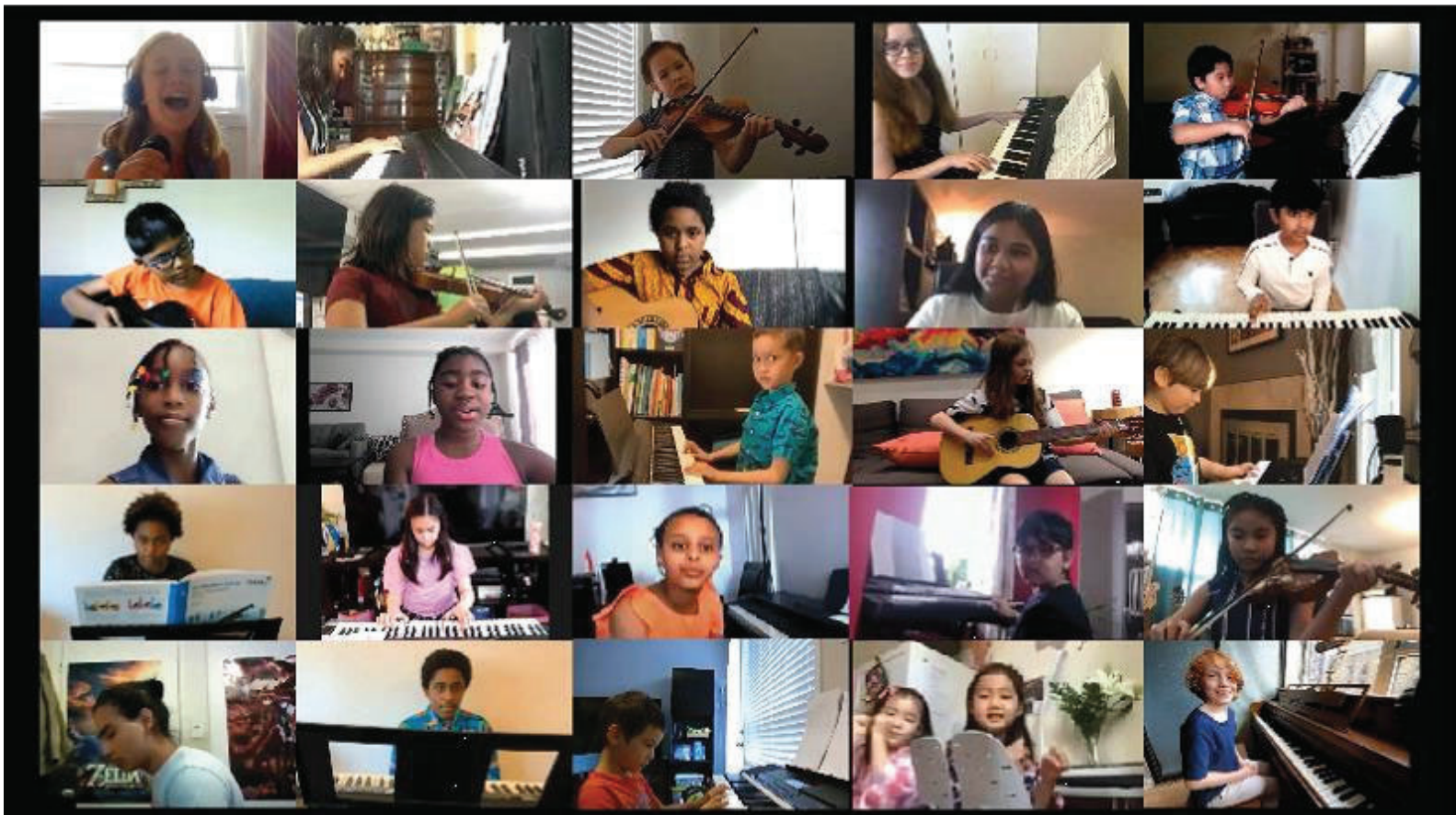




## *Progress Report: Return to Normal 2022-2023*



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Toronto, ON M5A 3A2  
416-925-7222  
Registered Charitable No.  
129452769RR0001**

## ***Executive Summary:***

The CCAC has come out of the pandemic with all our in-person programs restored. Online teaching continues as an option. The safety of our students and staff has always been a priority, so mask mandates have remained in place. Throughout these difficult times, we have maintained our commitment to delivering affordable individual music lessons to at-risk children in the St. James Town, Regent Park and Moss Park neighborhoods of Toronto.

## ***Introduction:***

For over 40 years the CCAC has provided music lessons and arts classes in a safe and nurturing environment for at-risk children from some of Toronto's lowest-income communities. Our facility on Parliament Street is a bright, vibrant, welcoming space in the heart of Cabbagetown.

Our programs have delivered measurable positive results in these neighbourhoods. Music benefits all aspects of a child's life. Studies have repeatedly shown that music instruction builds cognitive and motor skills, reflected in superior academic performance. In addition, music education fosters healthier social relationships as well as feelings of accomplishment, crucial to developing an intrinsic sense of pride and self worth. This is crucial for the development of children from economically



## ***Programs:***

We deliver individual, structured instruction in piano, guitar, violin, drums, percussion, musical theatre and voice for children ages 4 to 18. Lessons are typically 30 minutes and are held weekly, following the TDSB's semester schedule. All styles are covered: Royal Conservatory, pop, jazz, folk and song writing. The Musical Theatre program includes Speech Arts and Drama coaching. We also hold a free arts and crafts class on Saturdays. Our instrument lending library provides keyboards, guitars and violins for students who can't afford their own. We have helped close to 200 children annually on a budget of under \$200,000.

The CCAC seamlessly switched to remote operations following the provincial lockdown in March 2020. In September 2022 we resumed all our programs while maintaining the online option.

Our enrollment continues to increase. We have been running summer semesters since 2020. In the winter of 2022, we resumed live recitals. These are always popular. Parents treasure the opportunity to see their children perform.



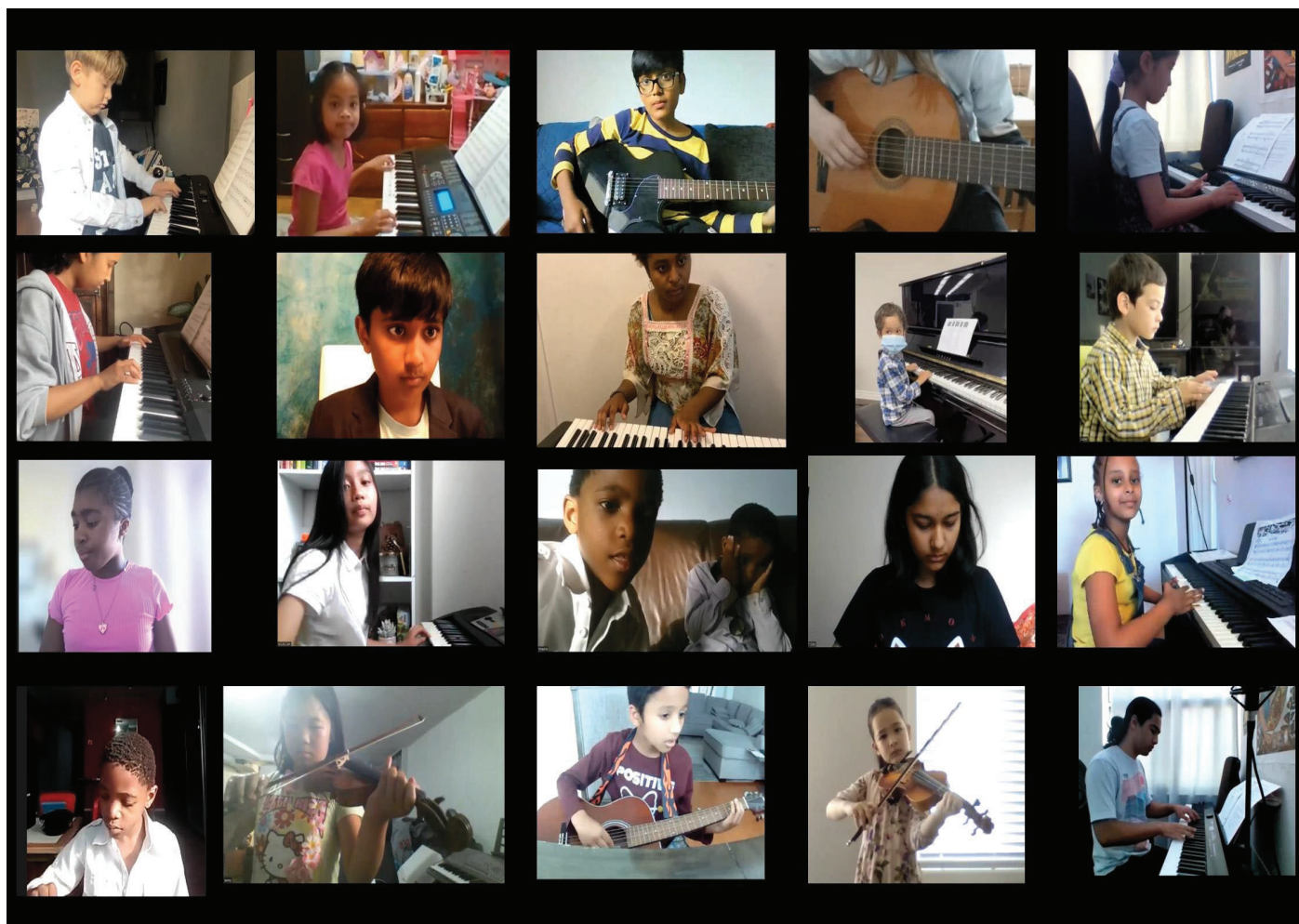
## ***Financial:***

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 Cabagetown. Although we lost significant funding due to the pandemic, we are deeply grateful to all our donors for their continued support. All donations are 100% tax deductible.

## ***Community Building:***

We are the only charity offering music instruction to the children of St. James Town. With a population of 30,000 it is Canada's largest high rise community and, according to a 2006 UN report, one of the most diverse in the world, with people from over 100 countries speaking over 160 languages. It also has one of the lowest average incomes 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. The communities we serve are some of those hardest hit by the pandemic.



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

***September 2022***

We returned to full in-person classes for the fall semester. Online classes continue to be an option. Both our students and staff are overjoyed to be back at the Centre.

We rigorously follow all Covid precautions. Mask mandates remain in place. Instruments are sanitized between lessons. We will continue to monitor the situation. As long as the Covid numbers stay low, we should be able to maintain our programs.

Our online programs will continue, especially as many students who live or have moved outside of our catchment area have found it more convenient to attend their lessons this way. Enrolment has steadily increased for all instruments.

***Conclusion:***

We look forward to expanding both our full in-person programs at the Centre and those programs which are continuing online.

Although the pandemic definitely strained our resources and presented many challenges, we feel that the CCAC has emerged stronger and more resilient in the face of it and we look forward to continuing and growing our online programs as well as maintaining and expanding our in-person programs at our beloved Cabbagetown Community Arts Centre. We will continue fighting to keep the music alive for the children of our neighbourhood.

Glen Loucks  
Executive Director  
January 2023

