

Music Changes Lives

Music is a primary value in our household. In a world of digital communication, education, entertainment etc; the value of direct engagement with the natural and manmade world is significant. Without the bursary, it would not have been possible, for example, to acquire instruments for our children. Even an introductory violin has its own particular sound, its own individual craftsmanship. To learn to play one's own instrument - be it a string, wind or keyboard - cultivates an appreciation of time honoured traditions of culture, history and repertoire. To hear and play music that is *live* has a depth of resonance not even the most exquisite recording can match. Likewise, the opportunity to play and perform music in the context of community, brings children together in ways that stand in sharp contrast to the widespread solitary play of a video game. The slow, steady and laborious practice of an instrument in a high-stimulus world of immediate gratification also cultivates patience and grit. These associated experiences of a music practice have immeasurable value for children born and raised in the digital age.

Our children's music practice has brought innumerable gifts to our family and to our community. A Mother's Day gift is frequently a surprise concert by my children - my husband at the piano to accompany them. We serenade friends and relatives on every birthday. Music sings our love and appreciations at festivals, ceremonies and Jewish holidays.

Music lessons (particularly for a family with modest incomes and multiple children) are expensive. We make certain sacrifices to sustain the commitment to several teachers over many years. That our commitment is supported by the very community in which much of our children's music practice has grown and flourished renders the support that much more meaningful. Thank you, MNjcc.

- Anonymous