

Media Release

For Immediate Release

City Spaces returns with new virtual concerts at local landmarks

Calgary Alta. (May 4, 2021) – The Calgary Philharmonic's popular City Spaces series is back with three new virtual concerts recorded at three different local landmarks. Following the success of events at The BOW, Contemporary Calgary, and the Fairmont Palliser, upcoming concerts take viewers beyond the downtown to two of the city's favourite destinations — one that celebrates advancements in science and technology, and one that explores the history of the Canadian West — before wrapping up the 2020/2021 Season at Calgary Phil's home. Each concert also includes a brief conversation between a featured musician and Associate Conductor Karl Hirzer, then concludes with an encore live-stream presentation featuring the Orchestra.

"For us the past year has been all about music and community and finding ways to boost people's spirits," says Music Director Rune Bergmann. "These City Spaces concerts give us a chance to work with other local organizations affected by the pandemic and showcase this amazing city and our talented musicians at the same time."

The next event in the online series is City Spaces: Spark Science Centre, premiering on Saturday, May 15. The concert features five Calgary Phil musicians performing classic and contemporary solos and duets from the bright and modern interior of this high-tech space. The second half of the event includes an encore live-stream presentation of the first movement from Verdi's *Requiem*, performed by the Orchestra in 2018.

The second event is City Spaces: Heritage Park, premiering on Saturday, May 29, and featuring five different musicians at the historical village. The performances are followed by an encore live-stream presentation of Richard Wagner's *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde* recorded in 2017.

The third concert in the series — and the final event of the Season — takes place at Calgary Phil's home in Arts Commons. City Spaces: Jack Singer Concert Hall premieres online on Saturday, June 12 and features Concertmaster Diana Cohen and her husband, concert pianist Roman Rabinovich. The duo will perform Richard Strauss's *Violin Sonata in E-flat Major*, paired with an encore live-stream presentation of the composer's *Der Rosenkavalier Suite* from 2018.

"The concert hall is where we're wrapping up this Season and, with any luck, it's where the next Season will begin this fall," says Paul Dornian, President and CEO of the Calgary Philharmonic. "We managed to record this performance in the concert hall at Arts Commons this spring during a brief window when provincial health restrictions allowed artists back in the building, and we wanted to save this special homecoming for our Season grand finale."

The experience is especially meaningful to Dornian as it is also his last as the organization's leader before he steps down in August. "I'm so incredibly proud of what we've accomplished during this pandemic," he says. "We have provided free and accessible online music experiences to thousands of people in Calgary and around the world with 15 virtual concerts, a four-part web series for kids, and numerous other digital projects and performances. Our musicians, staff and supporters really stepped up, and the overwhelming response from the community encouraged us to keep going."

The concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and remain available for viewing online for 30 days following the premiere — access is free with registration at calgaryphil.com.

City Spaces: Spark Science Centre

Premieres Saturday 15 May 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Musician:

Gwen Klassen, Assistant Principal Flute

Program:

Fantasia No. 2 in A Minor, by Georg Philipp Telemann

Syrinx, by Claude Debussy

Musician:

Jonathan Yeoh, Bass

Program:

Persephone's Tears, by Claude Lapalme

Musicians:

Trish Bereti-Reid, Bass, and Dave Reid, Bass Trombone (note: musicians are from the same household)

Program:

Invention No. 4 in D Minor, by Johann Sebastian Bach

Invention No. 6 in E Major, by Johann Sebastian Bach

Air on the G String from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Major, by Johann Sebastian Bach

Romance from *Lt. Kije*, by Sergei Prokofiev

Musician:

Jesse Morrison, Viola

Program:

Skizzen für Siegbert (Canadian Premiere), by Brett Dean

Live-stream feature:

Introit — Kyrie from *Messa de requiem*, by Giuseppe Verdi (performed by the Calgary Philharmonic in 2018)

City Spaces: Heritage Park

Premieres Saturday 29 May 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Musician:

Laurent Grillet-Kim, Principal Viola

Program:

Movements from *Cello Suite No. 3 in C Major*, by Johann Sebastian Bach

Musicians:

Jennifer Frank-Umana, Associate Principal Horn, and Doug Umana, Horn (note: musicians are from the same household)

Program:

Selections from *Horn Duos*, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Musician:

John Lowry, Associate Concertmaster

Program:

Snapshot: Claudia, age 8, by Vincent Ho

Selections from *Tango Études*, by Astor Piazzolla

Musician:

Adriana Lebedovich, Violin

Program:

Думка (Opinion): A XIXth Century Pastiche, by Claude Lapalme

Traditional Ukrainian Folk Song

Orange Blossom Special, by Ervin T. Rouse

Live-stream feature:

Prelude and Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*, by Richard Wagner (performed by the Calgary Philharmonic in 2017)

City Spaces: Jack Singer Concert Hall

Premieres Saturday 12 June 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Musicians:

Diana Cohen, Concertmaster, and Roman Rabinovich, Piano (note: musicians are from the same household)

Program:

Violin Sonata in E-flat Major, by Richard Strauss

Live-stream feature:

Der Rosenkavalier Suite, by Richard Strauss (performed by the Calgary Philharmonic in 2018)

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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 works, pop favourites, bold collaborations, and cutting-edge new compositions, and attracts world-renowned guest artists and dynamic conductors. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Calgary Phil hasn't missed a beat — engaging with the community through free and accessible virtual concerts, 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.