



2023-24

ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

2023-26 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Conservatory strengthens the artistic community and cultural life of Nova Scotia and the Maritimes by training and nurturing future artists. It inspires a lifelong love of artistic expression for all through high quality music and dance instruction and programming.



VALUES

Diversity and Inclusion | We encourage and welcome everyone and their differences in identity, skills, and talents.

Equity and Accessibility | We strive for equitable access to opportunities in all our programs and offerings.

Respectful engagement | We support the dignity and rights of all by nurturing a culture of respect in all our endeavours.

Integrity, honesty and transparency | We act ethically in all our endeavours.

Excellence | We support individual and group achievement by providing excellence in all of our instruction and programming.

Creativity | We encourage creativity, new ways of thinking, and artistic risk taking.

Community | We support the growth and development of our internal "family" of students, faculty, staff, and Board, while actively nurturing external connections to other artistic, educational, and public communities.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The past year at the Conservatory has seen growth, progress in our strategic priorities, financial stability, and a whole lot of magic.

The Schools of Music and Dance and the Centre for Music Therapy all increased enrolment and programming. They expanded innovative and popular new offerings – like the Carrousel program – and welcomed more distinguished musicians and dance instructors to faculty ranks.

Revenues grew substantially through increases in tuition and program revenues and a banner year in fundraising. The number of dollars donated to the Conservatory went up and the number of individual donors doubled compared to the previous year. Some were able to give a small amount and others gave large sums. It all helps.

The efforts of our staff and the generosity of our community allowed us to end the year with a small surplus – imagine that! And as you'll see in the financial report, we received an unqualified passing grade on our audit for the second year in a row. While the Conservatory, like any non-profit organization, needs to remain financially vigilant, the books are in solid shape.

Our grand old building on Chebucto Road got some tender care with the repair of the leakiest windows and to the brick exterior, upgrades to the heating and IT systems.

The real story of the Maritime Conservatory, though, is in the studios, on the stage of the Lillian Piercy Concert Hall, and in performances in the community.

Last year, like every year, our incredibly talented and devoted faculty members developed the talents and passions of more than a thousand students and clients, from babies in Kindermusik to the adults learning tap dance to the warbling Seniors in Song. Children near the beginning of their musical journeys were performing in concert with the Prelude Orchestra; grown-ups at various stages of proficiency were stretching their abilities – and horizons – in the World Music ensemble; dance students at the beginning of their journeys performed alongside peers of exquisite talent in a lush ballet production while, down the hall, others perfected the movements of a modern dance piece that was choreographed by their teacher.

The confidence and joy in these performances can take your breath away.

Magic happens every day at the Conservatory.

Thank you for being part of our community.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Rick Alexander, Chair
Danielle Keating, Vice-Chair
Christopher Hopgood, Vice-Chair
Kathryn Burlton, Treasurer
Edie Hancock
Niel MacIntyre
Alexandria Samson

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Simon Robinson, Director
Janet Bradbury, Dean of Dance
Sibylle Marquardt, Dean of Music
Daniel MacNeil, Music Faculty Representative
Cole Richardson, Dance Faculty Representative

STAFF

Jeffrey Hale, Administration
Lynn Steeves, Administration
Rosalyn Urquhart, Administration
Cynthia Creaser, Staff Accountant
Jessie Walker, Development Officer

Daniel Wittnebel, Design & Digital Marketing Officer
Hannah Docking, Weekend and Evening Staff
Kirsten O'Neil, Weekend and Evening Staff
John Richards, Custodian
Elyse Davidson, Custodian

SCHOOL OF DANCE

We welcome people who want to infuse their life with dance. Our inclusive and accredited program will give you the foundation and the freedom to express yourself through movement, at home or on the world stage, at any stage of your life.

2023 - 2024

The 2023-2024 year was one of continued growth and success for the School of Dance. Our faculty expanded to 17 highly qualified instructors who offered a wide range of classes and private instruction in Ballet, Ballroom, Composition, Conditioning, Contemporary, Jazz, Modern, Pointe, Silver Swans Ballet, Tap, Theory, and Variations. Student enrollment ranged between 350 and 380, reflecting the strong interest and dedication of our community.

Summer programs saw a significant increase in participation. Dance Camp enrollment grew by 100%, from 72 to 143 students, and our Dance Intensives, Junior Intensive, and Adult evening classes all ran successfully. We were also excited to welcome the first intake into the Dance Teacher Training Diploma since 2019.



Our students had an exceptional year, including a perfect 100% pass rate for both Cecchetti Canada and Royal Academy of Dance exams. Many of our students earned Distinction and/or Honours in these prestigious examinations. The School of Dance also celebrated several memorable performances, including Snapshots performances and the ballet production of The Happy Prince, which was performed at the Spatz Theatre. The performance was well-received by a lively audience, and fun intermission activities were enjoyed by children. Our outreach efforts continued, with performances for schoolchildren and Spring Recitals at the Spatz Theatre.

In addition, we held Early Childhood Movement Celebrations in the Lilian Piercey Hall, and an Adult Dance Showcase, providing diverse opportunities for our dancers to shine. Our partnership with Easter Seals Nova Scotia continued throughout the year, with Learn to Dance classes, and our ongoing collaboration with St. George's YouthNet further extended the reach of our music and dance programs into the community.

The 2023-24 year has been a time of great success and growth, with the School of Dance thriving through expanded programs and deepened connections with our community. We look forward to continuing this momentum in the coming year.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

We'll help you live a creative musical life, or explore professional opportunities, that enriches yourself and your community by giving you the language and perspective of music—through highly skilled and passionate musical instruction.

2023 - 2024



The 2023–2024 year marked a continued period of success and expansion for the School of Music. With a faculty of 54 highly skilled instructors, we welcomed new faculty members, including Molly Anderson (Kindermusik), Brenda Joyce (Piano), Katherine Fitch Loza (Harp), Aiden Russell (Cello), Jessica Hansen Wheaton (Piano), Dr. Robert Best (Piano), and Eric Braley (Clarinet). Our student enrollment grew to approximately 950 registered students and participants, reflecting the continued strength and diversity of our programs.

Our summer programs enjoyed strong participation, with a variety of camps offered, including Music Theory, Musical Theatre, Adult Cello, Beginner Strings, Brass Camp, and a combined music and dance

camp. Additionally, our Kindermusik program continued to thrive, with 18 weekly classes offered in five levels, further extending our reach to younger students.

Throughout the year, the School of Music maintained a vibrant and active performance schedule. Our ensembles included 4 orchestras: Chamber, Prelude, Presto, and Adult; 2 choirs: Seton Conservatory Choir and Treble Time Children's Choir; and 8 year-long ensembles. The continued success of our music theory classes and Suzuki violin and flute programs has been a testament to our commitment to fostering a solid musical foundation for students of all ages.

Our students also excelled in their examinations, which were held in January and June, maintaining the high standards set by the Conservatory. The Discovery Series concerts were an opportunity for students to showcase their talents, while the Maritime Centre for the Contemporary Showcase Festival saw 14 participants representing the School of Music under the umbrella of the Alliance for Canadian New Music Projects.

In addition to these activities, the School of Music's outreach program remained strong, with 4 modules of music and dance and two children receiving private lessons in voice and piano. These efforts continue to strengthen our ties to the community, making music education more accessible to a wider audience.

The 2023–24 year has been one of great progress and accomplishment for the School of Music, and we are excited to continue building on this success in the years to come, further solidifying our place as a leading center for music education in Halifax and the Maritimes.

CENTRE FOR MUSIC THERAPY

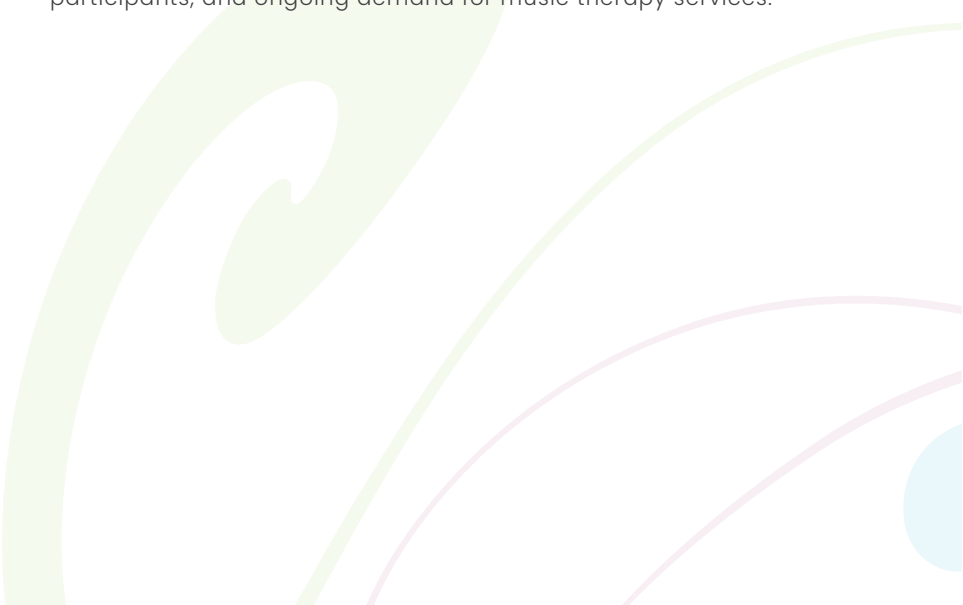
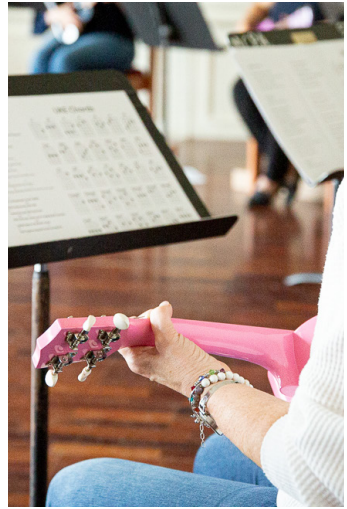
Our certified music therapists help Nova Scotians access the healing power, and joy, of music, right in the heart of Halifax.

2023 - 2024

The Centre for Music Therapy experienced a successful year of growth and increased community impact. Our music therapy team expanded to 12 therapists, including 2 interns. We continue to partner with agencies and community organizations, such as HomeBridge Youth Society, Easter Seals, L'Arche Halifax, and Metro Community Living, among others.

In addition to individual therapy, the Centre maintained its commitment to community outreach. We provided group services to 29 organizations, marking a 16% increase from the previous year. Our work with schools and preschools, including institutions like Wee Care Developmental Centre, Beech Tree Academy, and Admiral Westphal Elementary, continues to thrive. We have expanded our long-term care services with notable programs at Northwood's various campuses and Sheldrake Lodge.

A key highlight was the Seniors in Song program, which saw a rise in participants and garnered interest from other community organizations looking to adopt similar programming. We continue to see a rise in participants, and ongoing demand for music therapy services.



2023-2024 FINANCIAL REPORT



The Conservatory's financial position continued to improve in the 2023 -24 fiscal year, with a 20% increase in revenues from program participation. Revenues from donations, grants and fundraising all increased from the previous year. Total revenue for the year was \$2.2 million, with expenses just under \$2 million, resulting in a net surplus of \$246,954. Restricted funds, which are available for specific purposes, primarily scholarships, contributed \$171,560 to the total, while the unrestricted funds, provided by daily operations and fundraising, contributed the remaining \$75,394.

An independent audit was conducted by G&R Chartered Professional Accountants, who provided an unqualified audit report, finding the financial statements to fairly present the Conservatory's financial position as of June 30, 2024. The Conservatory's assets were valued at \$1.7 million, an increase of \$226,769 from the previous year.

Donations, grants and fundraising continue to be crucial for the operation of the Conservatory, particularly as we continue to maintain our beloved old building.

REVENUES

Programs and Performances	\$1,686,713
Donations, Fundraising, Grants and Other	421,437
Rentals	105,050
Investment Income	17,566
	<hr/>
	\$2,230,766

EXPENDITURES

Programs and Performances	\$1,386,844
Operating Costs	439,916
Building Costs	157,052
	<hr/>
	\$1,983,812

For people who don't just want to support a season of entertainment, but instead want to invest in a generation of musicians and dancers—and the long-term future of the arts here at home—the Conservatory is the ideal partner. We can help you make a lasting mark in the lives of our students, faculty, and community.



"I have been a proud parent at the Conservatory for 11 years, ever since my daughter Natalie started dancing here at age four. Over the past 3-4 years, I've also had the joy of being a student in dance classes myself.

Watching Natalie perform—whether it's a small show, the Conservatory's annual ballet productions, or the end-of-year recitals—has been an absolute joy. It's been incredible to witness her progress as a dancer and an artist. The Conservatory's faculty deserves so much credit for nurturing not only technical skills but also a sense of community and creativity among their students.

Inspired by Natalie's journey, I decided to step out of my comfort zone and try dancing myself. When the Conservatory offered an adult tap class, I took the leap. Starting dance as an adult was both intimidating and exhilarating, but it was worth it.

Over my years at the Conservatory, I've witnessed so many positive changes: the addition of adult classes, therapy classes, and inclusivity programs, to name a few. When the donor program was introduced a few years ago, I knew I had to contribute. I wanted to ensure that my daughter—and others—could continue their dance education in this remarkable space."

- Paula Kolysher | Donor, Student, Parent

The Maritime Conservatory is one of the largest and longest-standing arts education institutions in North America. Its success relies on the active support of community members through volunteering, program participation, and financial donations.

To help to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy a musical life, please donate.



It's easy!

Scan the QR code
or visit

maritimeconservatory.com/donate

You will automatically receive a tax receipt

902-423-6995 | MARITIMECONSERVATORY.COM | @MARITIMECONSERVATORY

