

# 2019-2020 Annual Report



In the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, the CAM program saw its highest enrollment of students ever and was able to increase the number of classes offered. The program expanded with ten different class groups in seven locations including after-school programs at St. Francis of Assisi, St. Alphonsus, and St. Cecilia; and in-school programs at Fresh Start Westmount, Yellowhead Youth Center, Rite Trak Alternative School. A new class at Aspen School was also introduced that ran for two weeks before being shut down by COVID-19. Student ages ranged from 11-20 years old.

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, but the program did not lose its stride, with the students and mentors quickly transitioning to online classes, keeping students connected to the program and each other.

## **September through June statistics:**

- Total Unique Students: 106
- Total Student Attendance Counts: 1700
- Classes per Week: 12
- Number of Weeks: 38 (not including summer school/camp)
- Original Completed Songs Recorded: 6
- Original Songs Written: 40
- Special Guests/Class Visits: 3

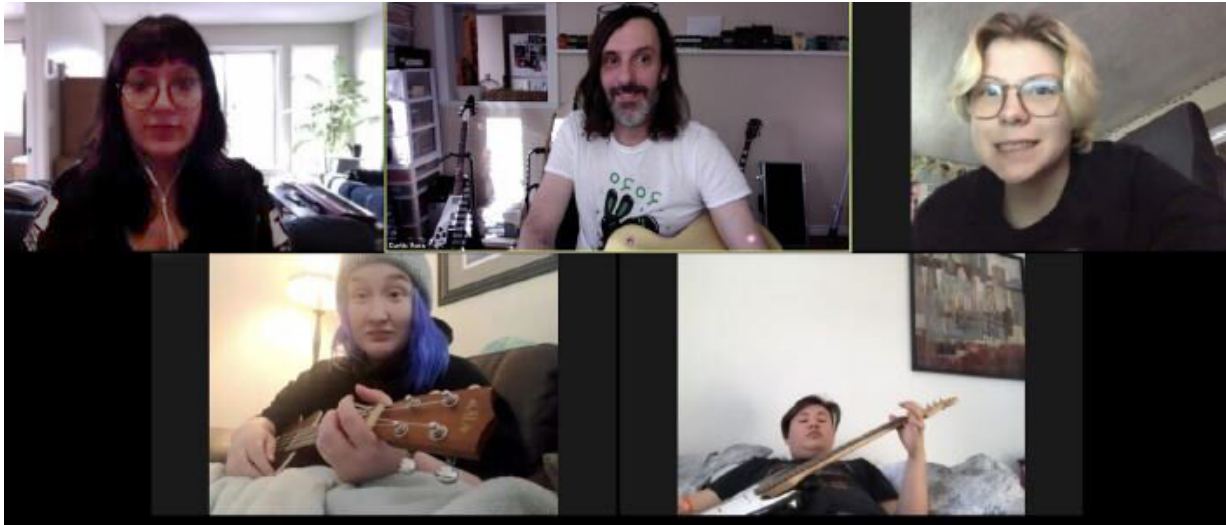
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## Notable Highlights of the Year:

- We added a new program at Aspen School which is part of the public school system, unfortunately we only had a chance for a couple classes before the COVID shutdown happened.
- A third junior high class was added in September on Tuesdays at St. Cecilia to facilitate the massive number of students interested in joining and/or continuing on in the program at the school.
- There was one full CAM concert in December where students from all of the classes were able to perform in front of a large crowd and for each other. There was also a talent show at St. Cecilia that three CAM bands performed in, as well as an open house live performance at St. Cecilia to showcase the program for prospective future students.
- In February three CAM bands performed over two weekends at the Silver Skate Festival in Hawrelak Park.
- One of our high school bands, Buspass, started performing on their own outside of the CAM program and booking their own all ages shows with other local young rock bands and playing gigs around the city.



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## Notable Highlights of the Year:

- For the first time ever we created a “Junior Mentor” position in which one of our senior students was hired to help teach and mentor younger bands alongside the senior instructors.
- In total, CAM bands wrote or at least started writing 40 original songs. Unfortunately only six were fully recorded and completed as our recording sessions usually take place in the latter part of the school year.
- For the first time ever there were concurrent classes running at the same time with multiple teams of mentors in different locations.
- There were three different special guest class visits this year; former mentor Alex Vissia brought her band Bad Buddy in to perform at St. Cecilia for the students which they all loved; Edmonton Journal arts writer, Fish Griwkowsky, joined an online class with Buspass to talk about the new normal of COVID-19 and wrote an article about the experience; and finally, drama teacher and SAGE Coordinator, Kristine Nutting taught our band Deadbeat a drama and stage presence class over Zoom in May, and the kids had a blast.