Children have participated in our programs, AIFEC has expanded into 16 high-need schools and community centres, multiple new programs have been launched, and many exciting partnerships have formed. As we prepare to move back into our newly renovated home, “The Gasworks,” we look forward with great anticipation to creating an empowering, educational and cultural environment for Hamilton’s children, youth, families and the entire community in the downtown core. My thanks to our Board for guiding our mission, to our instructors for their commitment and passion, to our donors, supporters and friends for their ongoing contributions and to the entire HMC/AIFEC team for always staying positive in times of change and uncertainty.

As I prepare to reflect on the past year, I can’t help but be impacted by what is happening in the world right now. Despite the challenges we faced this year, starting with the school strikes in January and February, followed by the mandated shutdown due to COVID-19, I am so proud that we were able to deliver on our mission. Recognizing the power of music to create community, build confidence and manage anxiety, we responded quickly, transitioning into an online instruction model. I want to thank our instructors, who so creatively adapted our programs to meet the needs of our students, keeping them engaged and connected. I also want to thank YOU, our sponsors and partners; your ongoing support during these difficult times is sincerely appreciated.

Community is the key word in this report. As an organization that is deeply committed to building a direct connection between our artists and community members, we can proudly look back over the past decade and the milestones we have achieved. Over 5000 children have participated in our programs since 2009 and more than 5000 have been part of HMC’s in-school AIFEC program.
Instead of yelling my emotions out loud I just blow them as loud as I can through the trombone.

- AIFEC Student
St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School
270 Locke St S, Hamilton, ON L8P 4C1
St. Joseph, in the Locke Street neighbourhood,
became an AIFEC partner school in 2015.

Hamilton Pumpkin House
6 Glenfer Ave, Hamilton, ON L8P 2T8
Since 2016, Casey and Jen Rovinelli have been lighting up their house with over 200 carved jack o’lanterns and collecting donations for charity. The Rovinellis have been fundraising for AIFEC each Halloween since 2018 and will for years to come.

McMaster University & LIVELab
1280 Main St W, Hamilton, ON L8S 4L8
McMaster University connects the HMC with teaching assistants and volunteers. Since 2017, the LIVELab and the HMC have co-hosted annual school trips to the facility, introducing hundreds of AIFEC students to the scientific side of music in an interactive way. In 2019, they announced their formal partnership with the HMC for the promotion of music and science in the community. AIFEC has also been the focus of several research projects by McMaster students.

Melrose United Church
86 Homewood Ave, Hamilton, ON L8P 2M4
Initiated by Tom Wilson and members of the Locke Street business community, this highly successful concert series has raised over $100,000 for the AIFEC program.

Instructors
The AIFEC faculty is composed of experienced, professional and caring ‘performer-teachers’ with proven track records. Our students are guided by these teachers to maximize their creative potential within the positive and supportive environment they provide. Our engaged instructors understand the importance of a flexible approach to music education and encourage our students to play, learn and grow at their own pace to achieve their dreams.

David Baldrey
Trumpet, AIFEC Orchestra

Gosia McCarroll
Violin, Piano, String Ensemble

Treaesa Levasseur
Grade 1, Jam 101

Jordan Snider
Percussion

Joel Banks
Ukulele, Guitar

Steve McRae
Piano

Marianna Pijewska
Violin, Piano, String Ensemble

Matt Sodervi
Percussion

Mark Caruana
Grade 1, Ukulele, Jambassadors

Ethan Lacey
Piano

Severine Salvador
Flute, Trombone, Piano

Bailey Duff
Grade 1, Piano

Garrett Lajoie
Ukulele, Guitar, Jambassadors

Annie Shaw
Piano, Jambassadors

Treasa Levasseur
Grade 1, Jam 101

Joe Wilson
Percussion

Marianna Pijewska
Violin, Piano, String Ensemble

Steve McRae
Piano

Severine Salvador
Flute, Trombone, Piano

Annie Shaw
Piano, Jambassadors

Jordan Snider
Percussion

Matt Sodervi
Percussion

Gosia McCarroll
Violin, Piano, String Ensemble

Treaesa Levasseur
Grade 1, Jam 101

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Ethan Lacey
Piano

Severine Salvador
Flute, Trombone, Piano

Bailey Duff
Grade 1, Piano

Garrett Lajoie
Ukulele, Guitar, Jambassadors

Annie Shaw
Piano, Jambassadors

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Hess Street Elementary School
107 Hess St N, Hamilton, ON L8R 2T1
Hess Street, just north of the downtown core, became an AIFEC partner school in 2013.

HWCDSB Head Office & St Charles Adult Education Centre
90 Mulberry St, Hamilton, ON L8R 2C8
Thanks to the support of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, the AIFEC program has been able to reach students at four Catholic schools in Hamilton. The board also provided a temporary home for the HMC while The Gasworks was under construction in the former St Mary's Elementary School, now known as St Charles Adult Education Centre.

The Gasworks
141 Park St N, Hamilton, ON L8R 2N4
In 2014, The Voortman Foundation provided the opportunity for the HMC to move into the historic Gasworks building at 141 Park St N, which became home to the Jazz at The Gasworks concert series and our advanced programs. In 2020, the HMC will establish a cultural hub for music and arts programming in the newly renovated Gasworks building.

HMC Programs
AIFEC in Schools
Our core program offers free weekly music instruction in 14 elementary schools across Hamilton. Students receive a free instrument of their choice for the duration of the program.

AIFEC in the Community
Our partnerships with the Kiwanis Boys and Girls Clubs and City of Hamilton Recreation Centres provides even more lessons and instruments to youth every week.

AIFEC String Ensemble
Our newest free program, a classical ensemble for violin and cello players.

Jambassadors
A weekly band program for middle and high school students with performance and recording opportunities throughout the year.

Open Jam for Kids
All community musicians and singers ages 16 and under are invited to take the stage in a free monthly jam session, led by AIFEC instructors.

Beats By U!
A weekly electronic music production course for middle and high school students utilizing laptops and MIDI keyboard controllers.

Instrument Petting Zoo
A hands-on opportunity for curious musicians and parents to see, hear, and touch a variety of instruments and learn about AIFEC.

AIFEC Orchestra
A free concert band offering students the chance to play in a large ensemble setting.

Jambassadors
A free improvisation-focused, fun-filled class offered to aspiring young students, perhaps exploring music for the first time.

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A free improvisation-focused, fun-filled class offered to aspiring young students, perhaps exploring music for the first time.

Billy Joel
I think music in itself is healing. It's an explosive expression of humanity. It's something we are all touched by. No matter what culture we're from, everyone loves music.
The arts improve the quality of life for both people and communities, creating a powerful sense of inclusion, understanding and the opportunities for self-expression. For children in particular, they serve as a catalyst for development, improving intellectual, social and emotional skills, positive self-image and socialization abilities. Supporting the arts is an important part of building a vibrant, inclusive Hamilton.

- Matt Goodman, VP Grants & Community Initiatives, Hamilton Community Foundation

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

- José Antonio Abreu, Founder of El Sistema

Benefits of Music Education

Music education speeds the development of speech and reading skills, enhances focus and builds a sense of empathy for others. In addition, music lessons and playing an instrument give children a means to express themselves, which for many is key to emotional stability.

The AIFEC program addresses the continued erosion of music education with emphasis on inner-city schools where the daily challenges of families preclude the ability to provide music lessons.

Yet, it is proven that an investment in music lessons is a powerful tool for advancing a child's intellectual, social and creative potential.

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As one of the earliest supporters of AIFEC, the HPO has filled our classrooms with dozens of professional players, hosted the Instrument Petting Zoo at many events, and in 2019 they invited our Jambassadors to perform on stage with the HPO for Rocky Mountain High: An Evening of John Denver.

In 2019, Collective Arts Brewing was the location for our annual fundraising concert, Music & Motion - featuring The Original Blues Brothers Band™.

With the commitment to celebrating “all things music” the City of Hamilton are dedicated supporters of our programs. With such support we can continue to provide music education that nurtures the creativity of children who otherwise would never have the chance.
Cathy Wever Elementary School
160 Wentworth St N, Hamilton, ON L8L 5V7
Cathy Wever became an AIFEC partner school in 2012.

St Patrick Catholic Elementary School
24 Smith Ave, Hamilton, ON L8L 5P1
St Patrick (formerly St Brigid) became an AIFEC partner school in 2014.

École élémentaire catholique Notre-Dame
400 Cumberland Ave, Hamilton, ON L8M 2A2
Notre-Dame, our first and only French Catholic school, became an AIFEC partner school in 2016.

Jillard Guitars
62.5 Stirton Street, Hamilton, ON L8L 6E9
In 2019, Jillard Guitars created the 99 James North guitar project, building 25 unique instruments out of reclaimed wood from the historic building on James Street in Hamilton. Funds raised from the project were donated to the AIFEC program.

Students
Our instrumental classes are designed to inspire Hamilton's youth through access to 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. These classes offer group instruction with a qualified music instructor in violin, piano, guitar/ukulele, trumpets, trombone, flute, or drums/percussion. Upon completion of our core program which concludes in grade 4, students are invited to join one of our free ensembles, continue to perform at our monthly open jam session, or audition for the Jambassadors program.

Our organization believes in cultivating avenues for success for the children who are the future of our city. Children become contributing members of the community through broad learning opportunities, and it is our goal to enable children through as many rewarding educational experiences as possible. By investing in success for children through learning, AIFEC delivers lasting impact, helping to create a vibrant community.
In 2018, two of our Jambassador bands visited the renowned Grant Avenue Studio to record covers of “Come Together” and “Rock and Roll All Nite”.

Prince of Wales Elementary School
77 McLean Ave, Hamilton, ON L8L 6X4

Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Elementary School
181 Belmont Ave, Hamilton, ON L8L 7M5
Prince of Wales and Holy Name of Jesus became AIFEC partner schools in 2011 and 2012 respectively.

Hillcrest Elementary School
40 Eastwood St, Hamilton, ON L8L 6R7
Hillcrest, just east of Parkdale, became an AIFEC partner school in 2017.

Boys and Girls Club Sanford
71 Sanford Ave N, Hamilton, ON L8L 8G5
As a partner since 2015, The Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club hosts many AIFEC classes on a weekly basis, and also provides the opportunity for students who are not enrolled in one of our partner schools to join the program.

Music makes me feel ALIVE.
- AIFEC Student
Community Support

"Every day when the children in the AIFEC program walk into their lesson, I see their eyes light up. Many of these children would not have the opportunity to participate in music lessons if it were not for this program. Not only do they provide high quality lessons, but they provide an experience that mirrors the Boys and Girls Club mission, vision and values. We saw this intensify when the pandemic was announced. They were the first to step up and offer virtual programs to our members, and even went so far as to deliver instruments to our students. We are incredibly grateful for the work AIFEC does both at the club and in the community."

- Glenn Harkness, Boys and Girls Club Executive Director

"We are proud to offer the AIFEC program to our students, as it provides a unique opportunity to support and enhance classroom learning through equitable access to instruments and lessons. For many of our students, musical literacy is a means to bridge the gap to other subjects and is a curriculum to student achievement and well-being. Every student has outstanding potential and each of them deserve the opportunity to fulfill that potential by having access to resources that allow them to express themselves in their own ways."

- Manny Figueiredo, HWDSB Exec. Director

"Having little (or no) musical talent, we have fortunately had lives filled with music over the years which has greatly enriched our lives. We treasure the musical talent that others possess and are pleased to support An Instrument for Every Child which nurtures and finds the talent that exists in our youth. Especially, at this difficult time, music is a marvelous tonic to soothe our stressful lives. We wish continued success to this outstanding contribution to our community."

- Marlies and Alan Clark, longtime AIFEC donors

"The cerebral and social benefits that music provides are well-known, and due to the unfortunate reduction of music programs in schools, kids in the very neighbourhoods that would benefit most have been hurt. Thank you the HMC for the opportunity to help rescue our kids."

- Marnie & Larry Paikin, longtime AIFEC donors

A. M. Cunningham Elementary School
100 Wexford Ave S, Hamilton, ON L8E 2N8

Cunningham and Queen Mary became AIFEC partner schools in 2018 and 2016 respectively.

Queen Mary Elementary School
1292 Cannon St E, Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

It is only thanks to the longstanding support of Long & McQuade that we have been able to fill our classrooms with free quality instruments for the past ten years.

Boys & Girls Club Kiwanis
45 Ellis Ave, Hamilton, ON L8H 4L8

The number of Boys and Girls Club locations across Hamilton have allowed us to reach even more children in a variety of neighbourhoods, and launch new programs such as Beats By U? The McQuesten location services mostly students from the nearby Hillcrest Elementary.

Boys & Girls Club McQuesten
785 Britannia Ave, Hamilton, ON L8H 2B6

Long & McQuade Hamilton and Burlington
2444 Barton St E, Hamilton, ON L8E 2W7

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- Marnie & Larry Paikin, longtime AIFEC donors

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Emma B
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Jillard Guitars
Rousseau School
Strongman Music Inc.
Canada Online Giving
McMaster University – Pitching for Charity
Sonnay Del Riu
Government
City of Hamilton/Enrichment Fund

Finances
Revenue:
$6,153
$111,143
$94,984
$103,431
$43,955
$96,970
$456,636

Expenses:
$57,401
$22,615
$2,838
$4,401
$4,436
$240,090
$27,974
$70,816
$23,085
$453,656

TOTAL EXPENSE

Expenses:
$456,636

TOTAL REVENUE

Program Revenue
Foundations
Government Grants
Annual Fundraiser
Individual Donations
Corporations
Thank you!

the Original Blues Brothers came to town joined us for a party like none other when to our sponsors, family and friends who

$2 000
$1 000
$1 000
$1 000

OMTA – Rachael Finnerty
New Horizon Homes – Natasha Paikin
Bob Crockford
Judy Marsales Real Estate Brokerage – Judy Marsales
First Hamilton Holdings – Joseph Thompson

$2 000

provides instruction and one year of weekly music instruction for 1 child.

$250 - $499
$10 000
$6 000
$5 000
$5 000
$500
$500

Sandra Black
Birgit Beesley
Aisha Barrow
Birgit Beedle
Sandra Black
Birgit Beesley

$500 - $999
$2 000

provides weekly instruction and regular presentations by local guest artists to 100 grade one students.

provides weekly instruction and

$10 000

$6 000

$1 000

$5 000


provides weekly instruction and

$1 000

$2 000

$1 000

$1 000

provides weekly instruction and regular presentations by local guest artists to 100 grade one students.

provides weekly instruction and

Where Your Money Goes
$2,000 - $5,000

Jean Fair
Trudy Davis
Marie Phillips
David Premi

$1,000 - $1,999

Betsy Agar
Tom Agno
Lida Alemanian
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Emily McDonal
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Rosemary Miller
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Christian Osterman
Theresa Paikin
Laura Pallano
Paige Pikar
Sunny Pikar

provides weekly instruction and regular presentations by local guest artists to 100 grade one students.

provides weekly instruction and

$25 - $99

Julia Hillyer
Keith Kindrege
Margaret Kulchycky
Elizabeth Kurecz
Ferid and Young
Davy and Yosah
Lavre and Yosah
Lynette Lethic
Michelle MacArtie
Joanne McCann
Andrea McEwan
Michael Master Health
Forum
Rosemary Miller
Amber Mills
Monteuro
Marie Monee
Kassha Moody
Ellen Morris
Sobhah Murphy
Tami Dermot Nolan
Mary O’Donnel
Karen and Aubey Paikin
Laura Patton

provides weekly instruction and regular presentations by local guest artists to 100 grade one students.

provides weekly instruction and

$100 - $249


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