

Edmonton Youth Orchestra (EYO) Historical Timeline

CONDUCTORS

Keith Bissell	1952 – 1955
Edgar Williams	1955 – 1957
Ranald Shean	1957 – 1965
George Naylor	1965 - 1969
Ted Kardash	1969 – 1973
John Barnum	1973 - 1977
Michael Massey	1977 -

MANAGERS

Della Roland	1972 - 1979
Diana Bacon	1977 - 1987
Eileen Lee	1987 – 2018
Heather Dolman	2017 – 2024
Mackenzie Tennesen	2024 -

FUNDING

In addition to revenue from membership fees, concert ticket sales, subscriptions, & fees for guest performances, EYO receive ongoing support from Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the City of Edmonton, Edmonton Arts Council, University of Alberta and the Winspear Foundation.

Additional support comes from the Symphony Women's Educational Assistance Fund, and an expanding group of private and corporate donors.

Fundraising activities include ensemble performances, the sale of EYO CDs, and working a casino.

Advertising rates for concert programmes, and the EYO newsletter, " Tuning Fork ", are available on request.

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

1952 Keith Bissell, Superintendent of Music for Edmonton Public Schools 1948 - 55, launched the schools instrumental program, and gathered together about twenty students who were privately taught to form the Edmonton Junior Symphony Orchestra, with the full support of:

- the Edmonton Symphony Society under the direction of Lee Hepner
- parents of the Junior Symphony Orchestra members
- and interested symphony supporters.

Rehearsals were held at the Central Library, and concerts were presented in schools and to the general public on Sunday afternoons. The EYO functioned

under the auspices of the ESO from 1952 - 78.

- 1967 Canadian Centennial concert conducted by Dr George Naylor in the Jubilee Auditorium
- 1972 EYO attended Music Festival in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- 1975 First Concerto Concert featured eight winners chosen from thirty applicants. The winners were: Gianetta Baril, Angela Cheng, Robert Dvorkin, Lawrie Hill, Mark Lupin, Barbara Lopatka, John Lowry, Hiromi Takahashi, and Winnie Yiu.
- 1976 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, EYO attended the Canadian Festival of Youth Orchestras in Banff.
- 1977 25th Anniversary concert at Jubilee Auditorium.
- 1978 A second orchestra, Edmonton Intermediate Youth Orchestra was formed. The Edmonton Youth Orchestra Association was incorporated under the Societies Act and registered as a tax exempt organization.
- 1979 Attended Festival of Youth Orchestras in Long Beach, California, members stayed on the "beached" Queen Mary, at that time set for the film the Poseidon adventure. Angela Cheng was the soloist with EYO, performing Rachmaninoff.
- 1980 An annual concerto competition was instigated, sponsored by the Alberta Music Teacher's Association, Edmonton Branch, and the EYO Association. EYO performed for the 75th Anniversary Interdenominational Church Service at Fort Edmonton.
- 1981 EYO were Canada's representative to the 1981 Australian Youth Music Festival in, Melbourne, Australia.
- 1986 Represented Canada at the International Society for Music Education International Conference in Innsbruck, Austria.
- 1988 First combined concert with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Uri Mayer and Michael Massey.
- 1989 Became the first Western Canadian Youth Orchestra to perform in Quebec. Received one of the first grants awarded by Edmonton Community Foundation for the commission of a new work by Malcolm Forsyth, *Sketches from Natal, suite no. 2*.
- 1990 CHQT began a four year commitment to EYO funding the production of CDs, and concert tours of Alberta

- 1991 Represented Canada at the Cultural Festival of the Universiade Games in Sheffield, England. Received Salute to Excellence Award from the City of Edmonton. Released first CD recorded by EYO, *Music for Youth* (May 1991).
- 1992 Performed for the opening ceremony of Edmonton City Hall. 40th Anniversary Gala Concert & Alumni Reunion at Jubilee Auditorium featured both Edmonton Youth Orchestras, and Alumni Players, soloist Jens Lindemann
- 1993 *French Orchestral Masterpieces* CD released Dec 1993. Concert tour of Northern Alberta with special guest, Stephane Lemelin.
- 1994 *Fairy Tales and Legends* CD released Dec 1994. Agreement approved by the Senate of King's University College to regard membership of the Senior Youth Orchestra as a three credit course.
- 1995 *English Miniatures* CD released Dec 1995. Concert tour of Southern Alberta.
- 1996 Attended the first Alberta Youth Orchestra Symposium at the Banff Centre for the Arts, with Calgary Youth Orchestra. *Images of Canada* CD produced.
- 1997 *Images of Canada* CD released Dec 1996. Attended second Alberta Youth Orchestra Symposium at the Banff Centre for the Arts with Calgary and Vancouver Youth Orchestras.
- 1998 Performed as part of the opening ceremonies at Edmonton's new Concert Hall, in the Francis Winspear Centre for Music
- 1999 Attended a workshop at the Banff Centre for the Arts, gave a combined concert with Calgary and Vancouver Youth Orchestras.
- 2000 Represented Alberta at the Canadian Festival of Youth Orchestras in Ottawa. Performed Shostakovich's Symphony no 10 receiving a standing ovation at the National Arts Centre
- 2001 Concert in Fort McMurray at Keyano Theatre, sponsored by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, Norwest Labs Edmonton, Suncor Energy Inc. & Syncrude Canada Ltd. Edmonton Youth Orchestra Quartet – The Enigma Quartet won two National Competitions, The Canadian Music Competition, and the National Music Festival, and received a Salute to Excellence Award from the City of Edmonton.
- 2002 *A Musical Journey*, recorded by CBC, sponsored by CORUS was released (May 2002) to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of EYO. Accompanied Ben Heppner at The Centennial Auditorium, Saskatoon, and the Winspear Centre. Guests at Richard Eaton Singers Concert – Mephistopheles – Boito. Joint 50th anniversary concert with ESO, together with soloist Angela Cheng. Michael

- Massey, celebrating 25 years as Music Director of EYO was inducted to the Cultural Hall of Fame at the Salute to Excellence Awards Ceremony.
- 2003 50th Anniversary Gala Concert with both youth orchestras and alumni at the Winspear Centre December 1, 2002, featured Symphony no 5 /Shostakovich. Accompanied Ben Heppner at the Jack Singer Hall in Calgary June 7th. CBC sponsored the 2003/2004 season.
- 2005 May 28th. The Senior Youth Orchestra performed on the Presentation Stage in Churchill Square to an audience of 10,000 people. They had the privilege of sharing the stage with Queen Elizabeth II, and the Duke of Edinburgh, as they signed the City of Edmonton Guest Book and received flowers from a youth and a senior.
- 2007 April 26th The Senior Youth Orchestra performed for the launch of the Edmonton Cultural Capital of Canada Project. EYO concertmaster Jessica Boyd received the Proclamation from Mayor Mandel.
- 2008 EYO performed the World Premiere of *Trickster Coyote – Lightning Elk* composed by Malcolm Forsyth, for Violin and Orchestra, Soloist Tara-Louise Montour, of Mohawk heritage, Tara-Louise is considered North America's foremost classical Aboriginal violinist . BRAVO!Fact featured the EYO with Tara-Louise Montour, in a music video of "The Bear" from this Work.
- 2010 Alissa Cheung (EYO 1998 – 05) performed as soloist in Violin Rhapsody no.1/Bartok with EYO. Alissa and Neda Yamach (EYO 97 – 02) now both members of ESO Violin 1 section, bringing the number of EYO alumni at present in ESO to 20.
- 2012 EYO 60th Anniversary Season. Gala Concert with Special Guests, The Richard Eaton Singers, perform *Noyes Fludde* / Britten, & *Symphony no. 9 "choral"* / Beethoven.
- 2013 October 11. Viva Verdi Gala Concert sponsored by The National Congress of Italian Canadians. Edmonton Senior Youth Orchestra performed, together with Edmonton Opera Chorus, and Soloists.
- 2014 October 18. Edmonton Senior Orchestra gave first noon hour concert in Convocation Hall during U of A Open House weekend. EYO & ARMTA (Alberta Registered Music Teacher's Assoc. Edmonton Branch) began Clementi Sonatinas Masterclass giving young pianists the opportunity to perform with an EYO chamber group - 12 strings and flute.
- 2015 *Conquering Beauty: The Life and Music of Malcolm Forsyth*. EYO are honoured to be included in the opening montage sequence of this film, performing a short

excerpt from the World Premier of *Trickster Coyote Lightning-Elk* / Malcolm Forsyth, conducted by Malcolm Forsyth in 2008, with Soloist: Tara-Louise Montour, Violin.

2016 Michael Massey nominated by EYO and was inducted into the “Alberta Order of Excellence” in October 2016.

2017 May 7. Gala Concert to celebrate 65th Anniversary year for EYO, and 40th Anniversary year for Michael Massey as Music Director.

2018 May 6. Final concert for the 2017-2018 season. World premiere of Michael Massey’s *Tom Pinch’s Ride – A Choral Symphony*, performed by the EYO Senior Orchestra with special guests, The Richard Eaton Singes, Whitney Leigh Sloan and Michael Kurschat.

May - Retirement of Mrs. Eileen Lee, General Manager of the EYO (31 years).

November 28 – ESO Lobby Activation Program - Instrument demos by EYO members at the Winspear in the hour preceding the ESO’s Symphony for Kids concert: Benjamin Britten’s Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra.

2019 Feb to May 2019. First term of the EYO Conductor Internship Program.

Feb 16 Senior Strings, Flash Mob of *Orawa* by Kilar at the Citadel Theatre, Edmonton

April 14 concert – Intermediate Orchestra in concert with Shumayela Choir

November – final Youth Orchestra Symposium held at the Banff Centre

2020 March 14 – Early end to 2019-2020 season due to COVID-19. Orchestra rehearsals ceased; May concert cancelled.

May – auditions through submission of audio/video recordings

September – orchestra rehearsals commenced online via Zoom. Additional coaches brought on to assist with small group, online rehearsals.

Nov. 29: Michael Massey presented with Alberta Music Education Foundation Recognition Award – recognizes music educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education in Alberta.

2021 Jan – April: Orchestra rehearsals continue online.

March: Digitization of old reel-to-reel recordings commenced

April 24: Final online concert:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5YTAOqQg0PM>

May: Auditions through the submission of video-recordings

December: Streamed Senior Orchestra concert from Convocation Hall (no in-person audience due to COVID restrictions) https://youtu.be/GKA-j_7jvD8

- 2022 Back to online sessions. Speaker series provided until such time as we could resume in-person rehearsals.
May 2022 – First in-person concert at the Winspear Centre for Music since February 2020; 50th anniversary of EYO tour to Lausanne, Switzerland. Alumni from 1972 invited to May concert. Reunion dinner at Bistro Praha post-concert.
November – release of EYO History Book: *Celebrating Musical Excellence: 70 Years of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra 1952-2022*.
- Winspear concert dedicated to the memory of Frank Dunnigan
December – Michael Massey received appointment to the Order of Canada, being “*recognized for his consummate dedication to Alberta’s youth orchestras, and for his transformational mentorship of generations of Canadian musicians.*”
- 2023 February: Senior Orchestra concert trip to Grande Prairie, AB
April: Senior Orchestra in concert with Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Winspear Centre.
November Winspear concert – dedicated to the memory of Professor Alexander Munn (1934-2023)
- 2024 January Convocation Hall concert – premiere Canadian performance of Michael Abels’ *Delights and Dances*
February – Intermediate Orchestra concert at Maclab Centre, Leduc, AB
June – first EYO Assistant Conductor hired – Laura Veeze