

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra reveals 2020/2021 Season

Calgary, Alta., March 31, 2020 – In a special online announcement today at noon, the Calgary Philharmonic revealed its upcoming 2020/2021 Season and launched its new logo and website. The event also featured a video performance by the Calgary Philharmonic's Grammy Award-winning Principal Oboist, Alex Klein.

"Right now we're all going through a difficult time and it's hard to be apart, but today we're looking ahead in a spirit of optimism and hope," says Music Director Rune Bergmann, who shared a video message from his home in Norway. "The upcoming Season marks a big milestone for the Calgary Philharmonic as it celebrates 65 years in this great city, and this amazing lineup of concerts is the result of two years of planning. I can't wait to share it with you."

The Season kicks off in September with Broadway sensation Bernadette Peters, and includes the finale of *The Year of Beethoven*, classical giants like Mozart and Mahler, superstar violinist Joshua Bell and legendary singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie, the debut of a new composition for the children's classic *The Caboose Who Got Loose*, plus pop favourites, contemporary works, family specials, films in concert, and more.

The Calgary Philharmonic also launched its new logo and website, which reflect the organization's focus on harmony and community. "As we've witnessed in recent weeks, music has the power to bring us together and strengthen our community," says Paul Dornian, President + CEO of the Calgary Philharmonic. "Artists from across the globe, including members of our Orchestra, have been making music online to bring comfort to others. These efforts celebrate our shared humanity and help keep us going as we wait for the day we can return to the concert hall and experience the music together."

A selection of highlights from the 2020/2021 Season includes:

Special Guests

The Calgary Philharmonic continues to attract acclaimed guest artists and conductors. For *An Evening with Bernadette Peters*, the Broadway star performs musical favourites from her Grammy Award-winning and nominated albums at two concerts presented in partnership with the Taylor Family Foundation — one at the Bella Concert Hall (Sep 16, 2020), and one at the Jack Singer Concert Hall (Sep 18, 2020). In the spring, Joshua Bell, one of the world's most captivating violinists, joins the Orchestra for a one-night-only benefit concert made possible thanks to the generosity of local philanthropist Heather Edwards (Apr 24, 2021).

Some of the other celebrated guest artists and conductors performing with the Orchestra include:

- Multiple award-winning Cree singer-songwriter and activist Buffy Sainte-Marie joins the Orchestra for one night only, presented in partnership with the Calgary Folk Music Festival (April 16, 2021).
- Grammy-nominated violinist Philippe Quint commands the stage as both soloist and conductor for *The Four Seasons* (Nov 27 + 28, 2020).
- Celebrated Canadian roots musician and award-winning fiddler Ashley MacIsaac brings an East Coast party to the stage for One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo (Jan 29, 2021).
- Two former members of the acclaimed Silk Road Ensemble join forces as Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh performs the concerto written for him by Sri Lankan-born composer and conductor Dinuk Wijeratne, and co-commissioned by the Calgary Philharmonic (Oct 16 + 17, 2020).
- Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter and classically trained pianist Chantal Kreviazuk performs her hit songs and selections from her Christmas album (Dec 2, 2020).
- Jeffrey Kahane, one of America's leading pianist-conductors, presents an all-Mozart program built around the great composer's *Prague Symphony* (Jan 22 + 23, 2021).
- American Idol finalist LaKisha Jones leads a tribute to Whitney Houston and other legendary divas (Nov 18, 2020).
- Back by popular demand following the success of Brahms v. Radiohead, Conductor Steve Hackman returns with another genre-defying mashup: Beethoven v. Coldplay (Oct 2, 2020).
- 2018 Honens International Piano Competition Laureate Nicolas Namoradze — fresh off his sold-out Carnegie Hall debut — performs Prokofiev's third piano concerto (Mar 12 + 13, 2021).

Classical Masterpieces

The 2020/2021 Season includes classical giants like Vivaldi, Mozart, Mahler, Bach, Strauss, and, of course, Beethoven as the great composer's 250th birthday celebration continues in 2020. The Year of Beethoven started in February and wraps up this fall with Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6* (Pastoral) paired with his *Triple Concerto* (Sep 25 + 26, 2020); *Symphony No. 7* paired with his *Violin Concerto* featuring Karen Gomyo (Oct 23 + 24, 2020); and for the grand finale, a one-night-only concert showcasing Beethoven's *Symphony No. 8* paired with his Ode to Joy, *Symphony No. 9* (Dec 11, 2020).

Some of the other classical highlights this Season include:

- Bruckner's towering *Symphony No. 7*, and Calgary Philharmonic Principal Oboist Alex Klein performing Strauss's *Oboe Concerto* — a work that won Klein a Grammy Award (Feb 19 + 20, 2021).
- Mozart's *Requiem*, an emotionally stirring choral masterpiece, paired with Mahler's sublime *Rückert Songs*, led by Conductor Karl Hirzer (Mar 6, 2021).
- A concert of works by Strauss, Berg, and Brahms with internationally acclaimed Conductor Karen Kamensek and Soprano Nofar Yacobi (Mar 26 + 27, 2021).

- Vaughan Williams' exhilarating *A Sea Symphony* and Mozart's technically daring *Sinfonia Concertante* featuring LA Phil's Principal Violist Teng Li, and violin virtuoso Ning Feng (Apr 30 + May 1, 2021).
- The delightful *Brandenburg Concertos*, which were rescued from obscurity over a century after they were written, at the annual Bach@Knox festival at Knox United Church (May 27, 28 + 29, 2021).

Pop Music Favourites

This upcoming Season has several concerts showcasing the hits people know and love — from the electrifying music of Freddie Mercury and Queen with local chorus Revv52 and band Jeans 'N Classics (Sep 11 + 12, 2020), to a tribute to iconic American rock group Chicago featuring the eight award-winning musicians of Brass Transit (Jan 15 + 16, 2021), to a celebration of the legendary Paul Simon in an evening of greatest hits from his Grammy-winning albums (Mar 19 + 20, 2021). The Philharmonic also presents a Live by Request event where the audience is given different options, then votes for the music they want to hear (May 7 + 8, 2021).

Films with Live Orchestra

Film fans can look forward to a Halloween presentation of the original 1931 horror classic *Frankenstein* starring Boris Karloff — Michael Shapiro composed a score for the black-and-white 'talkie,' combining live music with a movie masterpiece to create a one-of-a-kind experience (Oct 30, 2020). The concert, presented with the Calgary International Film Festival, is followed by a costume party in the lobby. Other films in concert include the original *Toy Story* (Oct 9 + 10, 2020), and the continuation of the popular *Harry Potter* series (Feb 25 + 26, 2021) and the original *Star Wars* trilogy (May 21 + 22, 2021) featuring John Williams' award-winning score. (Please note: The *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars* films originally scheduled during the 2019/2020 Season were both postponed due to COVID-19, and alternate dates are still being confirmed.)

Family Friendly Performances

Big news for kids — the classic illustrated story *The Caboose Who Got Loose* comes to life with music at the world premiere of a new work by Canadian composer Scott Good, commissioned by the Calgary Philharmonic (May 9, 2021). The concert is part of the family-friendly Symphony Sundays for Kids series — all performances start with an Instrument Petting Zoo where children can meet musicians and try an instrument, followed by fun and educational one-hour matinee. Other concerts in the series include Peter and the Wolf (Oct 25, 2020), Mozart's Magnificent Voyage (Jan 17, 2021), and Emily Saves the Orchestra (Mar 7, 2021).

Holiday Season

Music plays an important role in our holiday traditions as friends and family gather to celebrate. Holiday Cirque with Troupe Vertigo (Dec 4 + 5, 2020) will create a feast of sights and sounds as contortionists, aerial artists, and acrobats perform in harmony with familiar classics, music from the *Nutcracker*, and other seasonal favourites. The Calgary Philharmonic also presents a new edition of the popular Rune's Classical Christmas (Dec 15 + 16, 2020) — this time at Grace Presbyterian Church, where the Music Director shares seasonal favourites from his homeland. The holidays wrap

up with the Lunar New Year Celebration (Feb 6, 2021) featuring one of Calgary's brightest young stars, award-winning composer-pianist Kevin Chen.

Special Concerts + Events

This 2020/2021 Season introduces two Late Night concerts that start with happy hour drinks and entertainment in the lobby at 8 p.m. followed by a one-hour performance at 9 p.m. — Beyond Borders, featuring composer and conductor Dinuk Wijeratne and Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh (Oct 17, 2020), and Mozart's Requiem, which the great composer started writing shortly before his death (Mar 6, 2021). The Season also includes three Saturday matinee Relaxed Performances presented in partnership with Inside Out Theatre's Good Host Program: Favourite Classics (Oct 3, 2020), Best of South America (Feb 13, 2021), and Greatest Classical Hits (Apr 10, 2021). These concerts are designed for people with sensory concerns, autism spectrum disorders, parents with young children — everyone is welcome.

For more information on the 2020/2021 Season and for a full list of concerts, visit calgaryphil.com. Media interviews and high-resolution images are available on request.

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Media Opportunities

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About the Calgary Philharmonic

The Calgary Philharmonic celebrates 65 years as a pillar of Calgary's vibrant arts community in 2020 and has grown to be one of Canada's most celebrated live music ensembles. Led by Music Director Rune Bergmann, the Calgary Philharmonic presents classical masterworks, pop favourites, bold collaborations, and cutting-edge new works, and attracts world renowned guest artists and dynamic conductors. The Orchestra welcomes over 100,000 visitors annually and, in 2017, launched its live-stream initiative — an immersive, digital concert experience for audiences around the world. Follow the Calgary Philharmonic @calgaryphil on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and register for email updates at calgaryphil.com/newsletter.