

# YONA

## BACK TO YONA: A SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS



There's nothing quite like coming back to YONA in the fall! The energy, the smiles, and the sound of music filling the halls bring so much joy.

As we move through Year 13 of YONA, the excitement feels bigger than ever thanks to you, our generous community. It's because of you that this program continues to be a success, and our impact continues to grow, year after year.

This fall, YONA students at the Winspear site were welcomed into beautiful new studio (pictured above) and classroom spaces as part of the Winspear Centre expansion. Even though construction is still underway, these new rooms are already giving our young musicians a place to learn and make music together.

To learn more about the Winspear Expansion, visit [Winspear Expansion Project](#)



At St. Alphonsus, a new group of junior bass students has joined the fold. Our St. Catherine site also grew to include another classroom this year, allowing us to bring in a new junior violin class! This was made possible because the school noticed the impact and difference YONA makes in the lives of their students. We're grateful for these partnerships that help YONA grow!



At Kipoptakâw YONA on Alexander First Nation, the new school year began with fresh sounds and new rhythms. This year, the program has shifted to a broader exploration of music skills. Children in grades 1–3 are discovering the joy of music through a general program, while those in grades 4–6 are focusing on percussion. The whole group also continues to raise their voices together in choir!

During the teachers' strike, we kept our doors open and were thrilled to see so many students still able to attend. Even without regular school bussing, attendance was high, thanks to the dedication of our families. We're so grateful to the parents and caregivers who went the extra mile to get their children to YONA so they could continue to learn and grow.

Because of you, YONA continues to be a place where kids feel seen and supported. Thank you for making another year of YONA possible!

## YONA PREPARES TO LAUNCH AT IVOR DENT SCHOOL



**YONA is preparing to open a brand-new site at Ivor Dent School in the new year!** This exciting milestone is becoming a reality after months of collaboration with the Edmonton Public School Board, building a strong partnership to expand YONA's reach.

“We’re so excited to welcome new students to the YONA family! Having a site to serve students in an Edmonton Public school allows us to reach students in another priority neighbourhood.” - Olivia Menard, YONA Manager

According to Menard, the new site will start with one class of brass students, with the intention of expanding to two classes next year.

“With Ivor Dent, we plan to centralize our brass and woodwinds programming so that we can create a balanced orchestra when they advance to the Winspear Centre.”

**Our goal is to continue to provide YONA free of charge to an increasing number of kids in Edmonton’s priority neighbourhoods. Will you help us grow?**

Getting the Ivor Dent site up and running will cost over \$60,000. Your donation can help put supplies in the classrooms, instruments in the hands of children, and provide quality music instruction for these students every day after school.

**Right now, every gift to YONA will be matched dollar for dollar by EPCOR, up to \$25,000, until December 31st!**

**DONATE TODAY**

This new site is an example of how your generosity is shaping brighter futures across our community. Thank you for standing with YONA as we continue to grow and share the power of music with children in our community!

## **YONA STUDENTS SHINE AT PRESTIGIOUS VICE REGAL EVENT**



Front Row: YONA students Roy; May Bell; Akiko; Nils

Back Row: His Honour, Dr. Zaheer Lakhani; Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta; HRH Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh; Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Mary Simon, Governor General of Canada; His Excellency, Whit Fraser

On Sunday, September 7th, four YONA students played at the Vice Regal Reception at the Hotel MacDonald. The Governor General of Canada, the Lieutenant Governors of the Provinces, the Commissioners of the Territories, and the Duchess of Edinburgh were all in attendance.

The students performed the exposition of the first movement of Mozart's String Quartet in C. The group worked on the piece while they participated in the Summer Chamber Music Workshop led by the High Level Trio - Ewald, Ethan, and Julie, and later with YONA Teaching Artists Viktoria and Svitlana. This marks the success of the first Summer Chamber Music Workshop at the Winspear (formerly of the

Conservatory) and the beginning of chamber music programming at YONA for our senior students.

YONA Manager, Olivia Menard, was asked to speak about YONA to the delegation, and was an outstanding ambassador for our programs and organization. It was a wonderful experience for our students, and a great opportunity to showcase the work we do to serve our community to a very influential group of people.

## YONA SPOTLIGHT: JENNIFER, VIOLIN STUDENT



*Jennifer is a 3rd year YONA student at St. Teresa of Calcutta.*

### **What are your favourite songs to play and why?**

Perpetual Motion, Symphonia, and Fiddles on Fire, because they're a little hard but I can do it and I can memorize them.

### **How would you describe YONA?**

I think YONA is really fun and you get to do a lot of stuff. It helps us learn new stuff. It helps us to be more confident. When I first got to YONA, I was shy but over the years when I have been at YONA I am a little bit more confident now.

### **What is your favourite YONA memory?**

Last year, the Winter Concert. When we were playing the instruments, it sounded really amazing and magnificent.

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You can keep up to date on all of the happenings at YONA, learn more about our amazing students and staff, and what they're working on.

Instagram: [@yonasistema](https://www.instagram.com/yonasistema)

Facebook: [YONA-Sistema](https://www.facebook.com/YONA-Sistema)

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Edmonton Symphony Orchestra & Winspear Centre 9720 102 Ave Edmonton, AB T5J 4B2