

# Southern Ontario Chamber Music Institute

President's Report

2007 – 08

## Annual General Meeting

January 25, 2009

SOCMI's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year provided the opportunity for an expanded concert series, the reunion of Oakville alumni and the creation of a commemorative video.

Achievements of which we are most proud include having recruited, assessed and financially assisted the attendance of three Oakville students; having been able to hold two professional public concerts with quartets whose cellists each grew up in Oakville but are now performing and teaching internationally; having been able to stage the premiere of a new work composed specifically for a student orchestra; having been able to add a second Student Showcase concert and having been able to capture our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary evening on video and disc (partially through in-kind donated services).

It remains a challenge to turn out audiences in large numbers, even though we spread our publicity further afield in Southern Ontario than in previous years. It's always a challenge raising money! Conditions generating these challenges appear to be that local audiences are on vacation and the need to win over funding sources, one-by-one on a one-on-one basis (two new Oakville enterprises came on-board this year).

We also recruited another Oakville-domiciled director during the year.

From an economic perspective we showed a slight deficit this year. We did raise \$22,500 or about 28% of our total revenue from Oakville sources while we spent \$38,000 or 46% of our total expenses in the Town. Or from a net benefit to the local economy perspective, we brought \$15,500 of "external money" into Oakville.

We were in a transition from having paid administrative help to an all-volunteer organization and have taken appropriate steps to reduce costs and distribute work loads.

Funding operations for 2009 will doubtless be very challenging, given the current state of the economy and will require not only innovative thinking but lots of hard work!

Tag Watson  
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