

Media Release

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Calgary Philharmonic unveils 2023/2024 Season

Calgary Alta. (May 2, 2023) — The Calgary Philharmonic has announced its 2023/2024 Season, with concerts that will move audiences with the wonder of orchestral music. From September to June, Calgarians and visitors to the city can look forward to a wide variety of concerts showcasing treasured orchestral classics, new works from innovative composers, delightful concerts for families, beloved holiday favourites, blockbuster films, and pop hits from today and back in the day.

"Music moves us. It can get us up dancing, hugs us with comfort in difficult times, and even brings us tears of joy, setting us in motion through the rhythm of our lives," comments Music Director Rune Bergmann. "We are so thrilled to be returning for our 68th season to delight audiences and share the unique experience of live orchestral music."

The upcoming season features nearly 40 different programs presented at the Calgary Phil's home at the Jack Singer Concert Hall and venues across Calgary. Plus, a thrilling performance in Calgary's neighbour city to the north — Edmonton. Audiences won't want to miss the combined forces of Alberta's two largest orchestras in November when the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra joins the Calgary Phil for two moving performances of Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 3* — considered one of the greatest symphonies of all time — one in Calgary and one in Edmonton.

Blockbusters by renowned composers including Florence Price, Ludwig van Beethoven, Clara Schumann, and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky will inspire while the music of contemporary icons such as Coldplay, Fleetwood Mac, and David Bowie are a highlight. Prominent artists taking centre stage include pianist Anna Fedorova, vocal powerhouse Capathia Jenkins, and prize-winning cellist Bryan Cheng. Plus, audiences will enjoy a special evening of storytelling through song with IndigiDivas — a group of five Indigenous opera singers. Cuban-Canadian singer-songwriter Alex Cuba will get audiences in the groove with a concert of soul-tinged melodies.

"The Calgary Phil belongs to everyone, and we are thrilled to announce our upcoming season," says Calgary Phil President + CEO Marc Stevens. "Music has the power to move us, uplift us, and shape us, and we are excited to share these incredible concerts with our communities."

With 2023 marking the 60th anniversary of the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus, celebrations continue into the 2023/2024 Season with a special commission for the Orchestra and Chorus by composer Andrew Balfour to be premiered at Pictures at an Exhibition in September. "We are lucky to have such an incredible Chorus of local volunteer singers," says Bergmann. "As we reflect on this milestone, it is because of the passion and commitment of every Chorus member, past and present, that we can present choral works that inspire audiences."

Along with the Calgary Phil's main concert season, the Orchestra presents an engaging series of Education Concerts, which welcomes thousands of students to the Jack Singer Concert Hall three times throughout the

season. Seniors and students can experience a behind-the-scenes Open Rehearsal at select concerts from September to June to discover the time and dedication it takes to prepare for a performance.

Subscribers can choose from different series subscriptions, including Classics, Pops, and Symphony Sundays For Kids, or Compose Your Own collection of concerts. In addition to offering concert series packages and deals, the Calgary Phil also offers discounts for groups, \$15 tickets for Cpossibilities members, youth and senior tickets, and Flex Passes for the ultimate in last-minute flexibility. It's never been easier to access your Calgary Phil.

Subscription packages are on sale now by phone at 403-571-0849, and single tickets go on sale June 13, 2023 at calgaryphil.com.

Highlights from the 2023/2024 Season

Epic Classics

The Orchestra will transport audiences on a journey through orchestral sound with thrilling works like Modest Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and symphonies from Sergei Rachmaninoff, Antonín Dvořák, and Gary Kulesha, one of Canada's most respected composers and musicians. Plus, the Calgary Phil will give the world premiere of composer Errollyn Wallen's *Violin Concerto* with acclaimed violinist Philippe Quint, and Sir Stephen Hough will perform the Canadian premiere of his piano concerto, *The World Of Yesterday*. In addition to Andrew Balfour's commission, the Chorus will also join the Orchestra for the return of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* and Anton Bruckner's glorious *Te Deum*. The 2023/2024 Season also marks the 200th anniversary of Bruckner's birth, and the Orchestra will celebrate with a performance of his *Symphony No. 6* along with Canadian composer Alexina Louie's *The Eternal Earth* as a salute to Louie on her 75th birthday.

Remarkable Special Guests

The Calgary Phil welcomes sensational guest artists and conductors from around the world, including virtuoso violinist Joshua Bell, the powerful voices of Serena Ryder and Capathia Jenkins, Country superstar Brett Kissel, leading pianists Anna Fedorova and Roman Rabinovich, and 2022 Honens Prize Laureate Illia Ovcharenko will be back in Calgary after his auspicious win. Plus, acclaimed conductors Virginia Martínez and Andrés González will lead the Orchestra, and the artistic and physical circus prowess of Troupe Vertigo will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. And, Steve Hackman, the conductor behind the immensely popular Brahms X. Radiohead, returns to the Calgary Phil for one night, this time with a fusion of Beethoven and Coldplay.

Calgary Phil Musicians Take Centre Stage

Musicians of the Calgary Phil will shine as soloists and composers throughout the season. Concertmaster Diana Cohen brings her virtuosic skill and beautiful tone to Felix Mendelssohn's sublime *Violin Concerto*, and Principal Bassoon Antoine St-Onge shows off the expressive capabilities of the bassoon in Carl Maria Von Weber's theatrical concerto. Additional Calgary Phil musicians are showcased at Spotlight On Your Phil — a special one-night concert of music composed or performed by musicians from the Orchestra.

Blockbusters, Pops, and Family-Friendly Performances

To the delight of Calgary music lovers, the Calgary Phil also presents many entertaining events such as Totally 80s; The Broadway/Hollywood Songbook; Soulful: Capathia Jenkins; Classically Jazzed; Starman: David Bowie and Never Break The Chain: The Music of Fleetwood Mac with Jeans 'n Classics; and conductor/comedian Rainer Hersch's hilarious The Last Night of the Proms ... Ever! Families will enjoy Dr. Seuss' The Sneetches, narrated by Calgary actor Tenaj Williams, New York Times best-selling author Dan Brown's Wild Symphony, and Saint-Georges' Sword + Bow, a captivating story of passion, dreams, and hope. Films with live orchestra include

Disney + Pixar's Up in Concert, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire™ in Concert, and Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert. Circus company Troupe Vertigo is part of the cheerful holiday season presentations, which include Handel's Messiah, Traditional Christmas, and the popular Salute to Vienna New Year's Concert.

Thrilling Collabs

Music is all about collaboration, and along with a cross-province road trip with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Phil will also partner with organizations from across Calgary, including One Yellow Rabbit for IndigiDivas, part of the High Performance Rodeo, and the Calgary Jewish Federation for Violins of Hope — on a musical journey where restored violins once belonging to Jewish victims of the Holocaust, come to life through stories of injustice, resilience, and survival. Cuban-Canadian singer-songwriter Alex Cuba will perform in partnership with the Calgary Folk Music Festival, and Star Wars: A New Hope in Concert is presented with the Calgary International Film Festival. In collaboration with Calgary Pride, young audiences can experience an introduction to the orchestra in Sergei Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, brilliantly narrated by local drag storytellers Aida Cupcake and The Frizz. Partnership with Tapestry Opera's Women in Musical Leadership program continues this season, with guest conductors appearing with the Orchestra, including an Education Concert in collaboration with Alberta Ballet School.

This season is made possible through the support of visionary supporters, including the Canada Council for the Arts, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Calgary Arts Development, the Borak Forte Program, the Naomi and John Lacey Virtuoso Program, CH Financial, the MacLachlan Ridge Emerging Artist Program, the Rozsa Foundation, Heather Edwards, and the Taylor Family Foundation.

For more information on the 2023/2024 Season and a complete list of concerts, visit calgaryphil.com.

Media interviews and high-resolution images are available on request.

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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 Orchestra presents classical standards, pop favourites, bold collaborations, and cutting-edge new works and attracts world-renowned guest artists and dynamic conductors each season. In addition to 66 orchestra musicians, the Calgary Phil is one of two major symphony orchestras in Canada with its own Chorus of over 120 volunteer singers, which celebrates 60 years in 2023. In a typical season, the Calgary Phil welcomes over 100,000 visitors to the concert hall, connects with thousands of students through its educational programs, and reaches audiences worldwide through free and accessible digital programming.