

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra to premiere Juno-Award winning Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq's work *Qiksaaktuq*

For immediate release

Edmonton, AB (February 19, 2020) The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) will present two concerts premiering Inuit composer and throat singer Tanya Tagaq's moving orchestral work titled *Qiksaaktuq* at the Winspear Centre. Conducted by ESO Chief Conductor Alexander Prior and featuring Tagaq as soloist, this work is dedicated to the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and takes place on February 21 and 22, 2020.

Qiksaaktuq (Grief) was written in collaboration with Christine Duncan, (also featured as a performer and improvisation leader) Jean Martin, with orchestration by Christopher Mayo. The work was a commission by the Toronto Symphony, and premiered at the New Creations Festival in 2017.

Born in Cambridge Bay, Nunavut, Tagaq is a member of the Order of Canada, a Polaris Music Prize winner, a JUNO-Award winner, bestselling author, and recipient of multiple honorary doctorates. Self-described as inherently political, and as a performer who does not separate art from her identity, spirituality, and person hood she adds, "I guess I'm the opposite of people who are afraid of public speaking."

"She's an incredible artist, feminist icon, creator, and one of the great voices of Canada," added Prior.

Tagaq and Truth | Friday, February 21, 2020

The artists of iHuman Studios featuring Valkyrie will be performing in the lobby.

Program: <https://www.winspearcentre.com/tickets/events/eso/2020/tagaq-and-truth/>

Tanya Tagaq with the ESO | February 22, 2020

This evening also features Prokofiev's Third Symphony and Webern's Passacaglia.

Program: <https://www.winspearcentre.com/tickets/events/eso/2020/tanya-tagaq-with-the-eso/>

Tickets are available by calling the Winspear Box Office at 780-428-1414 or visiting our website: [winspearcentre.com](https://www.winspearcentre.com). Adult tickets start at \$25 plus fees.

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About the Winspear | Edmonton Symphony Orchestra | Tommy Banks Centre

In its 69th 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.

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