

Face the music - Symphony prepares for third season

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Most Montrealers – even those who aren't particularly musical – know that the MSO stands for the Montreal Symphony Orchestra. And if Theodora Stathopoulos has her way, Montrealers will also soon recognize another acronym - the FSO, the Face Smphony Orchestra.

Now in its third season, the orchestra is open to students beyond the borders of FACE (the Fine Arts Core Education).

Anyone interested in orchestral music can join, said Stathopoulos, who has been teaching music at the fine-arts public school since 1992.

Many of the orchestra members have included student from other Montreal-area high schools as well as from CEGEPs and universities.

Stathopoulos meets with orchestra members for weekly after-school rehearsals. "I love working with symphonic repertoire and bringing together people of different backgrounds and different ages for the love of music. A symphony orchestra is the ultimate vehicle in musical expression, since it combines all kinds of instruments." This year the FSO will help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the FACE Treble Choir founded by Montreal's pre-eminent conductor, Iwan Edwards. To mark the occasion, Edwards will guest-conduct the FSO as it performs an all-Liszt concert in March one of the many highlights of the coming season.