



## **SISTEMA KINGSTON IS SEEKING AN UPPER STRINGS TEACHING ARTIST (PART-TIME)**

There are few opportunities as meaningful and rewarding as teaching, mentoring and supporting children from under-served areas who otherwise would never have an opportunity to participate in music learning. **Sistema Kingston** is an intensive after school program in Kingston ON that focuses on positive social development through the pursuit of musical excellence. Using the Venezuelan *El Sistema* as its model, *Sistema Kingston* emphasizes inclusivity and teamwork, builds personal persistence, and fosters creativity and personal responsibility in all its activities.

We are seeking Teaching Artists to expand programming at our Saint Thomas More School site. Program hours are Monday-Thursday from 3:00-5:30pm, October-May. Students are in grades 2-5. Team training begins on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

As part of the Sistema Kingston instructional team, the Teaching Artist will be a lively and engaging music educator whose specialization is Upper Strings and is comfortable teaching both violin and viola. They will work closely in a team environment with other Teaching Artists and the Artistic Lead. Activities will include (but are not limited to):

- Music Teaching: teach groups of children (up to 20) 4 days/week using a student-centered and fun pedagogical approach, focusing on music fundamentals and beginner strings. Prepare lesson plans to align with established curriculum, learning priorities, timelines and concert goals. Make music arrangements and prepare parts as required.
- Recruitment: participate in all aspects of student recruitment presentations
- Instruments: assign student instruments according to size, ensure instruments and accessories are in good working order. Lead paper instrument project.
- Space: Ensure classrooms are left clean, equipment is cleaned up, and furniture restored to correct places each day
- Communications: ensure that any schedule changes or pertinent information about a student is communicated in a timely manner to the relevant people.
- Classroom support: provide support for other teaching artists, students and volunteers; mentor/supervise students in all contexts during Sistema Kingston program hours and performances; model the principles and philosophy of Sistema Kingston in all activities
- Attend regular Sistema Kingston team meetings

### **REQUIRED**

- Demonstrated proficiency on violin or viola, and ability to read and arrange music
- Post-secondary degree in music or music education, or equivalent experience. Orff, Kodaly, or similar early childhood music training would be a strong asset.
- Music teaching experience with groups of children; experience with children with Adverse Childhood Experiences, special needs, or behavior exceptionalities an asset.
- Satisfactory Criminal Records Check including Vulnerable Sector Screening

<https://educ.queensu.ca/community/sistema-kingston>

***“Teach children the beauty of music, and music will teach them the beauty of life.”***

*- Jose Antonio Abreu, Founder El Sistema*



### **SPECIAL SKILLS**

- Ability to work independently and in a team environment
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written, to communicate effectively with diverse populations in a professional manner and to provide clear and accurate information
- Ability to think ahead to anticipate needs and potential problems
- Ability to remain calm and respond diplomatically and sensitively using good judgment in stressful/difficult/controversial situations
- Resourcefulness and creativity, with strong attention to detail and consistency
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Physically able to carry up to 20 lbs

### **DECISION MAKING**

- Make lesson plans to meet pedagogical goals and adjust as needed
- Assess which inquiries/problems to refer to appropriate other staff and which to handle to completion.

### **COMPENSATION**

Hourly. The Teaching Artist will be engaged as an Independent Contractor.

### **PROGRAM HOURS**

15 hours/week preferred during fixed program hours (3:00-5:30 M-Th on-site, + 5 additional hours/week for lesson planning, meetings, instrument management) October-May according to specific schedule. Training and team preparation begin on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> and takes place normally between 2:30-5:30 on Mon-Thurs. Special dates will come up throughout the year.

### **APPLY** - please submit electronically:

- Cover letter which addresses why are you interested in working at Sistema Kingston, and what your availability is for interview between August 15-17, 2023
- Resume which includes work and volunteer experience

To: Karma Tomm, Director, Sistema Kingston

Email: [tommk@queensu.ca](mailto:tommk@queensu.ca)

Applications received by August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 will receive full consideration. Interviews will take place August 15-17, at which candidates will be asked to:

- perform a short selection, unaccompanied
- prepare a lesson plan according to specific instructions
- provide contact information (telephone and email) for 2 references

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