



Sistema

Toronto

SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH MUSIC EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This has been an exciting year of growth and development at Sistema Toronto. We now proudly serve 250 at-risk children and their families, providing after-school care, a community of support, and the life-changing opportunity to learn music.

We started a three-year Curriculum Development project, launched a Music & Movement class for newcomers to our program, started a Chamber Music program for senior students, and provided our students with more opportunities to share and experience music with their community than ever before. With a renewed focus on social learning outcomes, we are seeing immense growth in our students and are excited for what their futures holds.

Each day, we remind our students that we are a team; we always do our best; and we always help each other. By being part of Sistema Toronto's team of supporters, you exemplify this motto for our students and demonstrate the power of community. You are part of a movement that provides children in Toronto's most marginalized neighbourhoods with the opportunity to meet their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support of Sistema Toronto. We are proud of the community we have built around our students and grateful for your belief in our work. We are excited to build on the success of 2016-17 and share our progress with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Mackenzie'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Mackenzie
President and Board Chair
Sistema Toronto

PURPOSE

Sistema Toronto has a mission to foster social change through free music education for at-risk children. Our after-school music and social development program provides children ages 6-12 with 10 hours of intensive after-school programming each week. As students' social development is our top priority, we develop practical understanding of social skills like confidence, teamwork, and leadership through music education. New students begin in the Music & Movement class before moving into the core program, where they learn strings, percussion, and choir. In addition to music instruction, each child receives instruments to learn on and a daily nutritious snack, all without cost to the participants' families.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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



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THE CHALLENGE



Statistics Canada data shows that Toronto continues to have the highest child poverty rate amongst large cities in Canada, and children of colour, Indigenous children, newcomers, children with disabilities, and children from single-parent families are more likely to experience poverty. *



One in four children in Toronto live in poverty and that number rises to one in two for newcomers to Canada.** Children who grow up in marginalized and low-income households are less likely to achieve academic and social success and are more likely to depend on social services, experience physical and mental health problems, and live in poverty as adults.



Toronto has the most expensive daycare of any city in Canada. Parents spend an average of \$21,096 annually.



At the heart of the Sistema method is a simple idea: using the collective ensemble experience to promote positive social change in students.

NEIGHBOURHOODS***

PARKDALE



MEDIAN INCOME

\$32,539

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
LIVING IN POVERTY

37%

PERCENTAGE OF
SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

20%

JANE-FINCH



MEDIAN INCOME

\$39,986

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
LIVING IN POVERTY

46%

PERCENTAGE OF
SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

36%

EAST-SCARBOROUGH



MEDIAN INCOME

\$46,803

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN
LIVING IN POVERTY

39%

PERCENTAGE OF
SINGLE PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

27%

* Source: Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto, Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change, Ontario Campaign 2000, & Social Planning Toronto. (2015). Toronto Child & Family Poverty Update 2015. Retrieved from <http://campaign2000.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Toronto-Child-and-Family-Poverty-Update-2015.pdf>

**Source: Toronto Foundation. (2018). Toronto's Vital Signs. Retrieved from <https://torontofoundation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/TF-VS-web-FINAL-4MB.pdf>

***Source: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. (2017). Time Out: Child care fees in Canada 2017. Retrieved from [https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National Office/2017/12/Time Out.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/National%20Office/2017/12/Time%20Out.pdf)

PROGRAM DELIVERY

Sistema Toronto's 250 students learn together for 10 hours per week developing important life skills while making ensemble music. Sistema Toronto's unique curricula for strings, percussion, choir and Music & Movement keep social learning as a top priority, building well-rounded musicians, strong collaborators, and confident leaders.

**SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
STRINGS**

**CHOIR
PERCUSSION**

**MUSIC & MOVEMENT
NUTRITION**

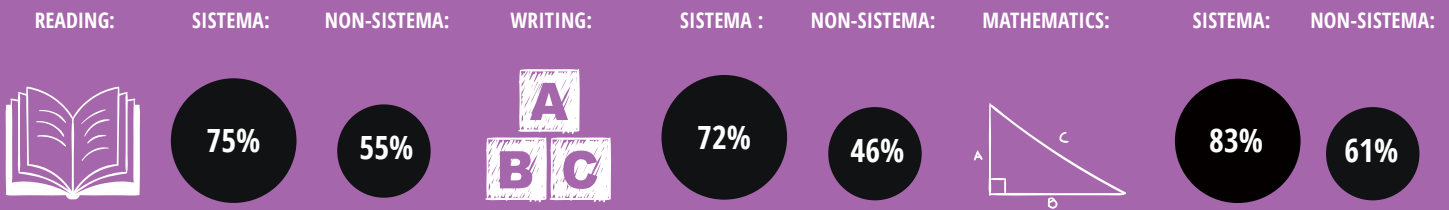
EVALUATING PROGRAM IMPACT

In 2016-17 Sistema Toronto impacted
250 students and their families
in 4 schools in 3 priority neighbourhoods in Toronto.

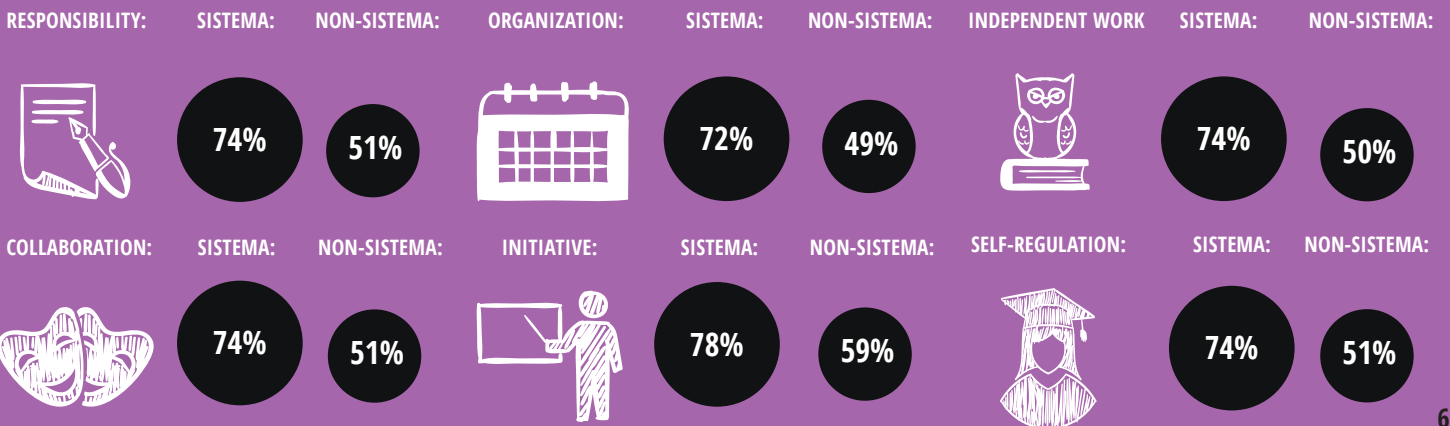
Our students each received over 350 hours of free social and music education from 32 teachers to help them reach their full potential as engaged and responsible citizens.

Sistema Toronto students start in our program as 6 and 7 year olds and become their schools' top performers. Sistema Toronto students are more likely to score level 3 or 4 on standardized testing compared to their non-Sistema peers.

SUBJECTS



LEARNING SKILLS:



CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

Once students graduate from Music & Movement, they all participate in Strings Classes and Orchestra as part of our core curriculum. This year, senior students were able to work in chamber ensembles to experience working closely with a small group of peers. Chamber ensembles created a unique experience for senior students to play more challenging music, and retain their interest in the upper levels of our program.

With the addition of chamber ensembles, we were able to accept more invitations to perform for the community. Sistema Toronto chamber groups performed at events across the city, including the Morningstar Canada Golf Tournament and Mosaic Institute Peace Patron Dinner. These opportunities allow students to share the work they do in music classes while practicing their leadership, presentation skills, and confidence as ambassadors for Sistema Toronto.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

One in eight (12.6%) households in Toronto experience food insecurity*. Kids that come from food insecure households are more likely to experience poor mental and physical health, greater rise of chronic disease, nutrient inadequacies, and other long-term adverse health impacts. It also negatively impacts their academic and social performance.

Our nutrition program allows students to **boost their energy levels and focus on learning**, and snack time gives students and staff an opportunity to build a sense of community in our centres.

* Source: City of Toronto. (2017). Report for Action: Food Insecurity in Toronto. Retrieved from <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/9112-tphbackgroundfile-107929.pdf>



CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT

Sistema Toronto evaluated and improved its comprehensive curriculum for Strings (violin, cello, viola and bass) that was established in 2015-16. As part of a three-year Ontario Trillium Fund-supported curriculum development program, we developed curricula for Choir, Percussion, Music & Movement, and Social Development that fully integrates and supports the curriculum for Strings.

CHOIR

The choir curriculum focusses on five components of choir and singing skillsets: vocal production, technical skills (matching pitch, singing scales, rhythm), sight singing, performance and presentation, and repertoire. The choir curriculum is divided into junior, intermediate and senior learning outcomes. These components align with and support the learning outcomes for each level in the strings and percussion curricula.

PERCUSSION

The percussion curriculum focuses on progressive skill acquisition in stick technique, understanding of time signatures, world-beats and patterns, mallet instrument technique, instrument care and setup, rhythmic ear training, and performance and presentation. The percussion curriculum is divided into junior, intermediate and senior learning outcomes. These components align with and support the learning outcomes for each level in the strings and choir curricula.

MUSIC & MOVEMENT

Our Music & Movement class for newcomers to Sistema Toronto now has unique curriculum focused on preparing students to play orchestral instruments in their second year. Music & Movement students sing, play pitched and non-pitched percussion instruments, learn music theory and notation, and build confidence together to build a strong musical foundation.

Rhythm & Counting	Dynamics
Pitch	Listening
Reading Music & Notation	Focus

The Music & Movement class creates leadership opportunities for senior students, who introduce their younger colleagues to string instruments. By collaborating with beginner musicians, senior students are given a sense of pride in their accomplishments, a responsibility to model positive behaviour, and begin to learn to teach. The younger students receive mentorship and learn that they have older kids in their community to rely upon.

Repertoire for all program areas reinforces learning outcomes, but also represents the diversity of the communities in which Sistema Toronto programs are offered. We include repertoire by composers of colour, women, and Indigenous artists whenever possible.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Our first Social Curriculum was written in summer 2017. Social learning is both woven into instrument classes and has its own learning modules, outcomes, and evaluation as to remain our top priority. Each week, students explore a different theme and discuss how it applies in music and other areas of their lives.

WEEKLY THEMES INCLUDE:

RESPONSIBILITY
INCLUSIVITY
PATIENCE
GRATITUDE
KINDNESS
CONFLICT RESOLUTION
FOCUS
CONSENT

COLLABORATION
EMPATHY
ALLY
SELF-ADVOCACY
TRUST
BODY LANGUAGE
AMBITION

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We hosted twelve Teacher Professional Development sessions that prepare Sistema Toronto teachers to support their students musically and through the difficult situations many of them face at home and in school. These sessions create space for teachers to discuss issues that arise in classrooms, share ideas, and improve our curricula so that our program evolves to meet the needs of the community.

DISCUSSION TOPICS INCLUDE:

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT
CURRICULA REVIEW
PLANNING CONCERTS & COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES
IMPLEMENTING SOCIAL CURRICULUM
SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED
STUDENT NUTRITION
CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PHILANTHROPY



IMPACT: SUCCESS STORY

Aaron* is a violin student in his third year at Sistema Toronto - Scarborough. When he first entered the program, he was constantly disruptive in class, did not respect his teachers, and had sporadic attendance. He exhibited an aversion to authority and would become defiant when given instructions or feedback.

Sistema Toronto teachers and staff patiently worked with Aaron, giving him extra attention and support. Despite his behavioural challenges, Aaron is a very strong violin player who needed his teachers to challenge him and nurture his growing desire to perform well on his instrument.

The Sistema Toronto team demonstrated our behavioural expectations for Aaron and worked with him to understand our social learning themes each week. With each set back, our team let Aaron know what the standard is and how we can support him in developing positive habits. Rather than punishing Aaron for missteps, our team gave him increased responsibility, let him know that his struggles are valid, and that his community is rooting for him to make improvements.

His demeanor has now completely changed. He always listens to instructions, is courteous and helpful with his teachers and peers. He can often be found practicing before class while waiting for his friends to arrive.

In 2016-17, because of his musical ability and positive attitude, Aaron was given the opportunity to perform O Canada with his choir for Kathleen Wynne and the Liberal Caucus Black History Month Ceremony at Queen's Park.

He is now a great collaborator and works well with his teammates. Recently, Aaron was given ownership over his time commitments and was offered a choice between missing one day of Sistema each week and not playing one piece so that he could attend sports practices or committing to 100% attendance at Sistema and playing in all the pieces. He chose to commit himself to music classes and his Sistema community.




Sistema Toronto has become a resource to Aaron's parents, who are thrilled at the improvements he is making at Sistema, school, and at home. We are excited to see how Aaron continues to grow and improve in 2018!

* Student's name has been changed and photo has not been used in order to protect their anonymity.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Sistema Toronto students build leadership and confidence through community outreach projects. Some Sistema Toronto students felt the rush of performing for the first time; others experienced their first trip downtown; and some Sistema families were able to experience the symphony or the opera together for the first time. Our community partners help us provide life-changing opportunities for students by allowing them to share and experience music together.

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
<p>Teddy Bear Affair Children's Aid Society</p> 	<p>Collaborative Concert with the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra</p> <p>Military Trail Winter Concert</p> <p>Parkdale Winter Concert</p> <p>St. Martin de Porres Winter Concert</p> <p>Yorkwoods Winter Concert</p>	<p>Canadian Opera Company presents Magic Flute*</p> 	<p>Queen's Park Black History Month Celebration</p> <p>Collaborative Concert with the Toronto Children's Chorus</p> 
MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<p>St. Martin de Porres Catholic School Open House</p> <p>Toronto Symphony Orchestra rehearsal with James Ehnes*</p> <p>Ward 7 Council Meeting</p> <p>David Geringas concert *</p> <p>Military Trail Public School Open House</p>	<p>Hart House Chorus Concert Yorkwoods Public School Open House</p> <p>International Roma Day Celebration</p> <p>Red Violin Gala at The Gladstone Hotel*</p> <p>Parkdale Jr. & Sr. Public School Open House</p> <p>Military Trail Public School Assembly</p> <p>Trio Arkel Concert* Richview United Church</p>	<p>Students for Students (Hart House) Concert*</p> <p>Spring Into Parkdale!</p> <p>TD Bank (Yonge & Lawrence Branch)</p> <p>Mosaic Institute Peace Patron Gala</p> <p>Ward 7 Council Meeting</p>	<p>Collaborative Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra "Joyful Music, Spotlight on Strings"</p> <p>Morningstar Canada Golf Tournament</p> <p>Military Trail Summer Concert</p> <p>Parkdale Summer Concert</p> <p>St. Martin de Porres Summer Concert</p> <p>St. Martin de Porres Catholic School Assembly</p> <p>Yorkwoods Summer Concert</p>

*Indicates that Sistema Toronto students and/or families experienced the concert or event as audience members

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Sistema Toronto Academy
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance
For the year end August 31, 2017

	2016	2017
	\$	\$
Revenues		
Individual donations including stick donations	163,896	79,281
Foundation and trust grants	376,728	377,396
Corporate donations	121,750	165,100
Government grants	85,000	-
Events	13,837	8,332
Donations in kind	8,885	8,039
Interest	117	1,381
Other revenue	1,600	4,276
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	771,813	643,805
Expenditures		
Human resources – program delivery	496,921	414,882
Human resources – administration	194,783	220,157
Fundraising fees	20,564	61,380
Nutrition program	21,906	19,263
Outreach	531	1,494
Other program delivery costs	11,780	16,693
Audit	3,945	5,248
Conferences and meetings	197	1,641
Cost of disposal of securities	455	170
Events and fundraising	6,770	7,060
Insurance	6,015	5,788
Legal	100	10,059
Marketing and promotion	3,128	2,429
Office and general	22,339	31,223
Program evaluation	10,079	19,718
Rent	11,974	11,974
Website development	-	1,845
Amortization	32,044	29,758
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	843,621	860,782
Excess of expenditures over revenues for the year	(-71,808)	(-216,997)
General fund balance at the beginning of the year	126,944	343,921
	<hr/>	<hr/>
General fund balance at the end of the year	55,136	126,944
	<hr/>	<hr/>

DONORS 2016-2017

Thank you to all of our supporters, without whom we would not be able to provide music and social education to 250 at-risk children. All donations go towards the implementation of our program, in which children develop a life-long appreciation of music, as well as the skills and confidence needed to reach their full potential in all areas of life.

\$100,000 +

Ellen and Robert Eisenberg
Gordon and Ruth Gooder Charitable
Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

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\$10,000 - \$49,999

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Sistema

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