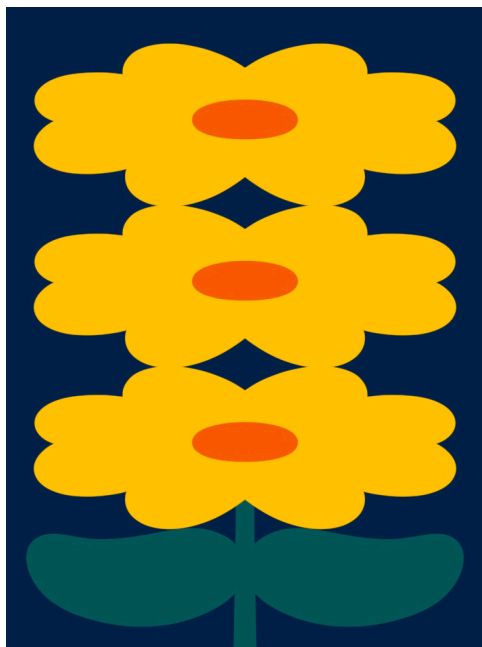
 SAINT JAMES
MUSIC ACADEMY

annual report

2022-2023



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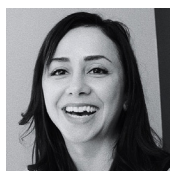
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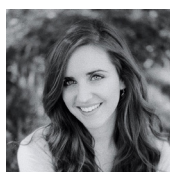
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growing & thriving together

Within the pages of this 2022-23 Annual Report you will read the details of another year of providing music and life skills to almost

150

Downtown Eastside area children and youth and all that it involves.



By sharing in this visionary work with us, it is our hope that as children do, we can all grow, learn, and thrive — together.

It involves much, of course. But to pare it all down, SJMA exists solely for the purpose of children described above, and for every child who deserves to grow and to thrive.

On behalf of the kids and their better future, the SJMA staff, teachers and board of directors thank all who participate with us in this ambitious enterprise.





President of the Board, Lianne Gulka

**In reflecting on the last year,
it has been a year of “CRESCENDOES” for SJMA...**

(starting small and ending large)

The music school has benefitted from opportunities for live performances... and we took full advantage! Such proud moments that layered through the year:

In the fall watching our kids parade and proudly perform on stage at a music therapy benefit; witnessing the magic of proud kids and parents at our first live in person Christmas concert since COVID; watching collaborations with the Vancouver Welshman's Choir; hearing small groups perform at John Fluevog's Gastown store open house; and finally culminating in our year-end family and combined spring concerts featuring choirs, graduates, ensembles, soloists and our signature String program.

The sense of community following the spring concert really captured the spirit of SJMA... rich in a variety of ages, diversity, joy, and inclusiveness.

It is this gift of community through music that is the heart of what SJMA offers!

And the gift is a “CONSTANT” which is so key in the community of the Downtown Eastside, where often there are not many “CONSTANTS” in life.

What are the constants Saint James offers?

- The role of music in lifting spirits, offering respite, and enhancing the human condition

- Valuable life-lessons being taught
- Supportive teachers and volunteers
- And of course healthy food to ensure that an optimal learning environment is offered

As a new school year starts I'd like to reflect on the core values by which Saint James operates:

- **Community**
taking care of each other
- **Belonging**
honouring individuality
- **Joy**
in musicianship and in life
- **Excellence**
with open hearts and celebration
- **Collaboration**
teamwork in all we do

Speaking of teamwork, our program would not be successful without the dedication and commitment of our staff and teachers.

Special thanks to Our Executive Director Sarah Godoy and her team. This year we welcomed Development Director Charissa Hurt to expand the role vacated by retiring Paul Myers. We also are generationally transitioning with the formal addition in the summer of 2022 of the daughter of our founder Kathryn Walker - Hannah Walker. Hannah has worked and volunteered at the music school since 2011. We also welcomed Chad Gilmour and Katie Neal last fall.

If anything, COVID highlighted the need to remain adaptable and to pivot.

Keeping in mind the old adage “the only constant is change” . . . it is important to continue to adapt and adjust in order to thrive in the midst of community challenges, and tougher economic conditions, particularly for our families, staff, and teachers.

Planning and resource allocation is a key component of success and to that end we initiated a short term 2023-2026 strategic plan.

Key areas of focus in our plan include community impact evaluation, Human Resource Policies, and space needs.

As we continue to build on our 16 year history, we reflect and learn from the past, and we evolve, improve, and flourish!

The Spring Concert so clearly indicated that professionalism at our music school is increasing as we maintain the integrity of our program.

Let's harvest the best of the past and plant new seeds going forward to maintain the jewel of our program and further cultivate the core of hope through music we offer in the Downtown Eastside at SJMA.

With thanks for your ongoing support

Respectfully,
Lianne



Executive Director, Sarah Godoy

Even with our first Post-Covid term behind us, last year we learned that adjusting to life 'back to normal' is a process of development that simply can't be hurried.

As families and individuals have endeavored to return to 'normal' post-Covid, the ability to bounce back to the previous pace of life has not been straightforward for many children, nor indeed for many adults. As such, the ability to adjust expectations continued to be essential at SJMA through 2022-23. Our success in spite of challenges was thanks to the caring, go-forward approach of our teachers and volunteers, supported by a staff team with deep and growing roots at the music school and an enduring commitment to the well-being of the youth of this community.

With respect to our program delivery, our answer to this reality remains the same: to be as responsive as possible to the individual needs of each student and family, removing barriers to participation wherever possible, and finding creative ways of strengthening our collective sense of community and belonging.

Thirty new students joined SJMA in the fall, over the course of the year our student population fluctuated between 135 and 111, and we did an additional winter intake of new enrollments. In September we introduced four new classes: Junior Woodwinds, Junior Recorder, Musicianship and Body Percussion, and for our winter intake a Novice Choir class was introduced along with Rhythm & Movement. In total our offerings for 2022-23 included 24 classes and disciplines, including Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Percussion, Junior Strings, Theory, Choir, Jazz, Marimba, Piano, and Music Therapy.

Our orchestral program, electives and choir learning generally takes place in small ensembles, but our Music Therapy program served a minimum of 14 Junior and Senior program students regularly on a 1-on-1 basis, with many more children receiving periodic support by music therapists.

Students in need were also provided additional 1-on-1 music lessons with skilled support staff.

Throughout the year, our students had enjoyed many diverse opportunities to perform. Our alumni trio performance at the Light Up Chinatown! Festival 2022, and our students performance at the Vancouver Community Arts Council 75th Anniversary Gala, and on stage again with Jay Malinowski of Bedouin Soundclash at the Music Heals Strike a Chord Gala at the Commodore Ballroom. SJMA alumni performed at Dr. Adele Diamond's conference "Joyous Celebration of Ideas, the Arts, Science, and Efforts to Make the World a Better Place", and our youngest students had a delightful experience performing at a garden concert followed by a pool party just for them, at the invitation of Jane McLennan, who is a great supporter of the Arts and dear friend to SJMA.

Our Christmas and Spring concerts once again brought the joy of being shoulder-to-shoulder to celebrate the gifts of community and accomplishments of our students. 2023 Graduates



and scholarship recipients were Teo Joya (Double Bass), Anne Yang (Flute) and Kin Joya (Percussion). Teo and Kin have already gone on to university and college, and Anne plans to do so next year. Additionally, Senior Program cello student Charles Mai was recognized for outstanding community service for being a wonderful role model to younger students. Charles received the Paul Myers Christmas Award, established in recognition of retiring SJMA staffer Paul's own outstanding contributions - ten years of capturing the beauty and heart of this place through the written word.

In addition to music being a means of caring for the children of our community, SJMA staff and teachers dreamed up many fun activities for connection and community building. To that end, there were bus trips to Crash Crawly's adventure gym, ice skating at Robson Square, community dinners and family nights that included teacher recitals to show our kids and parents what is possible with music.

The 2022-23 year was characterized by unparalleled

support by independent artists and arts organizations alike, providing our students with an incredibly broad range of educational experience with music: The VSO School of Music generously sponsored our brass and woodwinds sections and gave our students the chance to rehearse in the beautiful, purpose built Pyatt Hall. The Vancouver Recital Society brought our families to see the Kanneh-Mason family performance, Music In the Morning facilitated an intimate and exquisite performance of the Viano Quartet, and the Vancouver Chamber Choir welcomed our families to numerous of their performances. Through the generosity of the Chan Centre, our families experienced the exceptional music of Fatoumata Diawara and the Anderson and Row Piano duet. Friends Dave Vertesi of Hey Ocean!, Zach Grey of the Zolas, and Dan Moxon of Bend Sinister joined our students on stage during our concerts, as did renowned Canadian Jazz artist Jill Barber. SJMA had the opportunity to open our own doors to host a visiting student orchestra from Alberta, Bishop McNally High School.

All of us are deeply grateful to the many generous donors and community partners that make the music school possible. Not least among these are St James Anglican Church - our home and flagship location at Gore and Cordova, as well as St Paul's Roman Catholic Parish, where our Annex location is situated.

As I look forward to the 2023-24 program year that is already underway, I am profoundly grateful for the friendship and support of all those who continue to make the music school a reality.

Thank you for sharing our vision and commitment to the children here and for joining us in providing them with safety, creativity, expression and the means to grow in confidence and in joy through music.



Treasurer, Jenn Hepburn

I am happy to report that the Saint James Music Academy has emerged from the pandemic in a strong financial position as it continues to provide significant contributions to the many members of the Vancouver Downtown Eastside.

Despite rising inflation and interest rates, the SJMA's amazing community of donors enabled us to maintain a high level of investment in our children. This past fiscal year saw our fundraising and development department build itself out and succeed in helping to first achieve and then exceed our planned budget. In the same context, I am proud to report that this past fiscal year our fundraising and administrative costs as a percentage of total costs were well below not-for-profit averages. This confirms that the SJMA dollars raised are being used appropriately and spent directly impacting the lives of the children in the SJMA community.

With the second year of full on-site operations post-pandemic, our staff, teachers, and volunteers worked diligently to ensure students continued to excel during their in-person classes. I witnessed the significant advancement of their orchestral commitment at both the Winter and Spring concerts – what a joy to see them all beam during their in-person performances. If you haven't been yet, I encourage you to attend this year.

As we wrap up the fiscal year, I want to once again remind our donors that we are looking for year over year continuity. Despite ending the fiscal year with a modest surplus, we need to continue to think of the long-term to ensure the continued success of the SJMA. We receive only about 10% of our total funding from government bodies, so we continue to rely heavily on individuals, businesses, and foundations in the community.

This past fiscal year, our overall funding was 9% greater than last fiscal year, and while we continue to focus on long-term sustainability for the SJMA, we are as always, so very thankful for the donations received –

I want to thank each and every one of you for partnering with the SJMA. Every donation makes an impact.

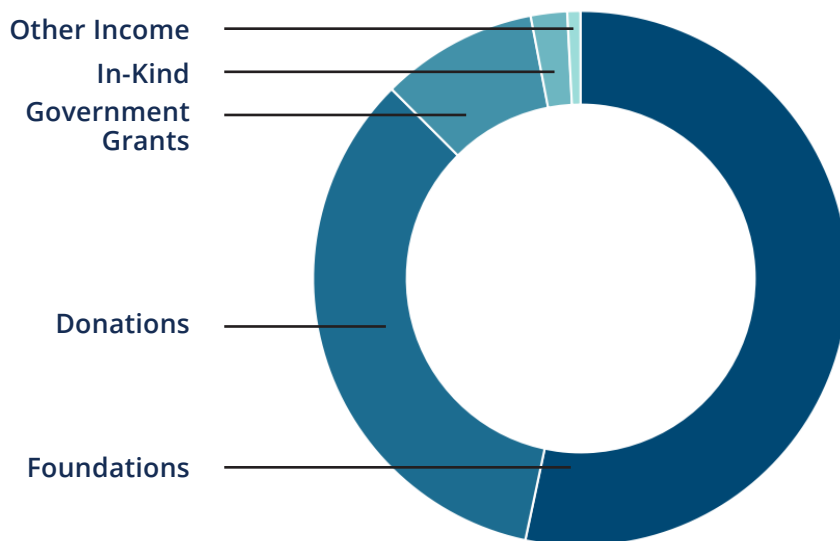
Thank you.

Jenn Hepburn
Treasurer

Revenue and Expenses At a Glance

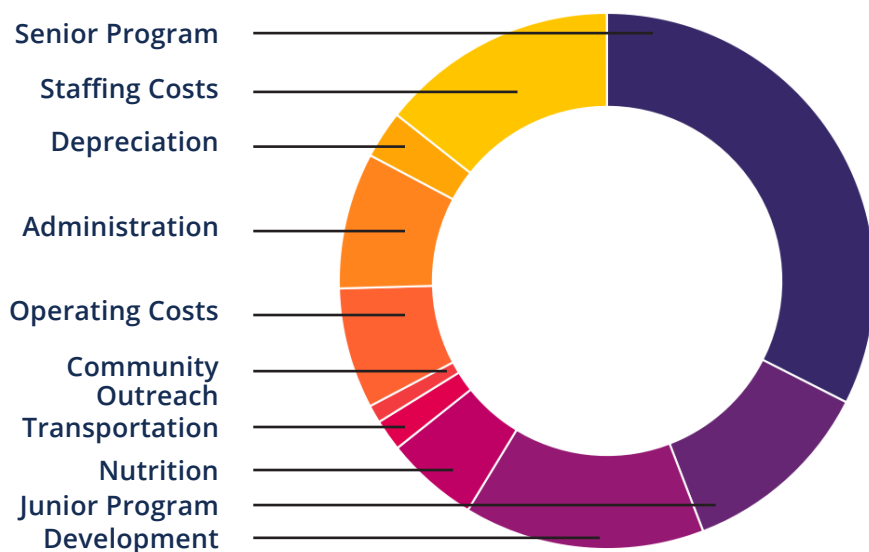
Revenues

Foundations	\$ 562,150
Donations	\$ 360,335
Government Grants	\$ 100,000
In-Kind	\$ 23,089
Other Income	\$ 8,510
TOTAL	\$1,054,084



Expenses

Senior Program	\$ 319,159
Junior Program	\$ 115,014
Development	\$ 142,696
Nutrition	\$ 55,004
Transportation	\$ 18,651
Community Outreach	\$ 10,725
Operating Costs	\$ 71,650
Administration	\$ 80,639
Depreciation	\$ 28,339
Staffing Costs	\$ 140,973
TOTAL	\$ 982,850



Development, Charissa Hurt

I had the immense pleasure of joining the Saint James Music Academy team last November, just before our annual Christmas Concert.

Joining the team at what is always such a busy time of year really put me feet first in the Saint James world. Learning directly through experience what a wonderful and caring group of people we have here at Saint James Music Academy. Since then, it has been an exciting journey of getting to know everyone and mapping out a plan to continue to grow our program into the future.

One of the most exciting things about the 2022/2023 program year was the return to live events. This allowed us to have many more opportunities for concerts, fundraisers, and open houses. We were excited to bring back our Shoes and Music fundraiser at Fluevog Shoes and Boots this April. In May, our students had the opportunity to perform with the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir in a benefit concert for our program. It was a fantastic opportunity both for the students to perform in a different setting with the choir, and to raise awareness about the music school. We also brought back our open houses this past year, a tradition that we missed. As always, our program could not have been possible without the generous support of our donors and funders.

We are ever grateful to:

- Anonymous Benefactor
- Anonymous Benefactor
- Houssian Foundation
- JTC Heersink Foundation
- Lianne Gulka and Carl Hoyt
- Davida Lecomte
- Vancouver Sun Children's Fund
- Music Heals Charitable Foundation
- St. James Anglican Church
- Seedlings Foundation
- TD Private Giving Foundation
- RJ Nelson Family Foundation
- The Cedarhurst Foundation
- Dr. Ann Worth Charitable Foundation
- Face the World Foundation
- The Osbertus Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
- Bill and Risa Levine
- Anonymous Benefactor
- R & J Stern Family Foundation
- Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation
- The Shepansky Family Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
- The Edwina and Paul Heller Memorial Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
- Nicola Wealth Management Private Giving Foundation
- Makeway Foundation - Dr. Bik May Wai & Dr. Chung Nin Lam Endowment Fund
- Ocean Park Foundation
- Joan & Noel Armstrong Legacy Fund
- Victoria Harrison
- Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir
- United Way
- Nicola Wealth Management Crosby Family Fund
- McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
- Ames Family Foundation
- Douglas Gordon
- Peter and Marla Gropper Family Fund
- Charles and Lucile Flavelle Family Fund, held at the Vancouver Foundation
- The Jack and Doris Brown Foundation
- Tweedledum Foundation
- Joseph Stauffer Trust
- Martha Lou Henley Charitable Foundation
- John C Kerr Family Foundation
- John Fluevog Boots & Shoes Ltd.
- Alan and Gwendoline Pyatt Foundation
- Rotary Club of Vancouver
- Sony Music Entertainment Canada
- Robert Disbrow
- Haywood Securities Inc.
- Rotary Club of Vancouver
- City In Focus Foundation
- ...and many more!



Director of Orchestras, José Cerón Ortega



The Juiniior and Senior Orchesral Programs at Saint James Music Academy

are a mixture of care, guidance and continuous support to each one of our students' dreams and needs with the dedication, joy and passion of a very special team of teachers, staff members and volunteers.

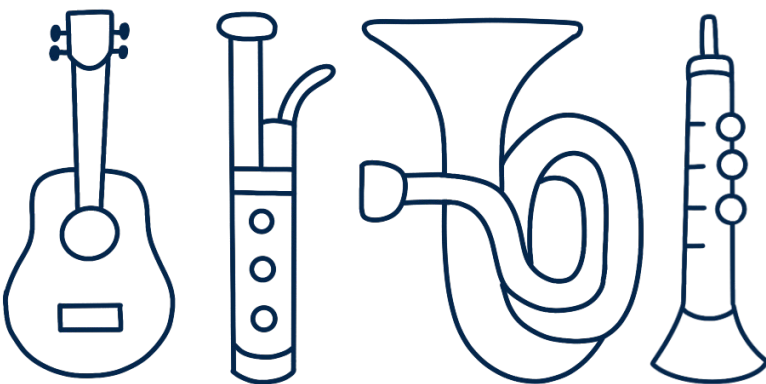
This is what makes SJMA's Christmas and Spring Concerts so dear to our audience as well as other concerts like the Welshmen's Choir presentation last May at Christ Church Cathedral in Downtown Vancouver.





Inspired by “El Sistema”, SJMA has had since its foundation a very unique way to fulfill its mission and vision for the DTES, turning it without doubt into a novel proposal for the musical teaching world.

My appreciation to teachers, staff and volunteers for another wonderful year and my gratitude to donors, partners, and benefactors that make this dream possible for our children and their families every day.



Nutrition Program, Olivia Lohan

One of our most basic human needs is the need for food. It gives us life and it can give us so much more. It can give us joy, traditions, physical/mental/emotional well-being, and memories. On the flipside, as many parents know, the thought of food can bring up many stressors too. Stress that comes from financial challenges, nutritional worries (that picky eater that just won't try veggies!) and even the stress of what to make for breakfast, lunch, and dinner everyday! The SJMA family is fully aware of both the bliss and the struggles that come with the responsibility of providing food for children. Our Nutrition Program provides our students' families with some relief from the stress of feeding children and amplifies the joy of feeding children. This year alone we made over 200 meals per

week equating to roughly 7,000 meals in our regular program year... over the years the numbers were higher so we are hundreds of thousands of meals we have provided for our community.

So this is just looking at what the Nutrition Program does on its most basic of levels but there is so much more that we are giving our students and their parents/caregivers. This year I have compiled a list of what we have learned about true nourishment from the SJMA Nutrition Program and want to share these tips:

- Always offer a variety of different vegetables and fruits. The more colour variations the better. You never know when you will discover a new love of something healthy!

- Eat together whenever possible. Creating connection time around meals is magic! Pass on old traditions and invent new traditions.

- Be a healthy eating role model. A positive attitude towards healthy food choices encourages those around us to do the same.

- Build community with food sharing. Whether it be learning about someone's culture through food, gathering people together in celebration, or whatever encourages togetherness.

As we continue to grow and thrive together, we are grateful for the opportunity that the Nutrition Program provides to us, the opportunity to slow down and meet our neighbours.



Volunteer Program, Negin Attar

A Symphony of Giving

At SJMA, we believe in the transformative power of music. It's a force that touches hearts, transcends boundaries, and transforms dreams into reality. Our mission, at its core, is simple yet profound. While we've come a long way, our mission is ongoing and there's something more profound that fuels our mission. It's the dedication of a remarkable group of individuals - volunteers. We are continually humbled and inspired by the beautiful souls who have generously given their time, skills, and hearts to volunteer at SJMA. Their selflessness is the very heartbeat of our organization and the soul of our mission!

Last year we had approximately 43 volunteers from all walks of life: teachers, students, musicians, music lovers, retired people, parents who all shared a common thread—a profound love for music and a deep desire to make a difference. They selflessly gave their time and skill in diverse ways, including (but not limited to), helping with our Walking School Bus, assisting in the nutrition program, helping with our events, teaching, tutoring tuning piano, assisting group classes, categorizing music, doing musical accompaniment, and serving on the board of directors.

For me personally, working alongside these incredible volunteers has been a journey of growth and learning. Each volunteer brings their unique personality, experiences, and talents to our cause and it's wonderful to see the program through their eyes and the joy it brings to us all.

Dear volunteers, you paint the canvas of our programs with colors of hope and joy - your dedication is the reason behind every success story that emerges from our academy and for that, we offer a heartfelt gratitude.

Looking ahead for the coming year, we are excited about expanding our volunteer program and providing opportunities for more individuals to share their love of music and care for the mission that we serve.

Together, we're not just creating music; we're creating harmony, one note at a time, one heart at a time.



Music Therapy Program, Kristen Shin



Thanks to the support from donors such as Music Heals, Saint James continued to provide music therapy services throughout the 2022-2023 school year. Music therapy sessions were available to both junior and senior students who could benefit from individualized support. These sessions were adapted to fit the needs and interests of each child. This included free musical exploration to help some kids find their own unique way of expressing themselves or processing their emotions, other sessions involved music composition and songwriting, and still others took the form of adapted music lessons which allowed students to find success in learning instruments at their own pace.

In 2022-23, SJMA employed two certified music therapists as well as a music therapy intern from Capilano College, which allowed us to expand our program to meet the needs of as many kids as possible. Many of the recipients of music therapy were able to showcase some of their accomplishments at our Christmas and Spring recitals. Having the opportunity to share their talents alongside their peers continues to be a highlight of the year for many of our kids.

The arrival of spring break marked the close of my role in the music therapy program, as I began maternity leave. I feel incredibly grateful to have been part of the wonderful team at SJMA for the past three years, as I was continuously inspired by the creative potential and resilience of our students. I am excited to introduce Chelsea Assaf as our new full time music therapist, along with Jenny Gilmour in the Senior Program and Melissa Huen in the Junior program. This next year at Saint James Music Academy will be filled with many wonderful experiences of discovery, connection, and growth through music!

Public School Outreach Program, Jillana Nickel



Music education has been shown to have clear benefits to the cognitive development of children and to improve academic performance. When cuts to music education in 2010 increased need for opportunities young people in the community to access high quality music education, Saint James' Music Academy launched its Outreach Program to provide music lessons in local public schools, at no cost to families or the schools. The Outreach Program helps to raise awareness about SJMA in the community as school staff and teachers refer students whom they feel would benefit from joining our core afterschool program, and it also allows large numbers of young people to access music lessons who would not otherwise have the chance.

The SJMA Outreach Program for 2022-23 taught by Jillana Nickel and was centered out of Seymour Elementary, reaching all seven of Seymour's K-7 classes via 6 hours of on-campus music classes. Over 140 students accessed 45 minute classes each week and participated in a wide variety of musical lessons, games, and activities. The curriculum focused on a basic introduction to music and used drums and percussion as a means of actively engaging the students in their learning. A typical class could include listening to and discussing songs, having a short lesson on musical theory or concepts, experiencing "show-and-tell" of a unique

instrument and having the chance to touch it or try it, short videos about various instruments, and group activities or games to musically apply what they learned in the lesson.

Although most of the students had little or no previous musical education, most showed significant receptivity and enthusiasm during class time. Many of the classroom teachers expressed surprise and delight at how engaged and excited their students were during this time, and were grateful to the Saint James Music Academy for this unique opportunity for their students to access music education with a trained music instructor.

Events and Activities



September 10
**Light Up Chinatown! Festival
Student / Alumni performance**



April 26
**Performance and event at Fluevog
Shoes in Gastown**



October 14
**Vancouver Community Arts
Council 75th Anniversary
Performance**



May 4
**Jill Barber visited and rehearsed
with SJMA students**



October 20
**Strike a Chord 2022
Music Heals Gala Performance**



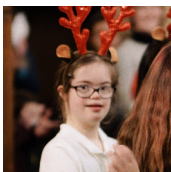
May 19
**Joint Performance with the
Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir**



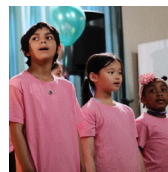
November 22
SJMA Fall Open House



May 26
**Jazz Vespers Benefit at St.
Andrew's Wesley for SJMA**



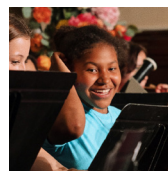
December 9
**The 2022 Christmas Concert—
a standing-room only event**



June 1
Spring Junior Family Recital



February 15
SJMA Winter Open House



June 9
**The 16th Annual SJMA
Spring Concert**



March 22
**Special Concert with the Viano
String Quartet for our families,
students, and community members**



June 12
**Golf For Good Charity Golf
Tournament Performance**



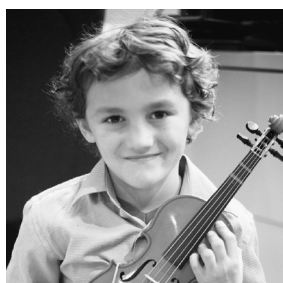
April 20
**Alberta's Bishop McNally High
School Orchestra visited and
performed for SJMA students**



June 24
Garden Concert and Pool Party

scholarship recipients 2023

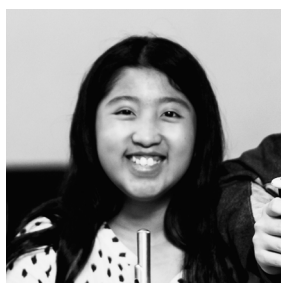
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Double Bass

Teo Joya

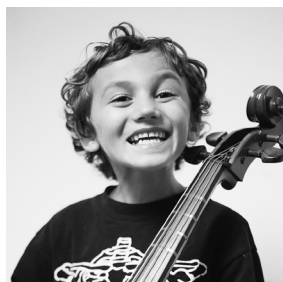
2023 Graduate and
Scholarship Recipient



Flute

Anne Yang

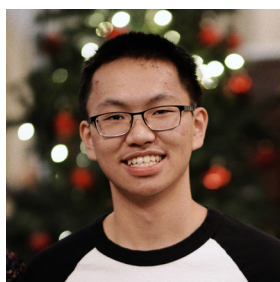
2023 Graduate and
Scholarship Recipient



Percussion

Kin Joya

2023 Graduate and
Scholarship Recipient



Outstanding Community Service

Charles Mai

Paul Myers Christmas Award

