

# Media Release

For Immediate Release

## Calgary Philharmonic's Spring fundraiser is a week of entertaining online events celebrating music, art, and wine

Calgary Alta. (Apr 8, 2021) - This year the Calgary Philharmonic's annual Spring fundraiser is focusing on brighter days ahead. Cork and Canvas is a celebration of music, art, and wine that runs from April 22 to 29, wrapping up with a Virtual Gala that features performances by Calgary Phil musicians and special guests, messages from artist friends, and a few surprises along the way. All proceeds from Cork and Canvas help support the Orchestra's community education programs.

"Throughout the pandemic, people have found consolation and hope through music," says Rune Bergmann, Music Director of the Calgary Philharmonic. "Although we still have hurdles to overcome, the arrival of Spring has renewed our sense of optimism for the future. We want to share that feeling with others, showcase the musicians who are helping us get through these trying times, and celebrate the promise of better days ahead."

Cork and Canvas's signature event is the Virtual Gala, an online evening of music and entertainment hosted by charismatic Associate Conductor Karl Hirzer on Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. Audience members will be encouraged to get dressed up to enjoy recorded performances by Calgary Phil musicians as well as some well-known Canadian artists who have collaborated with the Orchestra in the past: violin virtuoso James Ehnes, singer and activist Tom Jackson, Calgary-born and internationally acclaimed classical pianist Jan Lisiecki, folk/pop singer-songwriter Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, the Juno Award-winning Gryphon Trio, and soulful vocalist and songwriter Ellen Doty. The event will also include video messages of support from fellow artists such as kd lang, Paul Brandt, Thorgy Thor, Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, Gavin Hope, and Adam Johnson, among others. This is a one-night-only ticketed event, and attendees have the option to add a gourmet meal with wine or beer from Great Events Catering.

"We're thrilled to have so many friends step up to show their support for our Gala and to bring music and messages of hope and optimism to share with our community," says Bergmann. "We know that it's easier to get through difficult times when we all help each other."

For the second year in a row, the annual Cork and Canvas auction is moving online, where anyone can bid on more than 70-plus items and experiences donated by local artists and businesses, including original artwork, rare wines, spa treatments, gourmet treats, boutique shopping, and much more. Some of the most sought-after experiences each year involve the chance to spend time with Calgary Phil musicians and share in some of their favourite pastimes — from sailing on the Glenmore Reservoir, to playing Dungeons and Dragons. Registration for the auction is free and starts on Thursday, April 22 at 9 a.m., with bidding open until 10 p.m. on Thursday, April 29.

Two new online events for Cork and Canvas this year focus on wine and art appreciation and have a limited number of tickets available. Wine Talk + Tasting on Saturday, April 24 is hosted via Zoom by an expert from Avignonesi, an estate located in Tuscany, Italy. Three featured wines plus charcuterie for two will be delivered to local attendees, so they can enjoy them while learning about this acclaimed wine region. Art Chat + Champagne on Tuesday, April 27 is hosted via Zoom by Ryan Green, President of Masters Gallery, who will lead a discussion exploring works by the Group of Seven. Taittinger Champagne and handcrafted chocolates will be delivered to attendees, so they can treat themselves while learning from an expert at one of the city's oldest art dealers.

Cork and Canvas is supported by Deloitte and Enbridge. All funds raised will be matched by Shaw Birdies for Kids, presented by AltaLink — helping us provide enriching music experiences for more children in Calgary and beyond.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [calgaryphil.com/corkandcanvas](http://calgaryphil.com/corkandcanvas).

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### **Media Opportunities**

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### **About the Calgary Philharmonic**

The Calgary Philharmonic celebrated 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 Phil presents classical masterworks, pop favourites, bold collaborations, and cutting-edge new works, and attracts world-renowned guest artists and dynamic conductors. While the concert hall has been closed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Calgary Phil hasn't missed a beat — engaging with the community through free and accessible concert recordings, launching an All Access online hub giving visitors an in-depth musical experience, and continuing to produce high-quality videos. In a typical Season, the Orchestra welcomes over 100,000 visitors 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).