



Dear Friends & Supporters,

Sistema Toronto's 2021-22 academic year featured student and program growth and a welcome return to in-person programming. Students began the year online, participating in music & movement, choir, percussion, and string group lessons. Many students thrived in this virtual environment, and we provided additional support for others struggling with feelings of isolation. The resilience and dedication of our students, families, teachers, and staff saw Sistema Toronto not just endure the challenges of the pandemic but continue to advance our mission, vision, and values.

Delivering high-quality programming is fundamental to Sistema Toronto, and virtual engagement did not minimize this responsibility. Throughout this year, we ensured that our workshops were reflective of the communities we work with, selecting themes, content, and instructors that represented the diversity of the young people and families in our program. Guest artists included Métis fiddler Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk, who presented a series of sessions on Métis fiddling and musical spoons; Nigerian Composer, Godwin Sadoh who delivered two Masterclasses for Sistema students on his own arrangements of Nigerian folks songs; and Sistema Toronto teaching artists, Joaquin Nunez and Morgan Melbourne who offered workshops for Black History Month. In addition to these workshops we held regular professional development & training for our teachers and presented a virtual show in December, 2021 and in-person shows in June, 2022.

In the late Spring we returned to in-person programming, which coincided with the opening of a new Sistema Toronto centre at Lambton Park Community School. The launch of our Lambton Park Centre represents a huge step forward, allowing us to further our mission by reaching even more young people in underserved Toronto communities.

We owe the success of our program this year to the strength and commitment of the Sistema Toronto Community. Our students, families, teachers, staff, friends, donors, supporters, and Board of Directors rallied behind the young people in our program to ensure their continued musical and social growth and development. Our collective efforts and commitment to using the global language of music to help young people realize their full potential as engaged and responsible citizens is the driving force behind Sistema Toronto.

This annual report highlights vital information regarding our program as well as the impact of your generosity, care, and support.

Sincerely,



Shawn Earle Chief Executive Officer Sistema Toronto





Marcia Lewis Brown President & Board Chair Sistema Toronto

Brown



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2021-2022 Impact

- 300 students received music and social development programming or participated in Honours Orchestra and Youth Mentorship
- > 4 underserved communities impacted across Toronto
- > New pilot centre opened at Lambton Park Community School
- > Virtual and in-person performance opportunities for students
- > 28 local musicians employed across Toronto
- > Professional development sessions offered throughout the year to teaching artists
- Workshops featuring diverse and unique repertoire with guest artists were held throughout the year including workshops on Métis fiddle and culture, steelpan, Asian heritage and culture, and special units celebrating Black History month
- > Graduated a new cohort of musicians



OUR MISSION & VISION

Sistema Toronto provides musical and intellectual opportunities to children in vulnerable communities, with the goal of transformative social change. We work with students ages 6-17 in neighbourhoods with some of Toronto's highest child poverty rates— Parkdale, Jane-Finch, East Scarborough, and Lambton Park. Sistema Toronto students learn together in orchestra, percussion ensemble, and choir while developing important life skills like problem solving, empathy, and communication. We provide students with instruction from professional musicians, instruments, performance opportunities, and a daily nutritious snack, all at no cost to participants' families.

We build stronger communities by enabling children in underserved communities to grow and thrive as engaged citizens and future leaders.

MISSION

Sistema Toronto is an intensive social program transforming the lives of children through ensemble-based music.

VISION

Through the global language of music, children grow to realize their full potential as engaged and responsible citizens.

NO AUDITIONS.
NO BARRIERS.
NO COST.



The Challenge

Despite being an incredibly wealthy city, Toronto has the highest child poverty rate amongst large cities in Canada. Children of colour, Indigenous children, new Canadians, children with disabilities, and children from single-parent families are more likely to experience poverty.¹

One-third of racialized children (33.3%) in Toronto live in low-income families, while in comparison 15.1% of non-racialized children live in poverty.²

Access to affordable after-school arts and recreation programming in Toronto remains inaccessible, especially for children in grades 1-8, with cost being the most significant barrier for families. This is especially prevalent in the neighbourhoods of Humber River – Black Creek (Jane-Finch) and Scarborough – Guildwood (East Scarborough) which have some of the lowest access to after-school children's programming in the city. Across the city, only 14% of families making under \$30,000 a year currently have access to after-school recreation and arts programming, compared to 39% of families earning more than \$150,000.3





¹ Toronto Foundation. (2018) Toronto's Vital Signs. Retrieved from https://torontofoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/TF-VS-web-FINAL-4MB.pdf2 Social Planning Toronto, Wilson, B., Maddox, R., Polanyi, M., Kerr, M., Ekra, M., & Khanna, A. (2018). 2018 Toronto Child & Family Poverty Report: Municipal Election Edition. Retrieved from https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoro-to/pages/2079/attachments/original/1538147211/2018_Child_Family_Pov-erty_Report_Municipal_Election_Edition.pdf?1538147211

² Social Planning Toronto, Wilson, B., Maddox, R., Polanyi, M., Kerr, M., Ekra, M., & Khanna, A. (2018). 2018 Toronto Child & Family Poverty Report: Municipal Election Edition. Retrieved from https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtoron-to/pages/2079/attachments/original/1538147211/2018_Child_Fam-ily_Poverty_Report_Municipal_Election_Edition.pdf?1538147211

³ Toronto Foundation. (2021) Toronto's Vital Signs Report. Social Planning Toronto, Wilson, B., Maddox, R., Polanyi, M., Kerr, M., Ekra, M.,

[&]amp; Khanna, A. (2018). 2018 Toronto Child & Family Poverty Report: Municipal Election

Our Communities

Sistema Toronto communities are in diverse neighbourhoods with wide wealth divides and high rates of child poverty. The students and families we serve face economic challenges and social disadvantages that result in difficulty accessing the limited opportunities available to them.

Jane & Finch 47% Households that earn less than \$50K /year 38% Children living in poverty in the entire ward 55% Child poverty in the ward's poorest areas 59% Child povert 35% Single parent home 74% Black, Indigenous and people of colour 71% Black, Indigenous and poorest areas 50% Adults with post-secondary education

East Scarborough				
47%	Households that earn less than \$50K /year			
47%	Children living in poverty in the entire ward			
59%	Child poverty in the ward's poorest areas			
26%	Single parent home			
71%	Black, Indigenous and people of colour			
50%	Adults with post-secondary education			
	·			

Lambton Park			
47%	Households that earn less than \$50K /year		
38%	Children living in poverty in the entire ward		
55%	Child poverty in the ward's poorest areas		
32%	Single parent home		
55%	Black, Indigenous and people of colour		
42%	Adults with post-secondary education		

Parkdale				
40%	Households that earn less than \$50K /year			
17%	Children living in poverty in the entire ward			
44%	Child poverty in the ward's poorest areas			
17%	Single parent home			
26%	Black, Indigenous and people of colour			
69%	Adults with post-secondary education			

6 City of Toronto. (2016). Ward Profiles. Retrieved from https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/data-r search-maps/neighbourhoods-communities/ward-profiles/
7 Social Planning Toronto, Wilson, B., Maddox, R., Polanyi, M., Kerr, M., Ekra, M., & Khanna, A. (2018). 2018 Toronto Child & Family Poverty Report: Municipal Election
Edition. Retrieved from https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/socialplanningtor to/pages/2079/attachments/orig nal/1538147211/2018_Child_Family_Poverty_Report_Municipal_Election_Edition.pdf?1538147211



Sistema Toronto students learn together for ten hours each week, developing important life skills while making music together in orchestra, choir, and percussion ensemble. They receive a daily nutritious snack, musical instruments, and instruction all at no cost to participants' families.

Social learning is a top priority of Sistema Toronto's curricula, building well-rounded musicians, strong collaborators, and community leaders. When students graduate from Sistema Toronto's core program in grade 8, they are equipped with the confidence, communication skills, and creativity they need to excel in high school, access opportunities, and escape generational poverty.

Graduates from our core program are offered a place in Sistema's Honours program: a chance for them to continue their musical development as part of an advanced orchestra and mentor younger students under the supervision of Sistema teachers.

FROM ONLINE TO IN-PERSON

The 2021-2022 academic year began with the program operating online, with class formats and curriculum activities designed for online delivery. Resources and routines were modified and adapted to accommodate in-person and hybrid learning as COVID restrictions and policies eased. Returning to in-person classes made it possible to welcome 60 new students into our Parkdale location and to open a new location at Lambton Park Community School in the spring of 2022.

SISTEMA SUMMER CAMP COLLABORATION

This summer, from July 4-15, 2022, thirty-seven students from Sistema Toronto's four communities attended day camp in collaboration with the TDSB's Downtown Summer Strings program. Participating students made new friends and took part in fun outdoor activities, as well as participating in daily rehearsals in preparation for their final concert. Younger and less experienced campers received an intensive head start on foundational skills and techniques, while more experienced players explored advanced techniques while also gaining mentorship experience.

EACH OF OUR STUDENTS RECEIVED OVER 350 HOURS OF FREE MUSIC EDUCATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMING. IN 2021-2022 SISTEMA TORONTO IMPACTED 300 STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN 4 PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOODS IN TORONTO.

Evaluating Program Impact

Sistema Toronto students start in our program at age 6 and 7 and become their schools' top performers. Sistema Toronto works with the Students Commission of Canada to evaluate the impact of the program on students' social skills and development. Students were asked questions about themselves and the program, and asked to rate their feelings on a scale of 1-5 indicating strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree.

2022 REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

SELF-ESTEEM AND SELF-CONFIDENCE

The majority of students agreed with the following:



I know what my strengths and skills are. I feel good about who I am and the things I do.

COMMUNICATION

The majority of students agreed with the following:

I am able to find my voice and express myself in different ways (artistic, writing, talking).

I am comfortable expressing my feelings, thoughts and opinions openly even when someone might disagree.

FRIENDSHIPS AND BELONGING

The majority of students agreed with the following:

I feel like I belong in this program.

I feel like I belong in my community.

I feel like I belong in the world.

I have made friends in this program.

RESILIENCE

The majority of students agreed with the following:

I am comfortable trying new things and pursuing my interests.

I am able to pick myself up and try again when things don't work out.



Performance Opportunities

As part of Sistema Toronto's core program and Honours Orchestra, students receive opportunities to share what they are learning with their community as part of an orchestra, choir, chamber group, or percussion ensemble. These opportunities allow students to share the work they do in music classes while practicing their leadership and presentation skills, and building confidence as ambassadors for Sistema Toronto. Our community partners help us provide life-changing opportunities for students by allowing them to share and experience music together.

Here are the community events that Sistema Toronto students took part in for the 2021-2022 year:

- In October 2021 students worked with Saman Shahi to create a group composition that was presented at the term-end virtual concert.
- > On **December 4, 2021** Sistema Toronto students were invited to attend a show presented by Orchestra Toronto.
- In **January** and **February 2022**, the students worked with artists and instructors from the Canadian Opera Company to create an opera as part of the Opera Makers Workshop. The opera, entitled "The Words," premiered online in **April 2022**.
- As part of our celebration of Black History Month in **February 2022**, students worked with guest composer Godwin Sadoh in two virtual masterclasses where they presented performances of Sadoh's arrangements of Nigerian folk songs. Sistema Toronto Teaching Artists Morgan Paige Melbourne and Joaquin Nunez Hidalgo were also featured in curriculum activities highlighting the diverse styles of music performed by Black musicians in Canada.
- In February and March 2022, students worked with Métis musician Alyssa Delbare-Sawchuk for a series of workshops on Métis fiddling and musical spoons.
- In March 2022, a small group of students were invited to attend a concert by Justin Bieber at the ScotiaBank Arena.
- In April 2022, students were invited to a screening of Viva Maestro, a documentary about acclaimed conductor, and El Sistema Venezuela graduate Gustavo Dudamel.
- On April 29 2022, Parkdale students worked with composer Dr. Matthias McIntire and vocalist Rachel Fenion. These workshops focused on the themes of climate change and the power of music to affect social change. They featured presentations, excerpts of a new song cycle written by McIntire and Fenion, and a chance for students to compose their own pieces of music on topics that are meaningful to them.
- In **May 2022**, students were invited to attend a show celebrating legendary film composer John Williams by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.
- > On **May 15 2022**, a small group of students worked with Steel Pan instructor Joy Lapps-Lewis to prepare and performed at the Juno Awards Ceremony at Ontario Place.
- In June 2022, our students performed their first in-person concerts to a virtual audience at all Sistema Toronto locations since December 2019.
- In July 2022, 37 Sistema students attended the TDSB's Downtown Summer Strings program where they worked for 2 weeks on new, challenging repertoire, played outdoor games, and met new young string players from around the city.

Curricula Development

Sistema Toronto divides its curricula into three areas: Social and Emotional Learning, Theory and Musicianship, and Performance. Participating students spend ten hours each week with expert teachers who integrate these different curriculum areas into their strings, percussion, choir, and music and movement classes using four activity types: Knowledge, Action, Perception, and Creation.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

To help our students develop key social and academic skills, Sistema Toronto developed a social development curriculum that explores ten principal themes:

Identity, Community, Listening, Communication, Organization, Problem Solving, Responsibility, Respect, Leadership, and Teamwork.

Each month our students work to develop key social and emotional learning skills by taking part in structured learning activities that reflect the monthly theme. Example activities are provided for each activity type - Knowledge, Action, Perception, and Creation - to accommodate different learning styles.



THEORY AND MUSICIANSHIP

In September 2021 Sistema Toronto launched its new Theory and Musicianship curriculum, designed to help teachers accommodate multi-level classes and students of all ages.

The curriculum is divided into twelve themes:

Pitch, Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Beat, Conducting, Patterns, Form, Scales, Intervals, Dynamics, and Style.

Example activities are provided for each activity type - Knowledge, Action, Perception, and Creation - to encourage teachers to integrate theory lessons into their classes in a variety of ways.



PERFORMANCE

Sistema Toronto's performance classes are ensemble-based. Our students learn as part of a group in an immersive, inquiry-based learning environment.

In their first year, students take part in Music and Movement: an introductory course designed to prepare them for the core program. This course includes singing, dance, pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments, musicianship, and theory.

Beginning in their second year, students enter the core program and study orchestral string instruments, choir, and percussion, and continue learning musicianship and theory. In high school, graduating students are invited to continue as part of Sistema's Honours Orchestra.

All classes are taught by instrumental and vocal experts, who help students develop a broad array of musical skills and knowledge through inquiry-based activities that encourage independence.



ONLINE, HYBRID, AND IN-PERSON LEARNING

As our program moved from online back to in-person, curriculum activities, resources, and supports were continuously adapted to meet student and teacher needs. The materials delivered online in 2020-2021 provided a strong basis for welcoming new students to in-person classes in 2022.





In addition to providing support for children and families, Sistema Toronto is committed to employment and professional development opportunities for the artists and arts educators who are our teachers. Sistema Toronto's teaching team met six times over the 2021-2022 year for professional development sessions. These sessions created space for teachers to share ideas, discuss issues that arise in the classroom, and improve curriculum materials so that our program continues to evolve to meet the needs of the community. They were especially important in supporting teachers through a challenging period of online learning and the transition back to in-person programming.

DISCUSSION TOPICS INCLUDED:

Effective online teaching strategies
Student mental health and wellbeing
Teacher mental health and wellbeing
Social and Emotional Learning
Child abuse prevention
Equity-centered pedagogy
Theory and Musicianship Curriculum orientation
Social Curriculum Activities and Themes
Classroom management

Strings pedagogy and curriculum Choir pedagogy and curriculum

Percussion pedagogy and curriculum

Music and Movement pedagogy, curriculum activities, and techniques

Transitioning to in-person learning

Integrating social and music curriculum activities into in-person classes

Experiential learning

Student evaluation

Teacher evaluation and personal teaching goals



Diversity and Inclusion

COMMITMENT TO DIVERSE PROGRAMMING AND REPERTOIRE

Sistema Toronto is committed to providing programming that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. In 2022 our students were surveyed by the Students Commission of Canada, which found that 23% of our students self-identify as white, while 77% of students identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of colour (BIPOC).

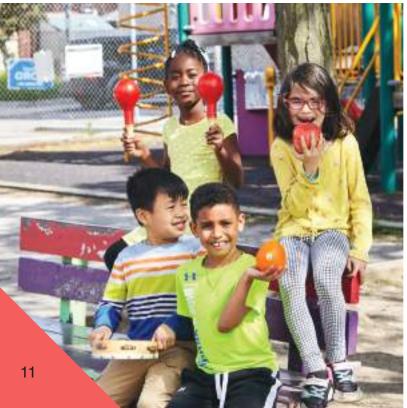
In 2021-2022, at least 50% of our repertoire was by women or BIPOC composers and Sistema Toronto students took part in workshops focused on celebrating cultural diversity.

In Fall 2021, students at Sistema Toronto - Scarborough took part in online composition workshops with Iranian-Canadian composer Saman Shahi, funded by the Toronto Arts Council. Together, the students composed their own piece entitled "Autumn's Passing," which was performed at their end of year concert in June 2022.

During winter and spring 2022, students at each centre participated in a variety of workshops and special projects as part of Sistema's commitment to diversity and inclusion. This included units celebrating Black History Month and Asian Heritage Month, with special units highlighting Black and Asian musicians and composers.

Students at Sistema Toronto - Parkdale participated in 2 days of workshops with Nigerian composer, instrumentalist, and choral conductor Godwin Sadoh, as well as workshops on Métis fiddle with Métis artist and educator Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk funded by SOCAN Foundation. Sadoh's "Omo Oba Sokoto" and Walter Flett's "Métis Red River Jig" were both performed by the intermediate orchestra at their annual end of year concert.

Students at Sistema Toronto – Scarborough and Sistema Toronto – Jane/Finch took part in Steelpan Experience workshops with artist and educator Joy Lapps-Lewis, who is of Barbudan and Antiguan descent, funded by the Aubrey and Marla Dan Foundation and Desjardins Foundation. Students learned about the Caribbean origins of steelpan and were guided on playing the instrument.





Nutrition Program

With the return to in-person programming in 2021-2022, Sistema Toronto was able to resume providing students with a nutritious snack each day of programming.

Food insecurity continues to be a significant challenge for low income families and individuals in Toronto, with one in five people reporting to have gone without food at some point in 2022.8

The Sistema Toronto Nutrition Program follows the Toronto District School Board's Healthy Food Guidelines. Each snack includes a serving of fruit or vegetables and one serving of either grain, protein, or dairy to ensure students are ready to learn with full bellies.



8. Toronto Foundation: Toronto Social Capital Study (2022), pp 70-71.

Success Stories



Farazinn

Farazinn is a graduate of Sistema Toronto – Scarborough. When she first joined the program, Farazinn quickly found her place as a leader and friend to everyone. During her time in Sistema's core program, she worked hard to become a talented violinist. Always one to support her friends, Farazinn has grown into a dynamic and charismatic young woman. She thrived in Sistema Toronto's core program and always came to class ready to learn challenging and fun pieces.

Now a student in grade 10, Farazinn teaches violin part time and joins Sistema's weekly Honours Orchestra for advanced core program seniors and high school students. We can't wait to see what she accomplishes with her enthusiasm and energy that she brings to both her violin practice and her peers.



Nicole

Nicole is a graduate of Sistema Toronto – Yorkwoods. She joined the core program in 2014 and is now a high school student in the competitive Enriched Science Technology, Engineering, Equity and Mathematics Program at C.W. Jeffreys Collegiate Institute. Nicole worked hard during her years at Sistema and excelled on her violin but decided to follow her passion for science and mathematics. Her goal after high school is to become an elementary school teacher to provide children with the education they need and to help pave the way for their future.

Nicole continues to play the violin, despite a busy academic schedule, and joins Sistema's Honours Orchestra each week while also working with the younger students in the program, to help them play and learn their instruments. We can't wait to watch Nicole accomplish her goals!



Amoya

Amoya is a graduate of Sistema Toronto – Yorkwoods. When she joined the program in 2014, she sometimes struggled to stay focused while learning her instrument. Through determination and hard work, Amoya continued to play her viola, even throughout the pandemic.

Beginning in the summer of 2021, Amoya found space to flourish during online viola lessons with her centre director. This provided her with a space to focus and dedicate time to learning, which enabled her to find a new passion for her viola. That fall, she successfully auditioned for the Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts for high school. We are pleased to say that Amoya is currently a grade 9 student at Cardinal Carter. Amoya has now set her sights on attending the Julliard School or Berklee College of Music, where she dreams of becoming a composer and award-winning producer. We can't wait to see what Amoya accomplishes in the coming years!

Thank You

Thank you to all our donors, volunteers and community partners, without whom we would not be able to provide free music education and social development programming for children and youth from underserved communities. By supporting Sistema Toronto in 2021-2022, these generous individuals, foundations, corporations, and government grants helped children develop a life-long appreciation of music and the skills they need to find success in any area of life.



7021-2022 Giving

\$100,000 +

Robert & Ellen Eisenberg, Sistema Toronto Founders Azrieli Foundation Estate of Thomas C Logan

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Cornelis van de Graaff and Terence Clarkson Foundation

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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Wyndham Bettencourt-McCarthy

Zach Goldstein

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Daniel Carman

Danny Shaddick, Robot Orchestra

IN-KIND SPONSORS

Beanfield Technologies Inc. D'Addario Foundation Kun Shoulder Rests Noteflight, LLC

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Parkdale Jr. and Sr. Public School
Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra
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Sabrina Marks

Customer Service Agent, WestJet Airlines

Anne Mbuthia

Emergency Planning Coordinator, Bell Media

Angela Wu

Senior Vendor Manager, Amazon UK



Audited financial Statements

SISTEMA TORONTO ACADEMY STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Revenues		
Corporate donations	\$ 129,219	\$ 144,940
Donations in kind	18,048	92,151
Events	27,037	26,083
Federal COVID Emergency Wage Subsidy	23,141	229,416
Foundation and trust grants	560,904	571,748
Loss on sale of marketable securities	(965)	(260)
Government grants	15,504	17,456
Individual donations including stock donations	281,897	146,045
Interest income	-	1
Ontario Arts Council Operating Grant	48,760	97,520
Other revenue	12,040	20,510
Total Revenue	1,115,585	1,345,610
Expenses		
Amortization	49,511	57,970
Audit	13,453	10,394
Conference and meetings	1,127	-
Cost of disposal of securities	246	540
Events and fundraising	4,340	17,713
Human resources - admin	411,873	389,527
Human resources - program delivery	429,505	385,166
Insurance	8,820	7,793
Meals and entertainment	460	-
Marketing and promotion	10,552	6,585
Nutrition program	5,571	5,379
Office and general	33,034	35,418
Other program delivery costs	10,358	9,431
Program evaluation	14,361	15,167
Rent	21,146	21,035
Summer camp program	31,577	
Supplemental teaching	13,419	13,964
Supplies	800	-
Transportation	117	37
Total Expenses	1,060,270	976,119
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 55,315	\$ 369,491
Net assets - beginning of year	\$ 634,588	\$ 265,097
Net assets - end of year	\$ 689,903	\$ 634,588

A full set of Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

