



## **Report on Access Music Round Table #2, February 12, 2017**

### **Building Strategic Connections**

**A Project of the SweetWater Music Festival**

#### **Background**

Access Music is a one-year project (September 2016-2017) initiated by the SweetWater Music Festival with the generous support of the Grey Bruce Community Foundation. The purpose of this project is to bring together people and organizations to identify ways to work together in order to provide better access to music and learning opportunities for children, youth, families and community members.

The central question for the Access Music Project is ‘how can music be more accessible to everyone in the Grey Bruce community?’

The October Round Table identified ten (10) ways to develop audiences and musicians in Grey Bruce, as well as barriers and strengths for musicians and arts organizations in the area. A short report was prepared and distributed to the participants and community stakeholders, and a second Round Table was planned for February 12, 2017.

Access Music Round Table #2 was held at the Harmony Centre, and nine people, representing seven organizations/sectors attended. Although the number of participants was much lower, there was a very intense and thoughtful discussion on two broad topics that came from the first Access Music Round Table discussion:

**Concrete Strategies to develop audiences:** two small groups discussed Connections (doing things together), and Cross Pollination/Communication (innovation, learning from one another, and the big picture).

**The Pathway for the development of musicians in Grey Bruce:** Where does my organization fit? What is needed? Who does what? Where are the opportunities to work together?

This short report provides highlights from the February discussion. It does not include all potential strategies or needs, but is a start on a community strategy we can build on.

#### **Final Access Music Gathering**

**June 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 pm with a light supper provided.**

**For participating organizations to confirm the strategies in this report and look at action going forward.**

**Please contact Colleen: [cpurdon@bmts.com](mailto:cpurdon@bmts.com) to RSVP**



## 1. Strategies to Develop Audiences in Grey Bruce

Strategy	Examples and Discussion
<p><b>Bring music to the people, where they are.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May Ip is a musician who brings International Folk Dancing to schools, community festivals and events.</li> <li>• Orchestra North ‘Concerts on Main’ brought music to downtown locations and businesses, and a performance experience for musicians of all ages.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Build and strengthen connections</b> between community music groups, schools and community groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgian Bay Concert Choir partnered with Bayview School.</li> <li>• Bayview school seeks out partnerships and music opportunities for their students, for example GBCC, Georgian Bay Children’s Choir, One World Festival.</li> <li>• SweetWater offers Master Classes with visiting performers.</li> <li>• Singer – songwriter group at the Harmony Center brings people together and builds relationships and skills.</li> <li>• Multiple genres together bring people together.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support and develop ‘place based’ music and arts experiences</b> (because we are such a large geographic area)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Markdale Arts – has a connection with the school and students and offers a volunteer driven music program, access to instruments and instruction. This could be a model to build on. We need to learn more about it!</li> <li>• Weekly ‘Session’ at the Harmony Centre in Owen Sound, learning traditional music together</li> <li>• Profile existing opportunities to make music together (community bands, choirs, festivals)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Look for venues where things are happening</b>, but not usually music – cross-pollination!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Music in public spaces – we need to have more (for example at hockey games, Family Y, community centers, summer events).</li> <li>• Bayview school choir and Georgian Bay Children’s Choir performed a Chinese lantern festival at the mall</li> </ul>
<p><b>Support and expand ‘interactive’ approaches and mentoring</b> that engage all ages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summerfolk Youth Discovery Series</li> <li>• Summer Music Camps</li> <li>• Kindermusik, Music for Young Children, Suzuki</li> <li>• Georgian Bay Symphony Youth Orchestra</li> <li>• SweetWater String Workshop, Classical Jam</li> <li>• Needed: more connections with coffee houses, talent shows, open stages, Georgian College.</li> </ul>



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<b>Support music in schools and school music teachers.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Partnerships between schools and community groups (SweetWater, Georgian Bay Symphony, etc.)</li><li>• Advocate for qualified teachers, more teachers and school music programs, full year music classes at secondary level</li><li>• Need for more concrete links between music teachers and community music and arts groups, and opportunities for students to engage in community music experiences.</li><li>• Lots of opportunities with the new combined Owen Sound Elementary School with over 800 students and two music teachers.</li></ul>
<b>Organizations work together to communicate with the public and with media</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music and arts organizations have opportunities to raise awareness and promote one another (advertising, working with media, partnerships, joint projects and events).</li><li>• Free media does a great job and could be used more: Mosaic, Boomers, local radio, Grey Bruce Kids, libraries (could also be hubs for activities), and CBC.</li><li>• More information and communication about the arts and music is needed for municipal and county governments, and to engage their support.</li></ul>
<b>Think and act regionally</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Without an Arts Council, or regional arts organization we need to find new ways to work together to attract audiences, share expertise and support one another regionally.</li><li>• Do we need a Grey Bruce Arts Council again?</li><li>• Would a regional 'brand' to promote music and events in Grey Bruce help develop and attract audiences?</li><li>• Would a Virtual Network – Arts Online be something to support information sharing and working together?</li></ul>



## **2. Pathways - Musician Development over the Lifespan**

The Access Music participants developed a visual 'pathway' that described how musicians develop over their lifespan, and the many inputs and impacts that help to shape and support this development. The diagram ended up being over 8 feet long, and depicted a long road or path over time: ages 0 to 3 (early years), 3 to 12 (young children), 12 to 18 (adolescence), and 18 plus (adulthood). At the end of the discussion the participants decided that the pathway is actually a circle, and not a linear process, because at the end of the lifespan, children are starting again with the support of parents, family and community. Under each age category participants discussed what was needed for musicians to develop, and which groups and organizations provide this. The diagram and the points below, set out a beginning attempt to map the needs and experiences that develop musicians in Grey Bruce.

### **Early Years (0-3)**

**Needs:** Exposure to sounds, singing, dancing and music. Opportunities to sing, dance, play, explore (alone and with others). Parental support. Expression, meaning and fun.

**Who provides this?** Parents, friends and family. Daycares, churches, music teachers (Suzuki, Kindermusik, Music for Young Children), media.

### **Young Children (3 – 12)**

**Needs:** Family music, listening to music at home and in the community. Opportunities to learn about music and make music in formal and informal ways. Private study opportunities and access to instruments. Music education and music making in schools from qualified and supported teachers and specialists. Access to choirs, bands, community music events, summer camps.

**Who provides this?** Parents and family, music in classrooms, school music programs, summer music programs (Southampton Music Festival, Kincardine Summer Music, Orchestra North), private and public music teachers, Summerfolk, SweetWater Munchkins and Master Classes, community choirs, church choirs and music, children's choirs, vocal and instrumental ensembles, bands, Markdale Arts Model.

### **Adolescents (12 – 18)**

**Needs:** Specialized music instruction (private study and in high schools). Access to instruments and private study. Engaged high school specialists with administrative support and space for high school music programming. Opportunities for youth to sing, dance, participate, compose, and explore broad range of music experiences. Time. Parental and community support. Access to music experiences in the community (listening, playing, learning). Positive and collaborative possibilities. Mentoring and guidance from peers and adults.

**Who provides this?** Some schools (but more needs to happen at public and Catholic boards of education). Georgian Bay Symphony, choirs, Summerfolk, Harmony Centre,



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MARK FEWER | ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

community and school choirs and bands, open mikes, coffee houses. Parents and family music. Peer groups. Opportunities to perform (Noon Hour series, Kiwanis), Summer Music Programs (Kincardine, Southampton, Orchestra North).

## **Young Adulthood and Adults (18 plus)**

**Needs:** Stages, mentors, teachers. Job opportunities for musicians. Bands, orchestras, choirs. Places to play/perform. Concert and listening opportunities. College and university music programs, private lessons. Open mikes. Opportunities to learn and relearn. Multi generational and mixed age music experiences (child, mom, grandparent). Collaborative stages, mixed media.

**Who provides this?** Georgian Bay Symphony, choirs, Summerfolk (Youth Discovery), Harmony Centre, community and school choirs and bands, open mikes, coffee houses. Parents and family music. Peer groups. Opportunities to perform (Noon Hour series, Kiwanis), Summer Music Programs (Kincardine, Southampton, Orchestra North). SweetWater, family music. Formal and informal playing circles and ensembles.

## **Next Steps**

- **Distribute the report from Access Music Round Table #2 to all who have participated to date in this project.**
- **Organize a final wrap up gathering June 14<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 8:00 pm with a light supper provided. Bring together leaders from participating organizations to discuss the strategies in this report and look at action going forward.**