



The Music Hall Project
Building a Future for Public Performance
in Hamilton

RE: PED25142 - Grant for Centenary Methodist Church to Establish A Mid-Sized Performance Centre, 24 Main Street West, Hamilton, ON (Ward 2)

Friday, May 16, 2025

To the members of Hamilton City Council,

My name is Glen Brown. I am the publisher of Greater Hamilton Musician, a past member of the Hamilton Music Advisory Team, a former board member of the Rotary Burlington Music Festival and a retired public school music educator.

I'm returning from the pre-covid past to offer my wholehearted support of the Music Hall project. I can't think of any project that is more timely, and well-founded than the Music Hall initiative!

This is a situation where much excellent work in research and restoration has already been completed by a tireless, enthusiastic board and local music and performance industry volunteers. I have personally experienced this commitment and enthusiasm for building a dynamic live music and theatre scene in Hamilton during my work as the proprietor and publisher of "Greater Hamilton Musician" magazine, my local crowdfunding efforts, and my printing of the Hamilton Music Directory in 2012-2014.

In Hamilton, people don't want to mess around and waste their time. When they see quality and value for dollars, especially with regard to bringing in more excellent musicians and opportunities for musical performances, they get behind it. They see things with a long-term perspective, the perspective that builds the strategic hub of support, *where the key music performance venue becomes the effective hub of dozens of other related industries and small*

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businesses.

Hamilton needs this "music hub" venue, as envisioned in the Music Hall.

Consider the challenge over recent years faced by private music venues in the downtown core. What was once a fairly straightforward business proposition is now more risky. And yet, the presence of a mid-sized public performance venue, about the size of the Music Hall auditorium, with a superb management model, remains a viable option.

The location of the Music Hall is critically perfect, being adjacent to proposed transit routes, and within walkable distance of major restaurant districts. The building itself is an architectural and historical treasure. It will be worthy of the name The Music Hall.

The concept of a signature downtown venue which the Music Hall is seeking to become is right on target with other goals of the city. Promotion of a vibrant nighttime culture, more tourism from nearby areas for shows, spinoff visits to local eateries, and a fully equipped "stepping stone" venue for local citizens-who-happen-to-be-artists which is affordable--these are the payoffs.

I look forward to seeing the Music Hall project move ahead, and I encourage you, our city councillors, to support this seed funding as an act of faith and commitment.

Great City. Great Music. Great Musicians.

Thank-you,

GTBrown

Glen Brown