



Celebrating 40 Years of Creating Pathways to Success: Dixon Hall's Music For Life Fundraising Gala Returns with Notable Emcee

TORONTO – (November 29th) On Wednesday, December 5th, Music For Life, Dixon Hall's annual fundraising gala in support of Dixon Hall Music School, returns to celebrate a milestone anniversary with an extraordinary emcee. Presented by RBC and the Slight Family Foundation, the event takes place from 6:00pm – 9:00pm at Daniels Spectrum in Regent Park. It's an evening to celebrate the power of music, and includes a sit-down meal and drinks, along with performances from Music School students and special guest artist, Moscow Apartment. Proceeds from the event make it possible for Dixon Hall to continue to offer high-quality music education at subsidized prices in the downtown east.

Dixon Hall Music School is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Since 1978, the Music School has been creating a lasting legacy of positive impact on youth by making music education accessible to low-income families. The master of ceremonies for the evening, Thompson Egbo-Egbo is a Dixon Hall Music alumnus who embodies the success music education makes possible – he's a celebrated jazz pianist who has released two albums, serves on Dixon Hall's Board of Directors, and has created his own foundation to bring music education to Toronto youth in high-need neighbourhoods. He is the first Music School alumnus to serve as the emcee for the event.

"Having Thompson Egbo-Egbo emcee this year's Music For Life gala is a touching, full circle moment for Dixon Hall Music School and is incredibly fitting to celebrate the Music School's 40th anniversary," said Bob McKitrick, Music School Director. "Every day, we see how much music means to young people, and how much it helps them grow. Thompson is one of many students, past and present, who has gone on to achieve great things. For 40 years, Dixon Hall Music School has delivered on its vision of providing affordable, high-quality music lessons offered by professionals for neighbourhood youth. It's a place of warmth and constancy, where individuals and individuality are celebrated, a place where challenges are presented and supported, and where the results matter. Music is pathway to personal growth and development, and a pathway to success."

Dixon Hall Music School becomes a second home to many of our students, and a safe space in the community to learn and create. By studying music, students develop and sharpen many skills which are transferable outside the classroom and contribute to academic and personal success. They also make friends and social connections, and develop healthy self-esteem and positive self-image. For the last three years, 100% of Music School students who graduated high school have pursued post-secondary education, and increasingly, students have been invited to perform at notable events in the city of Toronto.

Dixon Hall Music School serves the Regent Park, Moss Park and downtown east communities, providing high-quality music education at subsidized prices to low-income families. 65% of families with a child attending Dixon Hall Music School have an annual household income of \$29,000 or less. Annually, the Music School offers 12,500 lessons a year in 22 subject areas,



including both individual and ensemble disciplines. 320 students attend classes each week, and can start their music education beginning at age 4. Students also have the opportunity to attend free music and arts camps, both in Toronto and outside the city, and receive free tickets to attend cultural events.

For more information on Music For Life and how Dixon Hall Music School sets young people up for success in Regent Park, please contact:

Kali Madej
Communications Manager
647.336.6447
kali.madej@dixonhall.org
www.dixonhall.org