

## Budding musicians get symphonic treatment

NATALIA FEDOSIEIEVA  
THE EASTERN DOOR

Around 20 students from the Kahnawake Education Center's (KEC) Encore! Sistema Quebec (ESQ) program showcased their emerging musical skills at the Spring concert Saturday at Kahnawake's St. Francis Xavier Mission alongside the Longueuil Symphony Orchestra (OSDL).

Since 2012 more than 200 kids from KEC schools have participated in the ESQ, a charitable organization, where young musicians learn to play violin, cello and develop Kanien'kehá:ka singing skills.

The Spring concert fund-raised for costs not covered by the ESQ program, as well as to give the kids the opportunity to play with a full orchestra.

Janice Beauvais, student and community engagement consultant, coordinates the ESQ program at the KEC.

"It is our third year in a row, and we want to keep organizing it," she said.

Beauvais thinks the event is meaningful for the students as well as for the community, and they couldn't pass it up.

Conductor of the OSDL Marc David contacted the KEC, and everyone was happy to organize a performance again in collabora-



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tion with the orchestra.

"Marc David is just one of the best people we ever met," she said, "He is the kindest and nicest man, he just fell in love with our community and want to come back here every year."

"Even though he is retiring," she continued, "He still wants to be involved in our community, so we are opened for next year."

\$1,040 was raised at the concert, which will go to extra costs

within the music program.

"That is very meaningful for the students," Beauvais said, "I mean, we have to provide food for the kids when they have the after-school practices, when they participate for different concerts, when they visit the other schools within the same program, when they design t-shirts. Anything that we need for the music program."

Theodora Stathopoulos, founder and director of the ESQ

program, said the side-by-side concerts are wonderful opportunity for the students, "to live the music, to be comfortably performing, to celebrate their achievements and their work throughout the year, and to motivate them to continue to work on their instruments."

"It is testimony also to the audience about their work that is being done," she said, "It is important also for the community to see the program, to see the children and to develop this taste for having these collaborations."

Stathopoulos sees firsthand how the students looked forward to this concert.

"The kids are very well prepared, they are excited," she said. "I think kids are getting to be experienced performers."

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**Parking Lot**  
**11:00-2:00**  
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Kahnawake Shakotilia takenhhas Community Services

## 2019 SUMMER ONKWANEN:RA PROGRAM

**Session 1** July 2nd—July 5th  
(SKYTAG, St. Timothee Beach)

**Session 2** July 8—July 12  
(Super Aqua Club, Tsilioniakwatha)

**Session 3** July 22nd—July 26th  
(Sky Zone, Canadian Railway Museum)

**Session 4** July 29th—August 2nd  
(Saint Sauveur Waterpark, Oka Beach)

**Session 5** August 12th—August 16th  
(Tower:ton Day Trip, Ile St. Bernard & Beach Day)

Onkwanen:ra summer program teaches life skills and prevention lessons through fun recreational summer activities in a safe space.

• Hours: Monday to Friday 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

• Ages: 6—12 years old

• Cost: \$25 per child

For more information contact:

KSCS @ 450-632-6880

Beatrice Taylor (ext. 34102)

Julie Delisle (ext. 34103)

**Registration date:**

**Tuesday, May 21st, 2019**

**@ 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

**Location:**

**KSCS Whitehouse (next to MCK)**

Registration will be on a first come first serve basis on registration evening. Children will be eligible for ONE session throughout the summer.

Trips/activities subject to change.

