

MEDIA RELEASE

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'Beatles vs. Rolling Stones' Concert Nets Wentworth a Fundraising Milestone

KELOWNA, BC – Staff and students at Wentworth Music Education Centre, are certainly no strangers to 'epic' concerts. However, their latest, a 'Beatles vs. Rolling Stones' battle this past February, went above and beyond when net proceeds from the event pushed the total amount raised by Wentworth over the past ten years, to a show-stopping \$200,000.

Students rocked out to a crowd of 1,300 friends, family and the community over two shows. In addition to being an outstanding showcase of the student's talent and showmanship, the concert raised a record \$16,195 to support JoeAnna's House, a home away from home for families of children from across the region travelling to KGH for care.



Pictured from left: Rickie Tyler from K96.3, Sue Manzuik from Interior Savings and Noel Wentworth.

This brings the ten year cumulative total raised by the well-known, local music school to \$200,013.97. All the funds have been donated to support pediatric care in the North and Central Okanagan.

Sponsored by Interior Savings and K96.3, the concerts were inspired by Wentworth's desire to give his students a platform for showcasing their talents in a more dynamic way than the traditional music recital. Students would perform to an audience of fans, the caveat being that all money raised would be donated to support pediatric care in the region.

"Performing live in front of their families and friends is such a thrill for our students," says proud owner, Noel Wentworth. "In addition, they are learning that they have the capacity to help others, in this case sick children, by sharing their talent. It is the ultimate gift to be able to help others by doing what you love."

A big part of the charm of the concerts is that they are themed, inspired by the iconic bands and performers of the rock genre including; Queen (2008); Kiss Tribute (2010) Journey vs. U2 (2012); Blue Collar Rock (2013) and Canada Rocks (2014) to name a few. This most recent concert featured timeless classics from both the Beatles and the Rolling Stones.

Wentworth recalls an early cheque presentation at the children's ward at Kelowna General Hospital. "I was dressed up as Gene Simmons from KISS," laughs Wentworth. "I met a little boy who was very sick. He was so grateful to see me in my funky get-up, to just shake my hand... and I knew in that moment that we were doing the right thing, that we had a responsibility to help these kids. Little things make a big difference."

"Noel and his team have become like family," notes Chandel Schmidt, Annual Programs Director at the KGH Foundation. "We are so grateful for their support. They always bring big smiles to the faces of the children here."

The KGH Foundation is an independent, volunteer-driven charitable organization committed to enhancing the delivery of healthcare to the patients of Kelowna General Hospital and its associated facilities.

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