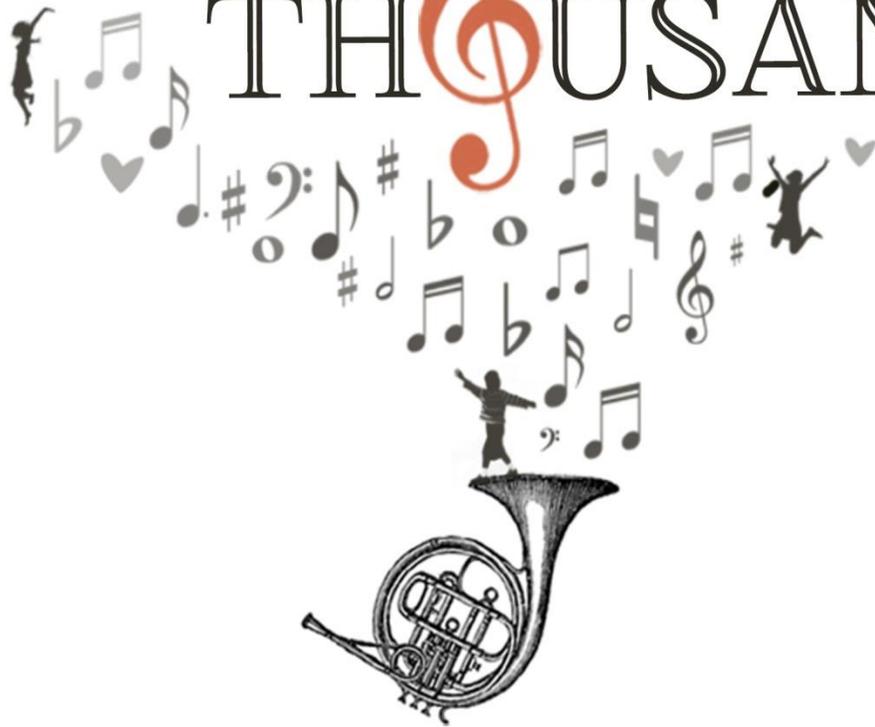


SYMPHONY OF A THOUSAND



COME PLAY YOUR PART



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S A I N T
J A M E S
M U S I C
A C A D E M Y

THE SYMPHONY OF A THOUSAND

Dear Friend:

The enclosed information packet will introduce you to the work of Saint James Music Academy (SJMA), including details of our mission, history, and current programs. Putting words on paper, however, is not the best way to experience what the Academy does. So take a sample here, and then come visit us. We'll show you why we believe in the power of music to change lives. Why hundreds of children from our city's poorest neighbourhood will become better equipped to overcome social barriers they did not make. Why in the midst of learning crucial life skills they are swept along by the joy of collaborative music making. And why we are swept along with them.



SJMA is a grass roots organization, born in the heart of the city of Vancouver. Hundreds of people from many walks of life share its vision, and offer their time and resources to make that vision a reality. The Academy continues to grow, and record enrollments again this year mean more support is needed. We need the hundreds who now support us to be joined by many more. That is our goal, to be a symphony of a thousand supporters, contributing to a better future for the children.

Social transformation is more than just a good idea. It is happening now. At SJMA the teachers and staff see it every day. One song, one child at a time. Please consider joining us. Become a monthly supporter, and add your music to ours. Of course, the children will deservedly get center stage. But I can guarantee that you will be equally swept along!

Kathryn Walker, Executive Director

The moment a child in poverty learns to play an instrument they are no longer poor; they become a child in progress.

Maestro Jose Abreu, founder of the *El Sistema* movement.

How We Got Started

SJMA began out of need. Socio-economic disadvantage and cuts to public school funding during the last economic recession meant that Vancouver's inner-city children had limited or no access to quality music education. Long-time Downtown Eastside area resident, community advocate, and then mother of five, Kathryn Walker began a two-year process of building alliances and support in the community for a music academy that would not only teach music but *use* music as a means of reversing the negative



social forces and often bleak personal circumstances that neighbourhood children commonly face. SJMA opened its doors in September, 2007 with 45 enrollments, instruction two days per week in one of five instruments, and a budget of \$37,000. Since then, the Academy has grown rapidly, touching the lives of many hundreds of children.

What We Do Today

SJMA specifically engages at-risk children who live in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside (DTES). The children and youth exposed to the difficult social conditions here often develop negative peer orientation and destructive lifestyle choices early. Music is the means that we use to meet the emotional and intellectual needs of these children with new social dynamics, and as early in their life as possible. In an atmosphere of fun, friendship and safety, children experience the joy and satisfaction of their own achievement. They learn their value with and among others. They understand the vital role of mutual support, received and given.

- greater self-confidence
- healthy social function, such as teamwork, gratitude and sharing, respect of the other, and mutual praise
- improved academic, cognitive, and fine motor skills
- enjoyment of classical music and choir, often out of reach to the disadvantaged child
- role models to their peers and families, breaking the cycles of familial disengagement, poverty, and failure



SJMA Today...

- 5** part time and full time staff
- 35** teachers
- 40** volunteers
- 162** hours of instruction each week
- 220** musical instruments
- 420** meals served every week
- 170** students in after-school programs
- 250** students in outreach programs

The Core Afterschool Programs

SJMA's Afterschool Programs include the Junior and Senior divisions, a distinction of age and not ability. Both programs have largely the same structure and curricula. These include:

- Transportation: to, and sometimes from, public school to the Academy
- Nutrition: the Academy provides a light, nutritious meal daily for all children.
- Instrument Instruction: Children learn one of ten classical instruments in small groups.
- Collaborative Music: All children participate in either orchestra, choir, or ensembles
- Music theory and musicianship: Kodaly and other methods are used to teach children to read and understand basic concepts in music



The Music Therapy Program

SJMA has made its program accessible to the often most marginalized of children, those suffering from trauma, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and behavioural or learning challenges. We offer specialized one-on-one music therapy by certified practitioners.

The Public School Outreach Program

Remembering that an absence of music education in DTES public schools was the reason for SJMA's own founding, we began in 2010 to offer music classes to local schools once-weekly, at no cost to the school. Outreach Program enrollments have rocketed, doubling in the last year to 250 children.

Summer Music Camps

We want to keep our children's minds and hearts in music, even during those great days of summer! Food, fun and music education is available for two weeks to sixty children every year.

Youth Mentorship

Recognizing the social phenomenon that a child's peers often have greater influence than any adult, SJMA has begun a program where advanced students may become mentors to younger children. Students selected for the program become personal guides and role models, assist new students, and provide classroom support, including at times actual music instruction.

The Concerts

Children showcase their talents in public concerts that include instrumentalists, ensembles, orchestra, and rousing choral presentations. Concerts are consistently 'standing room only', as parents and family, friends and supporters, the media, and others in our community share in the thrill of what our children have achieved.

Music for Change: *El Sistema*

SJMA is Canada's first ever *El Sistema* inspired program. *El Sistema* is a music movement that first began as a modest program to introduce the wonders of music to children living in and around the poor districts of Caracas, Venezuela. Musician Jose Abreu began with only eleven children inside a local garage. Since then *El Sistema* has become a worldwide phenomenon, today teaching more than half a million children. SJMA employs the five principles of the *El Sistema* teaching philosophy, some of which are a significant departure from traditional understandings of music education.



- **Music is a tool for social change.** Music is passion first, refinement second. The joyful expression of music is the energy that fuels the process for positive social transformation in the individual and the wider community.
- **Music learned and played together.** Orchestra, choir and small groups effectively act as a model society, where competition between individuals is replaced with shared struggle. Maestro Abreu states that “the orchestra is the only group that comes together with the sole purpose of agreement.” Collaborative music-making refines social skills and teaches the value of a shared triumph.
- **Music by immersion.** The learning experience is strengthened with frequent instruction. Young people are brought into the music experience often, as early in life as possible, and for as long as possible. Neither background nor ability is a detriment to participation.
- **Music for all.** All barriers to music education are removed, including physical or cognitive ability, ethnicity, or belief, and most especially, lack of financial resources.
- **Music unites.** Music binds people together in a spirit of cooperation and peace. Although *El Sistema* programs run independent of one another and often customize their respective course, all are connected through regional, national and international associations which unify the vision, and also provide opportunities and mutual support.

Support a SJMA Student

Your monthly gift of...

- \$10** will rent one violin
- \$25** will feed one child
- \$50** will pay for music instruction for one child
- \$100** will provide music therapy for one child with special needs



The *Symphony of a 1000* is:

Teachers

Thirty-five highly-qualified professional music educators offer over 160 hours of instruction weekly.

Board of Directors

A dedicated volunteer Board of ten women and men oversee all the work of SJMA.

Administrative Staff

Kathryn Walker	Executive Director	kathryn@sjma.ca
Stephen Rathjen	Program Director	stephen@sjma.ca
Lindsay Burke	Outreach Coordinator	lindsay@sjma.ca
Paul Myers	Director of Development	paul@sjma.ca
Chris Loh	Operations Manager	chris@sjma.ca

Find out more about our staff, teaches and Board members at www.sjma.ca

Volunteers

SJMA relies heavily on a small army of volunteers (parents, friends, young, not young!) who prepare meals, assist as door monitors, chaperone children from public school, help with our phone tree, offer translation services, and more.

Financial Supporters

Foundations
Corporations
Faith Organizations
Local businesses
BC Gaming
Music groups and choirs
Family and Friends
You



...and of course...the Kids!

Join the Symphony of 1000
go to www.sjma.ca



Saint James Music Academy is a registered charity. #: 83555 4817 RR0001
Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more monthly.