

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

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### **Stellar ESO season features Sibelius Festival**

**Edmonton, AB** – The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) announced its 2018/2019 concert season this week, including a week-long celebration of beloved Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

“I’m thrilled with our upcoming season, particularly the opportunity to share many works by one of the world’s most performed composers,” says Alexander Prior, the ESO’s Chief Conductor. “Festival patrons will have the chance to intimately get to know Sibelius’ world and to delve into his magical and mysterious imagination,” adds Prior.

From Beethoven to Star Trek, the 2018-2019 season will amplify Edmonton’s arts and culture scene. With some of the most unique and varied musical performances in the world, the ESO continues to offer exhilarating concerts with renowned guest artists and an engaging program as diverse as its audience.

The upcoming season has the look and feel of Alex’s personal connection to music. You feel his passion, and how he wants you to discover music in ways you didn’t know were possible. I will freely admit that these programs are ambitious, but I also know that Alex has the advantage of working with an orchestra that embraces the spirit of adventure and exploration that Bill Eddins encouraged in them, as well as a unique gift for making music transcend our daily lives,” shares CEO Annemarie Petrov.

Features of the 2018-2019 season:

#### **A Tribute to The Beatles – October 10, 2018**

Enjoy all the hits as Robert Bernhardt conducts and a vocal ensemble recreate the sights and sounds that changed pop music.

#### **Beethoven’s First Piano Concerto – November 3, 2018**

Beethoven’s career making concerto is matched by Vaughan Williams unconventional yet beautiful elegy to the dead of The Great War.

#### **Viennese Favourites – November 29, 2018**

Chief Conductor Alex Prior will lead Bach’s treasured Christmas masterpiece played by the ESO with this rare and long overdue favourite.

**Prior's New Violin Concerto – June 1, 2018**

Prior's concerto is the product of his close friendship with his colleague Simone Porter and making its world premiere at the acoustically perfect Winspear.

**The Golden Age of Broadway - The Music of Rogers and Hammerstein – June 7, 2018**

Jack Everly brings along some of his Broadway colleagues for a salute to the greatest songwriting team Broadway ever produced.

For a full listing of the new 2018-2019 season, visit  
<https://www.winspearcentre.com/tickets/subscriptions/>

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**About Alex Prior:**

**Alexander Prior** is the Chief Conductor Designate for the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. A few words scarcely suffice to describe London-born Prior, who at 18 conducted the Dallas Symphony in the premiere of his *Sixth Symphony*, whose ballet *Mowgli* has been playing in Moscow for seven years, and who at 17 was the youngest student since Sergei Prokofiev to graduate with distinction as a conductor from the Conservatoire in St. Petersburg. In March 2013 Mr. Prior conducted five performances of the opera *Carmen* at the Royal Opera House in Copenhagen. This was followed on November 2 by the premiere of *La Traviata* at the Leipzig Opera and in spring 2014 the premiere of the opera *Mirandolina* by Bohuslav Martinů in a Bavarian State Opera production at Munich's Cuvillé Theatre.

**About the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra**

In its 66th year, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra has taken its place as one of Canada's foremost orchestral ensembles. Its current roster includes 56 musicians from Canada and around the world performing a wide-ranging repertoire from the great classical masterworks to pops and family concerts. The orchestra is the resident artistic ensemble, the "home team," of the Francis Winspear Centre for Music, among the best acoustic concert halls in North America.

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