



Since 2013, Bakerview Music Academy (BMA) has given Fraser Valley youth access to professional after-school El Sistema group music lessons, with preference given to children from low-income, single-parent, and large families. Admission to BMA is very inclusive and open to all Abbotsford students – there is no audition process. We have children who are new to Canada and many who are Canadian by birth but representative of a wide variety of cultures. BMA is funded by donations.

Based on the revolutionary El Sistema (the System) program in Venezuela, the goal of BMA is to inspire Abbotsford youth to achieve their full potential and to have a positive impact on their lives and society as a whole. Our program fosters engaged citizens while developing talented musicians who get to experience the joy of performing.

A recent study of the impact of an El Sistema after-school orchestral music program in Manitoba found that children enrolled performed better academically and socially after two years of music. Researchers also found:

The program has significantly impacted family pride and their sense of validation. Family relationships are improving; familial members feel more connected through music which is calming and stress reducing. Children and their families have sustained, numerous opportunities to form new friendships; they mix and interact socially through concerts and special events. Families with children in the orchestra are experiencing an increased sense of inclusion within the school community and some are now volunteering. Effective, caring relationships have developed between music teachers, participants, and their families.

(Music for Social Justice: Impacts of an El Sistema After-School Orchestral Music Program in Manitoba, Francine Morin, PH.D, Feb. 23, 2021 Prepared for Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Seven Oaks School Division, & Winnipeg School Division)

In a world where kids are challenged more than ever to perform their highest level, navigate complex mental health issues and still be kids, BMA provides a calm and reassuring environment that gives every child the opportunity to excel regardless of their socioeconomic circumstances.

Learn more about our nonprofit program on our website at www.bakerviewmusic.ca.

Follow our Instagram and Facebook pages @bakerviewmusic.