

THANKS TO YOU
OUR VOICES
ARE GROWING





BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH MUSIC

To mark the beginning of our 19th year of programming, we sat down with our Founder and Chair to talk about some of the amazing milestones the School has achieved over the 2018/19 fiscal year.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SOM?

We began with a clear mission to provide high quality music education and mentorship completely free to children and youth without access. Today, our school provides opportunities for students across a wide range of ages and abilities to achieve personal growth and to gain confidence to become their best selves. At SoM we teach music, but we also teach respect, empathy and inclusivity. We use music as a tool to connect and engage youth in their communities. And it is working. 78% of our graduates go on to post-secondary study versus BC's average of 49%. We rely on the generosity of our community to keep our doors open. I fund all the yearly administrative costs so that every cent donated to our school goes directly towards programming. But it's only with your support that we are able to continue the great work that we're doing.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SCHOOL'S BIGGEST SUCCESSES SO FAR?

Since we launched our outreach program in 2002 we have offered over 8,000 programming spots for vulnerable youth in Vancouver, Surrey & Edmonton. The average student will stay with us for 7 years and throughout their time here, we are graced with participating in their personal transformation. We are saying yes to kids who are being excluded in their lives and we're showing them that they can succeed.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR?

This year, SoM students performed with me in our music video for Angel, at WE Day and the Junos. They also collaborated with Sean Jones in a music video aired on Westjet, and shared stages with The Tenors, Josh Groban, Chris Martin and President Obama. We also sent 3 students on full scholarship for 5 weeks to the Berklee College of Music summer camps in Boston.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE OF SOM?

We are building an endowment fund so that kids will be guaranteed access to the life changing experiences that we provide. We are also developing a leadership team that will connect and raise awareness across Canada about the work we are doing. We want everyone to know we are here and that we are so much more than just a music program. Our students in Edmonton and Surrey are a primary focus this year, as we need to provide them with dedicated space so that they can flourish. To discuss a possible partnership with any of our locations, please contact our head office at jen@sarahschoolofmusic.com.



TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC



OUR WHY

The Sarah McLachlan School of Music (SoM) unleashes the potential of at-risk and underserved youth through the transformational power of free music education and long-term mentorship.

Currently operating in
VANCOUVER • SURREY • EDMONTON

POST SECONDARY SUPPORT

Capilano University SoM Student Scholarship Fund, Berklee College of Music + Beedie Luminaries

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Vancouver + Surrey
VSB, Surrey School Board, Canucks Autism Network, Immigrant Services Society, Centre for Ability, Face of Today, Vancouver Coastal Health + Peak House

Edmonton
Edmonton Public School Board, Boys + Girls Club, Arts on the Ave, MacEwan University, University of Alberta

National
Regent Park School of Music, Toronto ON

OUR STUDENTS

AGES

24 Preschool - K
46 K-3
301 Grade 4-7
495 Grade 8-12
16 Alumni
54 Adults 55+

NEED

49% Financial Need
27% Social Emotional Need
24% Financial +
Social Emotional Need

LOCATION

820 in Vancouver
36 in Surrey
80 in Edmonton

OUR PROGRAM & TEACHING STAFF

WHAT WE OFFER

FREE MUSIC EDUCATION

281 Group + Private lessons per week

• Music Production for Songwriters • Instrument Discovery and Development • Global Hip Hop • Turntablism • Electronic Music • Community Choir • Musical Theatre • Latin Percussion • Samba Afro Drum Troupe • Music Discovery with Support • Young Music Makers 0-5 • Ukulele and Singing 55+ • Alumni Mentorship • Songwriter Showcase • Music Portfolios • Marimba Collective • University Prep • Guest Artists • Canucks Autism Network Partnership classes

LONG-TERM MENTORSHIP + SAFE, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY SPACE

47 Teaching Artists

4 in Surrey

5 in Edmonton

- Transportation Program
- Student Snack Program
- Spring Break + SummerCamps
- Front Desk Care Team
- Community Concerts + Meals

Access to free daytime + after-school space

“The SoM staff have a unique ability to bring out and give meaning to everyone’s story through the shared experience of music. In all my years of working with our most vulnerable young people, I have not witnessed another outreach program that comes close to capturing the magic that is composed at SoM”

Deb Routledge

Vice Principal + Social Emotional Learning Consultant

“Our wonderful teachers are all artists in their own right and bring their unique skill sets to create a meaningful, creative curriculum that truly speaks to the needs of each child.”

Sarah McLachlan



TESTIMONIALS + IMPACT

STUDENT

“SoM was an escape for me during some of my hardest days. It saved my life.”

Ryan, SoM graduate

PARENT

“I am so thankful that Kai has a place to be himself and do what he loves most in the world.”

Kai's Mom

DONOR

“SoM is more than just a music school. It's a place where kids can come to build life skills that enable them to go out into the world as fully successful citizens of Canada and beyond.”

Lisa Wolverton

SENSE OF BELONGING



PERSONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

For Nayana's family, music is the key to happiness.

Like many other SoM students, music was a big part of Nayana's home life. Her mom Lee played flute, piano and saxophone; Nayana remembers growing up listening to classic rock bands like Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin that her dad loved to play around the house.

From a young age, Nayana was always interested in following her creative heart. "I love to draw and do art. It's one of my really good hobbies, but I really love music the most". At her regular school, Nayana was a part of a band program but it fell short of the kind of program that could let her develop as a musician and a person.

Then, a series of life-altering events happened while Nayana was in Grade 2. Lee recalls, "our life at home kind of fell apart". A death in the family along with serious financial and health issues all came down on them at once. The pressures were so great that the family faced homelessness on a number of occasions. One year, Christmas came down to deciding between presents or groceries.

A teacher at Nayana's school was aware of the challenges she was facing at home and suggested that she apply to SoM. Nayana was overjoyed to be accepted. "The teachers are really amazing here", she says. "You can talk to them about anything and I really like that. They really support what you do".

Since coming to SoM, Nayana has thrived. Not only has the school taught her about her instrument and how to play it, but also about striving to be the best she can be in everything. Nayana explains, "What SoM does, they show you how you play this note, and how to get it right. I think the school helped me find my voice, because I was pretty shy. When I was starting to sing and do concerts here, it was really encouraging because they're so supportive".

Lee notes how the school has made Nayana much more independent and how her street smarts have developed tremendously, along with her confidence. "SoM gave her a sense of community", says Lee. "It's given her some musicianship in her life, but really what she's got is family".

Lee is forever grateful for the opportunities that the school gave to her daughter and has a message for other parents who are considering SoM for their kids. "The Sarah McLachlan School of Music was one of the first doors that opened in our life that puts one of our children out there into the world".

"Take that leap, be immersed into a community of music and don't shy away. Be here, and belong."



A HOME
AWAY FROM
HOME



MEET THE NEXT WAVE



Fitting in at school is never easy. It's even tougher when your skin isn't the same colour as the rest of the students around you

Growing up, music was always a part of Nathan's home. His mom Erinn was Royal Conservatory trained in piano up to Grade 12, and she encouraged her son to get involved in anything music-related, including dancing and participating in musicals.

But Nathan had other things on his mind besides music. He was facing significant challenges at the school he was attending, including being on the receiving end of racially based bullying that led him to act up. One of his teachers suggested SoM, and although Erinn hadn't heard of the school before, she applied for him. Nathan was accepted, but he admits he was not sure that SoM was going to be a good fit for him. "To be honest, the only reason I decided to go was so I could get away from school".

Yet from the beginning, it was clear that the school was going to be a perfect fit for him. The impact of SoM on Nathan was powerful and immediate. After only a few weeks at the school, his experience at the school inspired him to write his first song, 'Wave'. Nathan explains, "It was just about what's going to happen and how I'm going to be the next wave and how I'm going to work to get there." Nathan has continued to write his own material. "Most of them are about feelings and stuff like that, about things that I appreciate", he says.

Nathan gives credit to the school and its instructors for sparking his passion in music. "They really help you find your voice. You make your own songs, you make your own beats and perform it."

Erinn notes that SoM has given Nathan a positive, enriching way to focus his energy. "When he does his music, he's content, he's in there for hours, writing his lyrics and putting his beats together. He found a place where he's okay by himself." Nathan agrees. "I just felt like I could be different from the crowd. I felt like I had something to show in myself, that I could do this too. I've learned how to take my time, slow down and think about what I'm doing".

Like many people who are unfamiliar with SoM, Erinn was shocked to discover the range of activities and programs offered by the school. "People think music, they think singing or an instrument, but there's so many more different avenues that SoM opens up to the kids that aren't directly musically related", she says. Nathan agrees. "You get to learn a bunch of different things like stage production, photography, electronic music, global hip hop and stuff like that".

A bright young man with a million-dollar smile, Nathan has come into his own at SoM. Asked for his advice to newcomers to SoM, his advice is simple.

**"Have fun, make some memories,
meet people and do what you
need to do."**



**Music isn't just good for the soul.
As Elliott will tell you, it's good for the body too.**

Being born with cerebral palsy left Elliott with a number of physical challenges, including what his mom Greta referred to as a 'claw hand' that often made him the target of unkind schoolyard comments. As a young person, he found school life challenging and was often treated as an outcast - someone who didn't belong.

Elliott was quickly drawn to music, but found that his condition restricted him from playing most instruments, especially guitar, which he loved. With typical Elliott determination, he took things into his own hands and learned to play guitar by playing the video game Rock Band. Remarkably, playing a plastic guitar every day dramatically improved his dexterity and flexibility.

As Greta recalls "I could see a sort of phenomenal change that was occurring, a young man with a challenge who was really interested in playing the guitar. I could see what therapy it was for him".

Even though Greta had seen the remarkable improvements that playing guitar had made to Elliott, she wasn't in a financial position to provide him with private lessons. Although she knew little about SoM, she was encouraged to apply, even though she wasn't sure they would qualify. The entire family was delighted when he was accepted.

Elliott spent the next five years at SoM. It was here where he found a place he could belong. "Sarah's School always has a place for every single student. Not just people with disabilities - everybody. My voice is being heard".

Adds Greta, "being around like-minded people, he just normalized. He just felt like everyone else and that's a great feeling as a parent, to know that your son is being accepted".

While at SoM, Elliott wrote a song called 'Loving My Life'. Like Elliott himself, it is a direct, honest look at what it means to accept people for who they are. In Elliott's words, "it's all about giving people a chance".

After graduating from SoM in 2019, Elliott took it upon himself to make a short documentary film featuring three of his closest friends, all with different forms of disabilities, and all who struggled to find jobs and acceptance because of them. Poignantly, all three of the friends in the film were also SoM alumni, each of whom share Elliott's belief in the power of music to change lives.

**"Sarah's School is special.
This is a safe haven for all
people in this world."**

Watch Elliott's film on SoM's YouTube page.



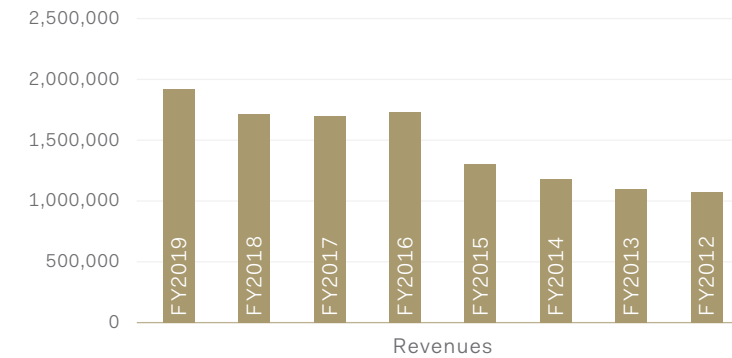
DON'T DIS
HIS ABILITY



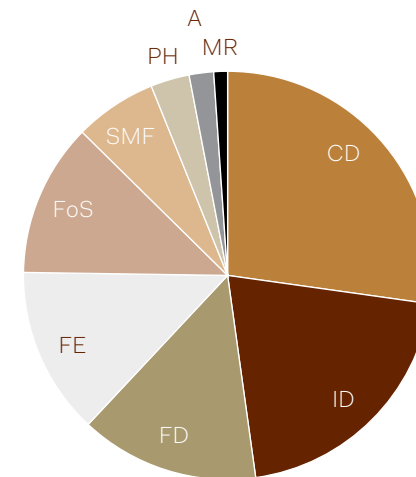
FINANCIAL SUMMARY



REVENUE GROWTH



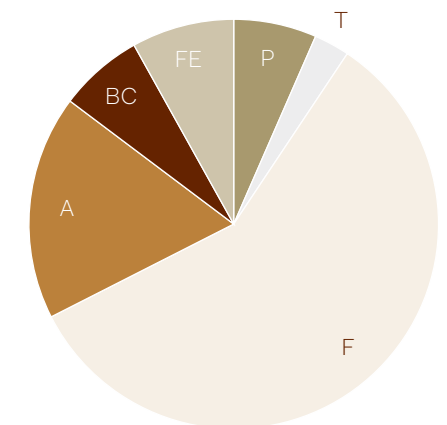
2018 - 2019 REVENUE



Revenue \$1,915,170

- Corporate Donations (CD)
- Individual Donations (ID)
- Foundation Donations (FD)
- Fundraising Events (FE)
- Friends of SoM (FoS)
- Sarah McLachlan Foundation (SMF)
- Performance Honorariums (PH)
- Miscellaneous Revenue (MR)
- Amortization (A)

2018 - 2019 EXPENDITURES



Expenses \$1,866,424

- Programming (P)
- Building Costs (BC)
- Administration (A)
- Faculty (F)
- Transportation (T)
- Fundraising Expenses (FE)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

CONCERT GRAND

Sarah McLachlan Foundation

Sun Life Financial

Wolverton Foundation

Canucks For Kids Fund

BABY GRAND

Friends of the
Sarah McLachlan School of Music

HSBC
SiriusXM Canada

Slaight Family Foundation
The Hudson Family

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Lucia Lundin and Family
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Yoshiko Karasawa

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TELUS

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The Giustra Foundation
The Jim Pattison Group
Yamaha
Entertainment Group
Zainul & Ashif Mawji and
Family

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Group LP
Aquilini Village
Holdings Ltd.
Brian & Andrea Hill
Cameron Blair
City of Surrey

David Sharpe
Deloitte Management
Services LP
Fernwood Foundation
Irene & Blaine Labonte
Iris Consulting Limited

Lagnippe Foundation
Marilyn Patricia Cowan
Mohammed and
Susan Moussa
Parc Retirement Living
Taylor & Pond
Sean McCoshen

M. Ann McCaig, Roxanne
McCaig, John McCaig,
Jane McCaig and
Richard Waller
The Schneider Family
Foundation
The Vancouver
Board of Trade

BlueSky Charitable
Foundation
BrandFire
Marketing Group
Carolyn & Robert Cross
CKNW Orphans' Fund
D.C.M. Holdings Inc.
c/o John & Trisha Mackay
Della Eileen and
Stuart O McLaughlin
Douglas A. Cox
Edge Catering

Face of Today Foundation
In memory of Isobel Fraser
J.F. Driscoll Family
Foundation
John and Jenny Newell
John C. Kerr Family
Foundation
John Cameron
Kyle & Janelle Washington
Michael Galpin
Natural Factors

Ocean Park Foundation
Open Road Toyota
Richmond
Pacific Spirit Foundation
Richard Balan
RK Corporate
Productions Inc.
Rory Richards
Sawers Family Foundation
Scott Stoppler
Sean Finn

Tickets For Charity LLC
Timothy C. Kerr Family
Foundation
Todd Bish
Tom & Debra Mauro
Tony Dilawri
V. Paul & Joyce Lee
William A. Borger
Young Presidents'
Organization
Alberta Chapter

ABC Charity Partners Inc. / Allard Foundation / Amacon Development Corporation / Anako Foundation / Andrea Hamilton and Neil Chrystal / Angela Grossman / Apple Inc. / Barry & Drinda Scott / Brooke and Tracey Wade Foundation / Bryan Adams Foundation / Cactus Club Cafe / Cathy Roozen / Cheryl Cohen / CIBC / Cindy Pond / Craig & Beverly Kotun / Culinary Capers / Dale Bosa / Daryl Schuster / David Luscombe / Dennie Flynn / Derek Root / Diamond Foundation / Dianne and Irving Kipnes Foundation / Don Wheaton / Douglas Goss / Edmond Cyrankiewicz / EPS Westcoast Construction Ltd. / Estate of Quentin Donnelly / Flesky Flynn / Glenn & Sandra Woolsey / Graham Gilmore / Greg Kerfoot / Highbury Foundation / Jesse Chew / John Assman / Joseph Stanley Stauffer Trust / Kevin and Esther Knubley, Tim Hortons Guildford/Tannery Park / Ledcor Industries Inc. / Mark & Karen Wolverton / Mark and Naudia Mache / Mark Anthony Group / Mark Samuel / Marshall Sadd / Mary Jordan / Matthew & Christina Anthony / McAllister Properties / MCL Motors / Michael Lang / Michael Olson / Noah Jones / Norman T and Bernadine Lassu / Paul Simon Foundation / Peter Dhillon / Peter Kiss / Raven Truck Accessories / Ray Muzyka / Richard Balan / Richard Jaffray / Richard Kirby / Robert Bessette / Robert Sutherland / Ross J. Beaty / Royal Bank of Canada - Commercial Financial Services / Scott Allen / Sorrell Financial / Spence Diamonds / Sylvie Vandekerkhove / Teck Resources / The Gainey Foundation / The Lawson Foundation / The Mary & Gordon Christopher Foundation / The Naqvi & Rota Families Edmonton / Tom Lassu / Trinity Pacific Foundation / von Mandl Family Foundation / WAM (RE) Management Development Corp / Yamaha / ZLC Foundation

Alan and Gwendoline Pyatt Foundation / Allan Kasslen / Alyson Jean Martin / Ana Cristina Fonseca / Andrew Schulhof / Anton Margolus / Arts Umbrella / Avnish Ghai / B3 Glass / Barry Travers / Betty Fyshe / BLG Foundation / Bob Sparrow / Brad Kezema / Brent Hesje / Brent Pierce / Brian Salisbury / Bruno Muller / Jonathan Bunce / Canadian Pacific Railway / Cantrav Services Inc. / Carol Newell / Chad Snihur / Chris Ellingson / Christian Jager / Christopher Jacques / Collingwood School Society / Context & Contacts Inc. / Cory Wosnack / D Ross Brown / Dal Richards Foundation / Dan Roy / Danny Fayad / Darrell Wilson / Dave Mowat / David Hardy / David Salter / Deanne Bateman / Deb Armour / Decore Holdings Inc. / Delcon Capital / Diana Krall / Dianne Rickaby-Senra / Dietmar Bloedorn / Don Agnew / Donald Black / Doug Ripley / Drum Workshop Inc. / Dwight D. Thrash, CPA, FCPA, CGMA / Emile Najaar / Ernest Yee / Eugene Jamieson / Evelyn Atkinson / Executrade / Faizal Jiwani / Fluor Canada Ltd. / Fraser Galipeau / Full Moon Folk Club / Gary Goetsch / Glenn Ives / Glenn Mudryk / Gordon Leder / Greg Zeschuk / Greta Isac / Greygates Foundation / Hilda Rae / Holt Family Foundation / International Chartering Services Ltd. / Irene "Jane" McLennan / James Buxton / James O'neill / Janine A. Lauer / Jared Smith / Jayan Nagendran Professional Corporation / Jeff Tsai / Jeremy Main / Jerrold Diamond / Jill Lyall / Joanne Houssian / Joanne Norum / John Livingston / Karen Hesse / Kari Ericksen / Keith Tilley / Ken Nichols / Kenna Lynn Danyliw / Keri Emin / Kevin Braddell / Kingsway Foundation / Kristy Brinkley & Kevin Layden / Larry Moeller / Leland Oberst / Lisa Smolsky Black / Long & McQuade / Lori Assheton-Smith / Lori Turner / Lorraine & Jerry Berg / Lush Handmade Cosmetics / Lynn Hruczkowski / Margaret Barron / Marguerite Maris / Maria Faccio / Mark V. Mercier / Marvin Schmidt / Melissa Jill Morgan / Michael Joseph Valiquette / Michael Kroetsch / Michael Kukurba / Michelle Pockey / Mike Sczensy / Mishaela Molby / Molson Coors Canada / Mrs. E.V. Mitchell / Murray Lange / Naheed Shariff / Nancy & Richard Self / Nancy A. Bolanis M.D. / Nancy Zinna / Nathan Isbister / Neal Allen / Nicole Prokop / O'Ryan Hughes / Oliver Bock / Pat Lipton / Patrick Roberge / Paul Allard / Paul Farnan / Perimeter Construction Ltd. / Peter Jasmin / Public Pictures Incorporated / Randy Kendel / Randy MacDonald / Reg & Carrie Greenslade / Relling Family Foundation / Rich & Corrie Groom / Richard & Valerie Bradshaw / Richard Kilpert / Rob & Leanne Appleton / Rob Roy and Associates / Robert Cihelka / Robert Peterson / Robert Pirooz / Robert Westbury / Roberta Wolbeck / Roderick MacLean / Roger Yao / Ron Lucas / Rosewood Hotels & Resorts LLC / Ross Grieve / Roundhouse Radio 98.3 Vancouver / Ruwan Liwanage / RWDI Air Inc. / Sandi Martini / Saskatchewan Minerals Inc / Scott Cousens / Sean Montgomery / Shaw Saltzberg / Sheila Groves / Sondra Dunbar Goplen / Source Can Solutions Inc. / Stella-Jones / Sumit Majumdar / Susan Fielder Inc. / Susan Wylie / Tammy Torgerson / TD B.A.N.D. / The Jerry Garcia Foundation / The Joseph Segal Family Foundation / The Leon and Thea Koerner Foundation / The Sisters of Saint Ann / The Winnipeg Foundation / Tushfest Musical Society of Edmonton / Universal Music Group / Vancouver Foundation / Vancouver Opera / William Comrie / Windset Farms / Zainul & Shazma Holdings (1997) Ltd.

MARIMBA

XYLOPHONE

GUITAR

DJEMBE

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP CIRCLE

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

To find out how you can
become involved, please visit:

www.sarahschoolofmusic.com

Hyphen
Communications

Special thanks to our creative team for their support and in-kind contributions.
Design: Hyphen Communications. Photography: David Martin, Kharen Hill.



Sarah McLachlan
SCHOOL OF MUSIC
find your voice