



The Guelph Youth Music Centre (GYMC) is committed to providing music and arts education opportunities to children in Guelph and Wellington County. The benefits of music education are an important part of childhood development; however, the GYMC now needs the support of its friends and community partners to be able to meet our mandate and continue to offer these enriching programs. The Play On fundraising program allows those that value arts education to support the GYMC through a \$20 monthly automatic donation program.

“After the economic downturn, the GYMC is seeing the need to raise money to support its programs and services,” said Ken Hammill, board chair. “The Play On program asks friends of the GYMC to commit to giving \$20 per month to the Centre to allow us to continue to offer accessible and affordable school programs, outreach programs, facility rentals and services to promote music and the arts in Guelph and Wellington County.”

The donations from Play On are tax deductible and will be used to support the Centre in the areas of most need. The host approximately 1,100 lessons per week privately, and through our own programs, adding up to 35,100 hours of music and arts lessons annually!

Children engaged in music are using and developing both sides of their brain, increasing the child’s ability to learn. Children who experience music lessons not only more easily gain competence in reading, writing, math and science, but also develop both fine and gross motor skills. Despite this research, music and arts education is no longer a high priority of the Ontario school curriculum.

Someone who understands the importance of music is the Honourary Chair of the Play On program, CBC Radio Host and well-known musician, Craig Norris. “My entire life has been touched by music in various ways, and it all began in elementary school. It’s unfortunate that the emphasis on music has faded in schools. I don’t want to imagine a Guelph where young people don’t have access to a creative outlet like the GYMC.”

In Guelph and Wellington County, we are extremely fortunate to have a not-for profit organization that provides us with a building and a mandate to deliver arts and music education to the children and youth of our community. The GYMC champions music and arts education for children and youth through our own Outreach programs and through providing the space for others who offer unique arts education programs including music, fine art and dance.

Please show your support for the possibilities that music and art education can bring to the children and youth of Guelph through a \$20 monthly donation.

The world is a better place with music. Help us to make it and keep it that way!