

January 10, 2005

ABC Charitable Foundation  
1 Charity Drive  
Toronto, ON  
M4A 1R9

Dear Sir or Madam:

### **Query letter – an investment in music education**

“Second grade children who used piano keyboard training and newly designed math software ... scored 27% higher on proportional math and fractions tests than children that used only the math software.” – *Grazziano, Amy, Matthew Peterson and Gordon Shaw, “Enhanced learning of proportional math through music training and spatial-temporal training.” Neurological Research 21 (March 1999).*

“Secondary students who participated in band or orchestra reported the lowest lifetime and current use of all substances (alcohol, tobacco, illicit drugs). – *Texas Commission on Drug and Alcohol Abuse Report, January 1998.*

“Music making makes the elderly healthier. There were significant decreases in anxiety, depression, and loneliness following keyboard lessons.” – *Dr. Frederick Tims, reported in AMC Music News, June 2, 1999.*

Study after study demonstrates the benefits of music education to all ages. Students perform better in all academic subjects and have fewer social problems. The ABC Symphony & School of Music creates opportunities for youth:

- By providing excellent music instruction;
- Giving performance experience with a youth orchestra and school recitals;
- Developing an instrument bank to assist those in need.

The ABC Symphony & School of Music, a 65-member community orchestra and registered charity, was first incorporated in 1972. Throughout its 32-year history, the Symphony has had a tradition of nurturing talent of all ages. Many current players and alumni started out as students playing in the orchestra, continued to study music at university and went on to have careers as professional musicians, music teachers and music therapists. It is not unusual to see several generations of a family playing together in the Symphony.

In addition to the Symphony, Grey and Bruce counties have a strong tradition of music instruction and performance. There are many private teachers offering lessons from their home, many of whom are no longer accepting new students. Until recently there was a Suzuki violin school in the area that had 80 students. When the school closed, the majority of students were left without instruction, and others are making the weekly two-hour drive to Waterloo to continue their instruction with their former teacher. Additionally, cuts to the public and separate school budgets has limited the amount of music instruction in the schools. Not all in Grey and Bruce counties schools offer students the opportunity to learn an instrument.

As an effort to continue the tradition of encouraging young musicians and to fill the vacuum of instruction, the Symphony's Board of Directors decided to create a School of Music. It was felt that the Symphony could attract professional music instructors to the area, act as a resource to private teachers and work with the school Boards to fill the gaps. It was also felt that a School of Music could act as a feeder to the Symphony.

The School of Music began operations in September 2003. During the 2003-2004 school year we offered private instruction in violin, viola, cello and clarinet as well as youth string orchestra workshops and a joint workshop with the Bluewater Association for Lifelong Learning. In total we had 78 students taking private lessons and 70 students who attended one or more workshop. In 2004 we have added trombone, flute and a youth string orchestra.

The challenge facing the School of Music is to maintain the administration while we work on attracting instructors in order to build our student base. Our five-year goal is to become completely self-sufficient. In the meantime, we are asking the ABC Charitable Foundation for a one-time contribution of \$5,000.00. Our Charitable Registration number is 12345 6789 RR0001.

Thank you for considering this brief outline of our funding request. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at 519-372-0212. In the meantime, I look forward to your invitation to submit a full funding proposal.

Sincerely,