



Annual Report

2020 - 2021



Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 President of the Board, Alex Lau
- 3 Executive Director, Sarah Godoy
- 4 Treasurer, Jenn Hepburn
- 5 Revenue and Expenses
- 6 Development, Paul Myers
- 7 Music Director of Orchestras,
José Cerón Ortega
- 8 Nutrition Program and
Community Life, Olivia Lohan
- 10 Volunteer Program
- 11 Music Therapy Program
- 12 Public School Outreach Program
- 13 Messages from Our Parents
Scholarship Recipients 2021





Dear Family and Friends,

In the academic year 2020-21 we saw again the wonder of a miracle unfolding: our children shining with enthusiasm and growth, inspired by caring adults in their midst, at times fixed with a determination to meet a challenge, and through it all another step closer to becoming what they are meant to become: artists, entrepreneurs, adventurers, and compassionate individuals. This annual report is but a small reflection of the everyday experience at SJMA, one that is full of vibrancy, hard work, and small but precious rewards. We hope with the end of pandemic that many of you will again be able to enjoy an in-person visit, attend a concert, volunteer in the kitchen or classroom; simply be among us to know firsthand again what you already know. The wonder of a miracle unfolding.

Within the pages of this report you will hear echoed two common themes. The first is how we have continued to adjust to meet and beat the challenges of a health crisis that still remains. SJMA is perhaps more fortunate than many other organizations, because when it comes to our programs and their delivery, we have always maintained the position of being light on our feet.

It's simple really: Doing what we do (and where we do it and with whom) has always necessitated that we stay flexible, to reach our goals without enshrining the process. As such, no program or structure here is so dear that it would become an obstacle to, rather than a tool for, success. We seek success, and even COVID-19 will not sway us in that search.

The second theme is gratitude. We are only here today because many families, friends, professionals, financial supporters and others have embraced the vision of a better future, and have seen the smile on the face of a child fed, inspired, challenged, and growing into their giftedness. In a word, we are a community. A living, breathing entity serving one group of people within one geography, but as an exemplar of what is possible everywhere. Each of our unique voices, our time, and our resources are the keys to the sustainability of this SJMA community. So speak among us. Share among us. And receive the warmth of our appreciation. We are so pleased you are part of our mission of social transformation through the beauty of music.



President of the Board

Alex Lau

Hello friends and families of SJMA. What a wonderful year it has been with so many accomplishments; I am very proud to be a part of SJMA. In the spirit of positivity I focus here on what we gained through this COVID-19 year.

To our wonderful colleagues and volunteers at SJMA: We have learned so much about ourselves and our abilities to make amazing things happen despite uncertainty in the air. I applaud and thank you all greatly for how strong you have been emotionally, and how committed to the safety of our community. The way we collectively worked together through pandemic has truly moved this organization a step forward. I feel like we can do anything! I do hope you all have a chance to look back and pat yourselves and each other on the back.

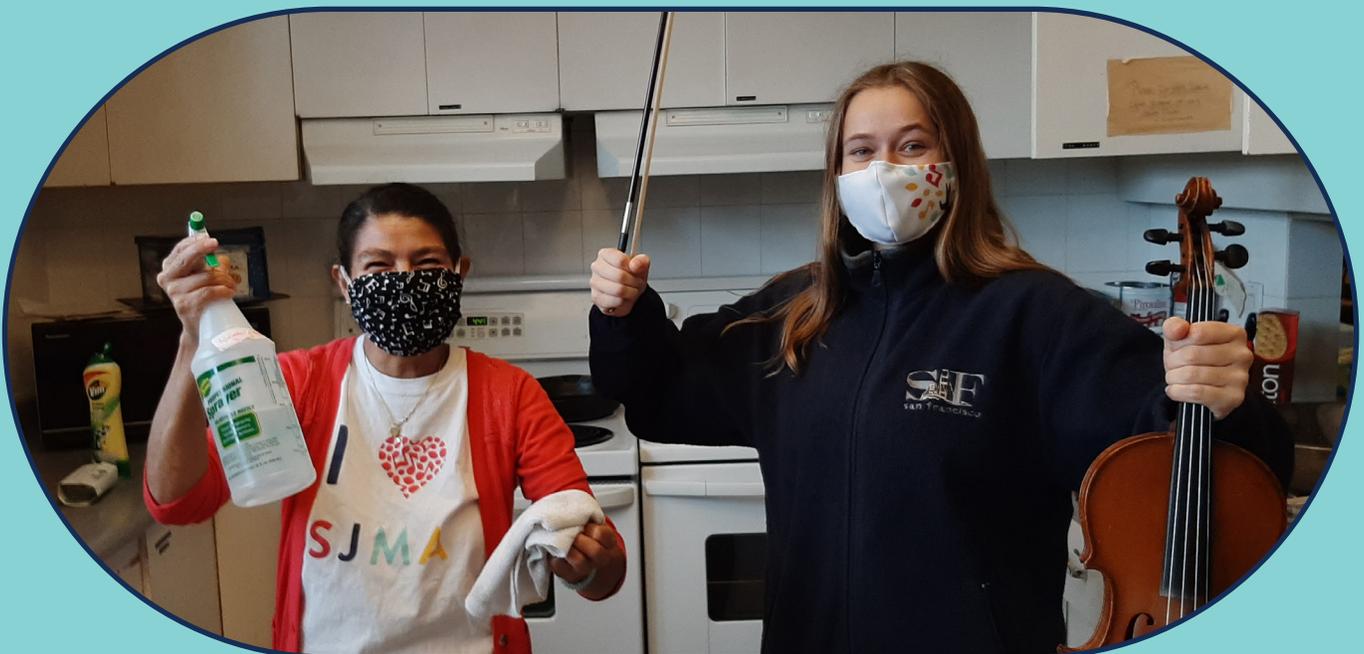
To our teachers, students, and families: Thank you for your dedication to the music. What we gained through this crisis is an even more profound appreciation of music and its many dimensions. The virtual and recorded concerts this year will

forever stand in time. I hope you all have time to look back and enjoy just what you have achieved.

To our generous supporters: Thank you for entrusting us to do the right things on your behalf. Although our traditional methods of staying connected to you had to be replaced with something more virtual, you were all still there, keen and curious as to how we have adapted and to support us along the way. Please remember how vital you have been and how vital you are as we go forward.

To my fellow board members and to everyone within the wide circle that makes SJMA: it has been such a pleasure working with you all. I look forward to our 2021-22 season and all the amazing surprises that are sure to come.

Thank you and take care!





Executive Director

Sarah Godoy

Brightly coloured stickers marked the sidewalk for physically-distanced sign-in. Colourful hygiene kits were provided for every classroom. Behind plexiglass a bright array of fruits and vegetables were laid out for the children's after school snack. And behind masks, the shining eyes of our teachers and staff welcomed the kids back as they finally returned to their friends and their music at SJMA.

The uncertainties of the start of our year were held in check by a profound intentionality on the part of our staff, parents and supporters. No matter what we faced, we were determined to keep the music happening for kids, and to make it wonderful. So we adapted, and we changed. As the children arrived, their staggered schedules made for a strange quiet where once it had always been boisterous, but new comforts awaited them: quiet conversations and a game of chess before classes began. Little by little friendships grew again, some of which, like the musical skills they learn, will last a lifetime. Five days per week, 135 children ranging from grades 2 to 12 participated in a new hybrid model of our core program that brought the best of one-on-one online lessons and in-person group classes. Meanwhile, and more than ever before, the SJMA team worked to creatively address the cascade of challenges facing our students and families, both in music

lessons and in life circumstances. In and through it all, high quality music education in 15 disciplines was provided. In January 2021 we were also delighted to expand with a new Exploring Strings class for the younger siblings of current SJMA students. Public performances and open houses went full ahead, albeit virtually, pre-recorded and shared as live-streamed events. These are now a permanent and beautiful testament to our students' accomplishments. And as summer came, SJMA was once again able to offer music camp for kids.

SJMA has always taught children two principles in life: that their unique role is vital, and that they contribute to something beautiful that is bigger than themselves. Such are the challenges and joys of being part of a classical music orchestra, a microcosm of life in the larger world. For beneath the orchestra lies the bedrock of SJMA: we are about community in all its strength. Here an individual learner - through personal perseverance and mutual support - discovers the delight of making music together; here that learner discovers the delight of living well together. In this year of unprecedented change, the growth of our community has been nothing short of awesome.

SJMA community, thank you.





Treasurer

Jenn Hepburn

What a year it has been for all of us in the Eastside of Vancouver, and around the world. Our year began with the constraints of COVID-19 already in place. The pandemic has disproportionately affected low-income communities, including the SJMA community. Despite the additional barriers that our families faced, the SJMA volunteers and staff met these challenges with determination, and strengthened not least by our amazing community of generous sponsors. Your contributions throughout the year have enabled us to maintain a significant level of investment in our children, always with an emphasis on a comprehensive orchestral program that embraces both flexibility and creativity. We are so thankful to report that we met and exceeded our budgeted revenue for the fiscal year, this despite an initial drop off from both individual and corporate donations during

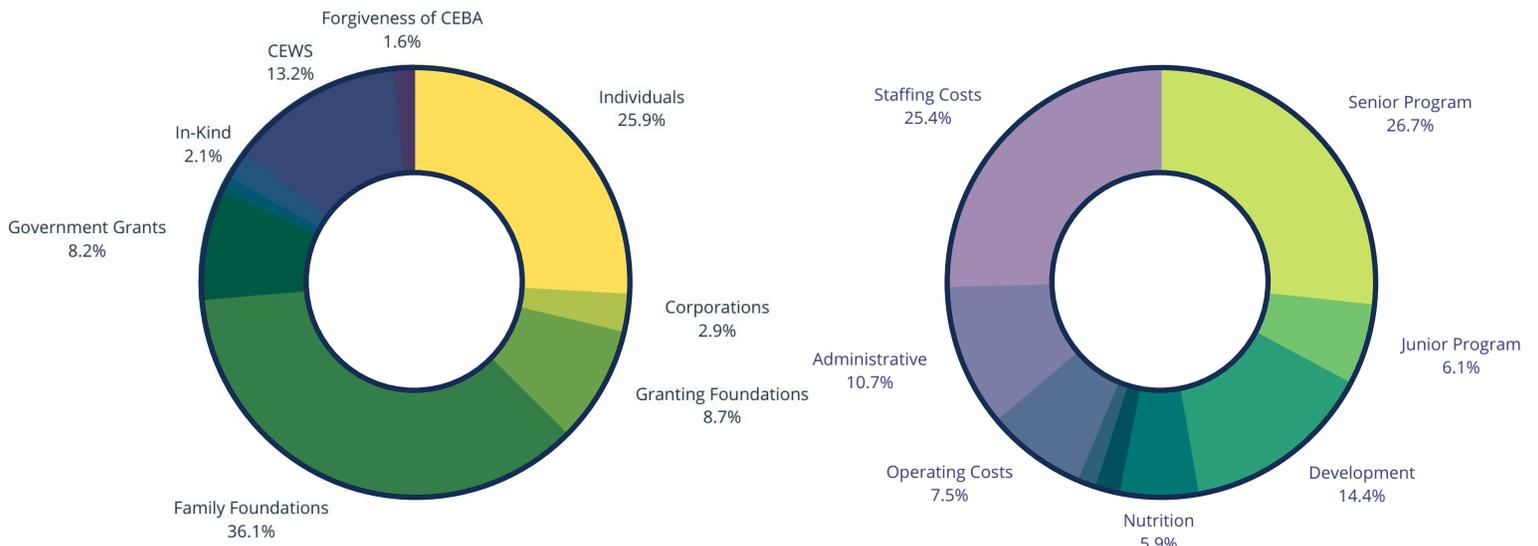
the onset of the pandemic. We also did our part by keeping expenses as focused as possible and taking advantage of government subsidies when available. Finally, we acknowledge with gratitude the reception of two new major contributions from donors new to the SJMA family which significantly assisted us in maintaining our online teaching capacity.

As we look ahead, we will continue to be as adaptable as possible, still operating within the necessary COVID-19 constraints. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we not only ended the year in good financial position but do not need to trim any of our programming for the coming year. In these unprecedented times, we want to thank each of you for partnering with SJMA. Your participation has positively impacted not only our children but our community and beyond.



Revenue and Expenses

At a Glance



FY 2021 Revenues

Individuals	\$ 315,102
Corporations	\$ 34,902
Granting Foundations	\$ 105,927
Family Foundations	\$ 439,385
Government Grants	\$ 100,000
Fundraising	\$ 10
Church	\$ 3,219
Endowment	\$ 4,519
Other	\$ 8,114
In-kind	\$ 24,952
Forgiveness of CEBA	\$ 160,136
CEWS	\$ 20,000

TOTAL \$ 1,216,266

FY 2021 Expenses

Senior Program	\$ 251,574
Junior Program	\$ 57,335
Development	\$ 135,526
Nutrition	\$ 55,362
Transportation	\$ 17,280
Community Outreach	\$ 12,938
Operating Costs	\$ 70,565
Administration	\$ 101,037
Staffing Costs	\$ 239,257

TOTAL \$ 940,874



Development

Erin Marks, Christine Ito, & Paul Myers

Our wide community of financial supporters have done it again: making possible the magic of SJMA to continue uninterrupted, and even to flourish. Here is a remarkable fact: Despite COVID-19 and its staggering consequences, we ended this fiscal year stronger than we have ever been since our inception. As a fundraising team, and facing challenges never before seen, we are - how shall we accurately put it? - bowled over! If you participated financially this year, with even a single dollar, we hope you will take a moment to rejoice, to know that you helped to enrich our children. In this year of meeting a force greater than us, we have two distinct takeaways. First, as is so often the case, in adversity creativity is born. Historically, the bread and butter of fundraising at SJMA has been putting people into our physical midst, there to experience firsthand what we are achieving; such as on-site tours, Open Houses, public events, and our signature concerts. But COVID-19 stripped us of nearly all these, necessitating that we think and do differently. Hence we sought new ways to connect with supporters: at virtual concerts, through email and social media connecting, professional services, cards and letters, phone and in-person conversations, and an unprecedented number of submissions for support to institutional and family foundations. We also welcomed much needed help to the development team with the appointment of Erin Marks, who now shoulders the bulk of our donor care.

The second takeaway, and more than our collective imaginations, is that clearly SJMA is just plain loved and wanted by a large community who rose to the challenge with us. This year over 400 donors made over 1,500 gifts. The breadth of that support is amazing to us, such that we know this as never before: the power of community is unstoppable, and because of it our children will prosper.

We offer thanks again to all our donors, with special recognition to the following supporters for their significant contributions this year:

- Summer Split Family Foundation*
- BC Community Gaming Branch*
- Anonymous*
- Aqueduct Foundation*
- Walsh Foundation*
- Quesnel Foundation*
- Houssian Family Foundation*
- Vancouver Sun Children's Fund Adopt-A-School*
- Grayross Foundation*
- RJ Nelson Family Foundation*
- Seedlings Foundation*
- The Edwina & Paul Heller Memorial Fund*
- Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation*
- Makeway Foundation*
- Anonymous Foundation*
- Langara Foundation*
- R & J Stern Family Foundation*
- Vancouver Foundation*
- Joan & Neil Armstrong Legacy Fund*





Music Director of Orchestras

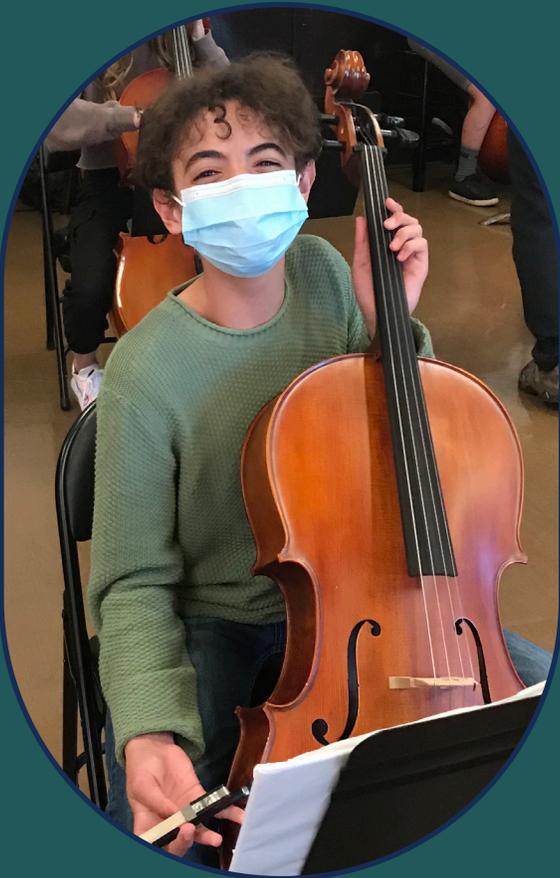
José Cerón Ortega

Yes, Saint James Music Academy has weathered the storm once again. With the experience gained during the academic year, SJMA is prepared to face the new realities of what pandemic brings to the world.

Without a doubt the online one-on-one instrument lessons during the pandemic have become the cornerstone to sustain our students' technical development and musicianship, and to support their awareness about the skills required to play their instruments with both joy and enthusiasm. My heartfelt gratitude to those supporters of SJMA who have made possible this long awaited need of one-on-one lessons.

The reopening of our onsite program began with once per week small group ensembles for both Junior and Senior Programs. These made possible the memorable recordings of the both Christmas and Spring Online Concerts, and reinforced in our students a powerful truth: hard work, trust, and a positive attitude bring beautiful results to our lives.

My appreciation is expressed here to parents, students and teachers for their willingness and trust to return to SJMA despite the prevailing uncertainty during those first decisive months. Assisted by the powerful magic of music, SJMA will continue working with creativity, passion and care for each one of our students, for them, for their families, for and our community.





Nutrition Program and Community Life

Olivia Lohan

Nutrition Program

The Nutrition Program is a vital part of creating a welcoming and familiar environment for our students. Within the ever-changing landscape of a global pandemic and a fast-growing city, our nutrition program provides a reassuring, reliable source of food and friendliness. Throughout the past year at SJMA we provide healthy food to our students at the start of each day of the program. We had excellent health and safety plans in place to provide our students with delicious meals in a generously spaced environment. All aspects of delivering the program safely were considered, and a well thought out routine was upheld throughout the year. With a modified program

that had smaller groups eating together, the opportunity to deepen relationships with students was a pleasant result of some of these modifications. During the nutrition program, we really got to see children's personalities shine!

Even with our modified program having fewer participants on site per day, we participated in the DTES COVID-19 Emergency Hamper Distribution Program and still provided over 100 nutritious meals per week for our students, as well food care packages for families in crisis, made possible by the generous help of the Vancouver Children's Fund COVID-19 relief program.

Community Life

The first question for any community organization is "Who are our people?" The SJMA community is students and their families, teachers and the staff, volunteers, community partners, donors, and our neighbours near and beyond. And our people are our power. The role of Community Life is to collaborate with all those who share in the SJMA experience and to stay connected in meaningful ways. One of the ways that we do this is by supporting the healthy development of our children, tuning into their needs. Children and adolescents sense of self and ability to connect with others are frequently affected by stress and adversity. At SJMA we strive to be continuously aware of any challenges our students may be facing. Throughout this year our community-based approach to supporting youth in the development

of a positive sense of self and in safely connecting with others remained a priority, all the while maintaining a sense of playfulness, joy and fun!

Another aspect of community life this past year was reflected through collaboration with our teachers. Our teachers help us to identify students who may need extra support, this past year more than ever before. Our teachers modeled creativity and flexibility for problem-solving in the interests of our students. Tending to our teachers' needs is another part of building a strong sense of community and a shared vision for the program.

Exciting Community Life projects that have been in development through the 2020/21 year are our Life Skills and Youth Mentorship Programs.



Volunteer Program

COVID-19 conditions this year limited our usual high number of volunteers; shrinking room capacity limits, adding other physical distancing requirements, and demanding a generally reduced number of persons allowed on-site. All the same, a steadfast core of volunteers continued to strengthen the fabric of our program. These included dedicated parent volunteers who assisted with the Strathcona Walking School Bus in conjunction with SJMA staff, safely accompanying our students to school; talented musicians who supported our orchestral program by teaching music lessons and covering teacher absences due to times of quarantine; those who tuned our pianos and sourced instruments; nutrition program volunteers who helped prepare

and serve delicious meals; those who helped with the unglamorous but critical tasks such as our thorough daily sanitization process beginning two hours before the start of program; and the many who spent time warmly welcoming our children and simply spending time beside them, sometimes even sharing in games of chess before the start of class. These fine helpers were so crucial to our work throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. A special mention is made here of mother and daughter duo Sophie and Natalie Hui, Johann Krebs, Laura Hillis, Tess Herd, Carolyn Ho, and former SJMA student Candor Lee. You made a big difference! Thank you all for helping us to ensure that SJMA students are always well cared for.





Music Therapy Program

Kristen Shin & Melody Owen

The Exploring Music Program at Saint James Music Academy gives the opportunity for kids to access one-on-one music therapy services with a certified music therapist. This program runs for both the junior and the senior programs with the goal of providing specialized support to children who have specific challenges. Children who access the music therapy program may have had experiences with trauma, mental health challenges such as depression or anxiety, behavioural issues, or diagnoses such as ASD, ADHD, or FAS, among others. Through the Exploring Music program, they can be supported in expressing and processing some of these challenges through music.

Although this year presented unique challenges with the restrictions related to the pandemic, we were able to adapt and still experienced many moments of connection, joy, and success with our students. Opportunities for self-expression, relationship building, adapted music lessons, and emotional processing through music were met with

creativity and enjoyment. It was deeply impactful to witness the bonds formed within the safe space of our music therapy room, despite the need to interact from behind masks. It was beautiful to see how the whole of the Saint James community came together to continue to build resilience and love in such a difficult time.

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to Music Heals, whose generous help in financially sponsoring our music therapy program allowed us to reach as many kids as we were able.

A personal note from Kristen: As this year was my first in being involved with SJMA, I would like to personally express my gratitude to all the kids, families, staff, and donors who make this work possible. I am proud to be involved in an organization that believes so strongly in our children's potential, regardless of background or life circumstances, and which continues to work toward sharing the beauty of music with every child.



Public School Outreach Program

Jill Samycia & Evelyn Hunter

SJMA first began the Public School Outreach Program (OP) in 2010 as a response to cuts to music education programs in our public schools. This program supports large numbers of children from pre-school to grade 7 with a basic music education who are not attending SJMA after school programs. The OP operates at three local public schools and one pre-school, and is free to both the kids and the schools. Over 200 children in our community were provided music education through the OP. The program also serves to promote SJMA to local families and to identify children who would most

benefit from our enrolment in our after school program. This year the OP took place via outdoor music classes (all bundled up and weather permitting!) and by pre-recorded video, with lesson plans that were made available to teachers and families. Our teachers also supported students who, after SJMA's reopening, were still not able to attend in-person, by providing online voice lessons and outdoor musical visits. The personal touch they delivered ensured that our students remained connected to their music and felt cared for by SJMA.



Messages from Our Parents

We love SJMA! It is such a joy and gift being part of this community. Thank you for what you do! – Dori

Thanks always for the opportunity and big support for Nathan to explore in music – Evelyn

Thank you for working through the challenges of COVID-19 I know it's taxing. Great job everyone. - Lorraine

Since Emma started going onsite one-on-one lessons, I have noticed her sounds and way of holding the viola has improved dramatically. I am very happy to witness this. She has been practicing at home consistently. It is not easy to be able to play string instruments, and I know how hard and frustrating it is sometimes. I really hope Emma can continue her journey with SJMA. Thank you for your support! – Yasuko

Thank you for all of your hard work with the kids during these difficult times, it is so appreciated. – January

Thank you so much for what you all do for the students! Music lessons are a highlight of the week. – Miriam

Scholarship Recipients 2021



