

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra returns to the stage this Fall with an exciting lineup of live and virtual performances

Calgary Alta. (August 3, 2021) – After more than a year of online performances featuring small ensembles, the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra is thrilled to return to the stage and perform in front of live audiences. The 2021/2022 Season will be released in three parts — Fall, Winter, and Spring. To ensure the health and safety of the audience, musicians, and staff, and to provide flexibility as the COVID-19 situation evolves, the Season will begin with smaller, physically distanced audiences and masking requirements.

Calgary Phil Music Director Rune Bergmann says the Season will look a bit different to start, but people can expect all the excitement and energy that comes with a shared orchestra experience. “I can’t wait to be with our musicians in front of a live audience after more than a year apart,” he says. “This period has not been easy for any of us, and a lot of changes have taken place in our lives and in our world, but I believe we have all found an even greater appreciation for music and how it can bring us together.”

The Fall concert lineup runs from September to the end of November and features a vibrant mix of classical standards and new discoveries, movie and musical hits, and Canadian guest artists including energetic fiddler Ashley MacIsaac and soprano Anna-Sophie Neher. The Calgary Phil will also continue to offer virtual programming for local and global audiences, including a collaboration with Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society.

The doors open September 10 and 11 with a special concert for frontline workers who kept the hospitals, schools, grocery stores, transit system, and other essential services up and running throughout the pandemic. People are invited to nominate someone who made a difference in their lives to give them a chance to attend the concert with a guest. The performance, led by Associate Conductor Karl Hirzer, will also celebrate the return of the Orchestra, with different works highlighting the wind, brass, and string sections.

The September 17 and 18 concert marks Bergmann's return to the stage to conduct Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3*. “I’m thrilled to be back to conduct Beethoven's *Eroica*,” says Bergmann. “This was the last symphony we performed onstage in March 2020, so it's only fitting to celebrate our return with this triumphant work.” The work is once again paired with Canadian composer Kelly-Marie Murphy's *On Rethinking Heroism in the 21st Century*, a recent Calgary Phil commission that takes inspiration from the symphony. The Saturday performance will be live-streamed for free at calgaryphil.com.

On October 22, the Orchestra will be joined by award-winning Cape Breton fiddler Ashley MacIsaac — one of the most celebrated Canadian musicians of all time — for a fiery and foot-stomping concert of traditional tunes and lively music.

Some of the other classical highlights this Fall include: composer Unsuk Chin's *Graffiti*, a recent multilayered work inspired by the creativity behind the artform, alongside works by Joseph Haydn and Arvo Pärt; the second symphony of 18th Century Black composer Joseph Bologne, also known as le Chevalier de Saint-Georges, paired with the second symphony of 19th Century composer Johannes Brahms and a recent work by Canadian composer Vivian Fung; and a tribute to the award-winning 1984 film *Amadeus* showcasing Mozart overtures, arias, and a symphony, with Canadian soprano Anna-Sophie Neher.

Audiences will also enjoy some of their favourite music from the stage and screen, including a concert of instrumental selections from Hollywood films *La La Land*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Chicago*, *Shall We Dance*, and *West Side Story*, as well as an evening of Broadway hits with guest vocalists Michael Hope — many will recognize him from his day job as one of the Orchestra's bassoon players — and Michelle Todd. For fans of classic rock, the Orchestra will be joined by vocalist Jean Meilleur and pianist John Regan for an evening of ballads by artists like Elton John, David Bowie, Peter Gabriel, The Beatles, and others.

Tickets go on sale to the public on Tuesday, August 17 (subscribers get early access on August 10) and will be sold in seating groups of one to four. If seating capacity increases as the Season progresses, ticket holders will be notified in advance. Concerts will be about one hour long with no intermission.

"Health and safety remain our top priority, so we are taking extra precautions as we transition back to live performances," says Paul Dornian, President + CEO. "But we are optimistic that as vaccination rates rise, we will be able to welcome more people to join us in the concert hall."

For more details about Fall 2021 concerts and health and safety measures, visit calgaryphil.com/concerts/whats-on/fall-2021.

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 standards, pop favourites, bold collaborations, and cutting-edge new works, and attracts world-renowned guest artists and dynamic conductors. In a typical Season, the Orchestra welcomes over 100,000 visitors to the concert hall and reaches audiences around the world through its free and accessible digital programming and live-stream initiative — an immersive, online concert experience that launched in 2017. Follow the Calgary Philharmonic @calgaryphil on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and register for email updates at calgaryphil.com/newsletter.