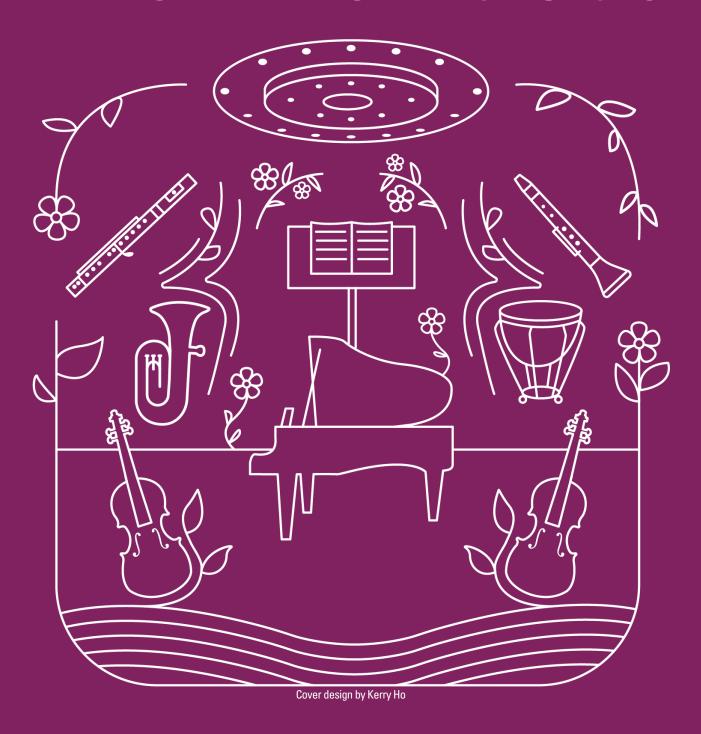
Francis Winspear Centre for Music | Edmonton Symphony Orchestra

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023





The Winspear Centre and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra graciously acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and traveling route for many Indigenous Peoples. We honour and recognize the rich artistic, cultural, and musical traditions of the Cree, Nakota Sioux, Metis, Dene, Saulteaux, and the many more Indigenous communities that call this land we share, home.

Chair, Board of Directors and President & CEO Reflection

This past season, our two organizations were, in many ways, brought back to life following three years of the pandemic. With pride, we celebrated the 71st season of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the 26th anniversary of the Francis Winspear Centre for Music. For the first time since March 2020, it felt like the organization had found its footing and was adjusting well to our new reality. The year was filled with many notable firsts – our first year presenting an entire season of programming again, our first year of a pivotal Music Director search, and our first year celebrating students who experienced ten years of YONA and are now graduating Grade 12 with many pursuing post-secondary opportunities.

Once again, the 2022/2023 season kicked off with our pay-what-you-can series, ESO Outdoors. Across twelve concerts, the ESO was warmly welcomed by neighbouring communities such as St. Albert, Devon, Beaumont, Castle Downs, and 124 Street in Edmonton, who appreciated our effort to bring high-quality orchestral music to their backyards. At the end of summer, the ESO returned to Hawrelak Park to present nearly 10,000 community members with the final Symphony Under the Sky before the park closed for three years of scheduled rehabilitation work.

Returning to the Winspear Centre in the fall felt simultaneously familiar and foreign for not only our musicians and staff but also our broader community of volunteers, clients, and audiences. While the ESO performed concerts throughout the pandemic, this was the first season we welcomed back rental clients and community groups.

Programming through the Tommy Banks Centre significantly increased this season, with the return of popular offerings such as Education Concerts and Wee Ones at the Winspear. Many programs sold out, and we witnessed increased interest from adult audiences. The Banks Centre also introduced "Musical Mornings," a new, informal concert program for families with children ages one to five. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Alison Kenny-Gardhouse for her vision and leadership in developing the programs of the Tommy Banks Centre. Alison returned to her permanent home in Toronto in June after ten years of living in both cities, but promises to stay connected.

A highlight of this season was our 10th Annual Road to Joy. It's both heart-warming and hard to believe that the YONA-Sistema program has served the community for ten years. Year 10 was a major milestone for the program, as we started with 20 students in grade two in Macauley in 2013 and now serve over two hundred students in multiple neighbourhoods and at Alexander First Nation. We are so proud of what our YONA students accomplished this year. We were thrilled to have everyone, from our newest students who only picked up an instrument in November to students who have been with us since the beginning, on stage at the Winspear Centre to celebrate their combined accomplishments. Most importantly, the funds raised for this program come from a community of donors and foundations. We are most grateful to our founding donors who believed in this program from the start, and especially to the La Bruyère Family.

Hard work on the Winspear Project, our 41,000-square-foot expansion of the Winspear Centre, continued this season. The external structure of the Music Box, our future 550-seat, state-of-the-art performance venue, is under construction. This past year, the most noticeable changes for our audience occurred within the existing concert hall, with all new seats installed and ready for use in the 2023/2024 season. We are grateful to Canadian Heritage for helping fund are large portion of this important renewal of our venue and guest experience. We are thankful to

everyone who continues to support the Winspear Project and our overall vision of an open and accessible community centre for music.

We have welcomed a University of Alberta Student Intern to our Board of Directors for the past eight years. Thank you to Riyana Ally for her perspective on the board and her unique contributions to the organization.

Our 2022/2023 financial statements reflect our season of rebuilding, program ramp-up, and the continued effects of the pandemic. Audience sizes have yet to return to pre-pandemic levels to match our program offerings. Still, we are confident that, in time, new and existing audiences will fill the Winspear Centre once again to explore and participate in familiar, experimental, and new music. We extend our deepest gratitude to musicians, staff, volunteers, audiences, funders, and sponsors who supported this past season and set us up for success in 2023/2024.

Government and granting bodies continued to provide generous support as we emerged from the pandemic. Thank you to Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Government of Canada, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Government of Alberta, Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Community Foundation, the City of Edmonton, EPCOR's Heart + Soul fund specifically for their grant opportunities and support of the Arts and Culture sector.

Making and sharing music is what we do, and we could not engage with the power of music without the support of our audiences, donors, staff, musicians, volunteers, Young Leadership Council, and Board of Directors. Thank you for your continued support and belief in music's power to unite our community. Our next few years will present challenges and successes to be celebrated as we continue to rebuild. More than ever, we are confident that we can face anything that comes our way, together, as a community.

Sam Jenkins, Chair, Board of Directors and Annemarie Petrov, President & CEO

Remembering Bill Robbins

This year, we lost a passionate supporter and dedicated philanthropist in William K. (Bill) Robbins. Bill passed away in April at the age of 91. While he was a proud Texan, he had a love for Canada and spent much of his life in Alberta.

Bill took the Christian ideals of charity and good works to heart and taught those around him to pursue their dreams at any age. Dedicated to making the world a better place through his gracious spirit and kind heart, Bill's philanthropic efforts through The Robbins Foundation spanned the globe. In Edmonton, you can see the results at the Winspear Centre, the Royal Alexandra Hospital, MacEwan University, the Citadel Theatre, and the Boys and Girls Club Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton.

Bill and his wife, Mary Jo, sponsored the ESO's popular Lighter Classics series and the Pops series for over 30 years. Mary Jo and the trustees of the Robbins Foundation continue to support the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra through the Pops and Sunday Classics series, as well as Christmas at the Winspear, one of Bill's favourite times of the year. Bill loved classical music and knew that the ESO brought a lot of pleasure to the people in Edmonton. His support, patronage, and friendship meant so much to us, and we remember him with great fondness.

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra 2022/2023

RESIDENT CONDUCTOR

Cosette Justo Valdés

ARTISTIC ADVISOR

Michael Stern

VIOLINI

Robert Uchida, Concertmaster The John & Barbara Poole Family Concertmaster Chair

Eric Buchmann, Associate

Concertmaster Broderyck Olson Ewald Cheung

Joanna Ciapka-Sangster

Laura Veeze Anna Kozak

Aiyana Anderson-Howatt

Anita Walsh

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Dianne New (1) Susan Flook (2) Heather Bergen Yue Deng Zoë Sellers Yeeun Ha Danielle Green Buon Park

VIOLA

Keith Hamm (1) Ethan Filner (2) Clayton Leung Rhonda Henshaw Stefan Jungkind

CELLO

Victor Pipkin

Rafael Hoekman (1)
The Stuart & Winona Davis Principal
Cello Chair
Julie Hereish (2)
Ronda Metszies
Meran Currie-Roberts
Derek Gomez

BASS

Hilda Cowie (1) Max Cardilli (5) Janice Quinn (4) Doug Ohashi Rob Aldridge

FLUTE

Elizabeth Koch (1)

OBOE

June Kim (1)
Paul Schieman (2)
The Steven & Day LePoole
Assistant
Principal Oboe Chair

CLARINET

Julianne Scott (1) David Quinn (2)

BASSOON

Bianca Chambul (1) Edith Stacey (2)

HORN

Allene Hackleman (1) Megan Evans (2) Donald Plumb (2)

TRUMPET

Robin Doyon (1) Frédéric Payant (2)

TROMBONE

John McPherson (1) Kathryn Macintosh (2)

BASS TROMBONE

Tyler Cairns (1)

TUBA

Scott Whetham (1)

TIMPANI

Barry Nemish (1)

HARP

Nora Bumanis (1)

- (1) Principal
- (2) Assistant Principal
- (3) Acting Principal
- (4) Acting Assistant Principal
- (5) On Leave

LAUREATE & EMERITUS ARTISTS

William Eddins, Music Director Emeritus Uri Mayer, Conductor Laureate Charles Hudelson, Principal Clarinet Emeritus Alvin Lowrey, Principal Trumpet Emeritus

ORCHESTRA PERSONNEL

Eric Filpula, Orchestra Personnel Manager Chole Geller, Librarian

RETIRING MUSICIANS

Derek Gomez, Cello

RESIGNING MUSICIANS

Max Cardilli, (5), Bass

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Musician's Goodbyes

By Rudy Howell

Derek Gomez, Cello

Derek Gomez has said goodbye to the ESO but not the cello. The 2022/2023 season was his 40th and final year with our orchestra. Derek joined the ESO in 1983 after working with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and Windsor Symphony Orchestra. He has been in Edmonton ever since.

"It felt like the right time musically for me. In terms of my playing, I wanted to quit while I still felt like I could play well," said Gomez.

When asked why he stuck around all these years, he said it is a "generational thing." He explained that it was normal for musicians of his era to want to spend their careers with one orchestra. Nowadays, it is much more common for younger musicians to jump from city to city for new experiences.

He described his role as a string section player as a unique position within the music business. He said it requires being a team player, which is not a skill one typically learns in music school.

"It requires a certain kind of a person; you can't be someone who wants to just do their own thing all the time because it's very regimented – you have to play as one section all the time," said Gomez.

Being a cellist within the ESO suited Derek's personality as an admitted introvert. He said that if not for his job with the ESO, he probably would not have had a career in music because he could not imagine himself as a freelancer.

He said the most notable change he has noticed over the last 40 years of the ESO is the gradual shift away from working with high-profile guest artists to sell tickets. During the first half of his tenure in Edmonton, Derek recalled being in awe of sharing the stage with Mstislav Rostropovich, Paul Tortelier, and Itzhak Perlman. He said the ESO has worked hard to become the main attraction in recent years.

In addition to getting to play alongside household names, Derek said the other highlights of his career included the "Northern Lights Tour" in 1994, when the ESO travelled to Yellowknife, Whitehorse, and Inuvik, as well as the ESO's debut at New York City's storied Carnegie Hall in 2012.

"To be able to play on that stage (Carnegie Hall) and having all those people come down from Edmonton to cheer us on was an amazing moment for me and an amazing opportunity for Edmonton." said Gomez.

He most enjoyed performing Gustav Mahler's music because it allowed him to play within a larger orchestra setting. He got the chance to do so when the ESO joined forces with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in September 1997 to perform Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand* for the grand opening of the Winspear Centre.

While looking forward to the freedom of retirement, he said he would miss performing alongside his colleagues, especially his stand partner, Victor Pipkin, whom Derek has played with since 1983. He will continue to play cello with the Alberta Baroque Ensemble.

"It's not only 40 years for me; I am a fourth-generation musician in my family going back to my great grandfather, Principal Clarinet in the London Symphony. It's been a long run, but I am so happy to have been a part of it," said Gomez.

Max Cardilli, Double Bass

Max Cardilli almost never picked up the double bass. When he first joined the music program at his high school in Montreal, his heart was set on the trombone until a teacher introduced him to the versatility of the double bass. From that point onward, he was all in on four strings.

In 2016, Max joined the ESO on a one-year contract before being hired permanently as Assistant Principal Double Bass in 2017. During his seven-season tenure in Edmonton, Max said he learned how to be a professional and reliable musician and contribute to the ESO's music-making practices and general culture.

"I did a lot of growing up as an individual and as a musician in Edmonton. They trusted me with the job with the very little experience that I had," said Cardilli.

The most memorable moment of his ESO career was performing as a soloist for the first time in front of an orchestra during the *Italia Romantica* concerts in October 2020.

Max did not have a favourite piece of music to play with the ESO. Instead, he said he found ways to love whichever work became the priority of any given week. He did, however, note a few of the most unique pieces he played with the ESO, including John Adam's *Harmonielehre*, Anton Bruckner's *Symphony No.* 9 with an extended fourth movement, and Eugene Goossens' arrangement of Handel's *Messiah*.

"Working with the ESO demonstrated a way of fulfilling the role of the bass player in the orchestra in a way that was very formative for me. It's an important and understated role because we have a lot of responsibility for the pitch centre, rhythmic impulse, and setting colour," said Cardilli.

In addition to his on-stage duties, Max enjoyed being an ESO Musician Ambassador with YONA, conducting demonstrations of the double bass during Sound School at the Winspear, and meeting the diverse members of the ESO community at donor events. During the pandemic, Max created and produced the first and only season of the 'ESO Offstage' podcast to help maintain a connection between the ESO and its audience.

Now settled in as Assistant Principal Double Bass with the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Max said what he is going to miss most about the ESO are his colleagues.

"There were a lot of good friendships I made in the orchestra, and it was so much fun to play with them week after week in such a wonderful space – the Winspear Centre. It's unparalleled and a real cathedral for the orchestral art form. I hope it stays that way," said Cardilli.

Board of Directors

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Winspear Centre and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Volunteers

Thank you to all our Winspear and ESO volunteers who gave us their dedication and countless hours of their time in 2022/2023.

Aiden Macpherson Alex Thompson Andrea Carnell Andrée Aston Anna Linetsky Arnold A. Ferri Barbara Koshman Barbara Slade Bonny Carlson Brenda Voyce Brieanne Graham Carissa Fedoruk Carmelle Cooper Carol And Frank Rudat Carol Kuzyk Carol Pawlenchuk Cathy Clement Cathy Leppard Chantelle Behrens Claire Bradner Coleen Braun Colleen Phillips Corinne Warwaruk Corri Allison Dan Germain Dave Walkowski Dean Cooper Deb Ruetz

Dominique Chalupa Donna Krucik Elizabeth Hryciw Erica Kath Ethel Birse Florence Borch Heidi Diamond Helene Berg Henry Choy Inna Dymouriak Isabelle Petilea James Smibert Janet Effa Jay Johnson Jennifer Hope Joanne Christie Johann Barnard John Ottewell John Slade Jolene Wong Joyce Liska Karin Vail Kate Schmidt Kathy Mclaughlin Kendra James K-Lah O'Brien Laura Taylor Lidwina Patra

Linda Smibert Loveth Bradlev Lu Rintoul Lynda Dolinsky Madeleine Stout Magda Schouten Maria Buchegger Marianne Ouwehand Marla Narten Marlis Heppner Marnie Gomez Marty Cender Megan Schmelzle Michael Otto Michelle Lacoursiere Monica Lomeland Monica Molina Ayala Nadja Merali Nancy Colpitts Nicole J. Bouclin-Graves Norm Hill Pat Berger Patricia Blinzer Rachel Glessing Ralphina Mcleod Rita Macdonald Roberta Ruecker Sandi Sherman

Sandra Wiese
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Valerie Graham
Valerie Smart
Walter Kehl
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Young Leadership Council
Drew Delbaere, Co-Chair
Rhiannon Nelson, Co-Chair
Anatasia Cipko
David Doell
Ellie Cao
Juli Cun
Kathleen Corrigan
Katie Lundin
Kayla Bruce
Saoirse Cipko

Staff and Production Team

The following list acknowledges the staff and production members (full-time, part-time, and hourly) who were part of the Winspear and ESO team during the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

Brian Alquire Sherry Alvaro Roanne-Mae Andaya Miriam Ayles Christopher Baker **David Baker** Keala Banford Myles Bartel Jason Baskier Lilian Belknap Salix Bell James Bennett Vicky Berg Emma Bersamina Warren Bertholet Brenda Biddiscombe Kate Blechinger Adrienne Bode Catherine Boissonneau Natalie Boisvert Yvonne Boon Louise Bradbury Dawn Branton Christopher Brown Dorina Brown Sydnee Bryant Jessica Bulger Colin Campbell Kathryn Campbell Katherine Carr Sierra Carter-Jamerson Nathan Chan Shirley Chaytor Joshua Ching Hanna Choi Henry Choy James Cockell

Garrett Cosgrave Sean Croal Donna Daly Amanda Dang Alisha Dean Mark Dela-Cruz Jennifer Delainey Justine Dennis Diana De-Sousa Will Drake Alex Draper Kyra Droog Jonas Duffy Lauren Dykstra Eden Edwards **Edward Edwards** Jerrold Eilander Alastair Elliot Raphaelle Erdman Melissa Farrell **Graham Fast** Megan Fath Chariz Faulmino Eric Filpula Grace Fitzgerald Patrick Fraser Fatima Gallardo-Henriquez Chloe Geller Connie Gibeault Caitlin Grant Hannah Green Connor Halpin Sandy Haslam Lynaya Hawkins Erik Heise Tyra Heise

Kenneth Hoefling

Kevin Hogstead Heidi Hovis Kevin Humphrey Elise Hyrak Sarah Jacques Mary-Anne Janewski Hannah Jarvis-Lingard Stephanie Jolly Cosette Justo-Valdés Pearl Kapitzke Niabi Kapoor Inez Kasprzyk Grace Kim Sebastian Koeck Tatiana Kopchia Olena Kotova Jared Koziol Alicia Krips Charlotte Kruszewski Maria Kruszewski Valorie Kukovica Konstantine Kurelias Travis Kutz Alexa Larocque Annemarie Petrov Davna Lueck Michelle Luong Robert MacDougall Ally Mandrusiak Robert McAlear Elizabeth McHan Tanva McLean David McMath Alexander McNaughton Jacqueline McNulty Olivia Menard Rebecca Merkley

Diane Meyer Samela Mfenyana Micha Oostenbrink Stacy Mitchell David Moore Isabella Morland Turlough Myers Alyson Neufeld Denise Neumann Michael O'Grady Biboye Onanuga Joanna Pacarynuk Tara Paterok Alyssa Paterson Mike Patton Deidra Peigan-O'Grady Jodi Penner Max Petrov Brian Pev Leanne Pillott **Emilie Piodos** Finly Plopinio Christine Pritchard Douglas Radford Zillur Rahman Cody Ramsbottom Mia Ramsbottom Rachel Rebonne Chelsey Rockwell Renato Ronabio Mon Rosete Joshua Ryu Spiros Sakellariou David Salmon Jerry Sanchez Kaja Sangster Kacey Schumaker

James Schutz Casper Seely Arshika Singh Jordan Smale Robert Smale Conrad Sobieraj **Evan Sprout** Wade Staples Svke Stein Elaine Stepa Alexandra Stout Madel Sumagang Anne-Marie Switzer Trena Taralson Sarah Tawfik Miles Thomsen Sherri Tiedemann Liam Trimble Rory Turner Cynthia Valencia-Hegedes Kira Vanderveen Denis Vaugeois Cheryl Vinge Kimberly Walker Keri Walmsley Kai Warszynski Andreas Wegner Lori White Benjamin Whittier **Barb Wilkes** Nathaniel Wong Nava Yamach Andy Young LeLaine Young Sandra Young

Young Leadership Council (YLC)

By Drew Delbaere & Rhiannon Nelson, YLC Co-Chairs

The Young Leadership Council continued to work behind the scenes throughout the 2022/23 season on building a community of and for young patrons, specifically through the proposal of the ESO Encounters membership program. Throughout the fall, we developed and refined the program's specifics, using the research we had conducted with other arts organizations the previous spring to guide our work.

We hosted our second annual YLC Retreat in February to workshop our formal project proposal. Various ESO & Winspear Centre staff joined us to provide their feedback and to discuss how the program fits within the existing structures and processes of the organization. We evaluated the proposal from many perspectives, including marketing & business development, business intelligence & digital operations, finance, and events & stewardship. We also created a set of KPIs to evaluate the program's success in the first year and beyond.

At the *Dark Patterns* concert on May 19, we hosted our first pre-concert reception to start sharing what we had been working on. Over 40 diverse community members joined us for an evening of music and a Q&A session with Conductor Sammy Mousa. This event is where we formally announced ESO Encounters, which we continued to promote for people aged 18-35 at various concerts throughout the summer. ESO Encounters launched at the beginning of the 2023/24 season with overwhelming success.

The Council welcomed Juli Cun, Kathleen Corrigan, and Kayla Bruce as new members this year and an additional seven new volunteers for the upcoming season. We want to thank Michelle Luong, Micha Oostenbrink, and Kyra Droog for their unwavering support as our Staff Advisors. The upcoming year is full of excitement as we formally launch the ESO Encounters program!

Winspear and ESO Volunteers

By Turlough Myers, Patron Advisor & Volunteer Manager

Our volunteer program has hit a new high since the pandemic, with up to 110 volunteers supporting the Winspear, ESO, Tommy Banks Centre, and YONA, putting in well over 25,000 volunteer hours in the 2022/2023 season.

Volunteers generously supported every ESO concert this past season as Greeters, Ushers, and at the Welcome Table. For our Symphony for Kids series, volunteers helped prepare crafts and worked at the activity stations before the concerts. Volunteers regularly supported Musical Creativity programming, most notably, the Music Box Babies classes, and they supported marketing efforts with postering and flyer distribution.

Our 2022/2023 outdoor concerts were where our volunteers had the greatest concentrated impact all season. In addition to helping with the setup and take down at every ESO Outdoors concerts, volunteers played a huge part in our ability to connect with patrons. They spoke to hundreds of attendees, spreading the word about our upcoming concert season and educational program offerings, and garnered most of the pay-what-you-can contributions from the audience. At Symphony Under the Sky, 45 individual volunteers stepped up alongside our staff to fill the 124 total shifts across the four-day festival. Volunteers primarily supported the festival by ushering, helping to seat 2,500 audience members each day in an orderly fashion and without incident.

The overall success of the volunteer program is a testament to the transformation of the program's culture to become more collaborative, friendly, helpful, and supportive. Many volunteers have expressed how happy it has made them to contribute to the organization's mission and that they have made meaningful connections and friendships with fellow volunteers. As an organization, we are grateful for our amazing volunteers and everything they do.

Summer Season: ESO Outdoors & the 26th Symphony Under the Sky

By Micha Oostenbrink

Summer 2022 was filled with many magical musical moments across the Greater Edmonton area, from performances in neighbouring communities such as St. Albert, Devon, Beaumont, and Castle Downs to the beloved four-day Symphony Under the Sky festival at Hawrelak Park.

From August 4-21, ESO Outdoors returned and expanded in size and scope from new locations to bigger productions. This outdoor pay-what-you-can series, supported by EPCOR, took place in nearby municipalities, including St. Albert, Fort Saskatchewan, Beaumont, Stony Plain, and Devon. Within Edmonton, ESO Outdoors returned to familiar venues like Borden Park and 124th Street and two beautiful new locations – Snow Valley and Castle Downs Park. There was something for everyone with various programs, from Mozart and Vivaldi to Lady Gaga and Latin rhythms.

ESO Outdoors was initially a pilot project led by our musicians during the pandemic to safely bring live music back to our community. It simultaneously allowed the musicians to play in small ensembles again. These concerts attracted music lovers from all walks of life – from long-time ESO supporters to those who simply wanted to hear live music again. The support we received was overwhelming, and this initiative has since transformed into a community-building event where anyone in the Greater Edmonton Area can experience the ESO in an open and accessible way.

Due to a three-year rehabilitation project, 2022 marked the last Symphony Under the Sky in Hawrelak Park. The festival was a massive success, selling over 9,000 tickets across four performances. Fan-favourite guest conductor Bob Bernhardt returned to treat the audience to two delightful programs. "Festival Favourites" was centred around Mozart and Beethoven and featured the world premiere of the ESO's Young Composer Project winner June Neilson's piece *Danse Vivante*. "Hollywood Hits" brought the best of film music to Hawrelak Park, with works from *Aladdin*, *Harry Potter*, and *Back to the Future*.

ESO Outdoors 2022

Date	Location	Program	Attendance
August 4, 2022	St. Albert	From Mozart to Lady Gaga	253
August 5, 2022	Borden Park	Mozart's "A Little Night Music"	185
August 6, 2022	124 St and 108 Ave	Music From Bridgerton	220
August 7, 2022	Borden Park (Matinee)	Summer Delights	240
August 10, 2022	Snow Valley Ski Club	Peter and the Wolf (and Other Favourites)	330
August 11, 2022	Snow Valley Ski Club	The Four Seasons (and Other Favourites)	420
August 12, 2022	Devon	Peter and the Wolf (and Other Favourites)	310
August 13, 2022	124 St and 103 Ave	Peter and the Wolf (and Other Favourites)	285
August 14, 2022	Beaumont	Peter and the Wolf (and Other Favourites)	330
August 19, 2022	Castle Downs Park	Latin Rhythms	550
August 20, 2022	Fort Saskatchewan	Latin Rhythms	190
August 21, 2022	Stony Plain	Latin Rhythms	335

SYMPHONY UNDER THE SKY

Date	Program	Attendance
August 31, 2022	Festival Favourites	2205
September 1, 2022	Hollywood Hits	1971
September 2, 2022	Festival Favourites	2486
September 3, 2022	Hollywood Hits	2487

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Season

By Micha Oostenbrink

New life was breathed into the ESO in 2022/2023. It marked the first full season of programming since the pandemic started. We kicked things off with two packed halls for the music of *Star Wars*, led by long-time guest conductor Bob Bernhardt. The week after, British conductor and Baroque expert Nicholas McGegan guided the ESO through a beautiful and educational program of early music. Classical Mystery Tour joined the ESO for a show-stopping performance of the beloved music of The Beatles. ESO Artistic Advisor Michael Stern joined the orchestra for his first concert in his new role to conduct the music of Grieg and Stravinsky.

In November, the first New Music concert of the season took place. *Dream*, curated and conducted by ESO Resident Conductor Cosette Justo Valdés, featured a program with music composed within the last 25 years and an unforgettable performance by poet and spoken word artist Wakefield Brewster, Calgary's 6th Poet Laureate.

Christmas at the Winspear was, as always, a magical experience for patrons, with fan-favourite performances of Handel's *Messiah* with the Richard Eaton Singers, traditional carols in *A Lightly Classical Christmas*, and holiday favourites with soprano Miriam Khalil in *A Very Merry Pops. Hollywood for the Holidays*, the last concert of 2022, was the perfect opportunity for families to enjoy an evening out during the Christmas break.

The new year began with a breathtaking Brahm's Piano Concerto No. 1 performance by Canadian pianist Katherine Chi alongside guest conductor Yaniv Dinur. For the Family Day weekend, the ESO was joined by Classical Kids LIVE! for a live-action presentation of *Beethoven Lives Upstairs*. In March, audiences saw powerful performances of Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony* and Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No. 1* in addition to two exciting Specials – *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony* and *Country Hits*, with the latter conducted by Alex Prior.

The Edmonton Youth Orchestra had the opportunity to perform beside the ESO in April for *Thrill of a Lifetime: A Special Concert for the Future*. EYO Music Director Michael Massey conducted the first half of the program, featuring the world premiere of his work *Symphonic Variations - Avenue House*. Then, Bill Eddins, ESO Music Director Emeritus, led both orchestras together through Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* in the second half. This performance was followed a few days later by *Love is a Battle Field*, the third New Music concert of the season, curated and hosted by composer/performer Cris Derksen. The program included 21st-century orchestral music by Indigenous Prairie composers inspired by land and sky, nature, home, love, magic, and spirituality.

At the beginning of May, audiences were treated to an exhilarating performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with ESO Artistic Advisor Michael Stern on the podium, joined by six choirs and four soloists. Following this was the final Symphony for Kids concert of the season, *Charlot et Mlle Cello*, featuring the ESO's Assistant Principal Cello, Julie Hereish, and actor Pierre Mayer for a comedic and entertaining performance.

The 2022-23 season ended on a high note, with *Great Hollywood Adventures* and *Tchaikovsky & Bruch* at the beginning of June finishing up the Robbins Pops and Classics series, respectively, followed by two unique Specials – the return of the "Queen of Classical Music," Thorgy Thor, to the Winspear Centre in *Thorgy & The Thorchestra II: The Regal Sequel*, and *Murdoch Mysteries in Concert*, featuring actor Thomas Craig and a full episode of the popular show with the live orchestral soundtrack.

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra Season Overview

Performance	Date(s)	Series	# Of Shows	Attendance
The Music of Star Wars	October 7 & 8, 2022	ESO Special	2	3,296
Bach, Vivaldi & Fireworks: The Joy of Baroque	October 13 & 14, 2022	Classics	2	1,559
The Composer is Here	October 23, 2022	Symphony for Kids	1	816
Classical Mystery Tour: The Best of the Beatles	October 27 & 29, 2022	Pops	3	3,014
Stern Conducts Grieg & Stravinsky	November 4 – 6, 2022	Classics	3	1,860
Dream	November 10, 2022	New Music	1	438
The Music of Vaughan Williams	November 12, 2022	ESO Special	1	586
Trip to Vienna & Prague	November 17 & 19, 2022	Classics	2	1,546
Celtic Adventures with the McDades	November 25 & 26, 2022	Pops	2	2,109
Handel's Messiah	December 9 & 10, 2022	Holiday	2	2,490
A Very Merry Pops	December 16 – 18, 2022	Pops	3	3,856
A Lightly Classical Christmas	December 22 & 23, 2022	Holiday	2	2,652
Hollywood for the Holidays	December 28 & 29, 2022	Holiday	2	2,110
Brahms' First Piano Concerto	January 19 & 21, 2023	Classics	2	1,806
Tchaikovsky & Shakespeare	January 20, 2023	Pairings	1	835
Hymn	January 27, 2023	New Music	1	402
Heavenly Mozart	January 29, 2023	Symphony for Kids	1	1,386
Bourbon Street Parade with Michael Kaeshammer	February 2 & 4, 2023	Pops	2	2,084
Spring with Copland & Schumann: Musical Awakenings	February 10 – 12, 2023	Classics	3	2,007
Beethoven Lives Upstairs	February 18, 2023	ESO Special	2	1,860
Elgar's Loves: Enigma	February 23 & 25, 2023	Classics	2	1,374
Elgar & Mystery	February 24, 2023	Pairings	1	528
Saint-Saëns' Organ Symphony: Majesty & Poetry	March 3 – 5, 2023	Classics	3	2,263
The Power of the Orchestra: An ESO Showcase	March 9 – 11, 2023	Pops	3	1,286
Dvorák & Shostakovich	March 16 & 18, 2023	Classics	2	1,511
Shostakovich & Cello	March 17, 2023	Pairings	1	730
Country Hits	March 21, 2023	ESO Special	1	1,210
Bugs Bunny at the Symphony	March 24 & 25, 2023	ESO Special	3	4,723
Thrill of a Lifetime: A Special Concert for	April 15 & 16, 2023	Classics	2	1,992
the Future	·			,
Love is a Battle Field	April 20, 2023	New Music	1	630
The Mambo Kings: Hot Latin Nights!	April 21 & 22, 2023	Pops	2	2,322
Sara Davis Buechner Plays Rachmaninoff II	April 28 & 29, 2023	Classics	2	1,879
An Ode to Joy: Beethoven's 9th	May 4 & 6, 2023	Classics	2	2,882
Beethoven & Joy	May 5, 2023	Pairings	1	1,022
Charlot et Mlle Cello	May 13, 2023	Symphony for Kids	1	1022
Dark Patterns	May 19, 2023	New Music	1	507
Great Hollywood Adventures	June 2 – 4, 2023	Pops	3	3,132
Tchaikovsky & Bruch: Romantic Favourites	June 9 – 11, 2023	Classics	3	2,129
Thorgy & The Thorchestra II	June 14, 2023	ESO Special	1	1,078
Murdoch Mysteries in Concert	June 16, 2023	ESO Special	1	1,414

Edmonton Symphony Orchestra YouTube Releases

The strategy for digital content for the 2022/2023 season shifted focus to release recordings from select live concerts as the emphasis transitioned back to in-person events. Three recordings were released on the ESO YouTube channel this season, with each video showcasing a significant concert or piece of work that the ESO has undertaken since the pandemic.

BECOMING - Memories of the concert Arrival - Premiered August 5, 2022

In November 2021, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra presented the first concert of the New Music series for the 2021/2022 season conducted by Cosette Justo Valdés. The concert *Arrival* was a powerful performance by the ESO, and this video shares some of the moments that touched the hearts of those who witnessed the impactful experience. Edmonton's Poet Laureate, Titilope Sonuga, is featured performing her poetry that is woven amongst musical works by Claude Lapalme, Evelin Ramón, and Anna Clyne. Also featured performing is ESO Violinist Laura Veeze.

FOUR STRONG WINDS – Premiered September 2, 2022

A song so dear to many people, but especially Albertans, we are elated to share this video of Four Strong Winds, one of Canada's most iconic pieces of music, in celebration of the inaugural Alberta Day. This video recording of *Four Strong Winds* by the legendary lan Tyson and arranged for orchestra by Albertan composer Claude Lapalme is a beautiful tribute to our province. The piece has become a staple in the orchestra's repertoire since commissioning the arrangement in 2007 with lan Tyson's permission. It was for Alberta's 102nd birthday that year, and since then, the ESO has continually impressed audiences with the charming rendition.

Chief Conductor of the ESO from 2017 –2022, Alex Prior, conducts the orchestra for this performance. It is well-known by audiences and regular patrons of the ESO how Alex grew extremely fond of Alberta during his time in Edmonton as Chief Conductor. You can see him sporting his "Canadian Tuxedo" in the video as his nod to the country music origin of the song. Alex always brought such witty and endearing connections to Albertans who attended concerts he led, and such fun displays of his affection were always met with enthusiastic appreciation.

WAR CRY by Cris Derksen - Premiered June 21, 2023

In celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day, we are delighted to share an Edmonton Symphony Orchestra premiere piece from our New Music series concert, Love Is A Battle Field, curated by Cris Derksen (Treaty 8).

Enjoy Derksen's work, War Cry, featuring Rebecca Benson, vocals (ESO Debut) and conducted by ESO Resident Conductor Cosette Justo Valdés. This exciting ESO concert on April 20 was a special evening of 21st-century orchestral music by living Indigenous Prairie composers at the Winspear Centre.

Live at the Winspear

Five Live at the Winspear performances occurred during the 2022/2023 season. Our first was GRAMMY-nominated indie-folk duo The Milk Carton Kids and Katie Pruitt. They last graced the Winspear stage in 2018.

On Halloween, Organist Dennis James performed the iconic soundtrack to *Phantom of the Opera* alongside the 1925 Lon Chaney film that played on the screen above the Winspear stage.

In February, we welcomed one of Canada's most legendary singer-songwriters, Bruce Cockburn, to the Winspear stage. His influence and legacy have helped to shape the Canadian music landscape over the last 50 years.

We experimented this season with showcasing a multi-disciplinary performance with Portraits of Home, combining chamber music with contemporary dance. In collaboration with the Toronto-based organization Echo Chamber, the Rosebud Quartet performed several works by living Canadian composer Carmen Braden alongside well-known classical composers Britten and Vaughan Williams. This concert also presented a unique opportunity to welcome members of the Edmonton dance community for an intimate experience sitting on the Winspear stage as they watched choreography and music intertwine.

The season's final performance was From Bach to Price: A Spring Organ Recital, given by organist Dr. Nathaniel Gumbs, the Director of Chapel Music at Yale University. In his Canadian debut, Dr. Gumbs performed famous works for organ and a piece by the resurging African American composer Florence Price.

Name	Date	# Of Shows	Attendance
The Milk Carton Kids	October 25, 2022	1	1021
Phantom of the Opera	October 31, 2022	1	1044
Bruce Cockburn	February 8, 2023	1	1396
Portraits of Home	April 8, 2023	1	188
Nathaniel Gumbs	May 25, 2023	1	675

Rental Events at the Winspear

By Rudy Howell

The 2022/2023 season was a year of rebuilding for our rental events. A total of 41,483 tickets were sold across 43 hall rentals. The top three best-selling events were Jim Gaffigan, who sold 4,449 tickets over three performances, Vance Joy, who sold 3,347 tickets over two performances; and Weird Al Yankovic, who sold 1,666 tickets for one performance.

Highlights for the season included Tenille Townes on January 26, 2023 – a favourite act among the Winspear community; the Juno Songwriters' Circle on March 12, 2023 – a part of JUNOFest 2023; the Black Gold School Division Celebration of the Arts on April 14, 2023 – a presentation of music, theatre, photography, film, and visual and performing arts by students of Black Gold School Division; and East Meets West on April 23, 2023 – the final event of the "Bamboo and Maple Festival" which featured a 1,000-year-old Guqin, the oldest instrument ever played on the Winspear stage.

We welcomed 29 annual clients to the Winspear, including The Salvation Army for the 23rd annual "Festival of Carols." Other popular annual events included the Edmonton Youth Orchestra in Concert, the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus 79th Anniversary Concert, and Crescendo.

Overall, the 2022/2023 season was a positive and essential step toward a brighter future. It was the year we welcomed our clients and community back full-time at the Winspear with tangible excitement.

Tommy Banks Centre for Musical Creativity

By Rudy Howell

In 2022/2023, the Tommy Banks Centre for Musical Creativity (TBCMC) offered its entire program repertoire for the first time since the first half of the 2019/2020 season. 216 sessions were held across 24 Musical Creativity programs, serving 29,447 attendees this season.

Three programs continued to be offered virtually: 'Create Your Own Program,' 'Science of Sound,' and 'Music Appreciation Online.' The rest of our program catalogue was offered in person at the Winspear.

The season's highlight was the return of our 'Education Concerts.' We had 11 nearly sold-out concerts attended by 17,000 Division 1 and 2 students. Education Concerts introduce elementary students to the exciting world of symphonic music with the opportunity to see and hear the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra performing specially programmed concerts filled with a wide range of musical concepts.

Similarly, 'Rusty Musicians: B-Sides' returned in January 2023 and was attended by 29 participants. This program offers adults who want to refresh their musical skills the chance to sit "B-Side" a musician from the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, as they work through favourite pieces from the classical repertoire. These musicians get a unique behind-the-scenes glimpse of a real orchestra at work while playing music along with the pros.

'Wee Ones at the Winspear' also returned for the first time since the 2019/2020 season, with 80 participants across four sessions. Through 'Wee Ones,' children learn all about the concept of opposites through music and movement, peer inside the majestic Davis Concert Organ, and are introduced to various percussion instruments with friendly songs, playful games, and hands-on musical fun.

Introduced in 2022/2023 was 'Musical Mornings,' a new program designed for ages 1-5. Children and families joined Ms. Kate for a musical morning in the upstairs lobby of the Winspear and met musicians from the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Together, participants sang, laughed, and learned about everything instruments can do with a fun variety of familiar tunes. Both Musical Morning sessions were sold out, with 210 total participants.

27 'Musicians in the Making' performances were held for the first time since the 2019/2020 season. These performances allow non-professional soloists and small ensembles to perform 45-minute showcases in the Winspear lobby before select ESO performances. In addition to the all-important experience of performing in front of a live audience, participants also receive complimentary tickets to that evening's concert.

An increased number of adults attended Musical Creativity programming in 2022/2023. Through 'Create Your Own Program,' many adults enjoyed the Winspear Tour and Davis Concert Organ Demo – some even came to celebrate their birthdays. 255 participants attended a total of 10 overture tours.

Overall, it was a year of growth for our Musical Creativity team, better preparing them to operate at full capacity in the 2023/2024 season.

2022/2023 Tommy Banks Centre for Musical Creativity Program Overview

Program	Number of Sessions	Total Attendees	
Adopt-A-Player	30	750	
Band Clinic / Customized Program	13	325	
Classroom Without Walls	2	65	
Conducting Your Business	1	20	
Education Concerts (Division 1 & 2)	11	17,000	
It All StARTs with Me	6	192	
Music Appreciation Online	3	34	
Music Box Babies	32	297	
Musicians in the Making	27	24	
Musical Mornings	2	210	
Open Dress Rehearsals	6	670	
Overture Tours	10	255	
Preludes	22	1760	
Rusty Musicians B-Sides	1	29	
Rusty Musicians Camp	1	33	
Symphony for Kids – Pre-concert Activities	17	6800	
Science of Sound	13	390	
Spring Break Day Camps	2	29	
Sound School	7	210	
Sound School Orientation	1	8	
Summer Day Camps	3	53	
Wee Ones at the Winspear	4	80	
Young Composers Project	1	1	
YONA-Sistema	1	235	

Total Number of Programs Offered: 24

Total Number of Sessions: 216

Total Number of Participants: 29,470

YONA-Sistema Year Ten: A Decade of YONA

By Lilian Belknap

The 2022/2023 season marked the 10th anniversary of YONA. The program welcomed its largest number of students to date, demonstrating the strength and resilience of its purpose in the priority neighbourhoods which it serves.

Operating out of five sites – St. Alphonsus Elementary, St. Teresa of Calcutta Elementary, St. Catherine Elementary, the Winspear Centre, and Kipohtakâw Education Centre (KEC) on Alexander First Nation – YONA now serves several hundred students in Grades 1-12. In September of 2022, 20 new students were welcomed on violin at St. Catherine's, 10 on flute at St. Alphonsus, and 20 on recorder at Kipohtakâw.

Year 10 at YONA saw the return of large-scale ensembles, with weekly rehearsals of the La Bruyère Orchestra at the Winspear Centre, monthly rehearsals of Community Orchestra rotating between school sites, and all junior and community level students singing together in choir. The return of full-scale performances allowed for a wonderfully successful YONA Winter Concert in February, Road to Joy in May, and opportunities for YONA students and their families to attend Edmonton Symphony Orchestra concerts.

On April 18, 2023, Kipohtakâw Education Centre hosted the La Bruyère Orchestra for a special workshop with composer Cris Derkson, which was the first opportunity for students from Edmonton to visit Alexander First Nation. The orchestra performed Derkson's piece, *Prairie Promise*, which was composed in collaboration with the YONA students in 2022. Four senior violin students from the Kipohtakâw Education Centre were invited to join the La Bruyère Orchestra on *Prairie Promise* for the YONA Winter Concert and continued to travel to Edmonton weekly to rehearse additional repertoire for Road to Joy.

A decade of YONA has brought most of the original YONA cohort to their graduation year. Several of these students are now active volunteers with the program, visiting classes weekly to mentor younger students. The program has now impacted the lives of hundreds of children since it started.

YONA's 10th season was a testament to the strength of our students and their families, the committed staff, and supporters at the Winspear Centre, and the power of music to inspire resilience, build community, and carry humanity through the most challenging times.



Winspear Project

For 26 years, the Winspear Centre has brought us together in celebration and community. Through music, we've been inspired, transported, and connected. Now we're building on the Winspear's legacy.

We are transforming into a world-class music centre. Our doors will be wide open - welcoming in and enriching the lives of hundreds of people every single day. The new Winspear Centre will be a 41,000 square-foot state-of-the-art cultural attraction.



The construction of the Winspear Project has continued to pick up steam this past year. The structure of the new 550-seat, state-of-the-art Music Box can now be seen from 97 Street as it rises out of the ground. This performance and event space will provide a world-class stage for emerging performers and community music groups. A more intimate space than our beautiful existing hall, this new space will have the same exceptional acoustics and leading-edge technology. Once open, Albertans will enjoy more diverse music choices than ever before.

We have achieved some significant milestones in the past year, including:

- Our existing concert hall's curtain and banner systems were replaced after 27 years of usage.
- New seats were installed in the main chamber this past summer; while the design and style replicate the
 original seats from 1997, the new ones are wider and higher off the ground and should last comfortably for
 the next 25 years.
- The concert hall's main floor was refinished during the seat replacement project.
- Our Patron Services kitchen was relocated from the second floor to the basement of our facility, and is now a full-service kitchen that became operational this summer.
- The final design of the expansion and renovation spaces was completed last fiscal year and incorporates all the changes in design to reflect the impact of the pandemic and building use.
- Construction of the parkade below ground is 95% complete and the concrete structure of the Music Box is well underway.
- Construction of the District Energy plant project is 90% complete.

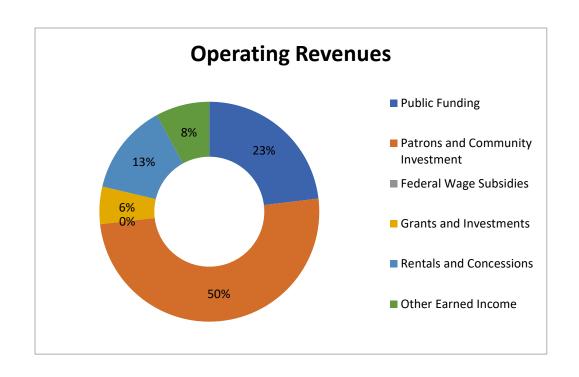
On June 26, 2023, Winspear Project donors and supporters were invited to a sneak preview, which included a guided tour of the construction site and an update on the Project and Capital Campaign. The inaugural performance in the Music Box occurred during this event, with ESO Musicians Laura Veeze and Ewald Cheung performing together in the unfinished space.

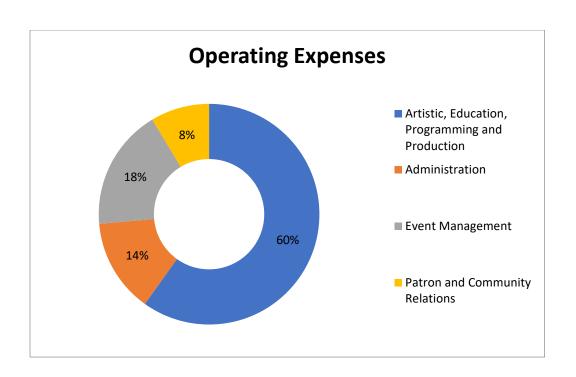
It's a monumental time for music and the arts in downtown Edmonton. The reinvention of the Winspear Centre will create more vibrancy and cultural engagement to help re-energize our city's core, while being a welcoming place for people of all walks of life and a source of inspiration for generations of musicians and music lovers.



FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS COMBINED ESS & FWCM FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Total Operating Revenue	14,365,674	12,374,152	10,437,816
Total Operating Expenses	15,666,459	12,463,435	9,050,784
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(1,300,785)	(89,283)	1,387,032
Internal Fund Transfers	258,357	139,416	156,418
Change in Operating Fund Balances	(1,042,428)	50,133	1,543,450
Total Assets	95,379,330	84,689,314	59,242,563
Total Liabilities	23,234,693	19,847,966	7,265,871
Net Assets	72,144,637	64,841,348	51,976,692
ESO and FWCM Endowment and Investments	5,628,396	5,062,683	5,695,566
Edmonton Symphony and Concert Hall Foundation Endowment and Investments	15,028,456	12,772,315	14,599,254
Total Endowment and Investments	20,656,852	17,834,998	20,294,820
Number of Live Concerts	120	145	30
Number of Digital Performances	-	42	41
Free Tickets	8,721	3,900	837
Paid Tickets	76,974	57,913	1,576
Number of Tickets	85,695	61,813	2,413





GRATITUDE REPORT

Thank you to everyone who contributes to our work fulfilling the human need to make and share music. This report celebrates the people who have made gifts to our operations, sustained their pledges, contributed to an endowment for our benefit, and donated to our capital campaign. Donors who gave between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, are recognized in these pages for their support. We strive to acknowledge everyone appropriately; if you notice any errors or omissions, please contact Alex Draper at adraper@winspearcentre.com.

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