

# Media Release

For Immediate Release

## Calgary Philharmonic cancels fall lineup, but plans to keep the music playing

Calgary Alta. (June 25, 2020) – The Calgary Philharmonic has cancelled more than 35 concerts scheduled from September to December 2020. Instead, the Orchestra will reinvent its fall performances to fit within provincial health and safety guidelines, whether that means presenting them live or online. The goal is to return to regular concerts starting in January 2021.

“We’re encouraged by the progress our community has made in preventing the spread of COVID-19, but as the province begins the reopening process, arts groups like ours are facing the reality that we won’t be able to enjoy a full house in our venues for some time,” says Paul Dornian, President and CEO of the Calgary Philharmonic. “We remain committed to performing music for our community, but for now we need to change the way we present it.”

The cancelled performances include all regular, education, and outreach concerts, as well as open rehearsals, from 11 September 2020 up to and including 16 December 2020. Several factors were involved in this decision: recommendations from government and public health officials on physical distancing; ongoing restrictions on large gatherings and non-essential travel; and potential policies and procedures at Jack Singer Concert Hall as required by Arts Commons.

In keeping with the recommendations surrounding choral performances, the Calgary Philharmonic is also replacing any repertoire featuring the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus at other concerts during the 2020/2021 Season, including Mozart’s Requiem (5 + 6 March 2021) and Vaughan Williams’ A Sea Symphony (30 April + 1 May 2021), and will find different ways to engage and showcase the chorus during this time. Calgary Phil performances with Calgary Opera and Alberta Ballet at the Jubilee Auditorium have also been cancelled.

“We realize this news is as disappointing for you as it is for us, but the provincial timeline for reopening remains uncertain and we need to give our audience members, musicians, guest artists, staff, and volunteers the time they need to plan ahead,” says Dornian. “As soon as the concert hall shut down in March, we started planning for a safe return that prioritizes everyone’s health and well-being. When the time is right to bring the full Orchestra back onstage and welcome a full house back into the concert hall, we’ll be ready. Until then, we’ll continue to find other ways to keep the music playing — stay tuned.”

The Calgary Philharmonic is working on new plans for the fall and details will be revealed as soon as possible. Subscribers who purchased tickets to fall concerts will have the full value returned through their choice of a refund or credit. For more information visit [www.calgaryphil.com](http://www.calgaryphil.com).

-30-

## **Media Opportunities**

Maureen McNamee  
Communications Manager  
403.923.7357

[mmcnamee@calgaryphil.com](mailto:mmcnamee@calgaryphil.com)

## **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](http://calgaryphil.com/newsletter).