

Board of Directors

2017-2018

President	Mike Pearson
Vice President	Alice Goulet
Secretary	Shirley Werbicki
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Revenue

For their generous donations, we'd like to thank our members and the following organizations.



Information Sources

See our web page at

www.edmontonphilharmonic.com

For information about joining the orchestra,
please contact Judy at

ljlamothe@shaw.ca

For general information about the orchestra,
please contact us at

info@edmontonphilharmonic.com

You can also find us on FaceBook.

Edmonton Philharmonic Orchestra



Philharmonic: love of harmony

This brochure published September 2017.

History of the Orchestra

The Edmonton Philharmonic Orchestra was founded in September 1971 by a prominent violin teacher, Ranald Shean. The group grew quickly and in 1972 adopted the name The Skyline Symphonette. Robert Cook, Music Director of the Provincial Cultural Development Branch, was its first conductor.

In the early years, the group established itself as a community orchestra, playing in nursing homes, hospitals, malls, and at the Provincial Museum. Funds were initially provided through members' fees and donations, but in time it became evident that funding beyond these sources was required. Thus, in 1980, the group became a registered charity. Our official name is the Edmonton Philharmonic Society; however, we also use the name Edmonton Philharmonic Orchestra.

Since the orchestra was founded, we have had a number of fine conductors: Robert Cook, Dr. Manus Sasonkin, Eric Hanson, Dan Breda, Kirk Muspratt, John Unsworth, Dr. George Naylor, Diane Persson, and Aaron Au. We are indebted to them for their patience and excellent direction. In September 2011, we were very fortunate to engage Murray Vaasjo as Music Director.

We have supported our fellow musicians by commissioning and performing music written by local composers. We regularly feature Edmonton soloists in our spring concerts.

In September 2009, we were pleased to form a partnership with Ecole Publique Gabrielle-Roy, a francophone school run by the Conseil scolaire Centre-Nord. We give concerts that help support the school in its charitable activities.

Our Music Director, Murray Vaasjo

Murray was born and raised in Edmonton and attended the University of Alberta where he received a Bachelor of Music degree. He has been a member of the Okanagan Symphony, the Victoria Symphony, the Arden Ensemble, National Youth Orchestra of Canada and the Edmonton Youth Orchestra. Murray studied with Sally Thomas in Meadowmount, New York and with Shirley Givens and Sidney Humphries in Victoria. In 1990 Murray returned to Edmonton to join the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and also played for many years in the Alberta Baroque Ensemble. Murray is also active as a teacher and is the co-founder and conductor of the Wye String Ensemble.

Murray has considerable experience as a conductor. He is co-founder and conductor of the Wye String Ensemble, and he directs the Wye String Ensemble Fall Music Camp. Murray also conducted the Sherwood Park Youth Strings, the Penticton Strings, the Penticton Junior Strings, and the Penticton Singers and Players.

“There is nothing to it—you only have to hit the right note at the right time, and the instrument plays itself.”

J.S. Bach

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held weekly from September to May. People who wish to join or to sit in on a rehearsal are asked to call the Personnel Director, Catherine, at alicach@telus.net, for information.

Members

As members of the orchestra, we play for our own enjoyment and for those who would not otherwise have an opportunity to hear live orchestral music. We play a wide range of music: symphonies, operettas, Strauss waltzes, traditional and modern Christmas selections, and music from shows. Also important is the educational aspect. Our Music Director teaches as well as conducts rehearsals. We also run workshops that are led by professional musicians.

We have about 50 members, several of whom once played in the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. Walter Chornowol (retired), a professional violinist, was our Concertmaster almost from the beginning. We appreciate his loyalty, his skill, and his dedication. Today, Julia Weckerle has this important position.

Reeds—there are no good ones!”

Fred Davies, Clarinet

Concerts

Performances include fall, Christmas, and spring concerts. These are usually held in seniors' residences or public areas such as The Strathcona Performing Arts centre, Convocation Hall, and the Alberta Legislature. We have also performed with students from the Edmonton Public School Board's string program