

Jon and Martha Baird
6749 4th Concession Road, Goodwood, Ontario, L0C 1A0

November 6, 2020

To whom it may concern

Re: Jazz Education and Performance Centre - JEPC

For several years now we have been following the good works and participating in events organized by the JPEC.

It is amazing to us to have observed the positive influence that a volunteer staff backed by generous sponsors have had in promoting the art of jazz music performance. They have influenced and entertained mature audiences and encouraged youth to appreciate this special art form.

The concerts presented by JPEC have been truly unique. They have offered their audiences a perspective on music that would not have been available otherwise. These concerts have supported artists and pleased audiences.

However, the most important accomplishment of JPEC may well be their work with young people. Their school outreach workshops interest students in an art form for which they may not have had previous knowledge, widening their interests. The series of "Jazz Student Trio" concerts has provided valuable experience and exposure to young aspiring musicians.

The current pandemic has revealed another important aspect of the value that JPEC offers. Jazz musicians have been without concert income for 7 months now, and are likely facing a similar period without such revenues. They have also been robbed of the important aspect of their art, which is creating improvised music in groups. To assuage this, JPEC has published a series of videos produced during the pandemic while respecting public health norms. This initiative has given revenues to musicians and satisfaction to audiences.

The arts, perhaps particularly live music, are one of the most important aspects of our culture and humanity. Yet, support for them depends heavily on volunteer organizations like JPEC and generous individuals and corporations who contribute funding. Thus, we encourage all those supporters of JPEC to continue their support, particularly during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Jon Baird

Martha Baird