



OrKidstra Annual Report 2023-24



PHOTO BY GREG ALLISON

Music: The Power to Change Lives

Your support is changing kids' lives through the power of music!

OrKidstra gives children and youth from equity-deserving Ottawa communities the opportunity to learn essential life skills — such as responsibility, teamwork, respect, and compassion — through singing and playing music together.

OrKidstra makes an immediate and lifelong positive impact!

“As I am graduating from OrKidstra, I am realizing how much of an impact it has had in my life and how important it is to me. It’s something really beautiful and I think everyone should get to experience it.”

Tiffany, age 18, OrKidstra Graduate, 12 years at OrKidstra (cello)

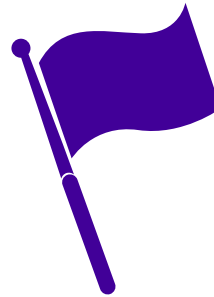
Your support makes a BIG impact!



reaching over

700

kids from **five*** equity-deserving
Ottawa neighbourhoods
in 2023-24



students
from over

62

cultural and
linguistic
backgrounds



ages
range from

5-18



96%

of students **participate
for free**, including access
to musical instruments



100%

of OrKidstra graduates
have **completed high
school** and have gone
on to post-secondary
education



90%

of instruments for the
program are donated by
the community



3

after-school Hubs in the
Ottawa neighbourhoods
of West Centretown,
Vanier/Overbrook, and
now in Heron Gate



97%

of students say they
appreciate the opportunities
and mentorship they have
received at OrKidstra**

*Centretown, Vanier, Overbrook, Heron Gate, and Lowertown

**2023-24 OrKidstra Student, Parent and Teacher Survey.
Participants indicated their perception of growth.

Who we are

OrKidstra is a social development program for children ages 5 to 18 from equity-deserving communities in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Our mission is to empower kids and build community through the universal language of music. We carry out this mission by providing children from low-income families with free group and individual music lessons and the chance to learn important life skills such as respect, compassion, teamwork, and responsibility through playing and singing together.

Our vision is a future where all children and youth have the opportunity to find their voice and build their potential through music.

Our mandate is to give children from equity-deserving communities the opportunity to learn and make music together, and the chance to benefit from the individual skills and community values inherent in music-making.

OrKidstra is a registered charitable organization (83246 7153 RR0001).



PHOTO BY GREG ALLISON

Programs

KiddlyWinks is a fun music and movement program. Ages 5-8. (in-school/after-school)

KidSingers is an upbeat choir program. 8 years + (after-school)

KidStarters explores the world of rhythm, music theory, and creativity. 8 years + (after-school)

KidStringers explores the joy of playing string instruments. 8 years + (after-school)

KidPlayers explores the joy of playing wind and brass instruments. 8 years + (after-school)

OrKidstra senior level students explore playing wind, brass, and string instruments. 12 years + (after-school)



“Learning an instrument is such an opportunity in life. The more kids that get to experience it can help the world grow and be a better place!”

Isaac, age 14, OrKidstra Student,
Vanier Hub (clarinet)

A Message From OrKidstra

As we reflect on our 17th season, we are once more filled with gratitude for the unwavering dedication of the OrKidstra family. In 2023-24, our community’s support helped us compose a symphony of positive change, empowering our students to develop essential life skills through the joys and challenges of making music together.

This past year, we refreshed our Strategic Plan to help guide us over the next three years. Our Strategic Goals — “Expanding Our Welcome,” “Deepening Our Relationships,” and “Increasing Our Capacity and Sustainability” — have been central to our journey, ensuring we can continue to grow our impact in Ottawa while sustaining the Love. We are excited to share some highlights from 2023-24:

- **Expanding Our Welcome:** We launched a new after-school Hub in Heron Gate, one of Ottawa’s most equity-deserving communities.
- **Deepening Our Relationships:** We strengthened connections with the neighbourhoods we serve, creating new collaborations and renewing long-standing partnerships.
- **Increasing Our Capacity and Sustainability:** We invested in our people and built capacity from the ground up to grow our long-term success.

In partnership with our community, we welcomed over 700 children and youth from equity-deserving communities to our free, social development through music programs in 2023-24. Led by professional Teaching Artists, our programs nurture a culture of “kid-powered” mentorship. A shining example of this was the Heron Gate Hub Launch on April 17, 2024, where students from our Centre Hub joined the first days of class to help the new students feel welcome! This spirit of mentorship extends throughout our organization to our staff, Teaching Artists, volunteers, and beyond.

Guided by our shared values of Love, Courage, Excellence, and Belonging, our dedication to delivering transformative programs has resulted in an impressive student retention rate of over 90%, and we are proud to report that, once again, 100% of OrKidstra graduates have completed high school and are also pursuing post-secondary education.

As we continue to grow sustainably, our dedicated students, volunteers, Board, Teaching Artists, staff, Ambassadors, donors, sponsors, and community partners remain the true maestros behind the magic of OrKidstra. We hope this OrKidstra Annual Report 2023-24 renews your sense of joy in the vital role our supporters play in empowering kids and building community through the transformative power of music.

With love and harmonious wishes,

Chayanika Abeysekera Lutes
Chair & Secretary, 2023-24

Tina Fedeski, MSM
Co-Founder & Artistic Managing Director

Key Events of 2023-24

July 4-14, 2023 – OrKidstra offers two weeks of summer day camp, including mentorship programs. CAMP OrKidstra teens (Leaders-in-Training) perform across four of Ottawa’s outdoor spaces in a free community musical tour, presented by the Kiwanis Club of Ottawa!

July 12, 2023 – OrKidstra performs at the German Embassy after NAC Music Director, Alexander Shelley, receives the German Order of Merit.

September 18, 2023 – OrKidstra begins its 17th season of programming at our after-school Hubs in Vanier and Centretown.

October 26, 2023 – OrKidstra performs at the 2023 VOscars Awards Gala, honouring volunteering in Ottawa.

December 7, 2023 – OrKidstra performs at the Prime Minister’s Awards for Teaching Excellence at the National Arts Centre.

December 9, 2023 – OrKidstra performs at the Mayor’s 21st Annual Christmas Celebration at Ottawa City Hall in support of Ottawa Food Bank.

December 10, 2023 – OrKidstra performs at the NAC Orchestra Players’ Association’s FanFair 2023 in support of the Ottawa Food Bank and the Snowsuit Fund.

December 13 & 19, 2023 – OrKidstra’s Holiday Concerts are held at Ottawa Technical Secondary School and Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre.

January 8, 2024 – OrKidstra’s first day of after-school programming in 2024.

February 22, 2024 – OrKidstra holds its first Black History Month Celebration concert at our Centre Hub, led by long-time Teaching Artist Bryan Parker.



UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL PHOTOS BY ORKIDSTRA

February 28-May 24, 2024 – OrKidstra students from our Vanier and Centre Hubs perform in multiple Showcases for their families.

March 7 & 8, 2024 – OrKidstra performs over two days in the NAC lobby preluding NAC performances.

April 5, 2024 – The Atlanta Music Project Senior Youth Orchestra Winds performs with OrKidstra at École secondaire publique De La Salle.

April 17, 2024 – OrKidstra officially launches its third after-school Hub in the high-priority, low-income neighbourhood of Heron Gate, introducing eight weeks of KidSingers to 40 new students.

May 16, 2024 – OrKidstra opens the Kiwanis Music Festival Highlights Concert.

May 24, 2024 – OrKidstra senior students perform a Chamber Music Concert for families and supporters at our Centre Hub.

June 5 & 11, 2024 – OrKidstra's Vanier and Centre Hub End-of-Year Concerts were a great success, with Heron Gate Hub students joining to perform at both concerts to a combined audience of over 1,000 people!

June 11, 2024 – Eight new OrKidstra graduates – Hope, Kai, Maya, Ricki, Roselyn, Tiffany, Tina, and Vela – join our "OldKidstra"!

June 20, 2024 – OrKidstra is invited by Councillor Marty Carr to perform at Jazz in the Park at Billings Estate Museum.

"The concerts bring me much joy and happiness. Everyone getting together to make a great performance encourages me to improve as best I can and helps elevate my confidence."

Nailah, age 14, OrKidstra Student, Centre Hub (violin)

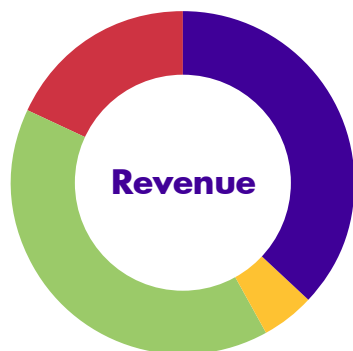


PHOTO BY GREG ALLISON

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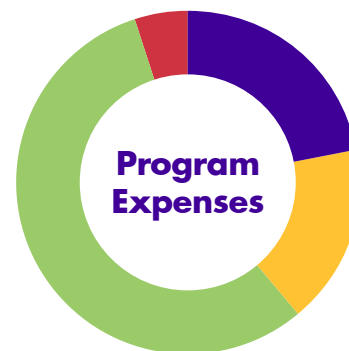
Financial Highlights



Individuals **37%**
Corporations **5%**
Charities/Foundations **40%**
Government **18%**



Program **85%**
Management/
Administration **11%**
Fundraising **4%**



Professional Teaching Services **22%**
Instruments & Program Delivery **17%**
Program Staff & Volunteer
Coordination **56%**
Community Outreach **5%**

*Please note that program staff
also support teaching.*

Statement of Financial Position (as of June 30, 2024)

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	52,291	141,836
Short Term Investments	314,086	147,566
Accounts Receivable and HST	23,549	23,473
Prepaid Expenses	8,554	7,994
	398,480	320,869
INVESTMENTS	144,537	97,909
CAPITAL ASSETS	65,830	66,283
TOTAL ASSETS	608,847	485,061
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	27,244	33,145
Deferred Contributions	40,044	80,264
	67,288	113,409
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	60,400	58,733
TOTAL LIABILITIES	127,688	172,142
NET ASSETS	481,159	312,919
	608,847	485,061

Please visit
orkidstra.ca
to view the full
audited financial
statements.

Our Donors are a special part of our OrKidstra family!

Inner Circle (\$5,000 and up)

Anonymous	Estate of Margaret O'Brien	Poplove, Alan	Surges, Leonard
Beaumont, Colin & Jane	Gibb, Ian	Prior, Susan	Teron, Jean
Casey, Cheryl-Ann	Holdsworth, David & Senecal, Nicole	Sagar, Peter	Van Dine, David
Duck, Gary & Cornelia	Nash, Mary	Sipolins, Anda	Wells, Paul & Samson, Lisa

Individuals (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Abeysekera Lutes, Chayanika & Lutes, Michael	Ferguson, Karen	McMillen, Charles & Marilyn
Anonymous	Gollish, Issac & Marguerite	Muir, Brenda
Baynes, Jamie	Gray, Charlotte	Newton, Jacqueline
Belchamber, Brian	Ha, Joseph	Overend, Eileen & Ralph
Birkus, Andras	Hammond, Lynne	Runte, Roseann
Campbell, Margaret	Hart, Marilyn	Sparks, Colin
Carpenter, Graham	Heynen, Jeffrey	Stephenson, Don
Courage, Susan	Higham, Robin & Louise	Stiles, Mark
Creamer, Judith Anne	Huus, Evan	Taylor, Nancy
Currie, David	Klimasko, Elaine	Tennant, Robert
Estate of Joyce Davey	Lafrance, Michelle	Valois, Shirley
David, Melanie	Legault, Sandra	Van Barr, Chris & Sandra
Dearham, Deborah & Wesley	Low, Martin	Walsh, Fredeswinda
Drapeau, Suzanne	Mardian, Van	Wehrle, Victor
Eadie, Nancy	Maxwell, Judith	Yu, Emily
Fedeski, Tina & McMillen, Gary	McDermott, Elizabeth	

Thank you to our generous Corporate, Foundation and Community Supporters for 2023-24

\$90,000+

City of Ottawa Arts Funding Program
Dasha Shenkman OBE, HonRCM
The Azrieli Foundation

\$60,000+

Catapult Canada, Rideau Hall Foundation
with special thanks to the Government of Canada's Goal Getters Program
Five B Family Foundation

\$50,000+

Crabtree Foundation
Ontario Arts Council

\$20,000+

Government of Canada's Community Services
Recovery Fund
HALO Fund, a branch of the Minto Foundation
J.P. Bickell Foundation
Leacross Foundation
Ottawa Community Foundation
Telus Friendly Future Foundation
The Matt Foundation
United Way East Ontario
Wesley M Nicol Foundation

\$10,000+

Aaron Brock Foundation
Cajole Inn Fund
Gowling WLG (Canada) LLP
Kiwanis Club of Ottawa
Nelligan Law
Power Corporation of Canada

\$3,000-\$9,999

Andy Cohen Memorial Fund
Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg,
the Danbe Foundation
Condair Ltd.
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
Kellett Patrick Family Foundation
Kun Shoulder Rest Inc.
Ministry Of Tourism, Culture & Sport
OrKidstra Allegro Fund OCF
Otto's Ottawa
Rob Marland and Jane Forsyth of
Royal LePage Performance Marland Realty
The Merry Dairy
The Space Between
Watson's Pharmacy & Compounding Centre

Special thanks to our visionary Legacy Donors! Learn more about leaving a gift to OrKidstra in your Will on our website or by calling us at 613.233.0166.

Please visit orkidstra.ca for the full list of our OrKidstra supporters!

Please note: donations for the Annual Report are calculated cumulatively based on OrKidstra's fiscal year (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024).

Our philosophy

OrKidstra was inspired by the renowned El Sistema program that has, over the last 48 years, proven to the world that music can be an agent of social change. OrKidstra's successful adaptation of this philosophy lies in the beautiful combination of musicianship and citizenship, which is ever present in our day-to-day programming.

OrKidstra:

Advocates kid-powered performance — passion over precision.

Encourages playing together to teach kids how to build a harmonious community.

Supports peer-to-peer structure, which breaks down barriers and fosters friendship.

Develops a sense of belonging with joy and fun.

Creates extensive and intensive community connections.

OrKidstra has really helped shape my character. I've had many great mentors and friends who have helped me overcome obstacles.

Tina, age 18, OrKidstra Graduate, seven years at OrKidstra (violin)



99%

of OrKidstra parents say their child is doing better in school.



PHOTOS BY GREG ALLISON

OrKidstra Staff *(as of June 30, 2024)*

Tina Fedeski, MSM – Executive & Artistic Director

Carrie Lauzon – Director of Finance & Operations

Rebecca Russell – Director of Development & Communications

Inga Vitols – Resource & Logistics Administrator

Leslie Noxon – Development & Communications Coordinator

Emily Jenness – Program Manager (on leave)

Mark Constantine – Artistic Operations Manager

Sonia Caceres – Teaching Artist & Program Facilitator

Astrid Camarena Correa – Program Administrator

Lucas Olsen-Willford – Program Assistant & Teaching Artist

Elhaam Namet-Allah – Program Assistant

Katerina Dimitrova – Program Assistant & Teaching Artist



“OrKidstra is more than a music program, it is a family, and for many students like myself, it was my second home.”

Amar Marouf, OrKidstra Board Member and OrKidstra Graduate (cello & voice)

OrKidstra Ambassadors

Angela Hewitt, CC, OBE

Alexander Shelley

Kellylee Evans

OrKidstra Board of Directors

(as of June 30, 2024)

Chayanika Abeysekera Lutes – Chair & Secretary

Riaz Mohammed – Vice-Chair

Marie-Josée Lambert – Treasurer

Cathy Doolan – Director

Jeff Heynen – Director

Salim Charabati – Director

Sean McGee – Director

Shirley Westeinde – Director

Amar Marouf – Director

Chris Van Barr – Director

Antoine L. Collins – Director

A big thank you to former Chair Paul Wells, who stepped down from the Board of Directors in 2023-24.

OrKidstra Founders

Gary McMillen, Margaret Maria, and Tina Fedeski, MSM

OrKidstra Teaching Artists

Please visit orkidstra.ca for a full list.





OrKidstra performs at the Centre Hub Holiday Concert at the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre on December 19, 2023.

PHOTO BY GREG ALLISON



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Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5
613.233.0166

orkidstra.ca



Charitable No. 83246 7153 RR0001

Design and production services provided by Aerographics Creative Services.

OrKidstra is grateful to be located in Ottawa, Ontario, on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg people, the past, present, and future caretakers of this land.