



Quarter Notes Spring: Student-Led Edition

By students from every YONA site

For this edition of Quarter Notes, students from different YONA sites contributed drawings or pieces of writing. You get to see fantastic drawings, learn what they love about YONA, and get a sneak peek into how the YONA program works. Here are some of the questions that the YONA students were asked:

- What does YONA mean to you?
- What is your favourite thing about YONA?
- How does your instrument make you feel?
- What is your favourite YONA snack?
- What is your favourite song that you've learned at YONA?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?

**Flip to the next page to
see what they had to say!**

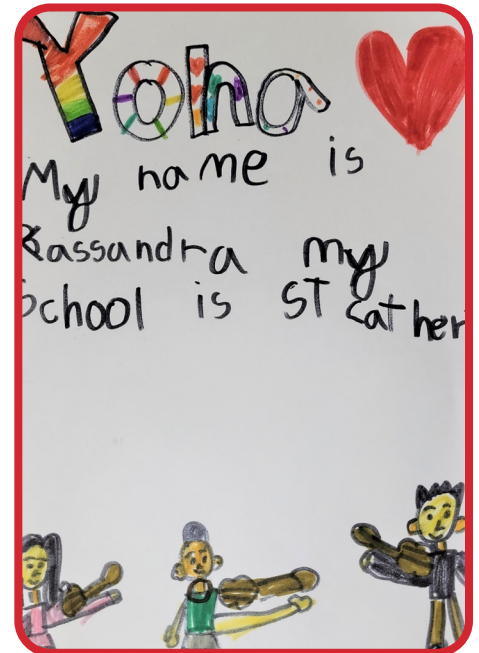
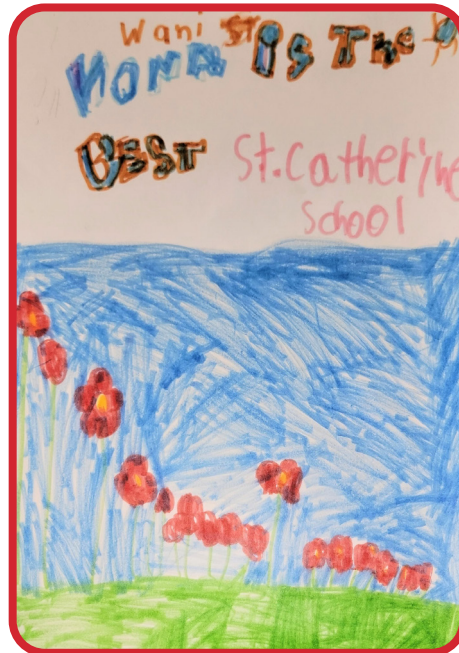
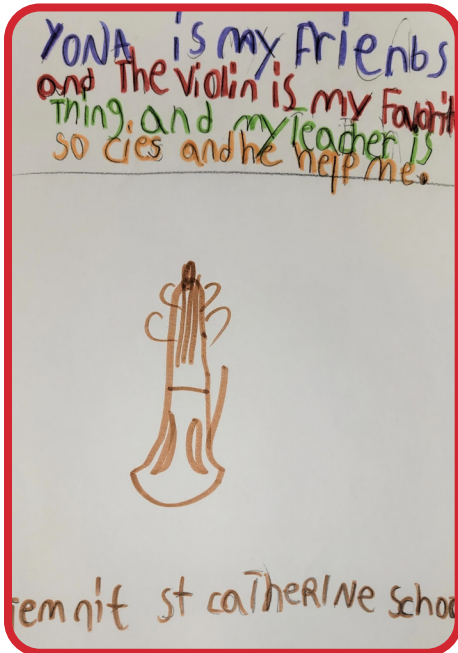
Road to Joy: Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for May 31st! It's YONA's biggest celebration of the year: Road to Joy.

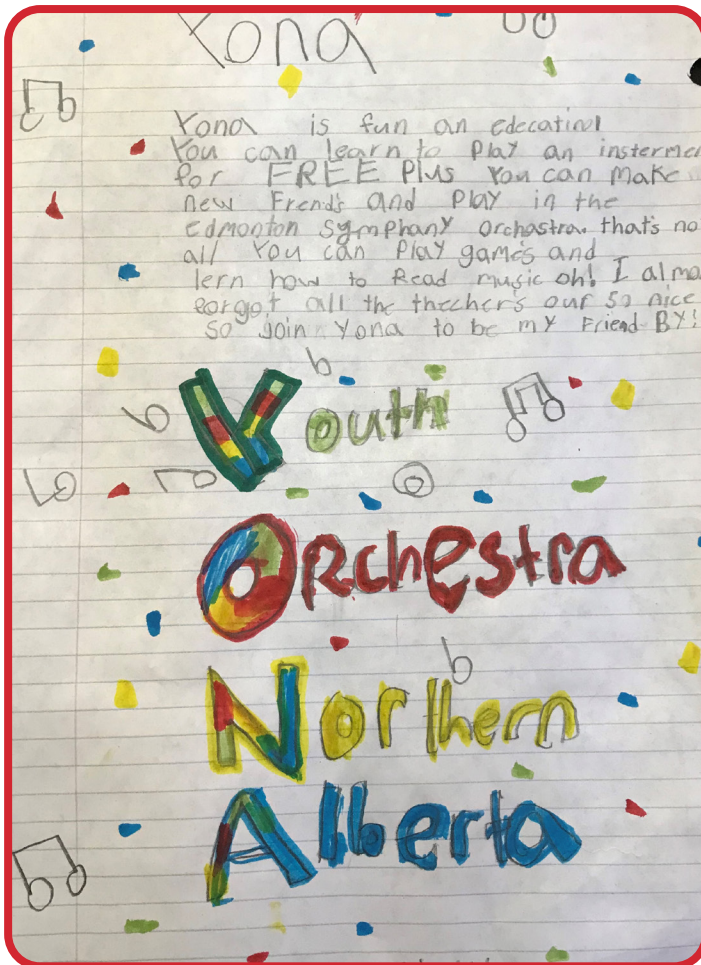
This exciting fundraising event showcases each of YONA's ensembles through musical performances. Join us to hear the students' musical growth this year and celebrate how the program has developed over the past 10 years. Champions of the YONA program will speak, and our very own Edmonton Symphony Orchestra will join the students on stage.

More information, including how to book your tickets, will be released in the coming weeks. We can't wait to see you!

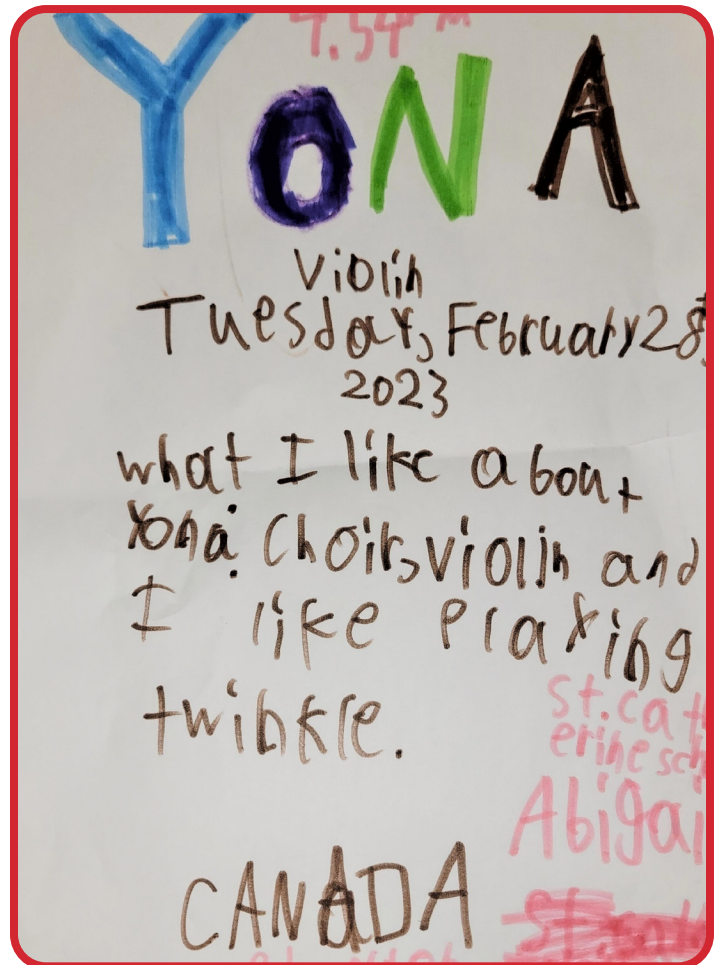
St. Catherine's School:

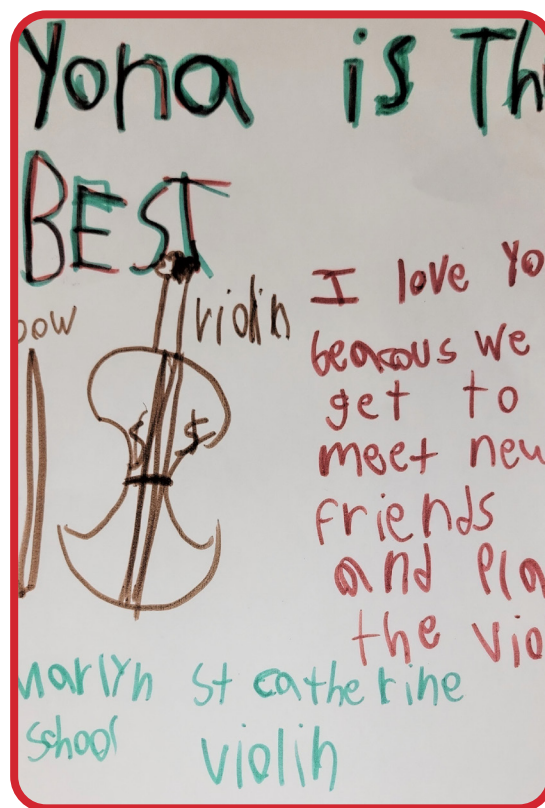
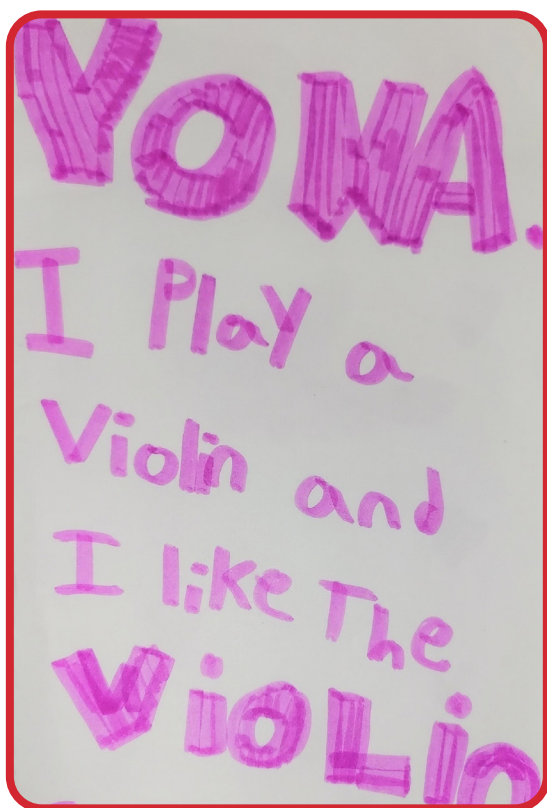


St. Teresa School:



St. Catherine's School:





Sneak Peek into YONA!

By Judy, Grade 7, Horn

The Youth Orchestra of North Alberta-Sistema is a program provided for students who are interested in playing music and working in a group. Whether it's for fun, to make more friends, to gain more experience, or to try something new, YONA is for you!

Experienced students can be moved to the La Bruyère Orchestra, with the most advanced YONA students. Instruments provided in the program include brass, woodwind, string, and percussion instruments.

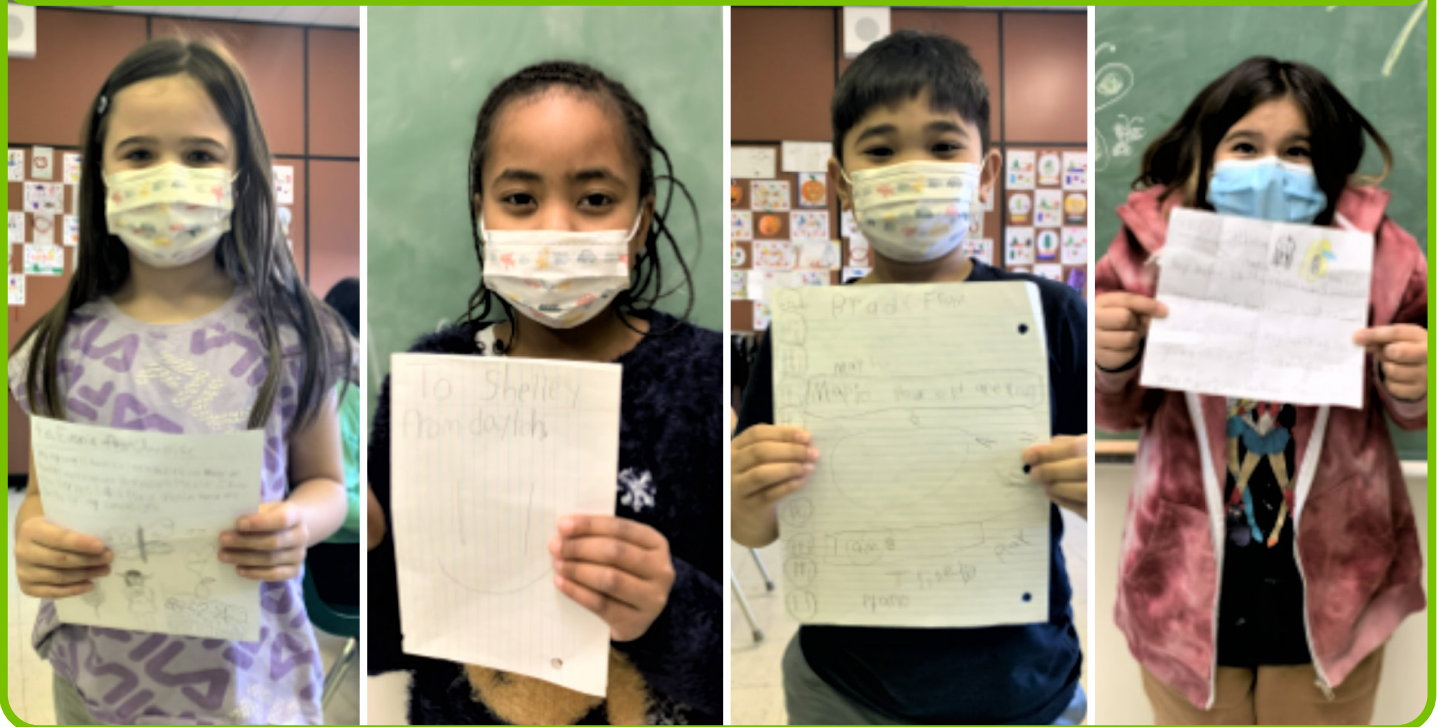
Students who participate in the program will receive snacks, break periods, and instrumental lessons taught by qualified teachers in the area. The teachers in the YONA program have been in

the industry for years, helping the students grow into better musicians and improve their music with the orchestra. Lessons take place in helpful and caring environments with teachers and students that are each different from one another. When selecting an instrument, it'd depend on what instrument they play in school or what they are most familiar with. If they're a beginner, anything is possible!

As for transportation for the children, if the school offers YONA-Sistema, they will be bussed to and from the Winspear Centre on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays after school from 3 to 6 pm for junior players. After YONA, you can pick them up from their school. 🎵

Pen Pal Program

By Lauren Dykstra and Biboye Onanuga, with an interview with Evania



Students with their letters

Mr. Biboye: Evania, can you tell me about what we've been working on this week?

Evania: We're writing letters!

B: Who are we writing them to?

E: The other YONA kids . . .

B: There are other YONA students? Which ones?

E: At other YONA sites! These are for the Kipohtakâw YONA kids.

B: Yes! Why are we writing these letters?

E: Because . . . they wrote letters for us first, and they asked about us, so we're answering the questions and asking them questions too!

B: How did you feel about getting a letter – have you gotten mail like this before?

E: I was excited! I've only had letters from my Grandma.

B: Why do you think this was a good idea?

E: So we can learn about the other YONA kids before we meet them at the concert!

Over the last seven months, students from Kipohtakâw YONA and YONA at St. Alphonsus have participated in a pen pal program, where students playing similar instruments and in comparable grades have been writing letters to each other in anticipation of meeting each other in person before our final concert of the season, Road to Joy.

This initiative began with Kipohtakâw YONA junior violin and flute students writing letters to their peers at YONA at St. Alphonsus. They shared their favourite foods, colours, types of pets, and what they love about YONA. The YONA at St. Alphonsus students responded and asked more questions to get to know their pen pals better.

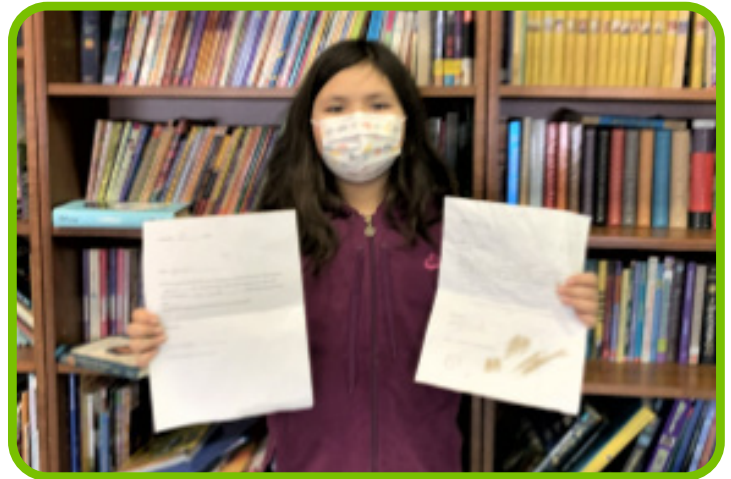
Evania, a bass student at YONA at St. Alphonsus, felt excited to receive her letter because she hasn't received physical letters very often. She is looking

forward to learning more about her pen pal, Charmaine.

Riley and Mario, both violin students, discovered that they have the same favourite food, while Cali, a violin student at Kipohtakâw YONA, and Cali, a bass student at YONA at St. Alphonsus, were delighted to write to someone with the same name.

Dayton, a Kipohtakâw YONA student, and Shelley, a YONA at St. Alphonsus student, first met in person at Road to Joy in 2022, when they welcomed the audience and gave a Treaty Acknowledgment. They immediately bonded and often asked about each other; it was obvious that they should be pen pals, and they put thoughtful effort into their letters. They are very excited to see each other again at Road to Joy and hope to see you there too! 🎵

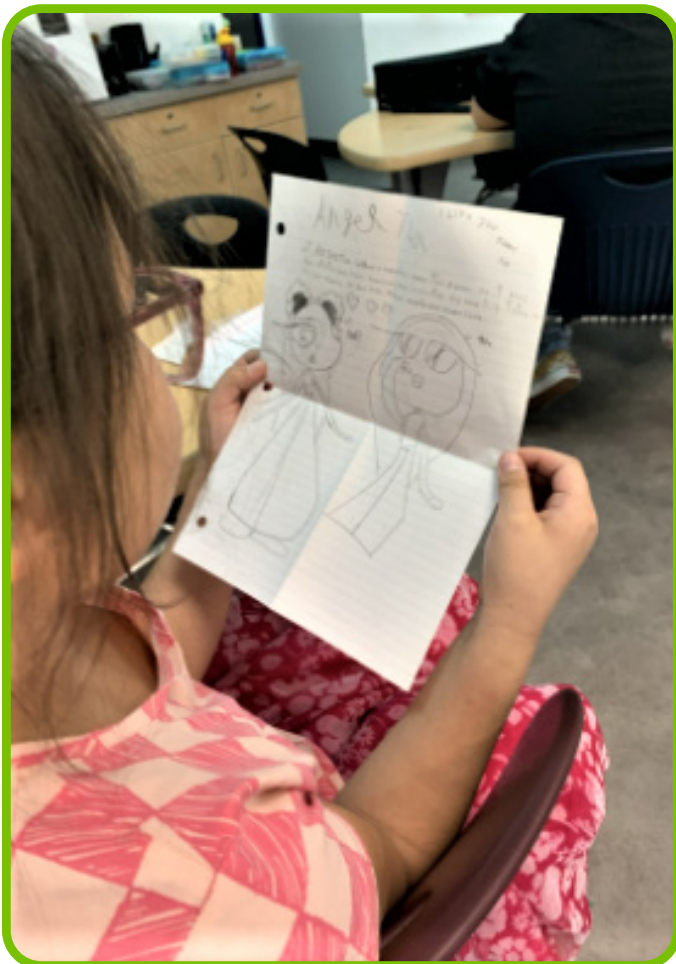
**“I hope we get to play together this time – I want to show him my bass since there are no basses at Kipohtakâw.”
– Shelley**



**“We like the same food!”
– Mario**

**“I really like how she made her letter! I’m going to make mine like this too.”
– Athena**

**“Can I take my letter home to show my Kokum?”
– Alexis**



Winter Concert Review

By Alexandra Stout



The Kipohtakāw YONA ensemble

On February 7th, every YONA ensemble gathered for a special event for their family and friends on the Winspear stage. The Winter Concert is a mid-school year performance that students begin preparing for from the first day. It also helps prepare them for the biggest concert of the year, Road to Joy.

Students from each ensemble stepped up to the mic and introduced their pieces. Each ensemble played a couple of prepared selections, ranging from choir songs to full orchestral music. As one ensemble played, the others sat in the concert hall

– along with their friends and family – and cheered for their fellow students. During certain songs, everyone clapped along to the beat, or sang lyrics that they knew!

The most special moments were when students' faces lit up as they walked onto the stage and saw their loved ones in the audience. They always excitedly waved and pointed to their parents, siblings, guardians, and friends.

The Winter Concert was a success and has everyone excited about Road to Joy! 🎵



The YONA choir and their teaching artists



Donate to YONA-Sistema

You can support the future of YONA-Sistema by donating money, time, or instruments.

When you give, you put a musical instrument in the hands of a child. This can become so much more than a simple vessel for sound – it can become an instrument for growth, development, and change. Every gift, great or small, makes a difference in the life of a child and contributes to social change in our community.

Through YONA-Sistema, youth in Northern Alberta's priority neighbourhoods will experience an extraordinary opportunity for social, emotional, academic, and musical development. They will develop lifelong values and skills that will promote the future success of these youth and of their communities.

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