

FEEDBACK

Course Evaluations

McMaster University: Chamber Orchestra

These quotes were taken from instructor course evaluations conducted by McMaster Humanities Media and Computing (2013), completed by university students enrolled in the McMaster Chamber Orchestra course (Music 1GR3E and 2GR3E). One portion of the survey asked students “list aspects of the course that [they] found to be valuable:”

A Sample of Student Responses:

- Colin did a great job making all the musicians feel part of a group
- The music was challenging and from different time periods
- Mr. Clarke was great at answering questions clearly and concisely.
- I am new to Canada and struggle with English. Clarke treated me no differently than the other students and encouraged me to go for higher musical goals. That was very valuable to me.
- The instructor challenged us.
- His expectations were quite high which motivated me to practice and aim higher.
- Great teamwork.
- Excellent communication.
- He talks very fast! It's sometimes hard to understand Colin. But his gestures are very clear.
- Within the course of the year I could hear significant changes to our playing. Mr Clarke was amazing at meeting the musicians where we were and lifting us to new musical heights.
- Challenging yet fun orchestra.
- Must do this course next year!!!
- Mr. Clarke always had positive energy. Made classes fun!
- Very serious about his job and extremely knowledgeable.
- This was my favourite class!

Survey Results

Teacher Evaluations: TYWO Student Concerts

This is a summary of responses from music educators who brought their students to the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra's annual Student Concerts, a series of one-hour, matinee concerts designed for elementary and high school students.

- The kids were so engaged and inspired! One Grade 11 boy said on the bus, "I can't wait to get back to school so I can do my trumpet warm ups!"

Shirley Madden
Bur Oak Secondary School

- "It was awesome! Do let us know in Simcoe County of future concerts as it's great to expose my students to this."

Laura Lee Matthie
Park Street Collegiate

- My students who range in age from 13-17 really had a wonderful time and it was well worth the effort. This was without a doubt, one of the best field trips that we had attended in a while... well done!

John Kaminsky
Our Lady of the Lake CHS

- We loved the concert! My students were talking about it all afternoon and into the next day. A couple of grade 9 students who were previously on the fence about taking music said they were taking it all four years for sure now – they were that inspired!

Sue Brown
Lorne Park Secondary School

- My students who range in age from 13-17 really had a wonderful time and it was well worth the effort. This was without a doubt, one of the best field trips that we had attended in a while... well done!

Nina Hollington
Marshall McLuhan CSS Secondary School

Testimonials

- My children come home energized after a TYWO rehearsal, and the good feeling stays with them through the week. People become part of this organization and they never want to leave because it is so much fun. Colin is a legend.

Michelle Blundell
Parent

- Of all the music educators I have ever interacted with in my life (which, admittedly, is short, but musically enriched), I have never met one as passionate and devoted, but loving as Colin Clarke. If he ever gave me a hug, it lit up my whole day, because I knew that he really cared about me. In fact, he cared about all of his musicians. When I auditioned for TYWO this year, I never imagined that it would feel so much like a family as it does. I love the way that we are all not only close, but can also be professional at the same time. How many families are there where every individual shares a common interest and a common goal? It makes us all closer than ever.

Lily Chapnik
Clarinet, TYWO

- When Colin guest-conducted our symphony, he brought a new, youthful spirit to our annual Family Christmas Concert. From his creative and fun music selections, to his amazing rapport with musicians and audiences alike, he delivered a special kind of energy that dazzled and enraptured everyone in the theatre.

Bianca Chambers
Executive Director, Oakville Symphony

- Watching Colin in action with the band was not only educational but inspirational. He is one of Canada's gems

Jim Forde
National Youth Band of Canada

- For the first time in this history of our festival, we've actually received requests from teachers for us to arrange for Colin Clarke to work with their ensembles. He has become a favourite and our festival, and we plan to have him back often in the years to come. The teachers (and students) have spoken!

Linda Prai
Coordinator, Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival

- Colin is one incredible and special human. I can't begin to thank him enough for his time, commitment and the passion that he brings to this noble profession. I received so many positive comments from kids (mine included) and teachers of how "awesome" he was.

Ross McIntyre
Coordinator, Alberta Provincial Honour Band

- I plan an annual trip to Toronto with my students and Colin is at the centre of that trip. He is an extremely talented musician and can connect with young people in a manner that one rarely sees from a professional musician.

Gerard Loehr
Ottawa Carleton District School Board

- I was so moved by the sounds of the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra. The concert was sublime. The music floated, it swirled, it whispered palpable sounds of joy. Take a bow, Colin.

Wendy Setterington
Parent

- In the brief time that he was here, Colin managed to lift our ensemble from the point of irrelevance to a strong musical force in our city, something no other conductor in my time with the band has ever achieved.

Laelie Snook
Musician and former Board Member
Guelph Concert Band

- After that concert, I now feel that the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra's musical future is secure and in good hands.

Glenn Mallory
Founder, Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra

- I heard the TYWO and they were extraordinary. They are one of the best – if not the best – youth wind orchestra to appear on our program in 22 years. An enthusiastic "YES" to this distinguished ensemble and their director, Colin Clarke. We thank you for your participation in our Carnegie Hall series.

Peter Tiboris
Artistic Director, Mid-America Productions
Carnegie Hall