

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

an instrument  
for every  
**child**

**HWC**  
HAMILTON MUSIC  
COLLECTIVE





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## DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS

When the reality of the Covid19 pandemic hit, we at HMC wondered just what the impact would be on our organization and our initiatives.

Like everyone we were navigating an unknown, but what we did know was that we needed to ensure our students continued to have music in their lives. We immediately and seamlessly switched all programming to virtual online. The entire HMC team did an exceptional job on this. In addition, our generous group of sponsors and donors rose to the occasion and allowed us to keep our books in excellent order.

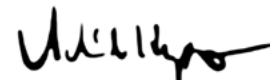
Every HMC constituent (children, parents, teachers, staff, board of directors, donors, and partners) contributed to the successes attained. In addition to teaching online, new programs were conceived and new partners added,

thus ensuring solid, expanded and diversified growth of the organization.

Designed and realized by TCA Architects, The John & Ellie Voortman Family Foundation, the owners of The Gasworks, continued a most ambitious renovation and extension of the facility and in the fall of 2020 we moved back in. We are excited to offer our significantly expanded program roster to the entire community and to create an inclusive and accessible arts and culture facility in downtown Hamilton where children, youth and families gather to connect, learn, and support each other.

We thank every individual or organization that has assisted us during this difficult period and we look forward with great optimism and enthusiasm to a most successful and rewarding year.



  
Astrid Hepner – Founder/CEO



  
Bob Miller - Chair of the Board





## STAFF

**Astrid Hepner**

- Program Director / CEO

**Jennifer Budd**

- School Program Coordinator

**Annie Shaw**

- Gasworks Program Coordinator

**Janice Shearer**

- Development Coordinator

**Garrett Lajoie**

- Marketing & Events Coordinator

**Jo Ann Salci**

- Community Liaison

**Joel Banks**

- Musical Instrument Coordinator

**Kristin Archer**

- Social Media Manager

**Sue Pollon**

- Bookkeeper

The HMC faculty is composed of proficient musicians with experience teaching music and specific instruments. They are rich in their professional backgrounds, recognizing the cultural mosaic of youth to whom they teach. They are diverse in their musical training including performers (across

many genres), producers, music therapists and composers, adding richness to all of our programs. Our students are guided by these engaged instructors to maximize their creative potential in a positive and supportive environment fostering an appreciation for many different styles of music and instruments.



# BOARD MEMBERS

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**Robert Miller**  
Chair, Secretary



**Dr. Terry Miosi**  
Vice Chair



**Theodore M. Charuk**  
Treasurer



**Darcy Hepner**  
Artistic Director



**Carl Joosse**  
Director



**Phil King**  
Director



**John Lewis**  
Director



**Celeste Licorish**  
Director



**Paul Lloyd**  
Director



**Judy Marsales**  
Director



**Marie Phillips**  
Board Advisor



**Astrid Hepner**  
CEO & Founder



**Overall how satisfied are you  
with your child's music education?**

'AIFEC is an amazing program that has given us the opportunity to take part in something we never would have been able to because we don't have enough money to join music lessons anywhere else and since you have offered free lessons and use of an instrument we have had the opportunity of a lifetime!! Thank you all very much, you are all a blessing for us.'

- AIFEC Parent





## PROGRAM STATS

Since our first AIFEC school in 2010 the Hamilton Music Collective has had a remarkable impact on the music community in Hamilton. True to our mission we have offered **FREE** music lessons at:

- 16** Elementary Schools
- 3** Boys & Girls Club Hamilton-Halton Locations
- 3** City of Hamilton Recreation Centres

**Our commitment to providing the transformational benefits of music to Hamilton youth equals:**

# \$1,960,000

in free music lessons provided to under-resourced youth

# \$210,000

in musical instruments provided on a free loan basis

### In 2021 the Hamilton Music Collective:

**Created 1**  
Cultural Hub  
– the Gasworks

**Employed 21**  
professional musicians consistently throughout the year

**Secured 1**  
recording studio collaboration

**Fostered 10**  
community-based partnerships to sustain and support the Hamilton Music Strategy

In 2021 alone we provided:

# 3600

hours of free music lessons

to **700+**  
students

13 year-end recitals – featuring

# 200

youth musicians

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### WORDS FROM OUR AIFEC FAMILIES

**Have you noticed any changes in your child since they started taking music lessons?**

“Oh, definitely, definitely because at the beginning she had no background or anything. And she really improved. So, from grade one to now that she’s grade five, she can actually play and read the notes...”

She really tremendously grew! She is generally introverted. She’s very quiet. I think music helped her grow in her self esteem. It is another outlet for her - especially with the pandemic - she has something to look forward to. Playing music is something she can now bring with her, even when she is an adult. She plays for my family members and they are happy to see my daughter happy.”

**What does it mean to you to have accessible music lessons available for your child?**

“Number one I am most grateful. It is walking distance for her, close to home and affordable. It makes me so happy my daughter can play music. Music is good for her soul, for herself, for her brain, especially during this pandemic. I am so so thankful - to the teachers, to the staff, to the HMC...”

I can’t afford to buy an instrument so giving her the instrument I am also so thankful for.”



# PROGRAMS

Our programs are designed to cultivate avenues for creative expression and rewarding learning experiences for the youth of our city. By offering a diverse portfolio of classes across all ages and experience levels, inviting professional guest performers into the classroom, forming ensembles and bands, and organizing field trips and concerts, we hope to deliver a lasting impact on the next generation of creative learners.



*"My daughter and our family have really enjoyed her weekly lessons. It's just wonderful for us sitting in the background listening to them. Great job to Garrett and we hope we get to continue working with him. Thank you to the entire team for all you are doing... To be honest I wasn't sure how she would learn online but she has and loves it!"*

**- Brittany, AIFEC Parent**

## AIFEC in Schools

Since launching in our first elementary school in 2010, our core program offering free weekly music instruction has expanded across the city. Students receive free weekly lessons and an instrument of their choice for the duration of the program.

## AIFEC in the Community

Our partnerships with the Gasworks, Kiwanis Boys and Girls Clubs and City of Hamilton Recreation Centres provide even more lessons and instruments to youth every week.

## Music for Wellness

Partnering music with health and wellbeing, participants learn and practice healthy habits and apply their knowledge through proven musical tools including songwriting and drum circles.

## AIFEC String Ensemble

A classical ensemble for violin and cello players.

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## Open Jam for Youth

All musicians and singers ages 18 and under are invited to take the stage in a free monthly jam session, led by AIFEC instructors.

## Instrument Petting Zoo

A hands-on opportunity for curious musicians and parents to see, hear, and touch a variety of instruments.

Read more about our diverse programming at

**[hamiltonmusiccollective.ca/programs](https://hamiltonmusiccollective.ca/programs)**

## Jambassadors

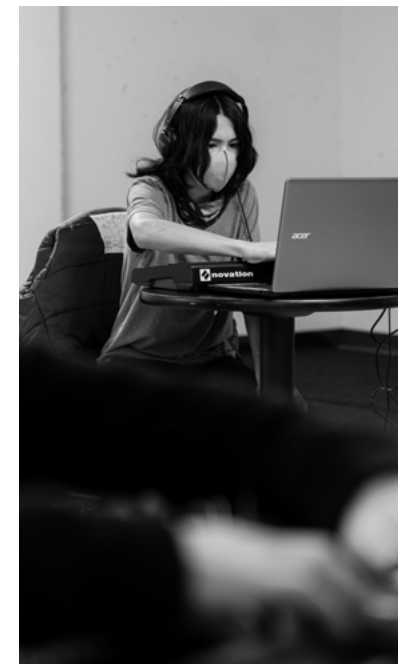
A weekly band program for middle and high school students with performance and recording opportunities throughout the year.

## Jam 101

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

## Beats By U!

An electronic music production course for middle and high school students utilizing laptops and MIDI keyboard controllers.





# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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*"I am so grateful that HMC is a part of our virtual programming! This launch is just the start and foundation of a long term partnership between the City of Hamilton and HMC. The programs are successful, instructors have been amazing and our partnership team works so well together to ensure we are engaging and meeting the needs of the communities we are serving."*

**- Samantha St Aubin,**  
Recreation Coordinator, City of Hamilton



*"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 as far as to deliver instruments to their students. We are incredibly grateful for the work AIFEC does both at the club and in the community."*

**- Glenn Harkness,**  
Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club

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*"We were delighted to connect with the Hamilton Music Collective about their Music for Wellness program. Our collaboration was a natural fit between our organizations and the workshops they provided for our children and our youth were absolutely superb. Treasa and Aimee were well prepared, professional and fun! The programs really resonated with our kids/youth and are a great example of "out of the box" thinking that is both timely and effective. Well done HMC!"*

**- Norma Frankoff,**  
Director of Programs and Organizational Development, Wellwood Resource Centre of Hamilton



*"Our partnership with Hamilton Music Collective has enriched the Arts learning for many HWDSB students. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the collective has continued to foster a love of music amongst our students. We look forward to the many successful years of partnership ahead."*

**- Bill Torrens,**  
Superintendent of Student Achievement, HWDSB





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## COMMUNITY & IN-KIND PARTNERS

Bike for Mike

Boys & Girls Club of Hamilton

City of Hamilton Recreation Department

Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra

Hamilton Spectator

Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

Long & McQuade

McMaster University

Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology

Nellie James

Norm Thornton

OKD Marketing

Supercrawl

The Voortman Foundation/The Gasworks

Wellwood Cancer Resource Centre



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## PARTNER SCHOOLS

A.M. Cunningham

Bennetto School

Cathy Weaver

Dr. Davey

Hess Street

Hillcrest

Holy Name of Jesus

Notre Dame

Prince of Wales

Queen Mary

St. Michael

St. Ann

St. Joseph

St. Lawrence

St. Patrick

Westwood



**What has your child  
gained from par-  
ticipating in music  
programs?**

‘It teaches my child real self-confidence through hard work and accomplishment. My child learned that they can do anything that they put their mind to.’



# SPONSORS

## FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATE, AND GOVERNMENT:

### HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Edith Turner Foundation	\$20,000
Martin Foundation	\$3,000
Kirkpatrick Fund	\$1,000
Porto Family Fund	\$684
Lee Hepner Award Fund	\$600
Malloch Foundation	\$500

### CORPORATE DONORS AND SPONSORS

Paul Lloyd / PasWord Protection	\$25,000
CAPO Industries / Doug & Don Ridpath	\$10,000
Kiwanis Club of Hamilton East Inc.	\$5,000
McMaster University	\$5,000
CHML Children's Fund	\$2,500
TCA/Thier & Curran Architects	\$2,500
Zonta Club of Hamilton 1	\$2,500
DPAI Architecture	\$500

### FOUNDATIONS

Ontario Trillium Foundation(GROW)	\$176,000
Incite Foundation for the Arts	\$45,000
ANONYMOUS	\$35,000
The John and Ellie Voortman Family Foundation	\$25,000
Nick Nurse Foundation	\$20,000
Mischa Weisz Foundation/CBM: Chartered Accountants	\$18,250
Canadian Online Giving	\$3,287
D'Addario Foundation	\$3,700
ANONYMOUS	\$1,000
Fallen Arbour Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation	\$231

### GOVERNMENT

City of Hamilton / Enrichment Fund	\$63,650
Ontario Arts Council	\$14,000

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## DONATIONS RECEIVED IN MEMORY/HONOUR OF:

Lida Alexanian  
 Birgitt Beesley  
 Robert Bendes  
 Arthur Blewitt  
 Peter Grant  
 Dave Gunn  
 Mel Gunn  
 Steven Hileman  
 Shirley Jones  
 Christian Krstanovic  
 Ken Lamanes  
 Robert Lardie  
 Richard & Phyllis McCrudden  
 McMaster Pop Orchestra  
 The McNichols Family  
 John Perrin  
 Irene Pierce  
 Chad Pilon  
 Program of the Arts - Glendale  
 High School  
 Gillian Schnurr  
 Alex Sepic  
 Janice Shearer  
 Walter Isaac Sheper Sr.  
 Josephine Simioni

*"In our country, all kids have the opportunity to learn reading, writing and arithmetic but very few have the opportunity to learn how to play a musical instrument while in school. Having spoken with HMC, we saw an opportunity to get involved directly in affecting young people's lives for the better by supporting AIFEC. Thank you for letting us be a part of your very worthwhile organization."*

**- Doug Ridpath,**  
President, Capo Industries

*"Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. Supporting AIFEC provides opportunities for children and youth to reach their full potential. Breaking down barriers and allowing children to express themselves through music is key in their social development."*

**- Lisa Gaudet,**  
Director of Fund Development, Kiwanis Club of Hamilton East Inc.



# DONORS

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

We thank the following  
for their donations this year:

### \$20,000 +

Paul J. Clark

### \$2,000 +

Bill Curran

Jean L. Fair

Larry & Marnie Paikin

### \$1,000 +

Nancy Campbell

Brian W. Barr

### \$500 - \$999

Mike Colyer

Robert Crockford

Joe Guagliano

Melvin Gunn

David Hamber

Susan Hill

Judith and Warren Johnson

Jake Langstaff

John Lewis

Daniel Silas Morris

Scott Orr  
*Other Songs*

Marie Phillips

Wendy Plante

David Premi  
*DPAI Architecture*

### \$200 - \$499

Cheryl Adam

Tom Agro

Alene Alexanian

Richard Best  
*Middle Earth Coffee House 50th  
Anniversary Reunion*

Sandra Black

Mike Colyer

Bill Ernst

Janet & Mel Gunn

Robert Hill

Jennifer Ives

Alex MacLean

Dale McDonald

Ann McLaughlin

Sheila McNair

Gloria Oakes

Megan O'Connor

Mary Anne Peters

Joseph Resendes

Mark Russom

Tanya Sanders

Jason Sheper  
*Magic Tree Productions*

Sherisse Webb

### \$100 - \$199

Teresa Bendo

Megan Benjafield

Leah/Chris Brown

Barbara Danese

Mark De Benedictis

Mike Dooley

Robin Downer

Diane Ecker

Catherine Gaudet

Paul Gibel

Josh Girard

Michele Gunn

Astrid Hepner

David Hileman

William Hill

Jennifer Ives

Allan Lajoie

Lua Lamontagne

Jake Langstaff

Cuong Lieu

Cecelia McAvoy

Carolyn McCullough

Jessie McNichols

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Karen & Harvey  
Minden Schipper

Faith Paquette

Wendy Plante

Marilyn Pout

Teresa Reid

Vince Rinaldo

Walt Sepic

Janice Shearer

John Siskos

Catherine & Ian Thomas

Lola van Heck

Barbara Zimba

### \$20 - \$99

Glenn & Kim Barrett

Mike Beesley

Mark Belan

Donald Benassi

Gary & Linda Bevan

Tilda Bodo

Mike Bonnar

Carlotta Bown

Sue Bramberger

Kayla Calder

Kimberly Chapman

Edward Clay

Anne Clinkard

Lorraine Cohen

Barry Colbert

Catherine Cookman

Catherine D'Angela

Demetrius Patisatzis

Dundas Valley Sunrise Rotary

Dianne Dunn

Clay Edward

Meredith Evans

Jennifer Grant

Dorothy Gruggen

Steven Hudecki

Zach Hudson

Norma Jack

Tarun Joseph

Carl Karichian

Phil King

Emma Koziy-Kronas

Paula Lalonde

Peggy Leppert

Gina Mildren

Jason Miriani

Fiona O'Connor

Marco & Susie Oddi

Robert Fichtner

Eric Sabourin-Toupin

Jo Ann Salci

Judith & James Sartor

Mae Shin

Lorretta Schiavo Smith

John Siskos

Kyle Slote

Doug Smardon

Janet Southall

Joseph Tarun

Teresa Reid

Sarah Weisbrot





# FINANCES

## 2020/21

20

21

### EXPENSES

#### REVENUE:

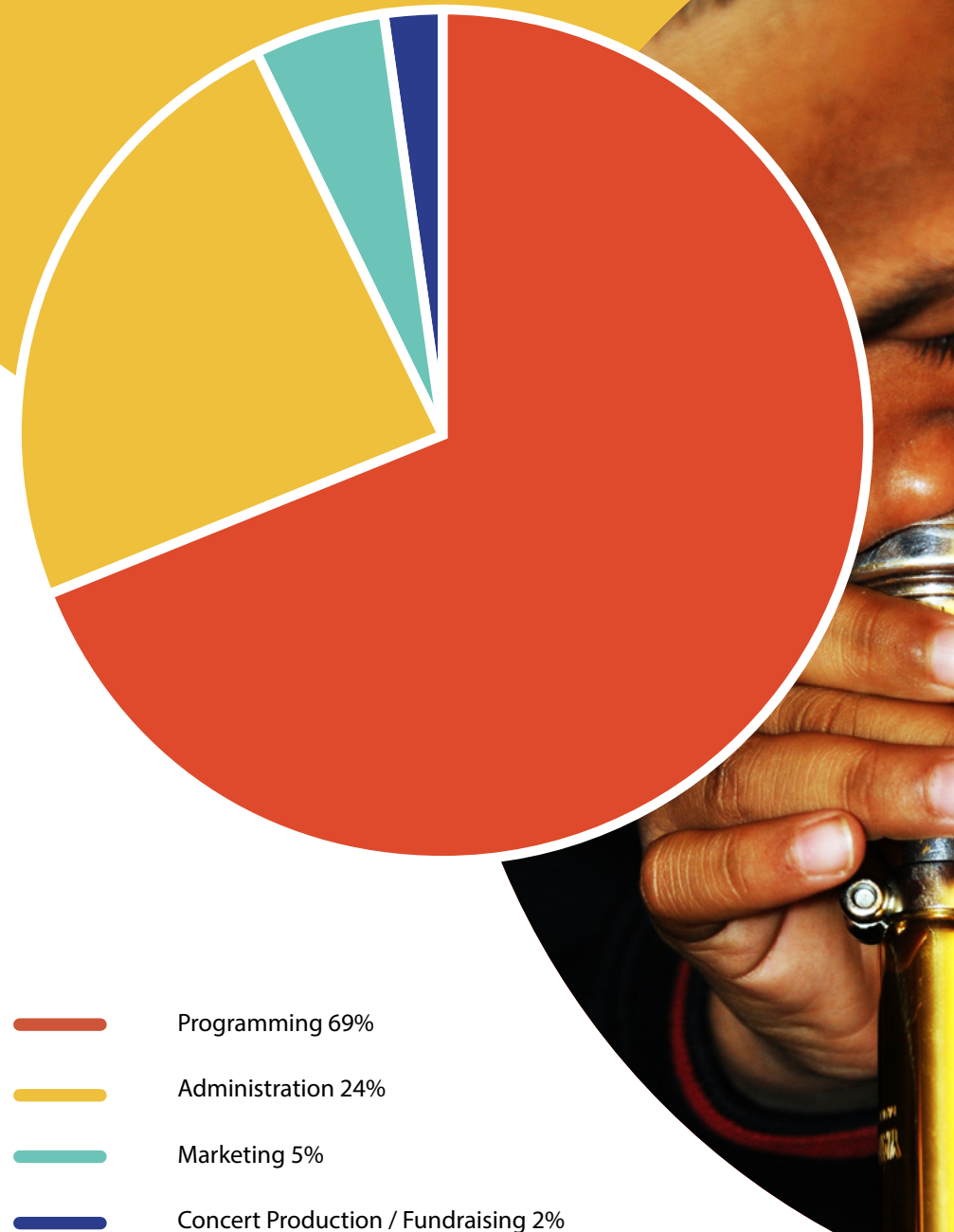
Program Revenue	\$1,306
Foundations	\$94,328
Government Grants	\$208,113
Individual Donations	\$26,990
Corporations	\$56,675

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$387,412**

#### EXPENSES

Education & Outreach	\$4,213
Instrument Purchase & Maintenance	\$5,956
Instruction / Programming	\$243,574
Admin Personnel	\$53,890
Rent/Maintenance/Insurance	\$15,056
Marketing	\$20,895
Concert Production / Fundraising	\$6,535
Other Admin	\$19,232

**TOTAL EXPENSE** **\$369,352**





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