

# Edmonton Verdi Festival

Celebrating the  
**200th**

Anniversary of the birth of Giuseppe Verdi

1813 - 2013



Portrait of Giuseppe Verdi by Giovanni Boldini, 1886.  
National Gallery of Modern Art, Rome.

## Viva Verdi Gala Concert

Winspear Centre for Music - 11 October 2013

Brought to you by:

**The National Congress of Italian Canadians, Edmonton District (NCIC)  
and Celebrating Italian Families of Edmonton Society (CIFES)**



# Viva Verdi Gala Concert

## Program

Calixa Laviolette	"O Canada"	Edmonton Youth Orchestra and Edmonton Opera Chorus
Goffredo Mameli	"L'Inno d'Italia"	Edmonton Youth Orchestra and Edmonton Opera Chorus
Giuseppe Verdi	"Overture," <i>Nabucco</i>	Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Va pensiero," <i>Nabucco</i>	Edmonton Youth Orchestra and Edmonton Opera Chorus
Giuseppe Verdi	Liszt Paraphrase from <i>Ernani</i>	Emilio De Mercato
Giuseppe Verdi	"La donna è mobile," <i>Rigoletto</i>	Robert Clark and Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Un dì, se ben rammentomi," <i>Rigoletto</i>	Cara Brown, Krista-Marie Lessard, Robert Clark and Bertrand Malo Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Un dì, se ben rammentomi" Liszt piano transcription	Emilio De Mercato
Giuseppe Verdi	"Noi siamo zingarelle, Di Madride noi siam matador!" <i>La Traviata</i>	Italian Appennini Folk Dancers, Edmonton Opera Chorus Edmonton Youth Orchestra
<b><i>Intermission – 15 minutes</i></b>		
Giuseppe Verdi	String Quartet in E Minor, 1 <sup>st</sup> Movement (Allegro) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Movement (Scherzo)	The Vaughan Quartet
Giuseppe Verdi	"Finale," <i>Don Carlo</i> Liszt/Emilio De Mercato paraphrase for two pianos	Emilio De Mercato, Stephanie Kwan
Giuseppe Verdi	"Stride la vampa," <i>Il Trovatore</i>	Krista-Marie Lessard Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Prelude," <i>La Traviata</i>	Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Brindisi," <i>La Traviata</i>	Edmonton Opera Chorus Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Addio del passato," <i>La Traviata</i>	Cara Brown Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Credo," <i>Otello</i>	Bertrand Malo Edmonton Youth Orchestra
Giuseppe Verdi	"Grand March," <i>Aida</i>	Edmonton Opera Chorus Edmonton Youth Orchestra

# About the Gala Concert

The Viva Verdi Gala Concert is the musical culmination of the Verdi Festival and features the Edmonton Youth Orchestra, Edmonton Opera Chorus, soloists and instrumentalists. The program focus is "Verdi's Greatest Works" – *I Capolavori Verdiani*. Favourite works from the Verdi repertoire were chosen by Edmonton Youth Orchestra Music Director Michael Massey and Artistic Director Emilio De Mercato with the assistance of former Edmonton Opera Artistic Administrator and Chorus Director Michael Spassov. Feature selections are from the operas *Ernani*, *Nabucco*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *Don Carlo*, *Otello* and *Aida*.

Verdi performances make enormous demands on orchestra, soloists and chorus. The Edmonton Verdi Festival is delighted to feature the Edmonton Youth Orchestra Senior Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Massey and the Edmonton Opera Chorus and soloists prepared by Peter Dala. Since Verdi himself was a talented pianist, he would be delighted with the piano transcriptions played by pianists Emilio De Mercato and Stephanie Kwan. Two movements of the unique *Verdi Quartet* will be performed by the Vaughan String Quartet. In addition, the Italian Appennini Folk Dancers will be premiering to the "Matadors and Gypsies" chorus from *La Traviata*. We expect that audience members will leave the concert humming one of their favourite arias, such as the "Va pensiero" chorus of the Hebrew slaves from *Nabucco*, just as they did from Italian opera houses in Verdi's time!

The Edmonton Verdi Festival would like to acknowledge the work of Tim Yakimec, Edmonton Opera Interim Business Manager, who has kindly taken charge of stage direction for the concert and is assisted by Jessica Parr.

## Verdi Verità!

Verdi commenting on a vocal score of Richard Wagner's *Lohengrin*:

"Impression mediocre. Music beautiful, when it is clear and there is thought in it. The action, like the text, moves slowly. Hence boredom. Beautiful instrumental effects. Too many held notes, which makes for heaviness. Mediocre performance. Much verve but no poetry or refinement. In the difficult passages, always wretched."



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**EYO**  
EDMONTON  
YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
Music Director: Michael Massey

Upcoming performances of the Senior & Intermediate Youth Orchestras at The Winspear Centre

**Sunday Nov 24 at 2pm**  
North American Journey

*Danse Villageoise*, Claude Champagne • *Serenade op. 35*, Howard Hanson  
*Huapango*, Jose Moncayo • *Jubilee Overture*, Malcolm Forsyth  
*Tender Land Suite*, Aaron Copland • *Sensemaya*, Silvestre Revueltas

**Sunday Feb 23 at 2pm**

*King Stephen Overture*, Ludwig van Beethoven  
from "Songs of a Wayfarer", Gustav Mahler • "Blumine", Gustav Mahler  
*Symphony no. 1 "The Titan"*, Gustav Mahler

**Sunday May 4 at 2pm**

Featuring the winners of the 33rd Annual Northern Alberta Concerto Competition

Tickets: \$15 Adults • \$10 Seniors/Students  
Tix on the Square 780 420 1757 • EYO 780 436 7932 • At the door

**Auditions May 2014**

All instruments for musicians 11–24 years of age

# Viva Verdi Gala Concert Performers

## Michael Massey

Michael Massey was born in England and emigrated to Canada in 1957. His early piano studies with Jean-Pierre Vetter in Edmonton were the prime influence in his development as a musician. Later studies at the University of Alberta earned him a Bachelor of Music degree and the gold medal in piano performance of the Western Board of Music. Following his graduation, he spent two years studying at the Geneva Conservatory where he was unanimously awarded the "Premier Prix de Virtuosit " and performed as soloist with L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande. Massey's activities as a musician are many and varied. He has performed as a soloist and chamber musician throughout Canada, England and Scotland and has performed on numerous occasions on CBC radio and television. He appears as guest conductor locally and abroad.

Since 1977, he has been Music Director of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra programme. In 1978 he started the Intermediate

Orchestra that continues to provide orchestral experience for younger players before moving to the Senior Orchestra. In 1980 Massey started the Northern Alberta Concerto Competition where such artists as Michael Rose, Amanda Forsyth, Jens Lindemann and Angela Cheng performed their first concertos with the EYO. This competition continues to provide valuable performing experience for young soloists. In 2002, for his contribution to the cultural life of the city, Massey was inducted into the Edmonton Cultural Hall of Fame as an Artist-BUILDER and also received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.



## The Edmonton Youth Orchestra

The Edmonton Youth Orchestra Association, formed in 1952, supports two nationally renowned symphony orchestras: *The Intermediate Youth Orchestra*, and *The Senior Youth Orchestra*. Through these two orchestras, the EYO's music program, one of the finest in Canada, provides the highest possible standard of orchestral training and experience to over 150 music students from age 11 to 24. The EYO experience has a profound and lasting impact on the lives of EYO graduates.



Edmonton Senior Youth Orchestra  
November 25, 2012



Some become music teachers, members of professional orchestras, or soloists. All are motivated students sharing a love of music. Their program includes regular weekly rehearsals from September through May; concert performances for each orchestra; weekend workshops; scholarships; and a concerto competition jointly sponsored by the EYO and the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association. Players for both orchestras are selected by competitive auditions held each May.