



THE BRASSROOTS INSIDER

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HOLIDAY BRASS

Saturday Dec 9 at 7:30 PM

St. James Westminster
115 Askin Street

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MUSIC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The holiday season is here once more, a time of celebration, coming together with friends and revisiting favourite traditions. At Holiday Brass we will be doing all those things. Brassroots' annual Christmas concert has become a favourite tradition for so many people. It is no secret that Saint James is always packed full of music lovers ready to make merry. We look forward to it all year round.

At Brassroots HQ we are always asking how do we make the Christmas show special each year. This year we are beyond thrilled that Dreams Come True Music Studio will be joining us as our special guests. This is an exciting new collaboration and on the following pages you can read about this important and unique organization.

Our long time collaborators of the Saint James Westminster Choir will be joining us for a few songs as well.

Join us all for holiday favourites old and new. We are looking forward to making new holiday memories together. Happy Holidays- *Jeff Christmas*

www.brassroots.ca

Charitable registration #130746993 RR0001

Message from the Chair of Brassroots

Happy festive season to all of you! Brassroots is happy to present Holiday Brass with special guests, Dreams Come True Music Studio. What a great opportunity to hear some “old favourites” and listen to an amazing choir. We’ll team up for a few tunes to make this a truly memorable evening.

I realize there are so many holiday concerts this time of year, and we appreciate your support of one more!

I would like to personally thank my friends in Brassroots for working so hard on the music for the concert. Some of you may not realize it, but we have four to five, three-hour rehearsals for each concert. That is in addition to countless hours at home practicing our parts so we are well prepared for the gig. It is a labour of love.

I would also like to thank the members of the board for all their hard work! Special kudos are due to Adam Corrigan Holowitz (director of audience development), Julie Vaughan (personnel manager) and Jeff Christmas (music director). This group thrives because of you.

Happy Holidays!

Karl Hermann, Chairperson of Brassroots

Ways to Support Brassroots

Thank you to all who have supported Brassroots this season. Your support is integral to our success. If you see cookies on someone’s seat that means they have donated to Brassroots. If you would also like to have a sweet treat waiting for you, you can make a donation at brassroots.ca/donations

NEW! Donate a Car Canada now accepts vehicle donations for Brassroots. Free towing is provided in most areas across Canada, or you can drop off your vehicle to maximize your donation. When you donate your car, truck, RV, boat, or motorcycle to Brassroots, it will either be recycled or re-sold (depending on its condition, age and location). Donate a Car Canada will look after all the details to make it easy for Brassroots to benefit. You will receive a tax receipt after your donation has been processed! Visit www.donatecar.ca





DREAMS COME TRUE

MUSIC STUDIO

Brassroots is thrilled to have Dreams Come True Music Studio join us as our special guests for Holiday Brass! On the following pages, Allison O'Connor writes about what inspired the founding of this important organization.



“Get Up Each Day and Sing Your Song”

These words are near and dear to my heart not only because they were composed by our friend Ken Fleet, but also because Dreams Come True Music Studio aspires for everyone of all ages and all abilities to be able to get up each day and sing their song.

The Dreams Come True Music Studio creates opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate in high-quality productions and to transform their lives through music. The studio celebrates diversity, inclusion acceptance, and all abilities.

It was April 2018 while walking my dog Max, that I was chatting with my sister Heather on the phone about my dream to find a music program which was truly inclusive for all; one in which my son Cameron could be successful. He has been surrounded by music all his life and knowing the importance of music in life, I wanted Cameron to experience success with music. We found our love of sport through Special Olympics but we were missing the music piece. Because of his intellectual disability and FASD, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, he learns differently. But he learns. The goal was for Cameron to experience music and feel confident. Those of you who have been involved in music programs must relish the memories of your rehearsals, your concerts, your shows and your friendships made through music. I want that for everyone.

During that walk with Max, my sister said, “Stop looking for the program. Create it. You are a music teacher specialist and have been advocating for inclusion since you and Cameron became family.” *Continued on Page 5*

So began the adventure. We offer Summer, Fall and Winter programs all culminating in amazing Showcase Concerts. Rehearsals are spent together singing, moving, experiencing music and making friendships. We don't try harder, we try differently. We are a family. We are not a special needs music group. We are not a kids choir. We are a fantastic, dedicated and energetic Musical Theatre group! I am so proud of every one of my musicians. It is a privilege to work with our families, musicians, caregivers, local agencies and spectacular volunteers who make our dreams come true. They teach me so much and I am grateful.

Our musicians: Wow! They are capable and we believe in them. We thank them for pushing themselves personally and musically. They make a difference.

Please visit our website, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to learn about our DCT Family and our upcoming programs. Lion King Jr. begins in January!

I want to thank my son, Cameron, for believing in the power of Music. He provided the experiences for me to help to make this happen. Being removed from programs, being told to look elsewhere, motivated me to show others what he CAN do. The journey can be lonely but now with our Dreams Come True Family, we are not alone. We believe.

To Brassroots, thank you. You are giving DCT such a gift. We thank you for believing and making a difference in our lives. This experience will be forever in our hearts. #inclusion #abilitiesfirst #singyoursong

Allison O'Connor

Dreams Come True Music Studio

WHERE TO SEE BRASSROOTS MEMBERS PERFORM COMING UP!

Sounds of the Season

Presented by Wellington Winds with the Waterloo County Teachers' Choir

Date: Sunday, December 10 at 7:30 PM

Venue: Knox Presbyterian Church Waterloo, 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo N2L 1T1

Price: Adults: \$20 / Seniors (60+): \$15 / Students: Free. Tickets at the door or online.

Wellington Winds introduces guest conductor Cynthia Johnston Turner in a festive Christmas Concert with guests Waterloo County Teachers' Choir.

Brassroots Members Featured: Susan Follows, John Monkhouse, Eric Probst

Big Bandemic Holiday Concert

Date: Monday, December 11 at 7:00 PM

Venue: Lambeth Legion, 7097 Kilborne Road, Lambeth Ontario

Price: By Donation to Legion

Join us for a Holiday celebration in the Big Band Style! Guest vocalist, Theresa Wallis.

Brassroots Members Featured: Karl Hermann and Gwyn Beynon.

Baddest Big Band plays Ellington's Nutcracker Suite

Date: Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM

Venue: Wolf Performance Hall, 251 Dundas Street, London Ontario

Price: 25 (plus service fee)

The Baddest Big Band will be ringing in the Christmas season with holiday favourites featuring vocalist Sonja Gustafson! The second half of the concert will be the entire Nutcracker arranged by Duke Ellington. If you've never heard this jazzy version of Tchaikovsky's classic, you won't want to miss this!

Brassroots Members Featured: Paul Stevenson, Julie Vaughan, Gwyn Beynon, Seth McNall

Musical Gifts

Presented by Ebytown Brass and Knox Waterloo Praise Band

Date: Tuesday, December 12 at 7:30 PM

Venue: Knox Presbyterian Church Waterloo, 50 Erb Street West, Waterloo N2L 1T1

Price: By Donation, a fundraiser for Afghanistan Emergency Relief

Ebytown Brass is KW's large brass ensemble directed by Susan Follows. We present our Christmas concert with our guests, Knox Waterloo Praise Band

Brassroots Members Featured: Susan Follows, John Monkhouse

WHERE TO SEE BRASSROOTS MEMBERS PERFORM COMING UP!

Bye, Bye Birdie

Presented by Woodstock Collegiate Institute Red Players

Date: December 13-16 at 7:00 PM

Venue: Knox Presbyterian Church, 59 Riddell Street, Woodstock, ON N4S 6M2

Price: \$25

The original 1960-1961 Broadway production was a Tony Award-winning success. It spawned a London production and several major revivals, a sequel, a 1963 film, and a 1995 television production.

Brassroots Members Featured: Julie Vaughan in the Orchestra Pit

New Years Celebration

Presented by Stratford Symphony Orchestra

Date: Monday, January 1, at 3:00 PM

Venue: Avondale United Church, 194 Avondale Ave, Stratford ON N5A 6N4

Price: Adults: \$45 Students \$15, under 12 Free. Tickets are available at the door or for purchase online.

Principal Conductor: William Rowson

Guest Artist: Maria Soulis

The Stratford Symphony Orchestra hosts its annual New Years Celebration which promises to be bubbly and effervescent as ever. Come to hear your favourite dances, alongside some new surprises, before heading home to continue the festivities with your family and friends.

Brassroots Members Featured: Susan Follows Julia Vaughan, Kevin Swinden



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with Special Guests
Dreams Come True Music Studio



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London Ontario

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MUSIC STUDIO