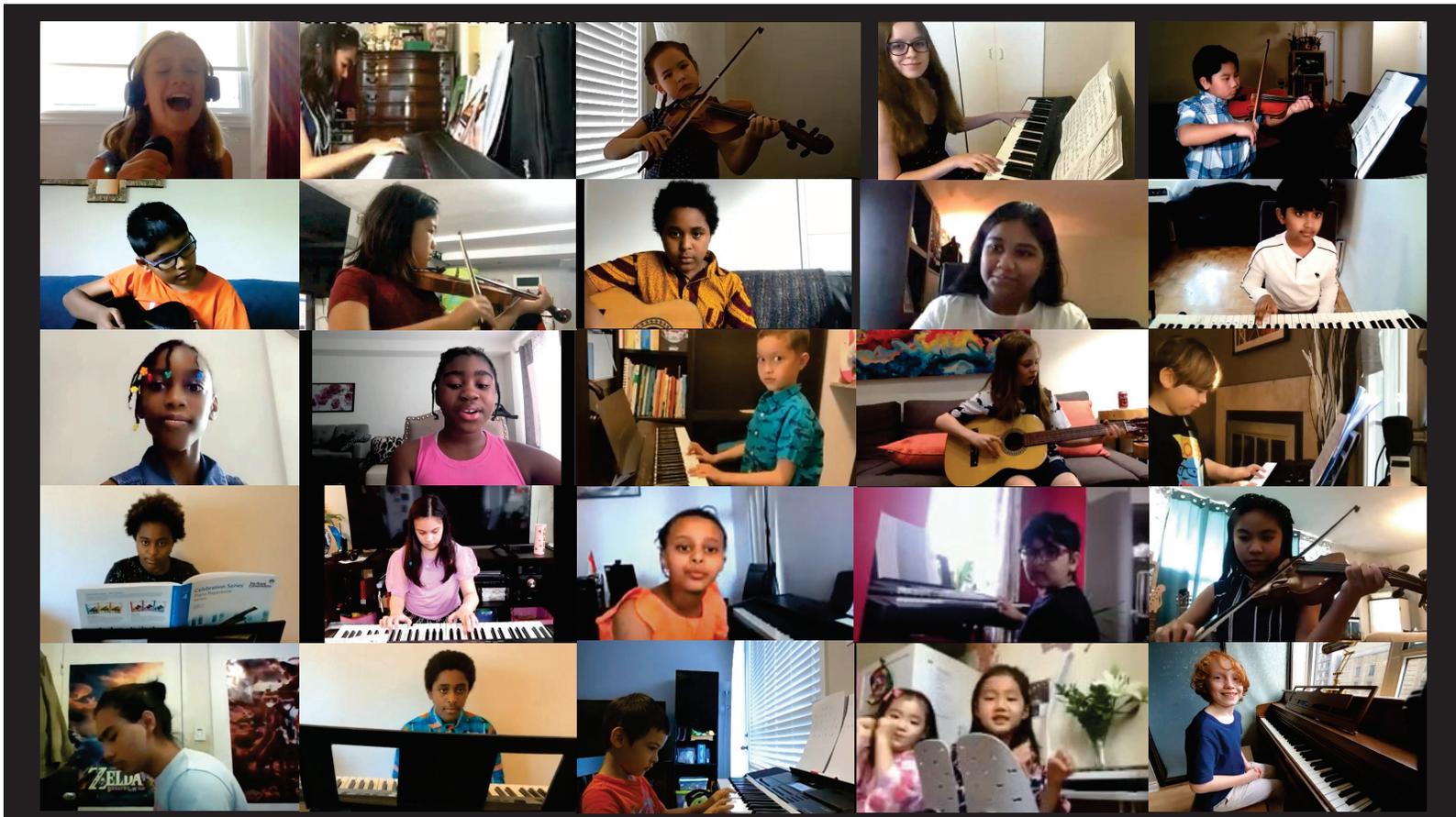




cabbagetown community arts centre

*performing wonders*

## ***Progress Report: Moving Past Covid 2021-2022***



422 Parliament St.  
Toronto, ON M5A 3A2  
416-925-7222

Registered Charitable No.  
129452769RR0001

## ***Executive Summary***

In spite of the pandemic, the CCAC maintained its commitment to delivering safe, affordable music lessons to at-risk children in the St. James Town, Regent Park and Moss Park neighborhoods of Toronto. We have resumed limited in person lessons combined with online teaching. Group lessons remain on hold until September 2022, Covid permitting. Mask mandates remain in place until further notice. The safety of our students and staff is paramount.

## ***Introduction***

For over 40 years the CCAC has provided a safe and nurturing learning environment for at-risk children from some of Toronto's lowest-income communities. Our programs have delivered positive measurable results in these neighbourhoods. Music benefits all aspects of a child's life. Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that music instruction builds cognitive and motor skills, resulting in superior academic performance. Music education fosters healthier social relationships as well as feelings of accomplishment, crucial to developing a sense of pride and self worth. This is vital for the development of children from economically challenged families.



## ***Programs***

We deliver individual, structured instruction in piano, guitar, violin, drums, percussion, musical theatre and voice. Lessons are half hour to one hour and are held weekly, following the TDSB's semester system. All styles are covered; Royal Conservatory, pop, jazz, folk as well as song writing. The Musical Theatre program includes Speech Arts and Drama coaching. We have an instrument lending library for students who cannot afford to purchase their own. We help close to 200 children annually on a very modest budget.

The CCAC seamlessly switched to remote operations following the provincial lockdown in March 2020. In September 2021 we resumed limited in person lessons in addition to our online programs. We have new students enrolling daily and have been running an additional summer semester since 2020. Our winter and spring recitals showcase our students' talents, and provide a forum for connection and community.

## **Financial**

The CCAC is a registered Canadian charity, and depends on contributions and donations from the public and private sector. Our major expense is the commercial rent on our space in Cabbagetown. We lost significant funding due to the pandemic.

We are deeply grateful to all our donors for their continued support and appeal to prospective new donors to consider the CCAC as a worthwhile and essential charity helping vulnerable children in the city. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

## **Community Building**

We are the only charity offering music instruction to the children of St. James Town, Canada's largest high rise community. According to a 2006 United Nations report, it is one of the most diverse communities in the world with people from over 100 countries speaking over 160 languages. The average income is one of the lowest in the city.

The majority of families in Regent Park are classified as low-income, with 76% of the population living below Statistics Canada's low-income cut-off rate. Moss Park contains one of Toronto's largest public housing projects. This neighbourhood is comprised almost exclusively of rental units, and it houses many low-income families. These communities we serve are some of those hardest hit by the pandemic.

The CCAC's programs are accessible to all. No one is turned away because of financial status.



Our adult song circle, the Sunday Evening Café, has continued on Zoom. The Centre has provided this weekly musical venue for adults since our founding. It has been vital in relieving the isolation made worse by the pandemic. Because Zoom knows no borders, we now we have musicians joining from Hawaii, South Carolina, Massachusetts and the UK,

An adult Community Choir is planned for the fall, Covid permitting.

## ***Looking forward to September 2022: Back to School!***

We will be adding in-person violin lessons for September 2022. Covid permitting, we are hoping to return to our popular free group classes; the Saturday Arts and Crafts, and the Musical Theatre.

I am planning to start the CCAC band again. I am hoping to both expand the number of members and instruments and to hire another instructor for this exciting program.

Enrolment has steadily increased for all instruments.

## ***Conclusion***

Although the pandemic strained our resources and presented many challenges, we have, through creativity and flexibility, emerged stronger and more resilient. We look forward to growing our programs both online and in-person.

The Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre remains committed to keeping the music alive for the at-risk children of our city.

**Glen Loucks**  
**Executive Director**  
**August 2022**

