

2020-2021 Annual Report

A message from our President, Melanie Kidder:

Personally, I couldn't be more PROUD of the way our mentors handled this pandemic. Our CAM students were always their first priority. Our numbers of students served this year were lower than past years but the service we offered to the students involved was very important to them.

I know our supporters are always curious about the details of the program so I thought I would pass along some additional information about why our numbers were lower. There are various reasons. For one, we couldn't start any new classes this year. We typically have several new classes per year. New classes are usually started in after school programs and schools were not open for extra curricular activities this year. Also our day time programs for students at Rite Track, Yellowhead Youth Centre and Fresh Start were not running as often, if at all, because guests were not allowed in the buildings. Another reason is some of our existing students just didn't connect with the online format. It just wasn't for them and we understand that.

We don't want this to overshadow the AMAZING work our mentors did with our existing students. Several of our students mentioned this was one thing they looked forward to during the pandemic.

We hope you enjoy this report as much as we did!!! A huge, "Thank You" to our Lead Mentor, Curtis Ross, for preparing this report.

CAM PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 2021

The 2020-2021 school year was like no other in the history of the CAM program. As we were mostly prohibited from running classes in our usual schools due to the ongoing pandemic, our students and mentors were forced to improvise through multiple waves of COVID-19 by running classes mostly online. The program was only able to truly rock out indoors in the brief periods when government rules allowed it.

We had students from St. Cecilia, Fresh Start Westmount, St. Joseph, Archbishop O'leary, M.E. LaZerte, Victoria School of the Arts, Rite Trak, and YYC take part in the program and our student's ages ranged from 12-21 years old.

As the new school year began in September it became clear that most schools would not be allowing any extracurricular activities onsite, so we looked to find a community partnership that would allow us to safely run in-person classes for our senior students. We were able to partner with The Aviary music venue to host classes and are continuing this partnership with our 2021 summer program.

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Our online portion of the program consisted of songwriting sessions, music related games, music theory and history, song sharing, and dress up days. Keeping connected with our students on a consistent basis also provided positive mental health support throughout the pandemic through socialization and artistic expression.

September through June statistics:

Total Unique Students: 28

Total Student Attendance Counts: 663

Average Number of Classes per Week: 7

Number of Weeks: 40

Original Songs Written: 5 (far less than usual but impressive considering it was mostly online!)

Number of Music Jeopardy and Kahoot Games Played: Thousands!

Atomic Rehearsing at The Aviary

Notable Highlights of the Year:

- We were able to run in-person classes at YYC and Rite Trak schools for October and at The Aviary throughout September and October and for part of March 2021.
- No concerts were able to be performed this year, but the students were able to express themselves in other ways by greatly utilizing online resources and sharing their music and experiences through the CAM social media pages.
- We were able to explore much more in the way of theory and music history this year, subjects we usually don't have as much time for in our busy classroom settings.
- We had many music related dress up days (50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, Goth, Grunge etc.) which the students said was a big highlight for them this year.
- Senior CAM band Buspass booked their own show at the Heart of the City Festival and will be performing Saturday July 24th.