



For immediate release

Kahnawà:ke Students to Perform with McGill Chamber Orchestra

Kahnawà:ke Education Center (KEC) (Kahnawà:ke, Quebec – 13 Enniskó:wa/ March 2019) - The Kahnawà:ke Education Center is pleased to announce that up to 32 students from the Kateri School and Karonhianónhnha Tsi lonterihwaienstákhwa Encore!Sistema Quebec (ESQ) music program will be performing in a classical music concert with the McGill Chamber Orchestra (MCO) and its conductor Maestro Boris Brott. Approximately 90 students in total of the ESQ music program of the Montreal area will be performing in the concert.

The concert, entitled *Musique Française*, will take place on Sunday, March 31st, 2019 at 7:30pm at the Oscar Peterson Hall (7141 Sherbrooke St. W) and will feature music by Berlioz, Ravel, Bizet and a performance by Montreal soprano Sharon Azrieli. The students will perform on their own as well as with the MCO, including a stirring “Habanera” from *Carmen*, with Sharon Azrieli.

Encore!Sistema Quebec (ESQ) is the Charitable organization that implemented and operates the Sistema-inspired instrumental music programs in all three schools through KEC support. This collaboration started when the ESQ founding director, Theodora Stathopoulos, proposed the after-school music programs for the 2011-2012 school year. In addition to standard western orchestral instruments, the ESQ music program prioritizes the inclusion of traditional Kanien’kéha (Mohawk) singing, fiddling (with community members volunteering time to work with the students), and choir. Typically, Sistema-inspired programs are community based. ESQ students have performed at and/or have taken part in community events such as the Kahnawà:ke Echoes of a Proud Nation Pow-Wow, Montreal Native Friendship Centre, Turtle Island Theatre, Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre, Turtle Bay Elders’ Lodge and other concerts at the Saint Francis Xavier Church. This past summer, ESQ ran its second year of a summer camp that was open to current students and to other children in the community. Since its inception, over 200 students have benefitted from the ESQ program in KEC schools, and participating students have been featured on K103, CBC Radio, and in local and leading Montreal newspapers.

Stathopoulos is looking forward to another great collaboration; she states that “the ESQ team is proud to be a partner with KEC for the last eight years and looks forward to our collaboration with the McGill Chamber Orchestra, its conductor Boris Brott, and world renowned soprano Sharon Azrieli”.

KEC Director of Education Robin Delaronde is proud of the progress that the program, and the students, are making. “The partnership and success we have had delivering the music program with the ESQ is due to many factors, the first being the dedication, commitment and belief in the program of many individuals throughout the years”, states Delaronde “ESQ and their programming has evolved throughout the years while always being mindful of our community needs and traditions.”

Now in its eighth year, KEC’s financial support for the ESQ music programs over the years is made possible through project funding from the Kahnawà:ke Community Health Plan Initiative (CHPI), and the Caisse Populaire Kahnawà:ke’s Community Development Fund, in addition to volunteers and in-kind contributions.

Tickets for the concert are available at www.orchestre.ca or by telephone at 514-487-5190.

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