

Instrument for Every Child serenading Hamilton schools

By Adam Carter , [CBC News](#) Posted: Jun 14, 2012 2:54 PM ET Last Updated: Jun 14, 2012 2:53 PM ET



An Instrument for Every Child Founder Astrid Hepner says she's incredibly proud of the kids in her program. (Courtesy An Instrument for Every Child)

Thursday marked the last concert for An Instrument for Every Child (AIFEC) this season — a group that gets instruments into the hands of kids that usually wouldn't get a chance to play them.

Countless studies have been performed heralding the benefits of music education with children. But AIFEC founder Astrid Hepner said this takes a backseat to the real excitement a child can feel when they pick up a new instrument.

"It's seeing those eyes when they first pick up a trumpet and make a sound, she said. "It's the sense of accomplishment and pure joy."

- **Grade One:** Kids are introduced to a variety of instruments, and get one hour of lessons a week
- **Grade Two:** Students pick and instrument, and instructors work with groups of four to six kids
- **Grades Three and Four:** Students get an introduction to basic ensemble playing

AIFEC was launched as a pilot project at King George Elementary School in September 2010.

This year, there were concerts in three schools - Holy Name of Jesus Elementary, King George Elementary, and Dr. J. Edgar Davey Elementary.

The group hopes to expand into three more schools come September.

While last year was capped off with a big performance, this year the group opted for something more intimate.

"We thought it would be nicer for parents and kids this way," she said. "Some parents just sit there silent, in awe of what their children are doing."

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- [An Instrument for Every Child](#)