



Featuring the award-winning Live at Massey Hall films, these free films offer insight into the Canadian music scene, with behind the scenes interviews with artists, stellar performances, plus short curriculum connected guides with pre- and post-viewing activities for select films. Activities can be completed synchronously or asynchronously, in-school or at-home.

Suggested age: Secondary school, some concerts contain explicit language. See specific details, notes, and highlights in the "Concert Highlights" section below.

KATHLEEN EDWARDS



Kathleen Edwards is a Canadian singer, songwriter, and composer. As the daughter of a diplomat, she was well-travelled and grew up in both Korea and Switzerland and is now based in Ottawa. Kathleen's music is within the realm of alternative country and folk. She is known for her songs with "an indefinable pull that makes you love the characters they describe, no matter how [messed] up they are." (Blender magazine) Kathleen has also been nominated for and won numerous awards, including five JUNO nominations, two Polaris Music Prize nominations, and a SOCAN Songwriting prize win in 2012. In 2014, she quit music, left the industry, and opened a coffee shop called Quitters. In 2018, she started to perform again sporadically and released a few new songs. As of 2020, she has released her fifth album, *Total Freedom*, ending her time away from full-time music-making and touring.

TALKING POINTS

Kathleen went on a musical hiatus for a while but then returned to performing after a break. Do you know any artists that did this? What did they do during their hiatus? Have you ever taken a break from something but gone back to it after a while, or are you currently taking a break from a hobby or pastime that you enjoy?

Kathleen talks about venues and the real difference they make in how the artist feels and the performance. In what venues have you seen shows? How do they differ?

Throughout the set, Kathleen switches between guitars. How does the sound of these guitars differ if they are both amplified? What guitar sound do you prefer and why? What are the different qualities of the sound for each guitar used in the set?

The music Kathleen plays is alternative country and folk. Do you know of any artists that have a similar sound to Kathleen? What do the artists have in common, and how do they differ?



CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES

0-1:00 Talking about Massey Hall presence and experience
11:00, 28:00 Swearing, strong language

ACTIVITY 1

In the song “Options Open,” Kathleen repeats her age at the time of writing throughout the song. She uses the age to say how long she has been keeping her options open. Use your age and write a song about something you have done for a long time or your whole life. The chorus must include your age. You can check the lyrics for “Options Open” as a guide to help you write.

ACTIVITY 2

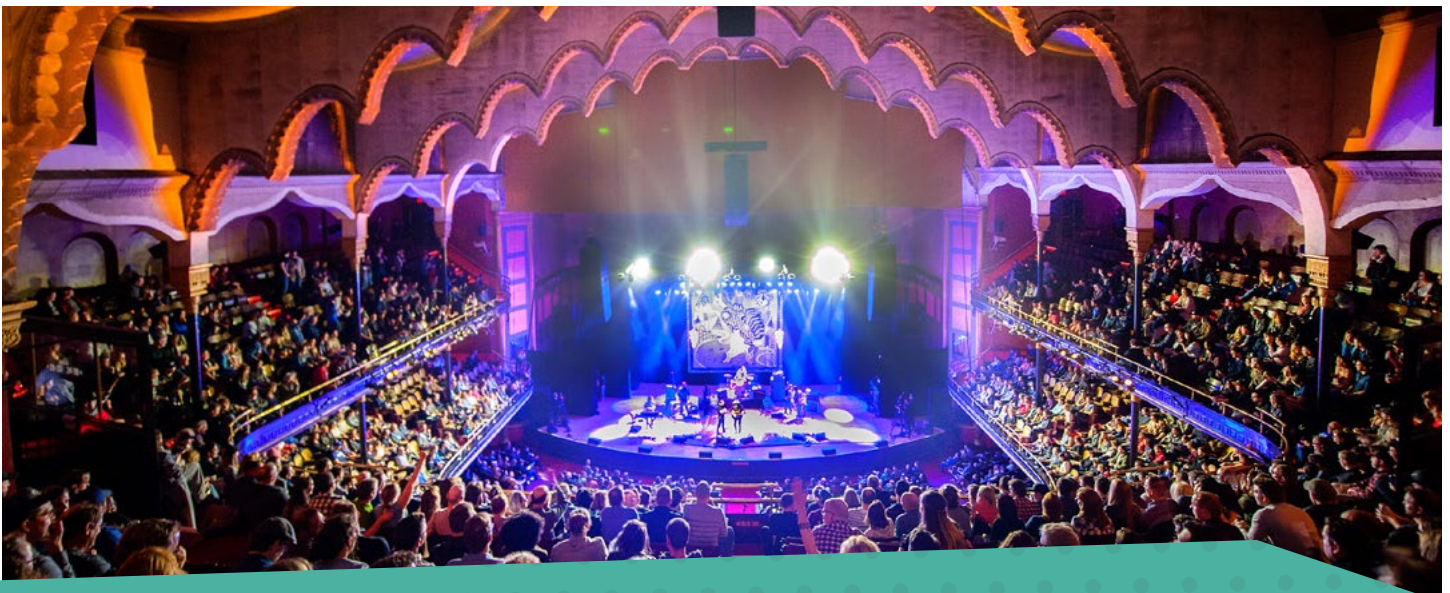
Early in the set, the drummer uses a muffled drumstick to create a sound that punctuates the beat less. What do you do to muffle the sound of your instrument? Have you seen mufflers on other instruments? Please make a list of 10 instruments and how their sound can be muffled/dampened. Compare how the dampened instrument sounds to the instrument usually.

ACTIVITY 3

Kathleen plays an older hit of hers in this set (“[Six O’clock News](#)”) How has her voice changed since the first recording? Many other artists have rerecorded older songs, and there are significant changes in their voices. Create a playlist of old and new recordings of songs and for each song, write a description of how the song changed as the artist aged.

ACTIVITY 4

Kathleen chose to release her newest album during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, she was hesitant to do so as touring was not possible. Why do you think she did this? How has the pandemic impacted the music industry, and what have artists done to cope? Write a short paragraph about this.



STAFF INTERVIEW Megan Pacquette, *Production Coordinator*

- *What is your role at Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

My title is Production Coordinator, however the work I do can also be referred to as Production Manager or Technical Director within the industry, depending on the organizational structure.

- *How did you get in the world of Production?*

I initially wanted to be a production designer for theatre when I graduated from York University with my Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design and Production. Immediately after I graduated I started looking for work in that field and joined the gig economy that is so common in performing arts. One great thing about working as a freelancer is that you can do a wide range of work within the same industry. I took a few jobs as a designer (and when you're starting out, you're a designer, builder, painter, production assistant and runner all in one!), but was finding more steady work as a stage hand setting up and taking down live music concerts. I loved doing this work. It was hard work, but a lot of fun and I got to do some really cool stuff, but I didn't see myself doing it forever. I reached out to a former teacher at York who was then the Production Manager at Canadian Stage and asked him if he would be my mentor through a Theatre Ontario Grant program that paid me to intern at Canadian Stage for 8 weeks. With that experience and new connections I started taking freelance Production Manager jobs, and eventually accepted a season contract with the children's theatre company Theatre Direct as their Production Manager. I stayed with Theatre Direct for 3 seasons until I took my current job as Production Coordinator at The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall.

- *Tell us more about your education, career path, and interests?*

I went to high school in a smaller town about 2 hours outside of Toronto. We had a really great drama department at my high school that I was heavily involved in. As a teenager the only thing I could ever imagine myself doing was working in Performing Arts. I knew that my post secondary education would be focused on Theatre, and I choose to attend York University mainly so I could be in Toronto where the industry is more vibrant and accessible to young workers. However, I've always been a big music fan, and I've always loved attending live music concerts. It didn't occur to me that I could work on these events and build a career in the live music industry until I started taking freelance stage hand gigs after I had graduated from York. For roughly a decade I was working in both Theatre and Live Music which require very similar skills but operate very differently. Over time, my love of music overpowered my love for the theatre and I've spent the last 8 years working at Roy Thomson Hall and Massey Hall exclusively.

- *How were you involved in Kathleen Edwards' Live at Massey Hall?*

I was the production coordinator on behalf of the Halls for this event. I specify that I was working on behalf of the Halls because often times bands and touring shows will also have production representatives working on their behalf. For this show I worked with the band's representatives, the stage crew, the film director, and our equipment suppliers to make sure we had all the production elements in place for a successful show. This includes the audio equipment, lighting, backline (instruments) and anything else that went on the stage. I determined how the schedule of the day was going to play out including arrival times, sound check times, media interviews, camera rehearsals, breaks and performance times. There were some additional scenic elements on this show that we had to employ an electrician to certify and I also had to get an ESA inspection done on site the morning of the show so we could ensure that everyone on stage would be safe. I was on site at Massey Hall on this day from 7:30 AM until 1:00 AM. In the world of Production, you are often the first one to arrive and the last one to leave.



STAFF INTERVIEW Megan Pacquette, Production Coordinator

- *Who do you work with at the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall?*

The people I work with the most on an event are the “back of house” staff, which means the people you likely won’t see as an audience member. For each show we have a Production Coordinator and an Event Coordinator who work together, but on different aspects of the event. On a show day, I also would connect with the Box Office and Front of House Managers specifically when it’s time to open doors to the public and start the show.

On a more day-to-day basis I work closely with other members of the Production Department, which includes the Vice President of Production, other Production Coordinators and the Stage Crew. I also work closely with the Programming and Bookings departments as they need input from Production on the potential cost and feasibility of the shows that they book in to the halls. Depending on the event, we may also work with Building Operators and Security teams in order to execute an event.

- *What is some advice you have for someone interested in pursuing a career in Production?*

If you are serious about working in this field, keep at it! There were times when it was really difficult to get enough work to support myself and I considered going back to school and changing careers entirely. I know a lot of people who did and are happily working as arts educators, or in other fields entirely. But if you are serious, you have to be in it for the long haul. Every job you take is an opportunity to meet new connections and build your network to source out more work. Don’t be afraid to ask questions! This is a fast moving industry and technology is always changing. You don’t have to know everything to be successful, but you do have to be always willing to learn. Oh, and the hours are insane, so be prepared to give up evenings and weekends a lot.

- *What is your favourite part of your job?*

There is a lot of great stuff about this job. I get to work with really fun people and because we spend so much time together you get to build really meaningful relationships. But I think the absolute best part is the

music and the magic of a really great live performance. Knowing that you played a part in bringing people together where they are able to forget about their troubles for a while and really just enjoy the moment, is priceless.

- *What is your favourite memory of the Halls?*

One specific memory I have is when Spirit of the West performed at Massey Hall. This show was filmed as part of the documentary Spirit Unforgettable about lead singer John Mann’s struggle with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease. This show was meant to be one their last live appearances before retirement, though I believe they made some appearances a few years later. I remember coming out to the balcony level to watch them perform Home for a Rest, their biggest hit song. John was using an iPad on stage to display song lyrics which was connected to a foot pedal that the guitarist used to advance the lyrics as they played the songs. Home for a Rest began and the crowd went wild, but John didn’t start singing. He looked kind of lost and you could tell he was having trouble. Then the audience started to sing for him, all 2600 of them. As John started to realize what was happening a huge smile came across his face and he started dancing all around the stage and joined in on the chorus. Everyone was on their feet dancing and singing, it was the only time I actually felt the balcony floor bouncing beneath my feet. It was incredible.

- *Are there any other comments you would like to share with student readers?*

There are a lot of professional roles to fill under the “Production” umbrella within the performance industry. I work as more or less an administrator, but there are also people who create beautiful art through sound design, lighting design, visual and video design, set and costumes. There are people who have very fulfilling careers operating consoles, building circus tents, figuring out complex math equations in order to properly disperse dynamic weight loads, booking hotels and catering for touring companies, or stage management. It’s an industry that requires all kinds of people in order to work, so don’t be discouraged if you don’t feel like you’re in the right place, because you can always try something new.

