

Hamilton and Area Youth Choirs and Orchestras
Association

Celebrating the 15th Year of *Strings, Etc!*

2009 - 2010 Handbook



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Welcome To Strings, Etc!

Welcome to the 15th year of the Strings Etc! program. New songs, new friendships, new skills and new horizons lie in wait. Everything good in the world reflects the stunning complexity and beauty of God, the designer of all the wonderful possibilities embedded in the world. Music is one of the most rewarding.

Strings Etc! is very pleased to welcome back all our directors from last year. We are privileged to have the love and skill combination in those who lead the music. One small change is that we have extended the age of qualification for the Hosanna Choir by one year to 7 - 10 years.

Your volunteer board has worked hard since the concert in April recruiting new board members. Together with the current board, we have renewed our vision and are humbly stewarding the financial resources and expenses involved in the healthy life of Strings Etc! Last year was musically successful, but financially difficult. A number of expenses rose, while student numbers remained level. The long term goal for Strings Etc! is to do *more* than break even - we want to see programs and quality of music increasing, as well as strengthen the connections within the community.

For now, we have slightly increased the fees with the hope that we will break even this year so that Strings Etc! has a solid future. Nevertheless, the fees remain very reasonable for those paying them, while being fair to those who make their living as musician teachers. We realize that many families are financially stressed. In response, we have a practical option for subsidizing your annual fee. Above and beyond the larger board-orientated issues surrounding policy, goals, advertising, fundraising, and administration, this program also requires weekly maintenance tasks for which all families are required to volunteer. Please support your new board - read their emails, help cheerfully, and keep the communication lines open! Any concerns you have on any topic except music or attendance should be brought to the chair of the board, not the music directors.

Registration and first practice day on Sept. 14th at Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, 211 Stonehenge Drive, in Ancaster @ 4.00 - 6.00 pm. We will provide details on all this and more. All students and at least one parent per family must attend this meeting.

Please read through this handbook carefully, especially the section on who we are. There are also clear instructions and procedures regarding who to contact for which questions, guidelines in using the facility, code of behaviour and dress, absentee policies etc. These have all been revised and re-iterated after years of trial and error. They make a big difference to smooth functioning and peaceful interactions for everyone within Strings Etc! Please refer to them and respect them.

There is no doubt that all this work is worth it. Ask any family who has spent a few years at Strings Etc! They will tell you that it was a formative experience musically, socially, and spiritually. God has brought the organization from birth to adolescence. Let us be faithful as we play our part in its steady growth to mature adulthood.

On behalf of the Strings Etc! board,
Angela Strauss
Board Chair D.V. until December 2009

1. Our Vision, Mission, and Statement of Faith

Vision for Strings, Etc!

To provide affordable opportunity for children and youth, especially those who are home educated, to develop their musical appreciation and talent within a Christian context so that in word and deed, in choice of music and in attitudes of thankfulness, in understanding the creational foundation of music and in the purposeful direction we take it, we reflect the goodness of the creation and the Creator, offering our time and skills to bring Him honor and pleasure.

Mission for Strings, Etc!

To provide opportunity for choral experiences to a wide variety of children and youths in one of a number of different choirs.

To provide opportunity for orchestral experiences to newer and more developed instrumentalists in various orchestras.

To provide choral and orchestral performance opportunities through major twice yearly events and through smaller performances in various venues.

To provide opportunity for older musical youth to teach, mentor and encourage younger developing musicians.

To provide opportunity for home educated youth from across Ontario to gather for a weekend of choral learning and the performance of a final concert.

To provide opportunity for young musicians to rent various instruments at reasonable rates for up to one year, and if necessary, longer.

Statement of Faith

Strings, Etc! offers programs for those families within our community committed to following Jesus Christ, and to nurturing and educating their children in the light of the Bible. It seeks to enrich the local community through its various performances at nursing homes, seniors' events and at its seasonal concerts.

We believe that Jesus Christ, God's only Son, is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Without His death and resurrection we are lost and dead in our sins. We understand Christian to be defined in the most basic way, by the Apostles' Creed*. We understand the Bible to be the unfolding story of God's amazing grace.

We believe that God who is three in one (Father, Son and Spirit) created this world perfectly, that Adam and Eve sinned against God and brought sin into this world, that God in His grace and mercy "did not turn His back on His creation, but turned His face toward it in love, and ...set out on the long road of redemption to reclaim the lost as His people and the world as His Kingdom" (Our World Belongs to God), and that "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).

We represent a variety of Christian denominations and theological traditions. In the midst of this diversity, we are committed to being an example of love and unity in the body of Christ through the power of His Spirit that the world might know that we are Christians and that God will be glorified in the good and pleasant way in which we live and work together.

* Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church**, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**that is, the true Christian church that spans all times and all places

2. Strings, Etc! Programs

All Strings, Etc! programs and services are offered at Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, 211 Stonehenge Drive, in Ancaster.

2.1 The Choirs

Each participant should register in the choir of their year of birth. At the director's discretion a boy might be placed differently if his voice is changed. All choirs are limited in number of participants at the board discretion.

Hosanna Director: Leslie Kent

- for those born in 1999-2002
 - introduction to vocal music and basic music concepts (rhythm, note-reading, dynamics, beginning harmony, including other arts) within an encouraging environment that allows growth according to ability and interest, and with the aim of working together to produce a unified sound.

Chorus Alive Director: Chris Teeuwsen

- for those born in 1996-1998 (unchanged voices)
 - a dynamic choir that develops choral skills like breath control, projection, intonation, interpretation, harmony, listening skills and memorization tailored to the middle school age group.

Coram Deo, Director: Sonia Reid

- for those born 1995 or earlier and boys with changed voices
 - develops a life-long appreciation for choral music from a diversity of genres; introduces students to four part choral singing; develops more advanced choral skills; encourages the development of the changed male voice; provides occasional opportunities for touring beyond the greater Hamilton area.

2.2 The Orchestras

Requirements

- all participants must be studying under the instruction of a recognized instrumental teacher.
Please provide contact information to registrar
- all participants must provide their own instrument and music stand
- all placement decisions are at the discretion of the orchestra directors

Da Capo Orchestra Director: Lucy Van Dyk

- participants must be working in Suzuki mid-book 1 or book 2 (or equivalent)
- should have beginning sight-reading abilities
- to provide opportunity for initial orchestral experience

Harmony Orchestra Director: Lucy Van Dyk

- participants must be working in the end of Suzuki book 2 and beyond (or its equivalent)
- should have intermediate sight-reading abilities

Private Instrument Lessons

These private lessons are available by arrangement directly with the teacher and some spaces are available for lessons on Monday at Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, 211 Stonehenge Drive, in Ancaster. See sections 5.1 and 10 for a listing of available teachers.

2.3 Parental Participation

Since we are a volunteer run organization every family is expected to help with activities. You will be requested to contribute to various duties including supervision, and facility clean-up.

Here is a list of possible roles to volunteer for. Others may be added.

1) Registrar and Assistant Registrar

The registrar and assistant work for the first few weeks of each semester by updating the registration form before registration, answering registration questions via email, receiving registrations for the first two practices each semester, and compiling lists that are passed on to List Mama. The treasurer deals with the cheques.

2) Concert Coordinator

Working off the binder provided, a few weeks before the concert, this person makes sure every support job for concerts is filled by parents and/or students. They come early on concert day, supervise the behind the scenes jobs for the concert.

3) Directory Compiler

The list of families with phone numbers and addresses is taken from the registrar, then printed out into booklet form, stapled, named, delivered and supervised at Meadowlands for the first few weeks until everyone has theirs.

4) Clean-Up Coordinator

They make up two lists of bathroom cleaners for all Mondays from the choir and the orchestra lists. They write short instructions and ask List Mama to send out their list.

5) Parent Reps

Hosanna - 2 parents to set up, take down and take attendance.

6) Promotions Coordinator

Very needed: Someone to focus on advertising the program more widely via homeschool associations, churches and OCHEC.

7) Fundraising

Sweets & Suites Committee members (3)

Sweets and Suites is our annual Valentine come-out-and-support fundraiser. It makes at least \$1000 and is very popular with both adults and teens who attend and perform. Organising it is a very simple and pre-set process with a good venue and catering included. It requires weekly attention for about 8 weeks before mid-February.

Road2Hope/Run for Haiti Coordinator

This run/walk is held in Hamilton in November. People who raise a certain amount of sponsor money also get \$100 coupons to spend at the Runner's Den. This worthwhile, health-promoting fundraiser helps the poorest of the poor, as well as local organizations like Strings, Etc!

Shop and Support Coordinator

Shop and Support is a painless fundraising system using pre-purchased cash coupons useable at most grocery stores (as well as many other stores) that returns a certain percentage of money spent back to Strings Etc. We are offering Strings families 25% of their total income per year in discounts on fees. We need someone to help people get signed up and then to come up with a convenient way to get people happily united with their coupons (like selling them once a month at Strings) if they don't want to order them by mail.

3. Fees

Family Participation Fee \$35.00

This fee is per family and applies to all programs (including Private lessons). It ensures that all participants are contributing to the cost of insurance, facility rentals, and share in other administrative costs.

All Choirs

1 child \$200 / year

2 children \$400/ year

\$100 for each additional child

Orchestra

1 child \$200 / year

2 children \$400 / year

\$100 for each additional child

Payment due September 14, 2009.

Cheques only. No cash will be accepted.

Note: Late payment charges of \$25 per family.

(Payment options: Fees may be paid in one lump sum; or by two post-dated cheques dated no later than October 1st and January 1st).

(Tuition assistance is confidentially provided to those families in special circumstances. Please contact any board member for information.)

4. Weekly and Annual Calendar of Events

4.1 Calendar Dates

Fall 2009 Season

Registrations Due September 14

Introductory Meeting/Welcome Event September 14

Last Date to Register Monday, September 28

Rehearsals September 14 (registration), 21, 28; October 5, 19, 26;

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, December 7, **14 (concert)**

Instrument Supplies Order Date October 5

Thanksgiving--No rehearsals October 12

Concert December 14

Spring 2010 Season

Rehearsals January 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 22;

March 1, 8, 22, 29; April 5 (Easter Monday), 12, **19 (concert)**

Instrument Supplies Order Date February 1

Sweets 'n Suites Fundraiser February near Valentine's Day

March Break--No Rehearsal March 15

Concert April 19

All Ontario Choir (AOC)

All Ontario Choir Camp Thursday April 29 - Saturday May 1, 2010

AOC Finale May 1

4.2 Monday Afternoon Rehearsal Schedule at Meadowlands Fellowship CRC, Ancaster unless otherwise informed

Choirs

Hosanna 4:00 - 5:30

Chorus Alive 4:00 - 5:30

Coram Deo 4:00 - 5:30

Orchestras

Da Capo Orchestra 4:30 - 5:30

Harmony Orchestra 6:30 - 8:00

Rehearsal Promptness

- Attendance at rehearsals and concerts is important. Attendance is taken. If you need to be excused please make arrangements with your director a week before. If you are unable to attend because of illness, please advise your director via email.
- Rehearsals begin **promptly** at times specified.
- Choir members are to be in place **5 minutes prior** to start time and ready to sing.
- Orchestra members please arrive **5 minutes early** to tune instrument and set-up. Be ready to play when rehearsal begins.
- Dress Rehearsals usually take place on the day of the concert and attendance at rehearsals is required for concert participation. The dress rehearsals are held at the concert venue. (Dress rehearsal do not require concert dress, just concert behavior)
- Individual lessons are arranged with your instructor

4.3 Occasional Performance Venues and Extra Rehearsals

Strings, Etc! Choirs and Orchestras participate in the broader musical community by taking part in music festivals. This improves performance techniques and provides broader evaluation. In addition, Strings Etc! performs in churches, nursing homes and retirement lodges in the Hamilton, Waterdown and Burlington areas. These service opportunities are valued components of the Strings, Etc! community outreach. It may be necessary to schedule extra rehearsal time prior to the regular rehearsal and even on an additional date. Information regarding these events is communicated via email throughout the season. Be prepared to include these dates on your calendars. Community outreach is a vital part of Strings, Etc! so if you know of an organization that would like us to perform for them please speak to directors or send the contact information to the chairperson of the board.

Over the last 13 years Strings, Etc! has performed for Lighthouse Christian Academy's graduations, Brant Bible Church Senior's Luncheon, Ontario Christian Home Educators Connection Convention, Waterdown Alliance Church special service, Eastgate Mall, for the Levesque family fund raiser, Home School Legal Defense Association Leadership conference, Village Manor, 100 Huntley Street, Toronto Organ Club Festival of Music fund raiser for AIDS in Tanzania, Milk and Honey Festival at Redeemer University College, Haiti Joy of Hope.

4.4 Cancellations

Rehearsal or Performance Cancellations—Via Email

Poor road conditions and bad weather may force rehearsals or performances to be cancelled. All participants will be sent an **e-mail by noon of the day in question informing of a cancellation. You will not receive a telephone call** (except if you arrange with a friend who has email to call you when there is a cancellation).

Should the weather or road conditions be questionable, and if a rehearsal or performance has not been cancelled, we still advise caution before venturing out. Use your own discretion and contact your child's choir, orchestra, or teacher directly if you decide not to venture forth.

5. Strings, Etc! Faculty and Administration

5.1 Music Faculty

Sonia Reid sonia@soniareid.ca 905-575-8940

Director of Coram Deo

Private Voice Training/piano/music theory

Chris Teeuwsen teeuwsen@redeemer.ca 905-648-3123

Director of Chorus Alive

Leslie Kent lesliemkent@jksoundstudios.com 905-297-9104

Director of Hosanna

Lucy Van Dyk musicchic@sympatico.ca 519-448-4412

Director of Harmony Orchestra

Director of Da Capo Orchestra

Instrument Supplies Purchasing

Private Violin Instruction

5.2 Board Members

Chair - Angela Strauss ----- 905-528-8158

Vice-chair - Glenda Bargeman----- 519-647-2815

Treasurer - Rebecca Bootsma----- 905-543-9182

Secretary - Richard VanderBoom----- 519-647-0186

Member - Marsha Bosch----- 905-690-2752

Member - Rita Faber----- 905-388-1685

Stings, Etc! List Mama sends information out, but does not receive email. Please email the director for music matters, and board members for other questions.

5.3 Administration

Glenda Bargeman - thebargies@hotmail.com 519-647-2815
Board Vice-Chair

Diana Bonvanie -- diana.bonvanie@gmail.com 519-647-3661
Coram Deo Librarian

Rebecca Bootsma -- rebecca@bootsma.ca 905-543-9182
Board Treasurer

Marsha Bosch -- bosches@me.com 905-690-2752
Board member

Rita Faber -- rita.faber@mountaincable.net 905-388-1685
Board member

Susan Laird -- brsklaird@sympatico.ca 905-331-6041
AOC Registrar

Stacey Larin -- theshire@cogeco.ca 905-304-0611
Archivist

Tamara Messersmith -- tamara_messersmith@yahoo.ca 905-312-9758
Registrar

Irene Pypker -- eipypker@gmail.com 519-856-2480
Instrument Rental

Angela Strauss -- angela.c.strauss@gmail.com 905-528-8158
Board Chair until Dec.2009, AOC Committee Chair

Rich Van der Boom -- rvanderboom@rogers.com 519-647-0186
Board Secretary

Nellie Vander Hout -- bgl@sourcecable.net 905-628-5124
Bookkeeper

Lucy Van Dyk -- musicchic@sympatico.ca 519-448-4412
Semi-annual Instrument Supplies Ordering

Karon Van Hartingsveldt -- hartkp@cogeco.ca 905-632-7215
Concert Programs and Flyers, AOC Billeting

6. Policies and Procedures

6.1 Registration Policy

- Those who register automatically agree to submit to the guidelines and policies set out in the Strings, Etc! handbook.
- Once a person is registered, he/she does so for the entire year. Registration for only one season will be by special and prior arrangement. Please contact registrar.
- An administration fee of \$35.00 will apply for January-only registration.
- Registration for the season is due by September 14, 2008.
- Late payment fee of \$25.00 after October 1st.
- There will be **no new registrations** after the third rehearsal of each season.

6.2 Attendance Policy

Because each group meets only one time each week, attendance at all rehearsals is vital and expected. However, it is inevitable that there will be times when attendance is not possible.

- Participants **must notify** their choir, orchestra director, or instructor by phone or email informing them of the date and reason for any absence prior to the occurrence of the absence.
- Members of Strings, Etc! will be allowed **two** excused absences in the fall and **two** in the spring.
- Absences due to sickness, family vacations, or emergencies are considered **excused absences** but must be reported prior to the missed session.
- If an extra **excused absence** is necessary, it is up to the discretion of the board to deem it such.
- If there is an extenuating circumstance, for whatever reason, this too will be considered on an individual basis.
- However, if a member accumulates more than the allotted **absences** in a season (i.e. fall or spring), and does not have extenuating circumstances, he/she will forfeit the right to continue to participate in the season. There will be no reimbursement of fees.

6.3 Behaviour Policy

In order for rehearsals and events to be of maximum benefit and enjoyment to all, Strings, Etc! participants are responsible to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous manner toward one another and toward those in leadership. Our words, our actions, and our attitudes should encourage and promote unity through love as we, together, seek to follow Jesus Christ.

Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children prior to, during, and following all rehearsals and performances.

Expectations Regarding Behaviour and Attitude

- Maintain God-honouring behaviour towards leaders and participants (male and female).
- Respect adult instruction. Courteously follow the instruction of directors, board members, parents, supervisors, and all adults on the premises.
- Be attentive. No talking, disruptive or disrespectful behaviour when director is talking or during performances.
- Keep good posture.
- Wear appropriate apparel at all times; no bare midriffs, no low cut tops, no hats.
- Be positive and encouraging.
- Look to see where you can help ... set up chairs, pick up garbage, sweep up, remove mud, and collect music.
- Joyfully serve one another.
- Be friendly and have an inclusive attitude. No cliques.
- Treat folders, music, and instruments carefully. No stickers or writing!
- Arrive 5 minutes before rehearsal begins. Go to your designated room.
- Keep personal belongings together.
- Bring full water bottle and visit washroom before rehearsals and performances.
- Skateboarding, hockey, and roller-blading are not allowed.

IMPORTANT: Use of Facilities

KITCHEN

Enter the kitchen from the OUTSIDE door only - we are no longer renting the fellowship hall.

Please clean up after use.

Please do not sit on the kitchen counters.

OTHER

Please, do not leave children unattended.

They may not run or play in the corridors as they distract the groups practicing.

Please do not use any rooms except those we are paying for. These are:

Hosanna - room 11,12,

Chorus Alive- room 9,

Coram Deo and Intermediate Orchestra - Sanctuary,

Harmony Orchestra - room 5 (and not any other rooms in the office area)

Meeting room 16

Family waiting room 7 or 8.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION - IT ENSURES THAT WE KEEP THIS GREAT FACILITY!

Disruptive Behaviour

In the event that disruptive, inappropriate behaviour occurs before, during or after rehearsals and concerts:

- First, the student will be warned and instructed concerning the inappropriateness of his/her behaviour. This will be done gently but firmly and with the best interests of the child and the group in mind.
- Second, if the student continues to engage in an inappropriate, disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviour the director will bring the matter before one of the student's parents.
- Third, if the student continues to engage in inappropriate, disruptive, and/or disrespectful behaviour the directors will bring the matter before the board and a decision will be made about the student's continued participation in further rehearsals, concerts and performances.
- If a participant is suspended for the duration of the season there will be no financial remuneration. If the suspension occurs during the fall session, should the student choose not to attend for the rest of the year, reimbursement of funds should not be expected as music and related items have been purchased based on the fall registration.

6.4 Sheet Music Lending Policy

Strings, Etc! will lend all participants the required sheet music throughout the season.

- All music folios are lent for one season at a time.
- Participants will keep all sheet music in the condition they received it.
- Any markings will only be completed in pencil. Director may request that no marks at all are made on specific selections.
- All music and folios will be returned at the last concert or by the date specified by the directors.
- Fees for late, lost and damaged music folios are as follows:
 - ⌚ Late Folio and Sheet Music \$25.00
 - ⌚ Lost/Damaged Folio \$5 (plastic)
 - ⌚ Lost/Damaged Folio \$15.00 (vinyl)
 - ⌚ Lost/Damaged Choral Sheet Music \$10.00 per piece of music
 - ⌚ Lost/Damaged Orchestral Sheet Music \$10.00 per piece of music

6.5 Concert Attire Policy For all groups except Hosanna:

Black below the waist and black above the waist. It is the responsibility of every participant to procure and maintain their concert attire. Occasionally special concert attire may be requested otherwise it is

- **Black Shirt/Blouse with sleeves (no midriffs showing, no low cut tops)**
- **Black Dress Pants** or ladies may wear long skirts at least below the knee (No long slits)
- **Black Dress Shoes** (no open toes) with black socks or black stockings
- No bulky jewellery, or outstanding hair colour or adornment.

Hosanna choir wears white on top and everything else the same as everyone else.

6.6 Raising Issues of Concern

We know that no matter how hard everyone tries to do their best, that there may be issues of concern that arise during the year. We, as a Board, want to hear about them so that we may have the ability to address and hopefully resolve them.

We would ask everyone, however, to be guided by the following:

- Think carefully about the concern being raised and pray about it before raising it.
- Discuss concerns about the music, playing, or singing discreetly with the director concerned.
- If the issue can't be resolved there, please speak to the Chair of the Board.
- Issues involving **policy, programs, facilities, etc**, should **not** be raised with the Directors but should be raised with the Chair of the Board.

7. Instrument Information

7.1 Rental

A limited number of violins and clarinets are available for twelve-month rental periods (September to September). Please contact the Rental Coordinator, Irene Pypker pypker@sympatico.ca (519-856-2480) for information and to make arrangements.

Beginner Violin (First time rental)

Smaller sizes \$125.00 per year

Full size \$150.00

Second year rental (and beyond)

Smaller sizes \$100.00

Full size \$225.00

Clarinet Rental

\$120.00 per year

7.2 Repairs

If you have a rental instrument please remember you must not have any repairs done without instruction from the Rental Coordinator, Irene Pypker, pypker@sympatico.ca (519-856-2480)

Below is a list of People and Places for Repair Work:

In Hamilton: Payne's Music 905-522-5631

In Brantford: Mr. Tibor Soros 519-756-6766

In Toronto: Quinton Playfair 416-466-1389

The Sound Post 1-800-363-1512

Geo. Heintz 1-800-387-7858

Remenyi, House 1-800-667-6925

In London: Alan Broughton 519-471-7025

7.3 Instrument Supplies Purchasing

Twice-yearly Strings, Etc! is willing to offer participants access to our good rates for instrument supplies. In October (October 5, 2008) and February (February 1, 2009) of each year an order will be placed for instrument supplies such as bows, strings, music stands, rosin, etc.

Contact Lucy Van Dyk 519-448-4412 in September and January with your order. Be prepared to prepay.

8. Special Outreach Programs

8.1 All Ontario Choir (AOC) for Christian Teens

The **All Ontario Choir for Christian Teens** is organized by a Strings, Etc! committee of dedicated volunteers who work throughout the year for this weekend at the beginning of May.

Begun in 2001, the AOC provides an opportunity for Christian students from across the province to gather for a weekend of rehearsal, fellowship, and friendship. Friendships are renewed and begun, lives are challenged by group devotions, energy is burned off in creative and innovative games and activities, meals are shared. The Friday night Coffee House gives students the opportunity to display a diversity of talents, some of which are chosen to be performed in the final concert.

Young adult leaders, many alumni of Strings, Etc! give energy and direction to sectionals, devotions and activities, and serve as godly role models for the young people.

On Saturday, parents and friends are treated to an evening of choral works and representative features of the weekend.

AOC is an optional but highly recommended event **for which you must register and pay separately**. Information will be emailed to all Coram Deo students.

Dates: **April 29 - May 1 2009**

8.2 Scholarship

Strings, Etc! provides scholarships to participants who have given a great deal of their energy and enthusiasm to make Strings, Etc! programs what they are. Giving a scholarship is the community's way of saying thank you to recipients for hours of practice and participation beyond the norm.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

- To further promote the Mission, Vision, and values of Strings, Etc! as expressed in the constitution and handbook.
- To encourage further musical education/training for home-educated current members of Strings, Etc.
- To further the musical talent of the recipient, given by God, as they reflect and aid others to bring Him honour and pleasure.

IMPORTANT REQUIREMENTS

A complete application consists of the following elements

- Application form fully completed and signed. (Application forms are available from Strings, Etc! board secretary.)
- A copy of a letter of acceptance to a full time program at a post-secondary institution for the study of music.
- Please note that only active members of Strings Etc! are eligible to apply. They must have actively participated at an advanced level for the four years of their highschool education with Strings, Etc!

DEADLINE -- All applications must be delivered to Strings, Etc! on or before **February 1 2010**. Address application to the chair of the board.

9. Special Evenings

Plan to come celebrate with us at these special events:

Sweets 'n Suites Fundraiser

On a February date close to Valentine's Day, neighbors and friends are invited to an artsy coffee house evening in celebration of Valentine's Day. Delectable desserts are served along with coffees, a variety of teas, and other drinks. While guests enjoy the array of sweets, they are treated to a range of musical suites performed by members of Coram Deo and the Orchestra. This is one of two major fund raising events.

AOC Finale Concert

May 1, 2009

10. Recommended Teachers

Several teachers will be available on Monday afternoons to instruct private music lessons at our Meadowlands Fellowship CRC venue. Please contact teachers directly to arrange exact location, time, and fees for lessons.

Voice Training

Hamilton: Sonia Reid 905-575-8940 sonia@soniareid.ca

Violin

St. George: Lucy Van Dyk 519-448-4412 musicchic@sympatico.ca

Piano

Hamilton: Sonia Reid 905-575-8940 sonia@soniareid.ca

Angeline (Ang) Vanderboom 519-647-0186

Music Theory

Hamilton: Sonia Reid 905-575-8940 sonia@soniareid.ca

St. George: Lucy Van Dyk 519-448-4412 musicchic@sympatico.ca

NOTE: Some of these teachers are able to instruct on site on Mondays.

11. Participant / Parental Waiver Agreement

1. I hereby acknowledge that I have read the Strings, Etc! Hamilton and Area Youth Choirs and Orchestras Association (Strings, Etc!) 2009-2010 Handbook including the statement of faith and the various policies affecting participation in Strings, Etc!.
2. I hereby confirm that I am committed to upholding the statement of faith, the vision and mission of Strings, Etc!
3. I promise to be an encouragement to all members and agree to share responsibilities, helping out when and wherever possible.
4. I permit Strings Etc! to make use of audio, video, and photographic recordings of Strings Etc! related events for promotional purposes. I understand that these recordings may include images of myself or my children.
5. I commit my child(ren) or any child(ren) under my guardianship, to follow the policies of Strings, Etc! and do hereby agree to abide by all policies. I agree that we will respect and honour all board and director decisions pertaining to my child(ren)'s involvement in Strings, Etc!
6. I accept responsibility for my child(ren)'s behaviour before, during and after rehearsals and at any other Strings, Etc! event or Strings, Etc! sanctioned event.
7. I hereby waive and release Strings, Etc! Hamilton and Area Youth Choirs and Orchestras Association (Strings, Etc!), its officials, members, their landlord, employees and agents from any and all liability, including any claim, action or cause of action of any nature, for injury or damage that I, or a member of my family or my guests may suffer, including but not limited to any injury or damage resulting from the action or inaction of anyone associated with Strings, Etc! or from the action or inaction of Strings, Etc! its officials, members or representatives, their landlord, employees and agents, whether arising from negligence, or any other reason or cause whatsoever, and I expressly assume the risk of any damage or injury while attending any lesson, class, rehearsal, performance or function of any kind which is offered or sanctioned by Strings, Etc!
8. I further undertake and agree to indemnify and hold harmless, Strings, Etc!, its officials, members, representatives or employees from all third party claims, costs, actions or causes of action which may arise at any time as a consequence of any acts or omissions of myself, my family members or any other person accompanying me or my family or my guest. I further understand that I am responsible for the behaviour of my child(ren) before, during and after all rehearsals and other Strings, Etc! events.
9. I understand that Strings, Etc! reserves the right to refuse any participant application without explanation and understand that Strings, Etc! may terminate any membership in accordance with the disciplinary by-law as found in the By-laws of Strings, Etc!
10. I acknowledge I have read, understand and agree with the terms and provisions of the attached waiver.

Parent's Name _____ Signature _____

Date: yy__mm__dd__

11. I agree to abide by the guidelines set out in the handbook, with respect to behaviour, attendance, music care, concert dress, and prompt folio return.

Student's Name _____ Signature _____

Date: yy__mm__dd__

Student's Name _____ Signature _____

Date: yy__mm__dd__

Student's Name _____ Signature _____

Date: yy__mm__dd__

Student's Name _____ Signature _____

Date: yy__mm__dd__

**Remember, whatever you do in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

Colossians 3:17

