

HIP News – Spring/Summer2019

Humility + Integrity + Passion = HIP

The Story of El Sistema South London

The El Sistema South London (ESSL) program is based on El Sistema Venezuela, founded in 1975 by Jose Antonio Abreu. The program offers free classical music education that promotes character development through the pursuit of musical excellence. ESSL began in 2012 at its primary location, Wilton Grove Public School, teaching violin, viola, cello and double bass. Registration is open to all Grade 5 students in the area and the program continues through high school where students are given the opportunity to coach junior students, and in special cases they are selected to be trained as teachers in the program. Sessions are 3 days a week for 2 hours per day. All expenses are covered by ESSL through the donations of wonderful supporters like you. There are now 70 participants in the ESSL programs, from Grades 5 to 12 in three different nucleos (locations). In addition to the Wilton Grove nucleo, this year we created nucleos in St. Thomas at Locke's Public School and a drumming program called Ability through Drumming in partnership with Thames Valley Children's Centre in London.

El Sistema means “the system”- free, intensive, immersive, group instruction in classical and popular music performance

A *nucleo* is a specific instruction center within an El Sistema organization (i.e. Wilton Grove is a nucleo of ESSL)

From the Executive Director This has been a very exciting year for El Sistema South London. We have grown in many ways:

Mentorship program : this new program has recognized the talent, dedication and maturity of our senior players by giving them responsibility for the teaching and coaching of the beginning class at Wilton Grove. Two seniors have shared the responsibility of teaching the group of 16 Grade 5 string players. They have developed excellent skills in lesson planning, classroom routines, presenting logical and sequential lessons in technique and theory, reading rhythm and learning challenging repertoire. They demonstrated their



skills by directing the orchestra at the Kiwanis Festival and receiving a gold award. In addition, five other senior players have worked with the beginners as coaches, offering individual assistance and support throughout the junior classes. All of these teachers and coaches come to ESSL 5 days a week– 3 days for their own rehearsals and 2 days to work with the beginners.

New “nucleo” in St. Thomas : (a nucleo is simply a specific location where instruction occurs, accommodating the children in that area) In September we opened the nucleo at Locke P.S. in the north end of St. Thomas serving students From Locke Public School and Monsignor Morrison Catholic Elementary School. The students are making excellent progress and together with the beginners from the Wilton Grove nucleo they form the ESSL Junior Orchestra

Ability through Drumming : this nucleo, offered in partnership with Thames Valley Children's Centre, fills a void in Southwestern Ontario, offering intense musical instruction to young people who previously were unable to participate in a meaningful musical experience. Next year we look forward to accommodating many more participants in this unique program.

Parent's Corner

A wonderful concert. As a lifelong rock fan I just so appreciated the Beatles, Clapton and Zeppelin performances, mixed with the amazing Calgary fiddlers tunes!

Thanks for all you do with our kids!

The entire team has been involved in recognizing the strengths of my child...Thank you all for all your efforts, patience and support. We truly appreciate it.

Many many thanks ... for all of your time, attention and the love you pour into these kids every week THANK YOU!!

Wilton Grove Nucleo

The Wilton Grove nucleo has continued to grow this year. The junior program, taught by senior students Cynthia Cepeda and Ethan Edgar, has developed into a mature group of string players with excellent skills and a remarkable work ethic. The Intermediate Orchestra, taught by Magisterra Soloist member Nic Carlucci, has progressed to the point where they have been invited into the senior level and will be performing their first concert as seniors at the concert on June 13 at 5:00pm at Laurier SS. The senior orchestra, led by former Orchestra London violinist Sig Martin, has performed remarkable repertoire including the Serenade for Strings by Tchaikovsky. Quartets from the Wilton Grove nucleo are now playing wedding ceremonies, corporate dinners and church services across the area.

Locke Nucleo

The St. Thomas nucleo at Locke P.S. is thriving under the direction of St. Thomas resident Anita May. They are mirroring the progress and dedication of the Wilton Grove nucleo in every way. In addition, thanks to the assistance of Locke P.S. teacher Teresa Vlasman, the Locke Orchestra is also the Locke Choir, singing beautifully as well as playing at First United Church at the fundraising concert on April 28.

Ability through Drumming

Our exciting new program in partnership with Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC) has just completed its first year. This program, called Ability through Drumming, is open to all clients of TVCC and this year was located at TVCC on the grounds of Victoria Hospital. We had 12 committed, passionate drummers who developed skills in counting rhythm, performance posture, dynamics and correct drumming technique. They presented evenings of music for parents and friends on December 4 and April 30.

We look forward to an exciting fall with returning drummers and a new class as well!



Performances since our last Newsletter

Saturday November 3,2018	Bazaar	St. Anne's Church, Byron
Thursday November 8,2018	Remembrance Ceremony	Hamilton Road Seniors Centre
Sunday November 25,2018	Church Service	First United Church, St. Thomas
Saturday December 1,2018	Market Performance	Covent Garden Market
Tuesday December 4,2018	Christmas Concert	Thames Valley Children's Centre
Sunday December 9,2018	Lutheran Christmas	St. Paul's Cathedral
Wed. December 12,2018	Christmas Concert	Msgn Morrison,School, St. Thomas
Thursday December 13,2018	Christmas Concert	Laurier SS
Friday December 14,2018	Christmas Dinner Music	Kiwanis Senior's Centre
Sunday December 16,2018	Evening Service	White Oaks Church
Tuesday December 18,2018	Messiah with CCH Choir	St. Peter's Cathedral
Wed. December 19,2018	Candlelight Service	Meadowpark Home
Monday December 24,2018	Messiah excepts	St. Anne's Church Byron
Thursday January 17, 2019	The Ritz	London Convention Centre
Sunday January 20, 2019	Lutheran Social Services	Trinity Lutheran Church
Saturday February 16, 2019	London Heritage	Wolf Performance Hall
Tuesday February 19, 2019	Philanthropic Ed. Org.	Grand Ave Retirement
Friday February 22, 2019	L'Arche Dinner	Hilton Hotel Ballroom
Tuesday February 26, 2019	Performance	Waverley Manor
Monday March 4, 2019	Performance	First United Church, St. Thomas
Wednesday March 6, 2019	"Time Out"	Metropolitan United Church
Monday April 1, 2019	Kiwanis Festival	Chamber Orchestra Gold
Tuesday April 2, 2019	Dinner Music	Kiwanis Seniors Centre
Tuesday April 9 , 2019	Kiwanis Festival	All groups Gold Performances
Sunday April 28 , 2019	Fundraising Concert	First United Church St. Thomas
Sunday April 28 , 2019	Fundraising Concert	Oriole Park, Komoka

El Sistema South London offers 6 hours per week of the finest instruction, beautiful instruments, uniforms, snacks and music at no charge whatever to the participants. This philosophy has allowed all interested children to participate fully, regardless of the family's financial situation. The cost of the program is just over \$50 per participant per week, or \$1500 per year per participant. Our volunteer board of directors works tirelessly and selflessly to pursue grants and other areas of funding, but many other worthwhile organizations are pursuing the same money. If you see value for the child, for the community, for society in the work we are doing, we ask that you consider supporting our work, possibly with a monthly donation that can be directed the organization CanadaHelps.org. This can be accessed quickly through our website esslondon.ca.

We
Need
Your
Help

A new ensemble created within El Sistema South London

ESSL has formed a new senior ensemble called the ESSL Chamber Orchestra. This group which currently has twelve members was formed to accommodate the growing number of highly advanced students, and to perform professional level repertoire in it's original form. The core of this orchestra is the Octet which has up to 100 pieces in it's repertoire.



El Sistema South London Senior Orchestra at the Oriole Park Resort concert to support the Mount Bridges Foodbank



Locke (St. Thomas) Juniors posing before their performance at First United Church on April 28



ESSL Intermediate Orchestra after their performance at First United Church in St. Thomas