



Changing lives through music

Creative culture is transforming Hamilton. Help us “nurture the very roots” of this transformation, by inspiring children to play instruments, mentored by many of Hamilton’s finest musicians.

In 2010, The Hamilton Music Collective launched its music education program, An Instrument for Every Child (AIFEC), a visionary musical project that provides elementary school children in Hamilton’s inner-city schools and community centres with the opportunity to learn to play an instrument.

The program is modeled on a highly successful initiative offered in Germany and is based on ‘El Sistema’, a music program which has dramatically changed the life trajectory of hundreds of thousands of children in Venezuela, 90 percent of them from poor socio-economic backgrounds.

Teach children the beauty of music and music will teach them the beauty of life.

- Dr. Abreu (Founder of El Sistema, Venezuela)

I like the violin, because it helps me understand the music. I feel excited when I play. When I take the violin home, it makes me happy.

- Lilian, AIFEC Violin Student, Holy Name of Jesus School

Music is an important part of a child’s social, emotional and cognitive development and should be accessible to all children in our community, regardless of their socio-economic background. AIFEC’s core programs are designed to inspire Hamilton’s children and youth through access to music and music education while reducing the economic burden for parents, schools, and communities who wish to offer students the skills and benefits that music education provides.

Did you know?

- Through AIFEC programming, over 400 children receive weekly musical instruction by highly qualified instructors.
- AIFEC provides every participant with a free instrument for three consecutive years of programming and offers grade 3 and 4 students the opportunity to play and perform in an ensemble as an integral part of the program.
- Music education is proven to instill important life values and skills in students, such as: leadership, cooperation, self-esteem, motivation and commitment. These skills not only help a child play an instrument but also help lay the foundation for success in school, work and community participation.

In the spring of 2013, AIFEC launched a MAJOR FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN, in an effort to expand the program to at least ten public and separate elementary schools by September of 2015. Support a child and support the gift of music for children in Hamilton:

- \$35 will get one child a month of instrumental instruction
- \$350 will support a child for the entire school year
- \$750 provides one month of instrumental instruction for an entire class
- \$150/\$200/\$250 will provide a child a guitar, a keyboard or a violin

To make a donation or for more information about AIFEC and how you can get involved, please visit www.aninstrumentforeverychild.ca



Christmas, the Hamilton Way

Sonny Del-Rio & Friends present the 12th Annual Hamilton Hometown Christmas. This year, funds raised will go to An Instrument for Every Child and the Spectator Summer Camp Fund. Get your holiday groove on with performances by Groove Corporation, The Five Star Revue, Ronnie & the Rockets, TommyGunn, Trickbag. The evening will be hosted by the Spec’s own Graham Rockingham, and will have special guests Carl Horton, Jude Johnson, Darcy Hepner and others. Sunday, December 7 at 7pm at the Bay City Music Hall. Tickets are \$20 and are at Chedoke Flowers, Dr. Disc, Cheapies, Picks & Sticks and The Hamilton Spectator. For info & reservations contact (905) 719-6191 or email sonnydelrio@gmail.com

Nominate someone today



The Golden Horseshoe Athlete of the Year Award recognizes significant athletic accomplishments by an athlete in the year 2014. Sponsored by The Hamilton Spectator, the nominees may be professional or amateur athletes who have demonstrated superior performance at the provincial, national or international level. Deadline for nominations is December 31, 2014 – get your forms at www.goldenhorseshoeathleteoftheyear.com.



Deafened But Not Silent . . . Music and Hearing Loss

Presented by the Canadian HARD of HEARING Association, a non-profit organization whose goal is to support and educate people with hearing loss. One in every 10 Canadians has some form of hearing loss, growing to 1 in 5 after age 50. Join CHHA for an informative and entertaining evening with Peter Stelmachovich. Trained as an audiologist, Peter wears a cochlear implant in one ear, a hearing aid in the other...and he plays the guitar in a band. Wednesday, December 3rd, 7 pm at South Gate Church, 120 Clarendon Ave., Hamilton. To register email chhahamilton2@gmail.com or call 905-575-4964. Members are no charge, guests are \$5. Real Time Captioning and infra-red system available.

The Hamilton Spectator is dedicated to building our community.