

# MEDIA RELEASE



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## CHAMPION DONOR ANNOUNCES CONTINUED SUPPORT AFTER FULFILLING TEN YEAR COMMITMENT TO THE CALGARY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND COMMUNITY

THE NAOMI AND JOHN LACEY VIRTUOSO PROGRAMME HAS DONATED OVER \$1 MILLION TO BRING THE WORLD'S TOP ARTISTS TO CALGARY

CALGARY, AB, March 23, 2018 — This year marks the fulfillment of a strong ten year commitment, and over \$1 million to support the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) and community by local philanthropists Dr. John Lacey and his late wife Naomi. In honour of her legacy, Dr. Lacey announced he will continue the programme.

"We no longer have Naomi with us as a guiding light in the Virtuoso Programme," said Dr. John Lacey, "but she would want the programme to continue to support the Orchestra. And therefore I will undertake to maintain the Virtuoso Programme."

The Naomi and John Lacey Virtuoso Programme was established in 2008. The Programme donated \$100,000 per year to the CPO by means of bringing in some of the best musical guests in the world including this Season's highlight, cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The Programme has brought over 120 musicians to the Calgary stage over the last decade.

"At the heart of the Naomi and John Lacey Virtuoso Programme," said Paul Dornian, President & CEO of the CPO, "is the mission to bring world class artists to our stage inspiring our audiences and our Orchestra musicians. We are grateful to John and Naomi for their generous support of the CPO and our community."

The Virtuoso Programme also benefits Mount Royal University Conservatory. During their time in Calgary, Virtuoso Artists teach master classes, leaving a legacy of education from which aspiring musicians can grow. The Programme also raises additional donations that help the CPO ensure greater positive impact on the city's young talent with each Virtuoso performance.

### ABOUT THE CALGARY PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra is a cornerstone of Calgary's multi-faceted arts community and since 1955, has grown to be one of North America's finest and most versatile live music ensembles. A repertoire that is extensive and broad in scope consistently attracts acclaimed guest artists and conductors. The CPO offers an average of 80 concerts per Season designed to fit all musical tastes.

## MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

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