



SAINT  
JAMES  
MUSIC  
ACADEMY



## SJMA Newsletter – March 2015

### Celebrating Success with Public Performance

It's empowering for them. It's a great opportunity. And it's downright fun! At SJMA kids not only learn the music, they learn to *perform* the music.

#### THE 2014 CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

192 students enrolled. And they all performed. Everything from delicate piano solos to a barn burning choral finale. Now multiply those children by their mega-proud parents, family, friends and supporters, and you'll know why it's our annual crowd favourite and signature event. If you couldn't make it, you can watch the Senior Choir sing 'We Are Here'. by visiting: [sjma.ca/wearehere/](http://sjma.ca/wearehere/)



#### THE 5TH ANNUAL BAH! HUMBUG!

The hugely popular stage and music "eastside adaptation" of Charles Dickens' classic *A Christmas Carol* returned, and so did the SJMA choir, singing in all ten performances. Our top hats are tipped again to a perfectly synced partnership with SFU Woodward's and the Vancouver Moving Theatre.



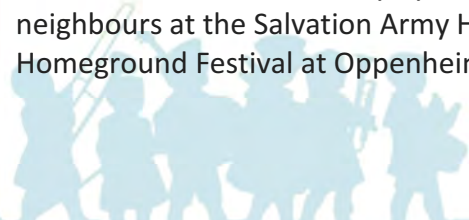
#### THE 2014 EU FILM FESTIVAL



Ten SJMA fiddlers lit it up with an Irish jig at the screening of the Embassy of Ireland's submission, *Ballymun Lullaby*, a film – appropriately - about what music can do to promote social change.

#### Close to our Hearts and Close to Our Homes

We embrace our community by sharing our music. This year our students played for neighbours at the Salvation Army Harbour Light, Victory House and the Homeground Festival at Oppenheimer Park. Thanks kids!



## 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 'SING IT FORWARD' BENEFIT CONCERT RAISES \$29,000

Once again, SJMA kids had the time of their lives on stage beside some of the 'who's who' of Canadian indie music: K OS, Hey Ocean!, July Talk, Bear Mountain, Dear Rouge, Jordan Klassen, Bend Sinister, Hannah Georgas, the Harpoonist & the Axe Murderer. Huge thanks to organizers David Vertesi and Ambrosia Humphries, a host of great sponsors, and a packed Vogue Theater of happy concertgoers. Check out this year's five Sing it Forward videos made exclusively with SJMA students: [sjma.ca/sif2015/](http://sjma.ca/sif2015/)



### Meet an SJMA Student:

Ava is in her 4th year at the Academy and a natural performer if there ever was one. The nine year old Seymour Elementary student is getting better on violin all the time. But lately her passions are expanding to voice. Under the instruction of Melanie Adams, an SJMA voice teacher, she recently sang solo performances before hundreds of people at both the SJMA Christmas Concert and the Sing It Forward event at the Vogue Theatre. Asked why she comes to SJMA Ava said "I don't think it's boring...I think it's cool. It's one of the only music schools in this place AND it's free!" Whether its violin, voice or any other future, we know Ava will give it her characteristic all. For a video of her performance visit: [sjma.ca/ava/](http://sjma.ca/ava/)



### Long live the Christmas Band

SJMA is one fortunate organization, blessed with so many people and groups who support our work, and often "under the radar". Well we just switched the radar on one such group! Meet the Christmas Band, a group of high school friends who grew up in East Vancouver and have been coming together once a year to perform for family and friends and raise money for a good cause! They have done this for over 10 years and during that time raised funds for many charities including SJMA. So far we have received over \$6000, so a big thanks to the band!

### Creating Composers

Over a six-week period that began in late January, several of our senior students have been honing their skills on how to "be a composer." Keep an eye out for a video of their composition so you too can enjoy the results of their hard work. Many thanks to Mark Haney, the resident composer, and the Turning Point Ensemble for funding staffing and hosting this engaging workshop.



## COMING SOON

### May 29 - SJMA Spring Finale

Our grand year end event will once again celebrate the achievements of our children with a rich evening of music. Solos, ensembles, orchestra and choir. Mark your calendars and arrive early for seating. Entry free by donation. Performances begin at 6:30pm at Saint James Anglican Church, 303 E. Cordova St.