

**Pam Damoff, M.P.**  
**Oakville North-Burlington**



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

November 2019

On behalf of the Federal Government, I offer my sincere best wishes to all those participating in the Oakville Vocal Arts Festival (OVAF).

Now in its fifth installation, the Oakville Vocal Arts Festival is stronger than ever with over 167 students registered in 366 festival classes. It is a testament to the festival that they have been able to create an inclusive community where the focus is on the personal growth of the musicians as opposed to placing first, second or third. A former participant described their experience at the OVAF by saying, "I got to sing with joy from my heart instead of worrying about whether I would win or not."

Singing is the embodiment of Joy. Devoid from competition the Oakville Vocal Arts Festival provides a venue where our young vocalists are able to come together in polyphony to proclaim their joy through their music.

Thank you to all the students, parents, teachers and adjudicators for dedicating your time and your talents to this year's festival. Fostering artistic expression in young people is critical to the creative development of our community and our country. Singing is a medium which can transcend language, ethnicity and class. It allows us to share stories with each other in ways that no other medium can. I am thankful to the organizers of this event for providing a venue in which these stories can be shared.

I wish the best of luck to all participants, and make sure to break a leg!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Damoff".

Pam Damoff, MP  
Oakville North-Burlington