

OTTAWA BLUESFEST

BE IN THE BAND



First launched in 2009, the “Be in the Band” initiative connects young musicians who want to be in a band with other potential band-mates. Professional local musicians mentor the aspiring future stars through weekly rehearsals in a high-quality ensemble experience. The program finishes with a community concert – and potentially a performance at Ottawa Bluesfest in July!

“The Royal is absolutely thrilled that Ottawa Bluesfest Be in the Band program is offered again in 2013. Last year, we had the privilege and honour to watch the band members not only build friendships and self-confidence but grow as people and amazing musicians. All of them came with different talents but with only one goal ...to be in the Band.”

Sue Riley, The Royal Participating community organization

“When I first auditioned I didn’t know what I was getting into, but by the first or second rehearsal it was really cool to know what I’d be able to do by the end of it. Writing a song and seeing it come to life; that was probably the coolest part.”

Katelyn, Be in the Band Member



How does the Ottawa Bluesfest Be in the Band program work?

- Open to interested young musicians, aged 11 – 17, with at least one year of experience on their instrument.
- Start dates vary across community centres and schools; sessions typically run 8-10 weeks from September through July.
- Ottawa Bluesfest arranges a musician/mentor for each band, as well as technical equipment to any locations that require it.
- Musicians are sorted into bands, and participate in weekly practice with their mentors. Bands will master two to three songs - cover songs and original material are both welcome.
- The program finishes with the bands performing at a concert in their community centre or school.
- From there, the bands have the potential to participate in the ‘Be in the Band’ day at the Ottawa Bluesfest in July.

Fees:

Contact us for more information

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Ottawa Bluesfest is a non-profit charitable organization (Charitable Status #8693622780RR0001)

WE DO GOOD THINGS