

HIP News-Spring 2018

Humility + Integrity + Passion = HIP

EL SISTEMA SOUTH LONDON PERFORMS THE MESSIAH

In December 2017, El Sistema South London presented The Messiah at St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica with the help of the Catholic Central Chamber Choir. In many ways, this presentation was an expansion of last year's performance. In 2016 we presented eight pieces from Handel's masterwork, and this year we presented twelve. In 2016 we had two soloists and this year we had a wonderful tenor, bass and soprano who each performed 2 pieces. In 2016 there were approximately 200 people in the audience, where this year the cathedral was 2/3 full. In 2016, director Steve Wolsley played with the ESSL Octet and directed from the cello. In 2017 the Octet directed themselves, led by ESSL violist Cynthia Cepeda. As this annual, free performance continues to expand and draw larger audiences, we feel sure that the ESSL Messiah will become a Christmas tradition for many Londoners.

Please join us December 2018!



What a difference a year makes: notes

from Executive Director, Steve Wolsley

It is hard to believe that so much has happened since our last newsletter in July of 2017. The board of directors has welcomed a new member in the person of Sharon O'Leary, a wonderful person with a rich background and expertise in grant writing.

At the Wilton Grove location, our beginners are making amazing progress due to daily coaching from senior program members. They are playing with tremendous confidence and real passion. The intermediate group is developing advanced skills and careful attention to detail under the leadership of teacher Nic Carlucci and coaches Tyler Makinen and Arianna Carlucci. The seniors are divided into two groups: the Octet and the interns who wish to join the Octet. The Octet has more than 40 pieces in their repertoire and so the interns are progressively learning that repertoire as well as refining their tuning, tone quality and rhythmic precision. The interns have been working under the leadership of Maddie Speller. The Octet continues to perform regularly at venues across London and has divided into 2 quartets to prepare professional level pieces for the Kiwanis festival in April.

You are receiving this newsletter because you care. Thank you!

The Parents corner

Thank you for another great year. Alex is getting more and more compliments in music class. She has become a confident young girl. She is independent and very focused on her work whether on music or on school work. We are happy to see her shine in the concerts with you. We cannot explain what it means for us to see her playing in this level. We all hope that you will be able to offer the music program for many more children. The love and passion of music will continue changing many more young lives.
Zsuzsanna B.

Isobel takes great pride in her learning via El Sistema, and it has quickly become her favourite activity. She loves playing the viola, and is always excited to tell the family of new techniques she has learned, or new music they are going to be playing each class. The program has introduced her to a lifelong love of playing a string instrument, and also introduced our family to this as well. Overall, this program has been very positive in our daughter's life, providing great mentorship from Mr. Wolsley, his assistants and also the older students. We are grateful that Isobel is able to participate in such an enriching program, and learn to play a string instrument. .. Lorraine and Tim L.

Well, I honestly do not know where to begin to describe how our lives have been impacted by El Sistema.

The program has helped my daughters in a very positive way, from being more responsible, caring, inclusive to being willing and able to take on new challenges. El Sistema challenges the students to new levels every day they attend and thus teaches children that the sky is the limit, therefore raising their self-esteem.

My daughters have not only learned to love all music, but they have also learned to appreciate what people in the "old ages" had to go through in order to be able to play an instrument, thus making them more appreciative of this program which is being offered to them free of charge.

The program has built my daughters to be strong individuals and to show themselves through an instrument. The program has also taught my girls to be passionate about who they are and to believe in what they do.

Humility, Integrity and Passion (HIP); the program's 3 fundamental concepts are always present in my girls way of life, the way they handle themselves in and away from the program. ..I will recommend this program to anyone without a second thought!.. Rosie C



Christmas 2017

I want to say thank you for everything you have done for me. El Sistema is everything to me, it is the reason why I'm here today. El Sistema helped me find my true passion. This program gave me the opportunity to work and cooperate with other people. ...Hamoudi, an orchestra member



Christmas 2017

Meet our newest Director, Sharon O'Leary who joined us in the fall of 2017.

HIP News Editor Carol Browning, asked Sharon to share her thoughts as to why she chose to support El Sistema South London: "As a youngster in the UK I was lucky to have the opportunity to learn an instrument. It was part of a school & local authority initiative. There was no financial barrier to learn.

From that I gained a passion for the arts, theatre and music. I have worked with disadvantaged young people facing educational and social exclusion as an Education Welfare Officer in the UK and have strove on the philosophy that young people can grow if given opportunities to new ideas. Having worked within the not-for-profit and charitable sectors for 25 years, I have also been part of organizations funding programs such as Ontario Trillium Foundation and BBC Children in Need in the UK. I came across the work of the EL Sistema South London Program at this point and was much impressed.

When I look at an application for a grant and meet with an organization, I look at what they are doing and the outcomes of the project. Outcomes are what the project is doing which show the money invested in them is worthwhile. The El Sistema South London program impressed me as it fits within my values which I have gained through working with young people and the importance of outcomes of a project.

A young person through the El Sistema South London program learns to play an instrument, learns how to work with others in a group, learns discipline, widens their knowledge of music and grows to teach others in the El Sistema South London program. It's not just about playing an instrument it's about the person and how they grow.

One young person who faced serious issues in education and life I worked with and gave them the opportunities to grow that I could. They took the opportunity; I could not make them take the opportunities, only offer. They went on to be the best early college student. I asked them one day why me, there were others you could have worked with? They said that on my first visit I said I would be back the next week, other organizations and people also said they would come back the next week and they never did. "You came back". El Sistema South London is giving the young people those opportunities each day."

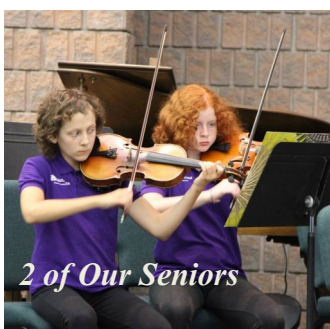
Where are we going from here?

We are finalizing details of our partnership with Thames Valley Children's Centre. This partnership will result in an El Sistema program for the clients of TVCC who are normally not able to participate in a performance based music program.

In the fall of 2018 we will be launching an El Sistema program at Locke Public School to serve the children of North East St. Thomas. There is tremendous enthusiasm in this lovely "South London" community and we have already received sizable donations to make this expansion possible.



Meet The Juniors



2 of Our Seniors



Awards for The Intermediates

Where we have been since the last Newsletter

Sunday	November 12	Hellenic Centre - May Court Market
Wednesday	November 15	Wolf Hall - ON150 Lombardo/Lightfoot Concert
Saturday	November 18	St. Anne's Church Byron - Bazaar
Thursday	November 30	Western Fair - Middlesex London Health Unit
Wednesday	December 6	London Garden Club
Sunday	December 10	Covent Garden Market - Public Concert
Tuesday	December 12	Richards Memorial Church - MLHU Infant Care Dinner
Thursday	December 14	Laurier SS - ESSL Christmas Concert
Tuesday	December 19	St. Peter's Cathedral - Messiah with CCH Chamber Choir
Wednesday	December 20	Meadowpark Nursing Home - Candlelight Service
Thursday	January 18	London Convention Centre - McCormick Home "The Ritz"
Friday	February 23	Hilton Hotel - L'Arche London Dinner

Upcoming Concerts

Tuesday	April 3	Grand Wood Park Retirement Home - PEO Organization
Thursday	April 19	Central SS ESSL Orchestras at Kiwanis Festival
Tuesday	April 24	First St. Andrews Church - ESSL in Quartet Competition
Wednesday	April 25	Trinity Lutheran Church - Kiwanis Rose Bowl Competition
Saturday	June 2	Grand Wood Park Retirement Home - PEO Garden Party
Sunday	June 10	Parkhill Carnegie Gallery - Parkhill Concert Series
Thursday	June 14	Laurier SS Final Concert
Sunday	October 14	Hilton Hotel - Lutheran Regional Conference
Saturday	December 9	St. Paul's Cathedral - Lutheran Christmas Concert
Tuesday	Feb. 19, 2019	Grand Wood park Retirement Home - PEO Organization

Who has been Supporting ESSL?

Our corporate sponsors, both continuing and new, help us continue the good work of the program.

Government of Ontario - Tourism, Culture and Sport; Harrison Pensa (WOCO); IBM Canada; Knox Presbyterian Church; London Community Foundation; Lutheran Social Services (London); May Court Club of London; McCormick Home Foundation of London; Middlesex London Health Unit; Parish of Holy Trinity St. Stephens Memorial; St. Aidan's Anglican Church; St. Anne's Anglican Church (Byron); The Garden Club of London; and Vendors who believe in us and treat us well- KKP Marketing, Bennett Fleet, Long and McQuade. THANK YOU FOR CARING.





We are also so very grateful for our Community Support:

Thank you to our continuing and new supporters : **Online donors via CanadaHelps.org** : Haydn Jensen in memory of Bob Rivard; Sharon O'Leary; Karen Dalglish; Kevin Goldthorp; Dr. Jeffrey Stokes; Mrs. Lilka Young; Phil Walker.

Continuing and New: Marion E. Blake; Jeanette Botz; Henry Boldt; Carol E Browning; Pina Craven; Noreen De Shane; Robert D. Edgar; Elizabeth M Gloude; Heather Gough; Ms Kathlyn J Hagerman; R Morrison Hurley; Hugo Carlos Jimenez; Grant Knox; Zaya Lazar; Salim Lazar; Sami Lazar; Janice Maciver; Chris MacKay; Bill MacPherson; Joan McConnell; Ron McRae; Mrs. Amanda Nelson; Dorothy Panabaker; Ted and Dawn Ralph; Sally A Remedios; James Scott; Abe Suderman; Sally M. Vernon; Phil Walker; Mary Warner; Sabina Wasserlauf; Mrs. Audrey Webb; James Wincott; Stephen Wolsley.

Celebrating a Milestone": *Happy Birthday* Greta (Toni) Swart; *In Memoriam* John Manax; Bob Rivard, Mary-Ellen Heidel Huisman .

We Welcome Your Support

2017 was amazing. With your continued support, 2018 will be fabulous. You can donate online now at www.esslondon.ca where you see the DONATE NOW button on the first page.

If you prefer, donations may be sent to: El Sistema South London, Unit 5 – 455 Hyde Park Road, London, On. N6H3R9 CRA# 826970196RR0001

Please be sure to include your complete address and email, as we are a registered, "Not-For-Profit" Corporation and do provide tax receipts for donations.

Thank you for supporting our students and their families! www.esslondon.ca