



SEVEN OAKS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
INC.

Foundation

NEWS

Summer 2020

MUSICAL MEMORIES

Reminiscing About Our First Annual Seven Oaks Education Foundation Concert



Do you remember when we used to go out to listen and watch live music? (Sigh.)

It's no secret that Winnipeg has a thriving music scene. Then COVID 19 hit, the music venues closed down, and the music took to the internet in full force.

But lovely as it is, it's not quite the same as being together with other fans and enjoying a big venue concert experience.

Fortunately, some of us still have the sweet memory of the successful **Seven Oaks Education Foundation's** concert fundraiser. It was held in partnership with the **Home Routes Network/ Chemin Chez Nous** and

the **Winnipeg Crankie Festival**, at the fantastic **Seven Oaks Performing Arts Centre** venue at 711 Jefferson Avenue on February 21.

The show started with **Double the Trouble**, a family band made up of 15-year-old twins, Aidan and Luc Wrigley on fiddles and their dad, Rob Wrigley, on guitar and percussions. Rob is a Seven Oaks School Division educational assistant by weekday, and a well-known local musician in the Manitoba folk scene. He plays in several bands, including the Robert Allan Wrigley Band and Rockabilly Rattlesnake.

At the SOEF fundraiser, **Double the Trouble** took the stage and wowed

the audience. They had people dancing in their seats and the aisles. The youngest Wrigley, 8-year-old Shilo, even jiggled on stage while her family played (her first performance in front of an audience!) **Double the Trouble** finished with tremendous applause and were cheered on to perform an encore.

Following that lively act, Canadian fan-favourite and Winnipeg-born singer/songwriter/fiddle player **Sierra Noble** gave the crowd what they were waiting for with both her guitar and fiddle playing and her legendary dulcet singing voice. Sierra has won numerous musical awards and opened for rock stars like Bon Jovi. She is also an active philanthropist.

She was thrilled to be included in this fundraiser for the Seven Oaks Education Foundation, and she did not disappoint the audience with a beautifully performed set where she played traditional fiddle music along with some of her new and upcoming songs.

The last act of the evening was with the band **The Duhks**, a Canadian folk-fusion band from Winnipeg. **The Duhks** are led by Leonard Podolak and Jesse Havey, with Scott Senior, an educational assistant in Seven Oaks on percussion. With their trademark blend of banjo, fiddle, guitar, percussion, and vocals, **The Duhks** played a set of folk music that included many genres. From soul, gospel, and old-time country to zydeco and traditional Irish dance music, all songs were infused with Scott Senior's Latin-influenced percussion - and buoyed by 15-year-old Kai Hiebert's Celtic and Cajun-influenced fiddle-playing.

The night culminated with **Double the Trouble**, **Sierra Noble**, and **The Duhks** mashing up "Down by the Riverside" which brought the crowd to their feet, dancing or tapping their toes and clapping their hands.

It was a perfect way to end an amazing night of music.



This fundraiser, we were fortunate to partner with **Home Routes Network** and **the Crankie Festival** to help us book acts and with ticket sales.

Home Routes/Chemin Chez Nous was initiated by founders of the Winnipeg Folk Festival and the West End Cultural Centre, Mitch Podolak, and Ava Kobrinsky in



collaboration with Tim Osmond and with the support of a nationally-based volunteer Board of Directors. **Home Routes/Chemin Chez Nous** creates new performance opportunities for both French and English speaking musicians and audiences in rural, remote, and urban communities across Canada.

Volunteers host the performances in their homes and other community venues, and the organization recruits new presenters, mostly in smaller communities. It's their way of helping create new opportunities for musicians and rural audiences by increasing access to and quantity of professional performances.

If you are interested in booking a house concert series, please contact them at homeroutes.ca

The Winnipeg Crankie Festival (or Mitch Fest) is an extension of the **Home Routes network**. It's a music and arts festival that takes place early November in Winnipeg and features local and international musicians that play music and display crankies for the songs performed.

"What is a crankie, you ask?" A Crankie is a form of storytelling. A narrative or song is illustrated across

a long scroll of paper, which is rolled up and attached to two dowels. The dowels are fastened inside a box frame, and a hand crank is used to unfurl the story across a viewing area. Think of it like a hand-cranked TV show - hence the name "Crankies."

(You can read more about this fascinating musical storytelling at nataliespears.com/the-crankie)

A big thank you to **Home Routes** and **Crankie Fest** for supporting us in our first in our new annual Seven Oaks Education Foundation Concert series. And an equally big thank you to everyone who attended - your support and enthusiasm are what makes it all worthwhile!

We hope we can gather again next April 2021 for the next concert to help support our Seven Oaks Education Foundation fundraising efforts. So stay tuned - and stay safe!

TO ALL OUR SOSD AND SOEF FRIENDS AND FAMILY:

Thanks for your ongoing support, not just of our students and schools, but of one another.

Have a great summer, stay safe, and we'll see you again sooner than we think!