

## **Cosette Justo Valdés named Assistant Conductor and Community Ambassador of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra**

**For immediate release:** Edmonton, AB (January 18, 2019) – The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) is delighted to announce it has named Cosette Justo Valdés as the orchestra’s Assistant Conductor and Community Ambassador after an international search.

Combining a command of standard repertoire with a flair for traditional Cuban music as well as a passion for educational outreach, Justo Valdés has conducted across Europe and North America. This position has been customized to highlight Justo Valdés skills leading the ESO in concerts, assisting ESO Chief Conductor Alex Prior, and focusing on establishing strong ties with the community through outreach initiatives. She will also act as Artistic Lead of the ESO’s Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta (YONA-Sistema) program.

“I am beyond excited to begin working with the fantastic Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta. It is truly an honour to be appointed this position working alongside Chief Conductor Alex Prior and this is a significant step forward in my career,” added Justo Valdés.

Born and raised in Cuba, as a daughter of amateur musicians, Justo Valdés began learning piano and music theory at the age of eight. She began conducting in 2002 at the National Institute of the Arts in Havana, Cuba. After graduating in 2009 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Orchestral Conducting, Justo Valdés was appointed Music & Artistic Director of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Oriente (OSO) in Santiago, Cuba. In 2012, Justo Valdés entered the Mannheim Staatliche Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (State University for Music & Performing Arts) in Germany, earning her Master’s Degree in 2018.

“I am excited to welcome our new Assistant Conductor Cosette Justo Valdés to the ESO family. She is an astonishingly talented young conductor who has a stellar career ahead of her, and I am so glad we can be part of her journey,” added Prior.

Winspear Centre and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra President and CEO, Annemarie Petrov said Edmontonians are in for an extended treat with Justo Valdés.

“We are thrilled to appoint Cosette as our Assistant Conductor and ESO Community Ambassador,” said Petrov. She’s a remarkable musician and was warmly received when she auditioned earlier this season. Her extraordinary musical depth and experience will truly be an asset to the ESO and the Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta.”

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### **About the Winspear | Edmonton Symphony Orchestra | Tommy Banks Centre**

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 Winspear Centre, among the best acoustic concert halls in North America. The Tommy Banks Centre for Musical Creativity launched in 2013 delivering musical discovery programs that transform lives.