Oakville, Ontario, August 15, 2022 - Bandology's Band Camp was back in full force this summer, returning for a sixth year in Halton and opening a brand new location in the Grand River area. The curriculum-based camp is for campers as young as grade 1 all the way through grade 12. This year, more than 40 campers and mentors enjoyed a week of music, playing and performing as well as traditional camp games with a music focus.

Band Camp consists of full band rehearsals with wind instruments for teenage campers in grades 7-12. Alongside band rehearsals, there are a number of music workshops throughout the week to experience all kinds of music making.

Band Camp Junior, for students in grades 1-6, is aimed at introducing campers to making music, with workshops teaching them the fundamentals of music such as pitch and rhythm. They do bucket drumming, boomwhackers, ukuleles, choral, composing and body percussion, as well as tons of fun camp activities and games.

At the end of each week, campers of all ages are part of the final concert, which includes performances by the wind band as well as demonstrating their new expertise in composing, singing and making music as an ensemble.

"What I like about Band Camp is that you get to meet new people, other people who have similar interests to you, performing music, playing instruments, whatever it is," says Ryan Meeboer, a Burlington-based teacher and composer. Meeboer directed the wind band at Band Camp Halton and shared some of his own compositions with the band.

"In that first rehearsal it's quiet, no one is quite sure what to say, but by Friday they come in and everyone is super excited and the band sounds fantastic," says Dorothy Vreeswyk-Kidd, the Music Director of the inaugural Band Camp Grand River. "Those relationships that students build throughout the week are my favourite thing."

After two successful weeks of camp this summer, Bandology is already looking ahead to Band Camp 2023, coming back to both Halton and Grand River. Band Camp Halton will take place July 10-14, 2023 and Band Camp Grand River will run July 17-21, 2023. Plans are already in motion for even bigger and better camps that bring more music to more kids.

Bandology provides other opportunities for young musicians to play, including the Play A Gig program, which connects young musicians with performance opportunities in the community and online. Bandology also works to promote and advocate for the long-term value of music education. More information can be found at bandology.ca.

- 30 -

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Photos are available upon request.