

A Touching Performance in the KSS Drama Room! - Live

On Friday, April 25th, Live Wire hosted a concert in our very own KSS drama room. Live Wire is a non-profit volunteer organization focused on music appreciation and aiming to bring high quality live music to Kingston. They are reaching younger audiences through their concerts at schools, the one on April 25th being particularly successful.

Mikhail Laxton, an Australian soul-folk artist, played for music students at KSS from guitar, vocal music, and band classes. He inspired the young musicians with his soulful melodies and vulnerable songwriting. Laxton's opening song, "End of the Road" combined rich but gentle vocals with percussive guitar to create an engaging atmosphere. His use of dynamics – soaring highs and soft lows – reeled the audience in, hanging onto every word and strum of his guitar.

Students also had the wonderful opportunity of a Q+A with Laxton, where they learned all about having a career in music – producing, writing, and performing. Laxton also offered valuable advice with the students on inspiration and sharing original music with others. He suggested daily scheduled writing sessions to improve, and co-writing for when you get stuck. The audience marvelled at Mikhail Laxton's ability to write personal lyrics that were universally relatable. He explained that the more honest you are, the more deeply your songs will impact people.

Students at KSS often participate in the frequent coffeehouses, also held in the drama room, but some felt apprehensive about sharing their art. When asked about overcoming fear of judgement when sharing original material, Laxton replied: "Let your love for what you've got outweigh your fear." He emphasized that you never know how your art may help people, so you should release it into the world.

Laxton sang his original songs like "Something's Gotta Give", "Golden Sky", and his personal favourite, "I Like The Way". Though engaging with some darker themes, the musician was ultimately able to inspire hope with his lyrics and rich vocal tone.

Seeing live music is so important, especially for young musicians, and this concert was also very accessible. Being physically close to the person sharing music that they wrote about their own life experience is so inspiring and invigorating as a fellow musician. This particular performance was also held in the same room as the young music students perform for coffeehouses, which sent a message that they could be like Mikhail Laxton one day. Witnessing high quality live music brings the whole audience together as a community of music enjoyers, and it also allows for priceless interactions between the audience and the performer, like the wonderful Q+A portion of Mikhail Laxton's concert. Live Wire hopes to return to KSS in the fall for more exciting concerts like this one, after which students left feeling energized, their passion for music stirred.

Live Wire Student Review – Musician Mikhail Laxton

Live Wire was delighted to have Mikhail Laxton perform for music students at Kingston Secondary School on Friday, April 25th. The Australian soul-folk artist inspired the young musicians with his soaring melodies and vulnerable songwriting, offering advice on inspiration and sharing original music with others. Laxton's lyrics were personal while touching on universal themes of hope and unconditional love in dark times. The combination of his percussive guitar playing and rich vocals created a beautiful full sound that captivated the audience, and his love for the music was evident.

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