

EDMONTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA

In Memoriam Diana Bacon

Sunday, November 29, 2026
2 pm | Winspear Centre

Conductor: Michael Massey

Edmonton Youth Orchestra

www.edmontonyouthorchestra.com

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Edmonton Youth Orchestra Association respectfully acknowledges that we creatively operate on sacred, traditional lands in Treaty Six Territory, a site where music and community have been shared for at least 11,000 years – 500 generations. 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.



PROGRAMME

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA

Overture to “Dr. Miracle”	Georges Bizet arr. Stone
Ballet Music no. 2 from “Rosamunda”	Franz Schubert
Menuetto from L’Arlésienne Suite no. 2	Georges Bizet
Soirées Musicales 1. March 2. Canzonetta 3. Tyrolese 4. Bolero 5. Tarantella	Benjamin Britten
Farandole from L’Arlésienne Suite no. 2	Georges Bizet

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

SENIOR ORCHESTRA

Festive Overture Op. 96	Dimitri Shostakovich
Entr’acte no.3 from “Rosamunda”	Franz Schubert
Death and transfiguration Op. 24	Richard Strauss

*programme subject to change



Diana Margaret Bacon



After a good life, well-lived, Diana passed away peacefully at Ottawa Civic Hospital, attended by her children.

Family was all-important to her, and she maintained contact with relatives near and far, collecting and writing family histories.

Until 1962 she lived in Ontario, and then for 3 years in Kuujjuarapik, QC. In 1965 the family moved to Alberta, living mostly in Edmonton until 2021 when she returned to Ottawa.

She originally intended to teach High School Math, but raising children made her want to teach Elementary, which she did in various schools from 1970-77.

From 1978-87 she was General Manager of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra, which she loved; for many she was "Orchestra Mum". She established a fund which provides two annual EYO scholarships: The Diana Bacon Scholarship and the Young Musicians' Award.

Throughout her life music mattered. As an amateur 'cellist she played with University and community orchestras, but especially enjoyed reading string quartets with friends. Because she rarely lost her place in the music, and always kept time, she joked to her quartet that her epitaph should be "She Counted".

Other interests were reading and travel and she volunteered extensively.

Diana was predeceased by her husband John Alan Bacon, and is survived by her four children: Andrew (Susan), Brian (Lyne), David, Kathleen; ten grandchildren: Anthony, Elizabeth, Emily, Isabelle, John, Julia, Patrick, Peter, Sara, Timothy; five great-grandchildren: Abigail, Anna, Charlie, Everett, Nathan.

She counted with all of us, and will be missed.

OUR CONDUCTOR

MICHAEL MASSEY
Conductor, Edmonton Youth Orchestra



Michael Massey has been conductor of the EYO since 1977, inspiring thousands of young musicians through the EYO program and countless others through musical performance. Michael is an accomplished and versatile musician: he is a pianist, a conductor, an orchestrator, a composer, and a teacher - but most of all, he is a mentor and role model for young musicians.

In 2002 Michael was inducted into Edmonton s Cultural Hall of Fame and awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. In 2016 he was awarded the Alberta Order of Excellence; in 2017 the Lifetime Achievement in the Arts Award from the City of St. Albert s Mayor's Celebration of the Arts "; in 2020 the Alberta Music Education Foundation Recognition Award and in December 2022, Michael Massey was appointed to the Order of Canada, being recognized for his consummate dedication to youth orchestras and for his transformational mentorship of generations of Canadian musicians ".

PROGRAM NOTES



Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976)

Benjamin Britten was born in Lowestoft, Suffolk, on 22 November 1913 and died in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, on 4 December 1976. He was a prolific composer, writing chamber music, solo and choral works as well as works for children. But his important contribution was in the field of opera. With Peter Grimes written in 1945, Britten revived English opera which had been mostly dormant since the time of Handel. Britten composed two sparkling orchestral suites in 1936 both based on themes by Rossini – Soirées musicales and Matineés musicales, op. 24. They revel in dance rhythms (both were choreographed by Balanchine) and demonstrate Britten's orchestral mastery and tongue-in-cheek sense of humour. Widely performed by amateur and youth orchestras, these two suites provide substantial and exciting additions to any children's or pops concert.

PROGRAM NOTES

Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)
Death and Transfiguration (Tod und Verklarung)



Beginning with the 20th century, Strauss completely dominated German music. To the end of his life, he was esteemed a master who had become a classic in his own lifetime. Whenever he appeared on the conductor's platform, the audience rose in admiration and respect.

Though played without pause, the tone poem, Death and Transfiguration, written in 1889, is in four sections. The first, described as "Sleep, Illness, Revery" opens with a syncopated theme in the second violins and violas symbolizing approaching death. An agitated section follows interpreted as "Fever and Struggle with Death". The third part "Dreams, Childhood Memories and Death" is atmospheric as the dying man yields to his reveries and visions. In the final section, the transfiguration motif is dominant. The theme grows richer in texture, more passionate in feeling. At last, it is heard in the trumpet then taken over by the strings against arpeggios in the harp. Now all is peaceful for we have come to the transfiguration and deliverance.

Georges Bizet (1838-1875)



Georges Bizel was a brilliant piano student but was more interested in composition, and started to write operas at the age of sixteen. At nineteen, he won the conservatory's big prize, the Prix de Rome. His most lasting impact on the musical world dates from March 3, 1875, when his opera Carmen opened at the Opera-Comique. Many in the audience were offended by the boldness and passion of the story. Others felt that the music was too heavy, too much like that of Wagner. If the audience or the critics had been told that Carmen would go on to become one of the most popular operas ever written, they would have been unable to believe it. Bizet himself did not live to see its triumph. He died, at the age of 36, three months after the first performance.

"L'Arlésienne": Suite No. 2

In 1872, Bizet was commissioned to compose incidental music for a production of Alphonse Daudet's play "L'Arlésienne", he had for the first time in his career the opportunity of working with a writer whose gifts equaled his own. The play caught his imagination, and he responded with a suite of 27 short numbers scored for chorus and small orchestra. The music ranged from brief mélodrames (played underneath the action on stage) to substantial entr'actes and preludes. The Menuetto is a lovely duet between the flute and the harp with a central, grand Corps de Ballet. The Farandole is an energetic folk dance that builds to an exciting climax and a rousing conclusion.

PROGRAM NOTES

Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)
Festive Overture in A Major (Op. 96)



Dmitri Shostakovich belongs to the generation of composers trained principally after the Communist Revolution of 1917. His career in Russia varied with the political climate. Shostakovich occupies a significant position in the 20th century as a symphonist and as a composer of chamber music. He composed in a style that is sometimes spare in texture but always accessible, couched as it is in an extension of traditional tonal musical language. Festive Overture was composed in 1947 and was first performed in Moscow in 1954.

Franz Peter Schubert (1797 -1828)
Ballet music no. 2 from "Rosamunde" (Op. 26)
Entr'acte no. 3 from "Rosamunde" (Op. 26)



In October of 1823, Franz Schubert, ill and desperately needing money, accepted a commission to write incidental music for a play called Rosamunde, Fürstin van Zypern. In the entr'actes and ballet music of Rosamunde, we see the mature blossoming of Schubert's talents. Vibrant orchestral depictions of nature, birdsong, storms, night and morning settings, abound in this music. Here is the beginning of his final period of mature composition.



EDMONTON YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Upcoming Concerts

A Symphony of Youth: Live in Lacombe
February 21, 2027 | 7:00 Pm
College Heights Seventh Day Adventist Church
Lacombe, Alberta
Senior Orchestra

Friends for Life: Enigma Variations
February 28, 2027 | 2:00 Pm
Winspear Centre For Music

Thelma Johannes O'Neill Memorial Concert
March 21, 2027 | 2:00 Pm
Francis Winspear Centre For Music
Both Orchestras

2027 Spring Gala Concert
May 2, 2027 | 2:00 Pm
Francis Winspear Centre For Music
Both Orchestras

Edmonton
Youth Orchestra

www.edmontonyouthorchestra.com



The Edmonton Youth Orchestra Association, founded in 1952, supports the nationally renowned Edmonton Senior Orchestra and the Edmonton Intermediate Orchestra. It is widely regarded as one of the finest youth orchestra programs in Canada annually providing 150 young musicians from Edmonton and Northern Alberta, the opportunity to develop their orchestral skills, to increase their knowledge and appreciation of music, and to enrich the cultural life of the community through concerts and benefit performances. Edmonton Youth Orchestra members are all motivated students who share a love of music.

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¥Guest Musician

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge our donors and funders. Your tangible support enables us to train young musicians and bring music to our communities.

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*in partnership with
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We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the estate of Nadine Luchka for her generous donation. This contribution will have a lasting impact and allow us to continue enriching the cultural life of the community. Her legacy will live on through the meaningful work and music that this gift will help us accomplish.

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