

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Calgary Philharmonic returns to the stage with new fall series of online concerts that gradually increase in size

Calgary Alta. (September 15, 2020) – Today the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra revealed a new fall series of free weekly concerts that will be shared with the community online to give as many people as possible a chance to enjoy them. The series starts Saturday, October 3 with solo and duet performances by two Orchestra musicians who grew up in Calgary. A new concert video premieres each weekend with the number of musicians increasing one performance at a time, from trios, quartets, and quintets, up to larger ensembles — eventually, once COVID-19 guidelines permit, the goal is to bring all 66 musicians together again onstage.

“We have heard over and over again how much comfort music has brought people over the past six months and how much they appreciate our virtual performances,” says Paul Dornian, President + CEO of the Calgary Phil. “In return, we have received tremendous support from our loyal audience and the community, which has helped make it possible for us to create new experiences online.”

“We want to honour that contribution by making these concerts accessible to everyone — we don’t want anyone to miss out due to financial hardship or because they have to remain in isolation,” says Dornian. “This is also a great opportunity to reach Calgarians and others who haven’t yet discovered our amazing Orchestra.”

Concert details will be released one month at a time to allow for flexibility as guidelines related to COVID-19 evolve. Viewers will need to register in advance starting Tuesday, September 22 at calgaryphil.com, and those who are financially able will be encouraged to support this initiative through a donation to the Orchestra. In the weeks ahead, the hope is to slowly bring audience members back into the concert hall, starting with a handful of patrons and growing from there.

“I’m extremely excited that we’re finally back onstage,” says Music Director Rune Bergmann from his home in Norway. “Since it’s not possible for everyone to be together in the concert hall right now, we’re using the top-quality streaming platform we developed over the last five years to reach all of you at home.

“This series will be very interesting for our audience — you get the opportunity to hear some of the greatest chamber music ever written, as well as some pieces you may not have heard before. These smaller concerts also shine a spotlight on the talent we are so lucky to have in Calgary.”

The first concert on Saturday, October 3 features two members of the Orchestra with strong local connections — Calgary Phil Assistant Concertmaster Donovan Seidle on violin, and Principal Cellist Arnold Choi. Seidle attended junior and senior high school in Calgary, and studied at Mount Royal Conservatory. He went to the University of Calgary for his undergrad, where he doubled in performance and composition, before being accepted into the masters' program at Northwestern University. He has served as Calgary Phil's Assistant Concertmaster since 2003. Choi grew up in Calgary and also studied at Mount Royal Conservatory, where he spent many summers in the internationally acclaimed Morningside Music Bridge program. He left the city to pursue post-secondary degrees and has performed concerts around the world. He returned in 2017 after he won his position at the Calgary Philharmonic.

The fall season is a continuation of Calgary Phil's commitment to providing the community with rich musical experiences. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Calgary Phil has engaged audiences online, launching Calgary Phil All Access (calgaryphil.com/all-access) with virtual concert recordings, and producing high-quality videos, including the educational children's series *An Orchestra Adventure*.

October 2020 concerts are listed below, and the November lineup will be revealed in mid-October. For more information visit calgaryphil.com.

October 2020 Concerts

All concerts stream at 7:30PM and are accessible through calgaryphil.com.

Saturday 3 October

Solo + Duet

Bach | Chan | Eckhardt-Gramatté | Halvorsen

Program: *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major*, by J.S. Bach; *Soulmate*, by Ka Nin Chan; *Caprice No. 7 (Le Départ d'un train)*, by Eckhardt-Gramatté; *Passacaglia* for violin and cello, by Halvorsen, based on a theme by Handel.

Musicians: Violin — Donovan Seidle (Assistant Concertmaster); Cello — Arnold Choi (Principal).

Saturday 10 October

Trio + Quartet

Haydn | Tagaq | Beethoven

Program: *String Quartet No. 1 in B-flat Major*, by Haydn; *Sivuntinni*, by Tanya Tagaq (arr. Jacob Garchik); *Piano Trio No. 1 in E-flat Major*, by Beethoven.

Musicians: Violins — Diana Cohen (Concertmaster), John Lowry (Associate Concertmaster), Hojean Yoo, Stephanie Soltice-Johnson (Assistant Principal, Second Violins), Erin Burkholder; Violas — Marcin Swoboda (Assistant Principal), Jeremy Bauman; Cellos — Josué Valdepeños (Assistant Principal), Kathleen de Caen, Daniel Poceta; Piano — Akiko Tominaga.

Saturday 17 October

Quintets

Louie | Brahms

Program: *Falling Through Time*, by Alexina Louie; *Piano Quintet in F Minor*, by Brahms.

Musicians: Violins — John Lowry (Associate Concertmaster), Adriana Lebedovich; Violas — Marcin Swoboda (Assistant Principal), Jesse Morrison; Cellos — Thomas Megee, David Morrissey; Piano — Akiko Tominaga, Susanne Ruberg-Gordon.

Saturday 24 October

Sextet + Septet

Beethoven | Ho | Hindemith

Program: *Sextet in E-flat Major for Two Horns and String Quartet*, by Beethoven; *Four Paintings by Leestemaker*, by Vincent Ho; *Septet for Winds*, by Hindemith.

Musicians: Violins — Donovan Seidle (Assistant Concertmaster), Edmund Chung, Erica Hudson, Steven J. Lubiarez; Violas — Michael Burse, Alisa Klebanov; Cellos — Josué Valdepeños (Assistant Principal), Daniel Poceta; Bass — Patrick Staples; Flute — Sara Hahn-Scinocco (Principal); Oboe — Alex Klein (Principal); Clarinets — Slavko Popovic (Principal), Jocelyn Colquhoun (Assistant Principal); Bassoon — Antoine St-Onge (Principal); Horns — Robert McCosh (Principal), Jennifer Frank-Umana (Associate Principal), Heather Wootton (Assistant Principal); Trumpet — Miranda Cairns (Assistant Principal).

Friday 30 October

Septets

Strauss | Stravinsky

Program: *Metamorphosen*, by Strauss (arr. Rudolf Leonard); Suite from *L'Histoire du soldat*, by Stravinsky.

Musicians: Conductor — Karl Hirzer; Violins — Diana Cohen (Concertmaster), Maria van der Sloot, Erin Burkholder; Violas — Jeremy Bauman, Jesse Morrison; Cellos — Josué Valdepeños (Assistant Principal), Daniel Poceta; Basses — Sam Loeck (Principal), Kyle Sanborn (Assistant Principal); Clarinet — Slavko Popovic (Principal); Bassoon — Antoine St-Onge (Principal); Trumpet — Miranda Cairns (Assistant Principal); Trombone — James Scott (Principal); Percussion — Alex Cohen (Principal Timpani).

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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.