



KIDS THRIVING THROUGH MUSIC

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



2020-2021

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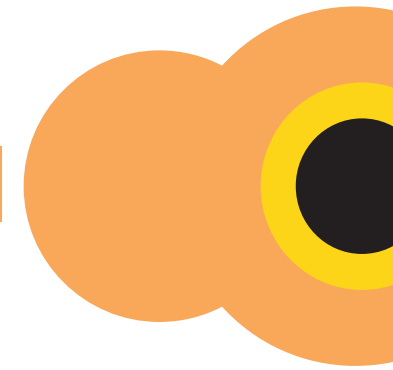
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2021 WAS A MASTER CLASS IN ADAPTABILITY



During our first two decades as a community music school we faced challenges, but nothing like our 22nd year, when Covid-19 forced us to move online and literally reinvent ourselves—transforming our curriculum and our teaching methods.

The pandemic has been a veritable master class in adaptability. Despite the disruptions and uncertainty, our students and their families stayed with us. They rose to the challenge in ways we never could have imagined, and they showed us what resilient and creative people they are. The kids embraced the new order, figured out the technology, learned new instruments, and collaborated with one another in unfamiliar ways.

In this new and different virtual world, they created beautiful music together, crossing not only the boundaries between classical and electronic music but also the kilometres between Jane Finch and Regent Park. We have been humbled by our students' curiosity, collaborative spirit and enterprise.

None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our remarkable faculty, staff, volunteers and board members—and all of you, our friends, who have so generously supported us in our efforts to give young people the chance to realize their promise.

With our sincere thanks,

Martin Abel

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

Linda Javorski

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

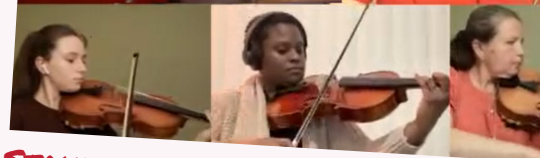
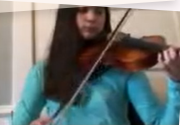
MAKING MUSIC IN A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Although the pandemic forced us to move our programs online, and to remodel them nearly completely, we continued to make each student's experience as rich and rewarding as possible.

The whole RPSM community worked together to enable students to make music and thrive.



PRIVATE GUITAR LESSON
ON ZOOM



STRINGS ENSEMBLE PERFORM
AT VIRTUAL RECITAL



CURBSIDE PICK UP OF INSTRUMENTS

550 STUDENTS
in **REGENT PARK** and **JANE FINCH**
received an online music education, learning
everything from piano, strings and percussion to
sound engineering, songwriting and recording.

429 STUDENTS
AGES 9 AND UP RECEIVED
A PRIVATE LESSON
on an instrument of their choice.

240 KIDS
JOINED AN ENSEMBLE
to make music with their peers and stay
connected online.

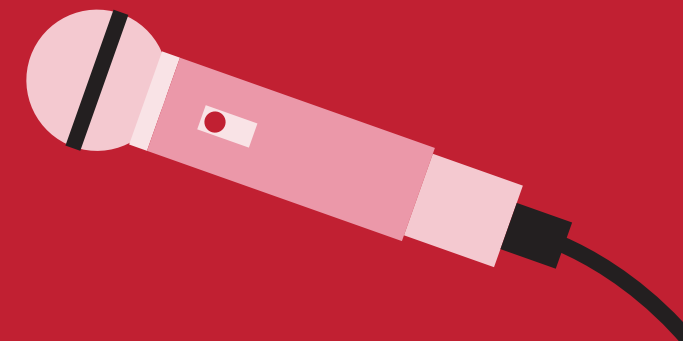


TAHIRIH VEJDANI
RPSM CHOIR DIRECTOR SINCE 2011

HUNDREDS of
STUDENTS
WERE PROVIDED WITH NEW
INSTRUMENTS, IPADS, LAPTOPS
AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT
to continue their music education online.

150 STUDENTS
PERFORMED IN OUR
ONLINE RECITALS
showcasing their talent, creativity, and the impact
of music in their lives.

SENIOR STUDENTS
TOOK PART IN FIVE "RPSM TALKS"
MUSIC INDUSTRY SEMINARS
to learn about the business, talk to professionals,
and discover exciting career paths.



GELILA

For the past eight years, Gelila has been an active member of the RPSM community. Starting out in group keyboard, Gelila demonstrated her commitment and passion for the piano, and was offered private lessons to develop her skills. From attending RPSM's Glee Camp each summer to sharing her talents at countless performances—including a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform on stage alongside Sarah McLachlan—Gelila has blossomed. Today, Gelila continues her piano studies and is also a member of our Senior Choir and Youth Committee. She hopes to be an RPSM summer camp counsellor to share all the skills she has developed with younger students.

“It’s great to be part of a community outside of your family and I have learned so much, beyond music.”

It’s a very inclusive space, where I always feel comfortable and supported. I’ve made so many friendships and connections and have had a lot of opportunities that I will never forget. Despite COVID, I feel like this past year I have grown so much on the piano, in choir and even myself as a person. I am so grateful to be part of RPSM.”



JIERUI

Jierui began his musical journey with RPSM when he was just seven years old. Over the past decade, he has explored a variety of musical interests, from learning the melodica and steelpan to building his considerable skills as a pianist. Jierui has performed at over 20 public events, including Luminato and with the RPSM steel pan band at Roy Thomson Hall. He says these opportunities helped him overcome his shyness. Jierui graduated from high school this year and will be heading off to the University of British Columbia to study commerce. He will be the first person ever in his family to go to university.

“RPSM has been a home away from home during my 10 years with the school.”

I have learned to become not just a better music student, but a better student in general. Responsibility, communication and teamwork are all traits that I have developed in my time here, and are traits that I am sure will continue to grow. I cannot wait to showcase everything the Regent Park School of Music has fostered within me and I can only hope that my future actions will make this wonderful community proud.”

To see Gelila and Jierui in action, go to:
www.rpmusic.org/your-impact

MY LIFE AT RPSM



OUR INCREDIBLE 2021 RPSM GRADUATES

Nineteen young people graduated this year and are heading off to college and university to start the next phase of their lives.

We are so proud of them all and wish them the very best and the brightest of futures.



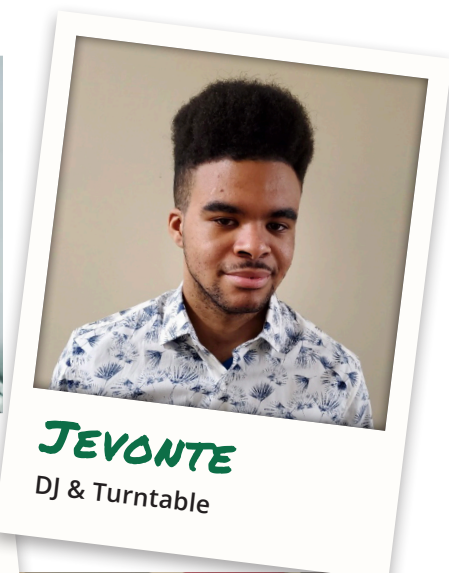
Annie
Piano



BENJAMIN
Voice, Piano & Youth Committee



Jessica
Voice



JEVONTE
DJ & Turntable



Jierui
Piano



Jolin
Guitar & Theory



JOYCE
Piano & Choir



Klayde
Violin



Lucas
Piano & Youth Committee



ROXIE
Piano



Selena
Choir, Piano & Youth Committee



Siddhartha
Violin & Youth Committee



Spencer
Piano



Tyler
Guitar



YAMILLA
Piano

Plus:

- AMAL** Clarinet
- JAHDAI** Guitar
- PETER** Saxophone
- RAHEL** Piano



To fellow and future students we say:

Value your time at RPSM.

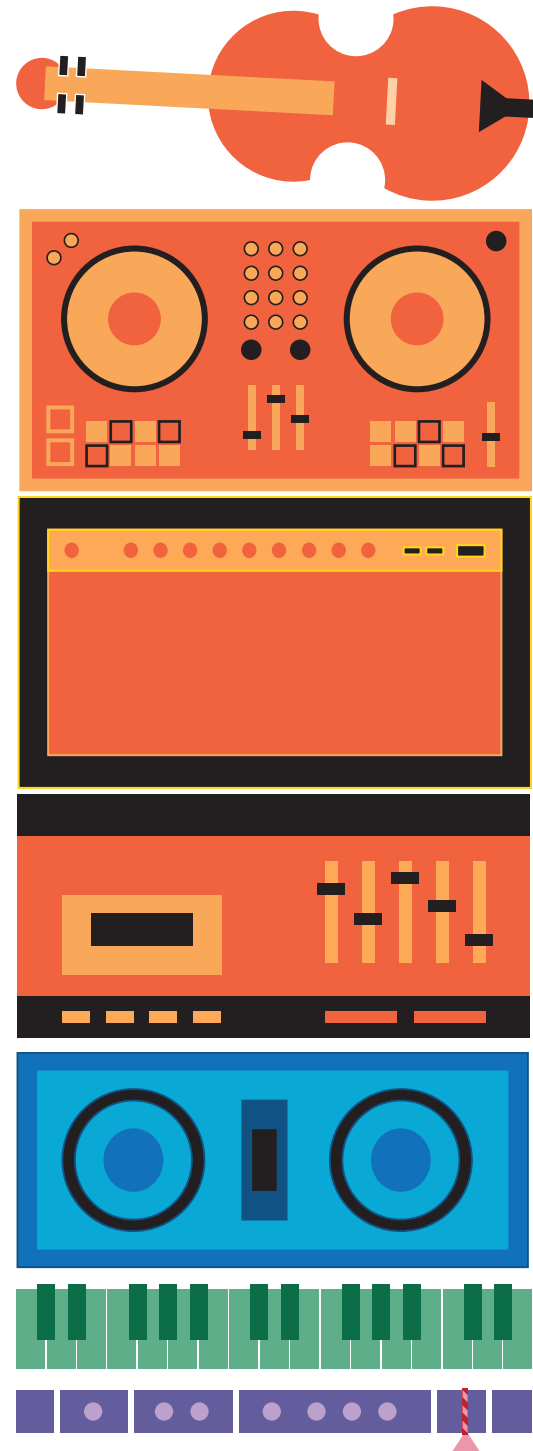
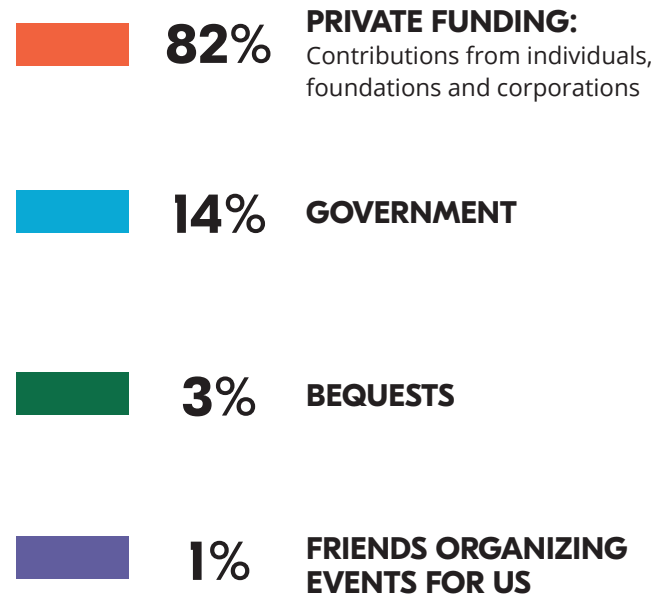
It's amazing—you won't get anything else like it in your life.

Treasure it and let it continue to fuel you as you move forward with your future ambitions."



WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Thanks to our remarkable friends, over \$2 million was contributed this year to ensure that our students remained engaged, stimulated and learning during this unprecedented time.



WHERE THE MONEY GOES

Your wonderful contributions give our students a rich after-school music education and social experience so they can realize their true promise and shine with:

- Weekly music lessons**
in private, group and ensemble settings
- Instruments**
to practice on and to keep upon graduation
- Performances**
Recitals, open mics and public performances
- Enrichment Activities**
Music and skills workshops, seminars and master classes
- Leadership Opportunities**
in a variety of mentorship and volunteer programs
- Royal Conservatory of Music Exams**
56 students aced their RCM exams this year
- Song Creation, Composition and Studio Recording**
Students' creative ideas become professionally recorded songs
- Summer Music Programs**
Music Camps and an intensive Summer Recording Arts course

THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US HERE AT REGENT PARK SCHOOL OF MUSIC

We are delighted to recognize the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions, and pledges of \$1,000 or more over the past fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021).

\$1,000,000 - \$10,000,000

Carswell Family Foundation

\$250,000 - \$999,999

The Azrieli Foundation
Beacon Scholarship Fund*
Canada Council for the Arts

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\$10,000 - \$24,999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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Smith Family Foundation
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\$1,000 - \$4,999

The Pat & Tony Adams Freedom Trust
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The Arts and Letters Club of Toronto Foundation
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Kathryn & Charles Brown
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Sue Weedon
Jane Williamson
Charles & Marilyn Wright
The Marjorie & Joseph Wright Memorial Foundation

**In-kind donations and alumnae university scholarships of \$10,000+*

We are also extremely grateful to all who donated instruments for our students.

We strive for accuracy in our listings. Please contact us with any errors or omissions: 416-364-8900 x25

WHAT'S NEXT FOR OUR STUDENTS AND RPSM

- Every student will have the instruments and equipment they need to make music
- Every student aged nine and up will receive a private lesson and ensemble experience
- Younger students will be in small group programs and larger ensembles
- Kids will perform and make music together online, in studio, at recitals and for the public
- Students will build their skills with mentorship, leadership and volunteer opportunities
- We will expand our Recording Arts, Song to Studio and Sound Engineering programs
- We will resume our music programs at Turning Point Youth Services and at Kapapmahchakwew-Wandering Spirit School
- We are exploring an opportunity for a new, permanent music school in Jane Finch. We look forward to sharing exciting details of this project in the new year!

We see this year and the years ahead as a chance to embrace all the great things that virtual learning has revealed to us—breaking down musical, physical and geographic boundaries and increasing accessibility to all we have on offer, to make sure RPSM students have the necessary tools to thrive, even in these challenging times. So, if the circumstances at home make it is easier for a student to continue studying music virtually, why would we not accommodate that?

It's all part of our creative, inside-out recipe to build back better and stronger than ever before, so our students can develop their innate curiosity, resilience, courage and love of play. Through this inclusive approach, we are redefining our role in building community through music.

Our welcome mat is out. Come on in.



Richard Marsella
Executive Director,
Regent Park School of Music



DONATE NOW

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To donate please call

416-364-8900 x 25

or visit www.rpmusicdonate.org

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