

HIP News – Spring 2020

Humility Integrity Passion

The History of El Sistema South London

The El Sistema South London (ESSL) program is based on El Sistema Venezuela, founded in 1975 by Jose Antonio Abreu. The program offers free classical music education that promotes character development through the pursuit of musical excellence. ESSL began in 2012 at its primary location, Wilton Grove Public School, teaching violin, viola, cello and double bass. Registration is open to all Grade 5 students in the area and the program continues through high school

where students are given the opportunity to coach junior students, and in special cases they are selected to be trained as teachers in the program. Sessions are 3 days a week for 2 hours per day. All expenses are covered by ESSL through the donations of wonderful supporters like you. There are now 70 participants in the ESSL programs, from Grades 5 to 12 in three different nucleos (locations). In addition to the Wilton Grove nucleo, we have nucleos in St. Thomas at Locke's

Public School and a drumming program for children with special needs called Ability through Drumming located at St. Anne's Church, Byron.

El Sistema means “the system”- free, intensive, immersive, group instruction in classical and popular music performance

A *nucleo* is a specific instruction center within an El Sistema organization (i.e. Wilton Grove is a nucleo of ESSL)

Ability through Drumming

Ability through Drumming is a free, intensive, music instruction program for children with special needs taught by Marg Wolsley, an experienced special education/music teacher. This unique program began in 2018 to provide an opportunity so that children of all abilities could participate in the El Sistema program. As we end our second year, we look forward to carrying on with our present students and cre-

ating a new class of students from across London and area.

The program occurs on Tuesday evenings from early September to early April in 2 terms of 12 weeks each. Children between the ages of 10 and 19 (or the end of secondary school) may be part of the program. There is an interview process to meet the applicant and assess their needs and strengths.

Ability through Drumming is offered through El Sistema South London. For more information and to apply for the program, please contact: Steve Wolsley at s.wolsley@hotmail.com



Parent's Corner

The Ability through Drumming program has been invaluable! My son joined the program in its inaugural year due to his inherent love of music; especially drumming. If the program had given him joy in that alone, I would have been pleased; but the program has given him so much more than that. He is improving and blossoming in his fine motor skills, motor planning skills, bilateral hand task coordination, cognitive processing functions and his ability to communicate and engage in a group environment. It's become a safe place for him to succeed and gain confidence in his abilities. He feels value and pride in his contributions to the group. He looks forward to the program every week, as do I! The new venue (St. Anne's) is a wonderful space and the volunteers who come out and share their time are so welcoming and inviting. We couldn't ask for a better program; and we hope it continues for a long time!

Sarah Small

Ryan has thoroughly enjoyed coming to drumming classes. He's a musical kid and he has connected well with his volunteer in the program. I like how each participant has their own volunteer to work with one on one. Ryan always reminds me when drumming is although almost every time he tells me he doesn't want to come but as soon as we turn into the parking lot, his seatbelt is off and he's running for the door to get in and start! He's always participating and enjoys the music selections. It's nice that the parents have a space that is out of sight from the participants but close by. I can't say I don't enjoy the snacks and tea/coffee they put out for us each time! Overall this is a fantastic program and wish I knew about it sooner!

Lesley Ryckman

ESSL Chamber Orchestra partners with Fanshawe Chorus London



Dr. David Holler, Fanshawe Chorus London and ESSL Chamber Orchestra

Dear Mr. Wolsley and El Sistema,

Thank you so much for your participation in Fanshawe Chorus London's 2019 Christmas concert event! It was a true pleasure working with the orchestra – EVERYONE was so impressed with the professional level of playing by all of these young people! Stephen, you are doing wonderful things with this group and I hope we can make this collaboration a yearly event. The choir and I would very much like to continue supporting and performing with this fine group of musicians.

It was a pleasure working with all of you!

Dr. David Holler, artistic director
Fanshawe Chorus London

Performances since our last Newsletter

Tuesday April 23, 2019	Thames Valley Children's Centre	End of Year Concert (Drumming)
Sunday May 19, 2019	Wedding Quartet	Wildflower Farm, St. Thomas
Tuesday May 21, 2019	Stars of the Festival	Centennial Hall
Sunday May 26, 2019	Church Service	St. Christopher's Church, Forest
Tuesday June 11, 2019	End of Year Concert (Wilton Grove)	Laurier SS London
Wednesday June 12, 2019	End of Year Concert (Lockes)	Lockes PS St. Thomas
Saturday June 22, 2019	Church Presentation	Good News Church
Sunday August 18, 2019	Church Service	St. Anne's Church, Byron
Sunday September 8, 2019	Church Service	St. Anne's Church, Byron
Saturday October 26, 2019	Neighbourhood Concert	Crestly Avenue
Sunday October 27, 2019	Anniversary Performance	St. Ansgar's Church
Tuesday November 19, 2019	Peace Awards Breakfast	Wortley YMCA
Saturday November 23, 2019	Fundraising Dinner	Mandarin North
Saturday November 30, 2019	Messiah with Fanshawe Chorus	St. Jude's Church
Tuesday December 4, 2019	Drumming Holiday Concert	St. Anne's Church, Byron
Saturday December 7, 2019	Children's Messiah	St. Paul's Cathedral
Tuesday December 10, 2019	Holiday Concert	Laurier SS London
Wednesday December 11, 2019	Holiday Concert	Lockes PS St. Thomas
Friday December 13, 2019	Dinner Music	Kiwanis Senior's Centre
Saturday December 14, 2019	Church Service	Seventh Day Adventist Church
Wednesday December 18, 2019	Candlelight Service	Meadowpark Nursing Home
Wednesday February 26, 2020	St. Thomas Rotary Music Festival	Fellowship Christian Church
Friday February 28, 2020	L'Arche Fundraising Dinner	Hilton Hotel



El Sistema South London offers 6 hours per week of the finest instruction, beautiful instruments, uniforms, snacks and music at no charge whatever to the participants. This philosophy has allowed all interested children to participate fully, regardless of the family's financial situation. The cost of the program is just over \$50 per participant per week, or \$1500 per year per participant. Our volunteer board of directors works tirelessly and selflessly to pursue grants and other areas of funding, but many other worthwhile organizations are pursuing the same money. If you see value for the child, for the community, for society in the work we are doing, we ask that you consider supporting our work, possibly with a monthly donation that can be directed the organization CanadaHelps.org. This can be accessed quickly through our website esslondon.ca.

We
Need
Your
Help

Faces of Ability through Drumming



Fanshawe Chorus London and El Sistema South London Chamber Orchestra before Messiah Presentation November 30. 2019