



EDMONTON  
YOUTH  
ORCHESTRA  
SENIOR & INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRAS

Sunday, December 1, 2024 | 2pm  
Winspear Centre for Music

Conductor: Michael Massey  
Assistant Conductor: Laura Veeze

Featuring works by Haydn, Holst,  
Grieg, Wagner, Copland and more

Tickets: \$20 Adults • \$15 Students & Seniors  
EAC Shop & Services 780 420 1757  
(formerly TIX on the Square)  
Day of concert at the door



Edmonton  
Youth Orchestra  
www.eyso.com



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MR. MICHAEL MASSEY AND THE SENIOR ORCHESTRA AT THE OCTOBER 5 AGA KHAN CONCERT

## Meet our new Board of Directors

Following our Annual General Meeting on October 22, 2024, a new slate of directors has been elected to the Board of Directors!

**President: James Merkosky**  
**Vice President: Ted Spyrapoulos**  
**Secretary: Kieran Pilson**  
**Treasurer: Michael Haydo**  
**Past President: Sheryl Bowhay**  
**Directors: Nadya Ajani, Mark Moran, Nkolika Anyabolu, Francesco Merani**

We would like to thank our outgoing members for their contributions to the Board:

Ken Regan  
 Mark Melenberg  
 Angeline Lam  
 Sue Ooraikul Thomas

### A Message from our new President:

Hello everyone. My name is James Merkosky and I am so excited to be taking on the role of president of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. I follow a long line of amazing people in this role - I have some big shoes to fill!

A little about me. My wife Maureen and I are Edmonton residents, and we have 5 (yes 5!) kids who have all had music as a cornerstone of their daily lives. In fact, two of our sons are in the EYO right now. In my day job I am a US tax partner at a national accounting firm and I've personally served on many boards over the years.

The EYO is amazing organization that has flourished for over 70 years and it's an honour to be part of that history. We have an amazing season already underway and I look forward to working with Mr. Massey, Ms. Veeze and all of you.

 A banner for the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. On the left is the logo, which features a stylized figure in red and blue with the text "Edmonton Youth Orchestra" below it. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Save the Date! Upcoming Winspear Concerts" in large white font, followed by "December 1, 2024 | February 23, 2025 | May 4, 2025" and "Check out [www.esyo.com](http://www.esyo.com) for concert details." The background of the banner is a dark blue with a faint image of an orchestra performing on a stage.

## Goodbye, and Thank You to Heather Dolman!



After 7 years as the General Manager of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra, the incredible Heather Dolman is heading into retirement.

What exactly does the General Manager of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra do?! In broad strokes the role encompasses and impacts all aspects of the operations of the Edmonton Youth Orchestra; communications, securing grants and maintaining financial records, negotiating for, and securing our rehearsal and concert facilities, setting up auditions and concert dates, coordinating all our amazing volunteers, and liaising with guest artists, alumni, collaborators, our music director, and each of our EYO musician members and their families. Bottom line, the General Manager keeps all of us organized! In addition to the business of running the Edmonton Youth Orchestra, Heather Dolman is an advisor, a confidante, a friend, and a passionate and caring human being.

Heather, we are so grateful for your service and commitment to the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. We wish you the very best as you retire to spend more time with your beautiful family. We are not saying goodbye – we know that you will continue to be all the things that are most important to us, an advisor, a confidante, and a friend.

*Sheryl Bowhay  
EYO Board of Directors*

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# Goodbye, and Thank You to Heather Dolman!

The understanding, experience, talent, and expertise that Heather possesses is not an accident. It is a testimony to her incredible passion for the Edmonton Youth Orchestra and our young musicians, and to her dedication & hard work.

*Ken Regan  
EYO Board of Directors*

Heather, your unparalleled experience, dedication, and exceptional leadership have left a lasting mark on this association, its members, and our family. We are deeply grateful for all you've done for the Edmonton Youth Orchestra, laying a strong foundation that will continue to support us for many years to come.

Thank you.

*Jaclyn Manners  
EYO Volunteer*

It's been an absolute pleasure working with Heather in my time with the EYO. Few people have shown the dedication and enthusiasm that Heather displayed every time I interacted with her. She is an outstanding person and she will be missed.

*James Merkosky  
EYO Board of Directors*





## Goodbye, and Thank You to Heather Dolman!

My time with Edmonton Youth Orchestra was hugely enhanced knowing that Heather was firmly in control of everything that we counted on her to take charge of.

To be honest, she always went above and beyond my expectations - not common in any industry these days.

I will miss the many hours of conversation we logged over the several years I was on the board, whether it be during cheque-signing sessions or at rehearsals and concerts. It was a veritable pleasure working with Heather - she will be missed.

*Sue Ooraikul-Thomas  
EYO Board of Directors*

Heather's passion for music and expertise in operations merged to create something special at the Edmonton Youth Orchestra.

Her tireless energy and boundless dedication are a testament to how smoothly a volunteer-based organization runs at its core.

Thank you, Heather - and all the best in retirement.

*Michael Haydo  
EYO Board of Directors*



## Get to know our new team members!

### Francesco Merani - Director

Francesco Merani is a contractor specializing in residential renovations, and has been since 2006.

He holds a Bachelor in Commerce.

His daughter, Merissa, plays the violin in the Intermediate Orchestra. He has formerly been on the boards of: Music Enrichment Program, and Strathcona Museum and Archives.

### Kieran Pilson - Director

Kieran Pilson is Senior Manager of the Billing Operation department at EPCOR. His son, James, is a viola player with the Senior Orchestra. He holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and a Project Management Professional (PMP) certification. Before joining EPCOR, he worked at Intuit, leading customer support for QuickBooks Canada and in-product support for TurboTax Canada.

### Nadya Ajani - Director

Nadya holds a Bachelors of Music and Bachelors of Education both from the University of Alberta. She currently teaches junior and senior high Instrumental Music, General Music , Audio and runs after school Honour Band and Jazz Band at Victoria School. Beyond that she is involved with a few local community groups, playing clarinet in The Wild Rose Wind Ensemble and acting as secretary and a percussionist for the Edmonton Beer League Band.

### Mark Moran - Director

Mark holds Bachelor's Degrees in Cello Performance and Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta.

He is currently a Construction Manager at Synergy Projects Ltd, and has been in the construction industry since graduating from Engineering School. His passion for music still is strong as he played many years with the Stringbean's Quartet. After graduating, he sat on the Board of Directors for the Winspear Center for 9 years and he is the president of the St. Albert Rotary Music Festival.

### Dr. Nkolika Anyabolu - Director

Nkolika moved to Canada from the UK over a year ago, and is currently working as a Family Physician in Edmonton. She has two children in the Intermediate Orchestra, Emmy on the viola and Lotanna on the trumpet.

Having graduated from Medical school over 20 years ago, she has lived and worked across 3 continents. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners (UK) and also holds various other postgraduate qualifications in Medical Education and Dermatology from the UK and Ireland.

### Mackenzie Tennesen - General Manager

Mackenzie joined the EYO team in June of 2024. She has worked in arts administration for a decade, and is passionate about working with young artists. She is a musical director for several local theatre companies, and runs her own wedding planning company (Primrose Event Planning and Design). Mackenzie has been a musician since she was eight years old. She is primarily a vocalist, and plays piano and clarinet. At 18 months, her beautiful daughter is a little too young to audition for the orchestra, but she's hopeful she will be in the rehearsal hall one day!

## EYO has completed another successful Casino Fundraiser!

Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time at our bi-annual casino fundraiser this month!

An extra big thank you to our Casino Chairperson, Jaclyn Manners, for coordinating dozens of volunteers and mountains of paperwork to make it happen. This fundraiser is crucial for the EYO's operations, and it wouldn't happen without Jaclyn!

## Don't forget to check out our Community Resources Page!

We recently launched a new page on our website to highlight community events, auditions, and concerts! Make sure to check it out and keep up to date on the music scene in Edmonton.

Have an event you'd like shared with our membership? Email us the info at [eyo@shaw.ca](mailto:eyo@shaw.ca)

## Upcoming EYO Concerts and Events

December 1, 2024

January 25, 2025

February 23, 2025

March 16, 2025

Intermediate and Senior Orchestra Concert at Winspear

Free Noon Concert at St. Albert United Church

EYO Concert at Winspear  
*ft. the winners of the Northern Alberta Concerto Competition!*

The Clementi Project

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## Congratulations to Michael Massey on the presentation of his Order of Canada!



Gov. Gen. Mary Simon presents St. Albert's Michael Massey with the Order of Canada on Monday, Oct. 28. | Photo from St. Albert Gazette

Our esteemed Music Director, Michael Massey, has received his Order of Canada!

Mr. Massey was awarded this high honor back in December 2022, for his extraordinary lifelong contributions to the country. The presentation took place on October 28 at Government House, where he was honored along with seven other individuals.

Mr. Massey was interviewed by the St. Albert Gazette, and had this to say:

“It was wonderful. There are so many thoughts that go through your head — the people sitting next to you, living in Canada, the achievements in arts and getting recognition in arts. It made me happy to know my work is appreciated. But you don’t get there by yourself. There are always the people who back you up, and that’s important to remember.”

Congratulations to Michael on this prestigious achievement!

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## Support the Edmonton Youth Orchestra

The Edmonton Youth Orchestra (EYO), formed in 1952, is a volunteer-supported, non-profit and federally registered charitable organization (Charitable Organization Registration NO. 052 0544 2225)

The EYO exists to provide opportunities for young musicians, from 11-24 years to:

- develop their orchestral skills
- Increase their knowledge and appreciation of music, and
- Enrich the cultural life of the community through concerts and benefit performances

Supporting two nationally renowned symphony orchestras—the Intermediate Youth Orchestra and the Senior Youth Orchestra—the EYO annual provides approximately 150 young musicians with the highest possible standard of orchestral training and experience.

**DONATE NOW**

### Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge our many sponsors, donors, and volunteers! Your support enables us to continue to train young musicians and bring music to our communities!

On-Going Financial Support:  
Alberta Foundation for the Arts  
Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association  
Diana Bacon  
Edmonton Arts Council  
University of Alberta  
Edmonton Community Foundation

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*For a complete list of our donors and sponsors, please visit [www.eyso.com](http://www.eyso.com)*

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