot project at King George Elementary School in September 2010. The longer-term vision for the program is that ALL children in Hamilton will have the opportunity to be part of the program. AIFEC supports the mandate of Making Hamilton the Best Place to Raise a Child.



The Hamilton Spectator: What are you doing to change our community?

HAMILTON MUSIC COLLECTIVE: We are dedicated to engaging our community - in particular, the children of Hamilton - through performance, outreach initiatives and education using music as the medium.

An Instrument for Every Child is based on the belief that all children should have access to music education - regardless of their socio-economic background - and that all children ought to be given the chance to explore their own creative potential.



The Hamilton Spectator: What does the ideal community look like to you?

HAMILTON MUSIC COLLECTIVE: It is well-known that music has the power to transcend challenging situations and transform lives. We envision a community inspired and empowered by its youth who will have developed healthy self-esteem and confidence by way of access to music education.

The Hamilton Spectator: What inspires you?

HAMILTON MUSIC COLLECTIVE: We are inspired by the incredible wealth of world-class musicians and music educators who reside here. Pick a genre and we have masters of that music living in our city. We are striving to provide an infrastructure for those masters to share their music and love of music with the children and youth in our community. Hamilton is second to none as an artistic centre and we are thrilled to be a part of it.



An Instrument for Every Child

www.hamiltonmusiccollective.org
www.aninstrumentforeverychild.org

The Hamilton Spectator is dedicated to building our community.

Hone your palate in the grapevines at Vine Dining

Wandering in the grapevines of one of our greatest wineries, sampling gourmet food and drink from some of our finest restaurants, all on a glorious Sunday afternoon. Sound like a dream? A dream come true, thanks to the 18th Annual Theatre Aquarius Vine Dining event on June 27, from 1 to 5 pm at Vineland Estates Winery. Whether you are a seasoned or a novice foodie, the day will unfold as an astonishing gourmet picnic. Tickets are \$135 per person and can be purchased by calling 905-522-7529 or visiting www.theatreaquarius.org. Bon appétit!



Local businessman and athlete tackles Triple Ironman to help Haiti

Gord Pauls loves to help others reach their athletic goals. Now the co-owner of The Runners Den has a mammoth goal of his own. He's training for a Triple Ironman to raise \$250,000 for micro-credit development projects in Haiti. The event runs August 27, 28 and 29 in Penticton, British Columbia.

For more information or to donate, visit www.GORDPAULS.com or call The Runners Den at 905-523-7866.



It's your event at It's Your Festival

It's Your Festival, at Gage Park July 1 to 4, can be whatever you want it to be. The Canada Day Baby Contest, the Youth Talent Search, the Caribbean/Latin Day, the International Day...oh, and great musical acts each evening. All this plus food, a midway, craft vendors and a Spelling Bee! Find out more at www.itsyourfestival.ca or call 905-525-2297.

TRYOUT FOR CANUSA'S 53rd YEAR

The primary purpose of CANUSA is to engage young people in athletic competition and foster goodwill and friendship between Hamilton and Flint, Michigan. Over its history, CANUSA has brought thousands of young athletes together for a weekend in August to 'experience the friendship', many forming lifelong bonds across the borders. CANUSA continues to bring together 1,400 athletes, promotes physical activity, and encourages volunteerism amongst the citizens of Hamilton and Flint. The positive changes that CANUSA has brought to both cities are measured in the strength of the games as it celebrates our 53rd anniversary. For tryout information check out the website at www.canusagames.com. For further information contact canusa@hamilton.ca or call 905-546-2424 ext. 2537.



Our previous community funding still exists and will now be under a new name: SpecKids Unlimited. SpecKids Unlimited has a vision to play a leadership role in our community, by making a difference in the lives of youth and children. The SpecKids Unlimited mandate is a simple one: to improve the lives of children and youth in our community.

Funds donated to SpecKids Unlimited support the following initiatives: The Hamilton Spectator Summer Camp Fund; Jeff Dickins Memorial Award; Hess Kids Unlimited; and Community Building. This is a partnership between the Hamilton Community Foundation and The Hamilton Spectator. For more information, contact Jane at jallison@thespec.com