



ANNUAL REPORT 20 20

**STARTING KIDS OFF
ON THE RIGHT NOTE**

2019-2020

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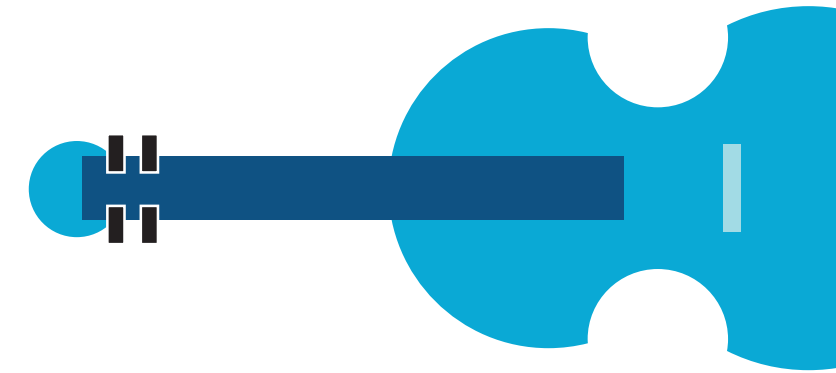
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KIDS THRIVING THROUGH MUSIC



With the remarkable support of so many friends, Regent Park School of Music is now reaching almost 1,000 youngsters across Toronto in its 21st year as a community music school. This has been a year that no one could have predicted with pinch-me highs—like our students being featured on a Taylor Swift song—to the temporary halting of our music lessons, recitals and performances in March as a result of the pandemic.

Our plans for the kids may not have unfolded quite as expected this year, but we are now firmly on track with a raft of online music lessons, educational content and exciting projects like virtual open mics and jam sessions to ensure our students continue to blossom until we can be safely back together.

Every student at RPSM is unique. Our goal for them is tailor-made and twofold—to provide a rich music education in a safe, nurturing environment, and to give each student a bright, bold future by building their aspirations and confidence, and uncovering their true potential, not only in music, but also in school and as they go on to college and university.

Something very special happens to kids at RPSM, whether they are learning to play the piano, mentoring a younger student or organizing a recital—THEY THRIVE THROUGH MUSIC.

Thank you for investing in our incredible students, for being a part of the RPSM family, and for making Toronto a better place.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Abel'.

Martin Abel

**Chair, Board of Directors
Regent Park School of Music**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Javorski'.

Linda Javorski

**President, Board of Directors
Regent Park School of Music Foundation**

ACROSS TORONTO, OUR STUDENTS ARE LEARNING

ALMOST 1,000 STUDENTS

studied music this year—learning everything from classical piano to beat production with a community of friends and fellow musicians—and thrived.

554 STUDENTS

in REGENT PARK

studied piano, brass, strings, percussion, winds, electronic music, song writing, recording and sound engineering.

154 STUDENTS

at KAPAPMAHCHAKWEW— WANDERING SPIRIT SCHOOL

(formerly First Nations School of Toronto) took weekly music lessons with RPSM in strings, keyboard, brass, percussion and electronic music.

141 KIDS

attended RPSM Summer Music Camps in Regent Park and Jane Finch.

240 STUDENTS

in JANE FINCH

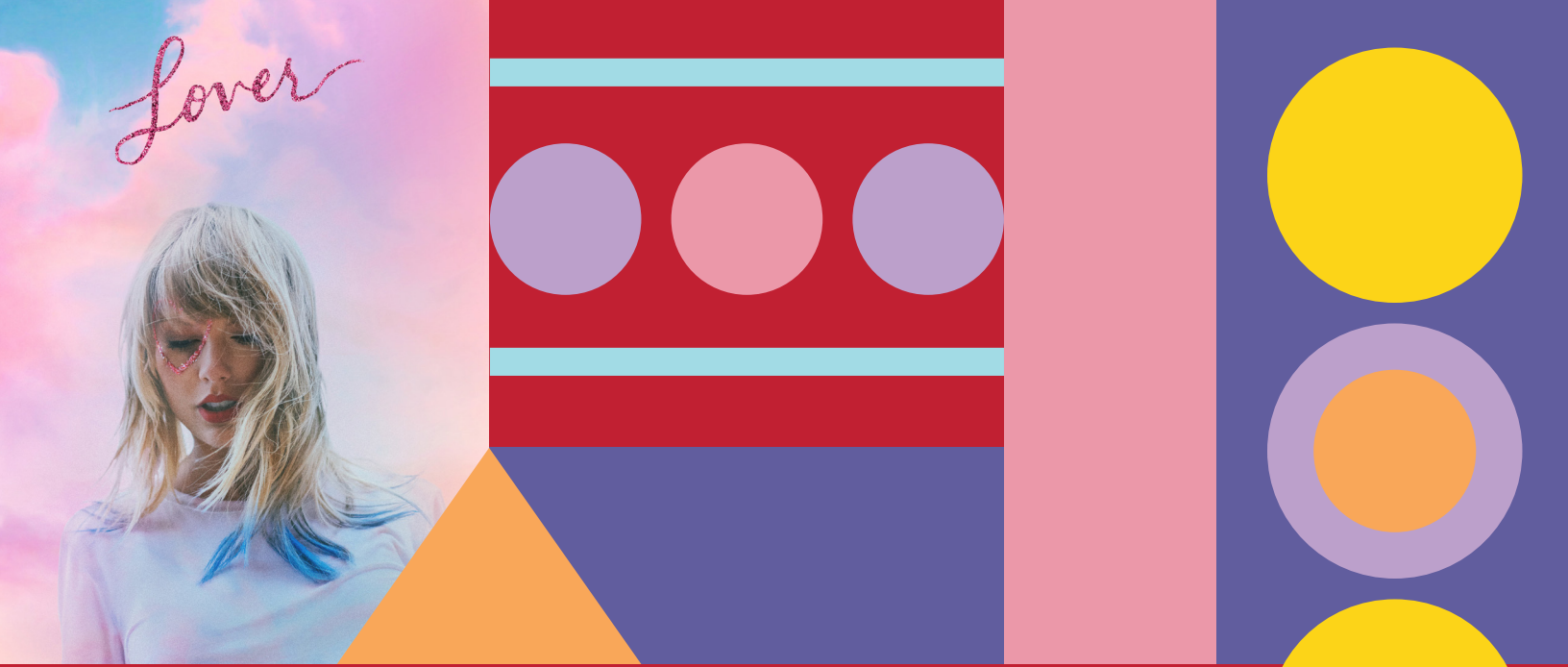
studied piano, guitar, percussion, winds, electronic music, song writing, recording and sound engineering.

63 STUDENTS

explored music in our smaller programs including: those with special needs; Indigenous youth at Native Child and Family Services of Toronto; children at Sojourn House (temporary home for newcomer families); and youth in the youth justice system.

CREATIVITY
CURIOSITY
COLLABORATION
PROBLEM-SOLVING
PERSEVERANCE
OPTIMISM
LEADERSHIP





STORY OF THE YEAR



Frank Dukes with RPSM student Gabe

RPSM STUDENTS MAKE MUSIC WITH TAYLOR SWIFT

The RPSM story of the year was, without a doubt, our collaboration with Grammy Award-winning music producer Frank Dukes, who invited 14 of our young instrumentalists into the studio to play on the first Parkscares album of 11 one-minute music tracks, with the idea that proceeds from the public sale of the tracks would fund music education for kids at RPSM.

“It’s the first time I’ve heard a steel pan on a pop song and it’s ME on there and I’m just like WOW.”

– RPSM percussion student Nikita

Unbeknownst to us, at the same time, Frank was helping Taylor Swift, one of the biggest pop stars in the world, produce her new album, Lover. He played her one of the tracks and she loved it.

When she heard that it was our students playing, she loved it even more and wrote a new song “It’s Nice to Have a Friend” as a last-minute addition to her album, which was released in August 2019.

Thanks to our incredible students and our remarkable friends at BBDO Toronto, who took this idea to the moon and back, it became an international news story and reverberated through the RPSM family and beyond, to let us all know that absolutely anything is possible.

“It’s really, really exciting. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I can’t think of any words to describe it.”

– RPSM violin student Marija

OUR REMARKABLE 2020 RPSM GRADUATES

Fifteen students are graduating this year and heading off to college and university with big plans. We are so proud of them all and wish them every success in the next exciting stage of their lives.



- 1. KATHERINE – Future Teacher
 - 2. THAO – Future Creative Designer
 - 3. RUSHENG – Future Accountant
 - 4. JESSY – Future Doctor
 - 5. MIQUEAS – Future Carpenter/Upholsterer
 - 6. NIKITA – Future Music Teacher
 - 7. ALICE – Future Pediatrician
 - 8. ELIONA – Future Animator
 - 9. KALEB – Future Engineer
 - 10. SAMANTHA – Future Nurse
 - 11. MWINYI – Future Engineer
 - 12. NATHANIAL – Future Computer Programmer
 - 13. JASMIN – Future Child Psychologist
- PLUS:**
CEFAYE – Future Sociologist
JENNY – Future Doctor



THANK YOU FROM ALL THE KIDS AT RPSM

We are delighted to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions, current pledges, third-party and sponsorship support of \$1,000 or more over the past fiscal year (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020).

\$1,000,000+

Carswell Family Foundation

\$250,000 - \$499,999

The Azrieli Foundation
Beacon Scholarship Fund
BBDO Toronto*
Canada Council for the Arts
Listen Communications*

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Canada Summer Jobs
The Citrine Foundation of Canada
Frank Dukes/Kingsway Music Library*

\$25,000 - \$49,999

Aubrey & Marla Dan Foundation
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The Johansen-Larsen Foundation
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Lucile Pratt Music Award at Toronto Foundation
Sun Life Financial

Ontario Arts Council

Toronto Arts Council
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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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Martin Blake
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CIBC Children's Foundation
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Dale Varney
William R. Waters

\$5,000 - \$9,999

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The Buchan Family Foundation
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Cadillac Fairview
Carpenters and Allied
Workers Local 27
Brad & Gigi Doores

The Evershed Family
Patricia Gouinlock
Guild Electric Charitable
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Shannon Howard
The Henry White Kinnear
Foundation
Karen & Fred Leitner
(Bernard & Norton Wolf
Family Foundation)

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John McGowan
The McLean Foundation
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RX Music
Smith Family Foundation
The St. Andrew's Charitable
Foundation & The Cristina Mary
Hendrie Trust
Dawn Tattle Family Foundation
TD Securities Underwriting Hope

\$1,000 - \$4,999

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Jennifer Postelnik
Marsha & Martin
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Memorial Fund

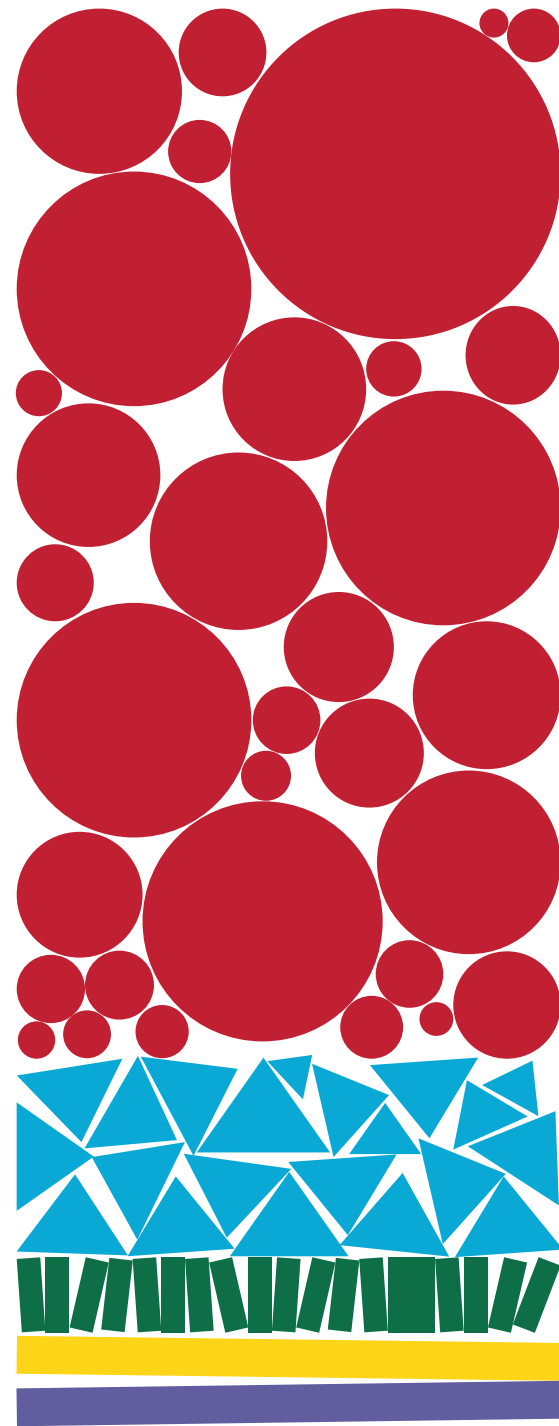
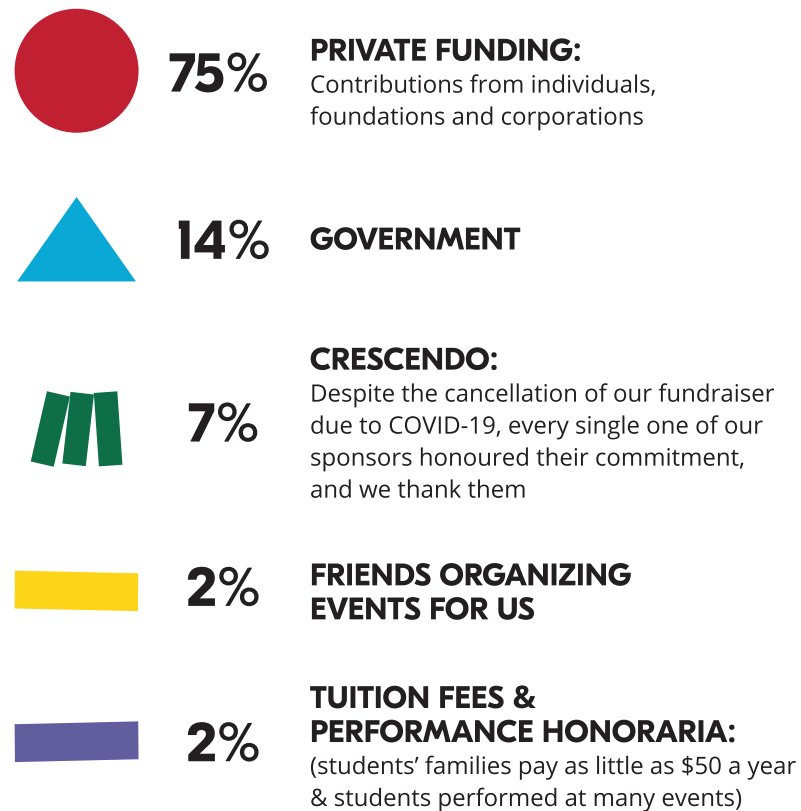
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Helen Sinclair
Leslie Snell
The Gale & Rick Stone
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Tom Thomas
Dennis Tmej
Webb Family Foundation
Sue Weedon
Jane Williamson
Ann Wirsig
Charles & Marilyn Wright
The Marjorie & Joseph
Wright Memorial
Foundation

*In-kind donations of \$10,000+

We strive for accuracy in our listings. Please contact us with any errors or omissions.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

With the incredible support of all our friends, we raised almost \$1.8 million to give 1,000 young people music this year.

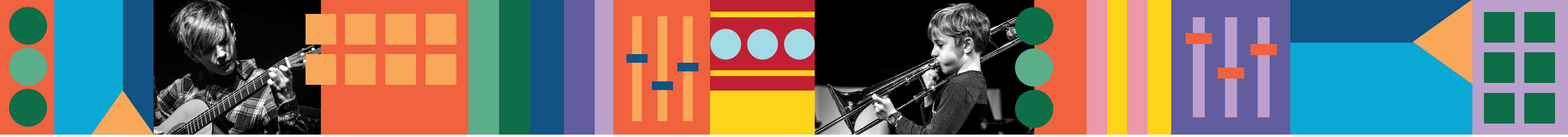


WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Your wonderful gifts give over 1,000 kids a safe space where they blossom with...

- Weekly music lessons and ensembles
- Instruments
- Recitals and performances
- Leadership & mentorship opportunities
- Royal Conservatory of Music exams
- Summer music camps
- Studio recording
- Concert outings
- Music making with students, faculty and sometimes even a celebrity
- Song creation and composition

Audited financial statements for 2019 are available upon request. Just call 416-364-8900



NEXT UP FOR THE KIDS AND RPSM

Our spirits are high, even though the pandemic has necessitated a rethink of our program model.

Our students will continue to blossom through music—online for now and in person as soon as we can. Here are just some of our plans for this school year and beyond:



Every student aged 9 and up in Regent Park and Jane Finch will receive private online lessons and an ensemble experience, along with all the equipment and instruments they need.

Younger students will have tailored musical learning materials, games and challenges.

Kids will perform together at our Virtual Open Mics and Online Jams.

Our growing, online video library will give extra tips and tools for kids to hone their musical skills.

Older students will have leadership opportunities galore, including mentoring younger students.

We'll continue to give students at Kapapmahchakwew-Wandering Spirit School—access to music.

We'll inch closer to finding our students in Jane Finch a permanent music school that they can call home.



DONATE NOW

To learn how you can help kids thrive through music,
visit us at rpmusic.org
or call us at **416-364-8900**



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Charitable Registration Number: 87211 6025 RR0001

Branding, website and annual report design generously donated by Listen Communications.