

MRC's Calgary Youth Orchestra: Back from New Zealand Triumph

The Calgary Youth Orchestra is back from New Zealand where it was on tour over the holidays. CYO conductor, Edmond Agopian, says the trip was a huge success. "The orchestra played consistently well throughout the tour; the alumni who joined us integrated into the group immediately both musically and socially; and the attendance (to our performances) was incredible."

The group left on Christmas Eve for five performances, plus an open rehearsal/performance in both major cities (Wellington and Auckland) and smaller cultural centres. Along with works by Tchaikovsky, Dvorak and other Romantics, the repertoire for the tour included Robert Rosen's *Le Sacre de Hephaestus*. (Rosen is a noted Canadian composer who teaches at the Mount Royal College Conservatory.)

Standing ovations followed the group around New Zealand, and so did some fans.

"After one particular performance, some audience members drove an hour and a half to attend the orchestra's next concert," Agopian says. The group also received accolades from local politicians. In Rotorua a civic reception was held in their honour, and at another one in Wellington, the Canadian High Commissioner presented each orchestra member with a commemorative pin of a Kiwi bird integrated into the design of the Canadian flag.

Social and cultural activities marked the tour's program as well. CYO players were introduced to the history and the visual arts of the Maori – the indigenous people of New Zealand – by visiting important museums and art galleries. They were treated to an entire evening with members of a Maori tribe, enjoying enchanting music, a traditional Hangi banquet and a night walk through the forest to catch a glimpse of glow worms. The group also thrived swimming in the warm waters of the Pacific, watching geysers and boiling mud erupt into geological wonders, and visiting the site where *Lord of the Rings* was filmed.

Now back home the group has memories of a great experience down under topped up with congratulatory emails, including this one:

"Just to say I was there and to tell you... You were all beautiful... Thank you and God bless you. 'Oka' (a Niuean word for 'brilliant')..."

"'Koe kia' (Goodbye) Brenda"

On another 'note'... thanks to a generous \$15,000 grant from the

Calgary Foundation, the CYO completed and released its first CD, *Calgary Youth Orchestra – In Concert*, immediately prior to its New Zealand tour. This recording, featuring conductors Edmond Agopian and John Thompson, consists of the rarely heard and recorded *Josephslegende Symphonic Fragment op.63* by Richard Strauss, as well as *Le Cid Ballet Suite* by Jules Massenet, two movements from *The Gadfly Suite op. 97a* by Dmitri Shostakovich and *On the Edge (2000)* by Arthur Bachmann, who was commissioned for this piece and is an alumnus of the CYO.



CYO members with conductor Edmond Agopian (front), taking time out after their performance in Wellington to pose for the camera at the Te Papa Marae, a traditional Maori gathering place.

The CD is available in the MRC bookstore at a suggested donation of \$10.00.

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In memorium...



Dr. Lise Elson, above right, with Robin Kadz, at her favourite Cape Cod beach near her retirement home in Massachusetts.

It is with deep sadness that we at The Conservatory have learned of the passing of a beloved teacher, colleague and friend, **Dr. Lise Elson**. We are told that she died peacefully at her home in Massachusetts on January 11, from haemorrhaging due to unknown causes. She was 86 years old.

Dr. Elson had a tremendous influence as a violin teacher in Calgary, both at the University of Calgary and here at Mount Royal College. She was an important contributor to the establishment of The Conservatory's Academy program, and continued to provide excellent teaching, extraordinary insights and inspiration over the many years she was involved with our programs. Her wonderful gifts as a violin teacher and her generous spirit have left a legacy of excellence in our Conservatory and touched the lives of many.

Lise's children are planning a memorial service and musical tribute in Calgary in the near future.

*Sheldon Nadler
Acting Director,
MRC Conservatory*

New Conservatory Services...

Used instruments for sale... College employees, Conservatory students and parents, and faculty/instructors/staff of The Conservatory are now able to post musical instruments/items new and used for sale on The Conservatory website. Go to www.mtroyal.conservatory and follow both the links and instructions.

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Piano sale... The next piano sale at The Conservatory is the end of May. Call Standard Piano at 245-1773 for more information.

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Artsmart... a Calgary email and web based service offering up-to-date performing arts information to Calgarians. The Conservatory has subscribed to this service so that the public will be informed of upcoming Conservatory events. If you have a Conservatory event that you like to post, please send the information to Sandra Yates at syates@mtroyal.ca. If you are interested in getting *Artsmart* delivered to your inbox free of charge, go to <http://www.artsmartcalgary.ca/>

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Parking Passes... Starting in January, The Conservatory is selling casual parking passes. This includes daily parking from 4:00 p.m. onward, and on Saturdays. Sunday parking is free. A monthly pass costs \$10. The student ID and license plate number is required information. Payment by cash, cheque, debit card, visa or master card is acceptable. Call 440-6821 for information or visit The Conservatory's reception.

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T2202A tax forms... For 2003 and subsequent years, official Tuition and Education Amount Certificates (T2202As) will be available online at www.mymrc.ca after February 28 each year. **Forms will not be mailed to students as in previous years.** Students who turn 16 years old during the taxation period may be eligible for a T2202A. To be eligible for a for tuition tax credit, students must have total tuition fees exceeding \$100 in a taxation year (January-December). To be eligible for an education tax credit, the program of study must last at least three consecutive weeks and at least twelve hours per month.

To access the T2202A form on MyMRC site, students need to activate their account by completing the steps outlined below. (Please note that all students have MyMRC accounts.)

1. Go to www.mymrc.ca
2. On the bottom right hand corner there is a blue box "Activate Your Account here."
3. Please read the College's computer use policy and accept.
4. Enter your first name, last name, id and birth date. (The student ID is a nine digit number and is found on all the registration forms.)
5. If everything is entered properly, students will be asked to set their password.

There is a comprehensive page to the MRC website which answers student's frequently asked questions regarding T2202As. The link is: <http://www.mtroyal.ca/CurrentStudents/studenttaxinfo.htm>.

If students run into difficulty with accessing MyMRC, please contact the Mount Royal College Help desk at 440-6304.

Staccato: quick notes, news and Conservatory events

Sounds of joy... Beth and Chris Sandvoss are the proud new parents of Sabina Marie born Oct 20.

Applauding Elizabeth McMullen... the young theatre student was one of six attending Mount Royal College to win awards for excellence from the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Connection to Honens first laureate... Xiang Zou (China) is the first place prizewinner of the 2003 Honens International Piano competition. In 1998, Xiang Zou took part in the Morningside Music Bridge program where the best young artists from around the world come to Calgary for intensive summer training.

New appointment... Neil Cockburn has accepted the position of volunteer co-chair of the National Education Committee of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. As well, Neil's performance with the CPO (recorded in February 2003 – the *Guilmant Organ Symphony*) was broadcast on CBC Radio 2 during Katherine Duncan's *Symphony Hall* national radio program.

Playing up the Christmas spirit... In December, students in the Department of Theatre Program presented the Calgary Urban Projects Society with \$452.25. They raised the money during a public performance of Lana Skauge's *A Prairie Christmas*.

Lighting by design... Doug Rathbun is a professional lighting and scenery designer whose list of projects this semester includes the Theatre Department's productions of *The Diviners* and *Village of Idiots*. In February, he's designing *Remember Me* for Stage West, and in April he'll be working on the production of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* for Keyano College. Finally, Doug is designing the lighting and scenery for the Lord Beaverbrook High School production of *Much Ado About Nothing* as part of Mount Royal College Conservatory's partnership with that school.

Going solo... In November, Lauren Eselon appeared as a soloist with the Kensington Sinfonia (Edmond Agopian, Director) performing the Bach *Suite in b minor*. Academy flutist Nadia Sparrow (student of Lauren Eselon) appeared as soloist in two community concerts with the CPO, performing Chaminade's *Concertino for flute and orch*. On New Year's Day, Nadia played second flute and piccolo as an "extra" musician in the Calgary Philharmonic "Salute to Vienna" concert.

Front and Centre... Various chamber ensembles from the Conservatory's Academy program have been performing in the lobby of Jack Singer Concert Hall before CPO concerts much to the delight of ticket holders. These are groups directed by John Thompson, Sharon

van der Sloot, Bill van der Sloot, (intermediate group) and Jocelyn Colquhoun.

Coach: Jocelyn Colquhoun

Caroline Becq, flute
Heather Baker, oboe
Brian Jenkins, clarinet
Elizabeth Morrison, bassoon
Marina Krickler, French horn

Coach: Sharon van der Sloot

Trina Chan, violin
Jane Chan, cello
Virginia Lew, piano

Coach: John Thompson

Cordelia Paw, violin
Jessie Kim, violin
Sonia Shklarov, viola
Elizabeth Park, cello
Seirin Goldade, bass

Coach: Bill van der Sloot

Karen Kang, cello
Ben Plotnick, viola
Emily Nenniger, violin
Matthew Lonson, violin

No time for mischief... That certainly rings true for Robert Rosen last semester. In December his composition *Moments of Mischief* received its first North American premiere in Toronto and Montreal. The Montreal performance was recorded by Radio Canada International for worldwide broadcast this spring. Rosen was also invited in the fall to be guest composer for the 3rd CanTai Music Festival in Taipei. In January, Rosen was a short-term composer-in-residence with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra will perform several of Rosen's works including *The Art of Aqueducts*. And finally, the University of Windsor has added Rosen's composition *Isstoyiwa* to its mandatory listening list.

Going back in time... Last fall, Michael Eastep visited his hometown of Gainesville, Florida, to perform in the opening ceremonies of a new concert hall built by his high school, P. K. Yonge. It's been 35 years since Michael graduated from P.K Yonge. On another note, in December, Michael helped organize a performance by Altius Brass (16 musicians) at Grace Presbyterian Church. He's also been working with the group to record Christmas music for next Christmas. (Neil Cockburn of MRC and the Lethbridge University Choir, led by George Evelyn, are also involved in the project.)

To China and Back... Auditions are an integral part of the application process for prospective students in the Morningside Music Bridge program and this kept Sheldon Nadler (Acting Director) and Morningside Music Bridge faculty – Gwen Hoebig, David Moroz and John Perry – busy during their trip to China in early December. The group, joined by Maimie De Silva, Coordinator of the program, visited four schools: Central Conservatory of Music (Beijing), Sichuan Conservatory of Music, Shenzhen Arts School and Shanghai Conservatory of Music. Twenty participants were selected to join the program's eight annual music training workshop to be held in Calgary between July 5 to 30, 2004.

Staccato... *continued from page 3*

Poland next... Students from Poland will once again be part of the Morningside Music Bridge program. **Sheldon Nadler** (Acting Director) and **Krzysztof Jablonski** (piano faculty) will head to Warsaw in the latter part of March to conduct auditions.

The art of fighting... When the Calgary Opera needed someone to teach stage combat for its fall production of *Romeo and Juliet* it turned to our very own **J-P Fournier**. He's the best in the business and that's why, for over 30 years, the U of A's Drama Department has asked him to teach its students. J-P was in Edmonton again this fall not only teaching, but taking time to visit high schools and promote MRC's Theatre program.

Stephanie Jin... won this year's U of C Concerto Competition and will be performing Beethoven's *Piano Concerto #5 in E flat major* on Feb 29. A former student of **Peter Jancewicz**, she is now studying at the U of C with **Charles Foreman**.

Another article and much more... **Peter Jancewicz** had an article published in the November issue of *Clavier*, entitled "Getting Pupils beyond the Notes and Rhythm to the Heart of Music". He also gave a talk on Repetitive Strain Injury to the Calgary branch of the Alberta Piano Teachers Association. At the end of February, Peter will be adjudicating at the North Shore Music Festival in Vancouver.

From the studio of Allen Reiser... **Angela Nguyen** (grade 3) and **Vivian Tran** (grade 5) both received Silver Medals from the Toronto Conservatory for having achieved the highest marks provincially in their 2003 piano exams. **Sarah Aleem** performed as soloist with the Calgary Civic Orchestra as one of the winners of the C3 Competition last May. Sarah Aleem and **Jani Parsons** both performed as soloists with the Symphonie of the Kootenays in December as winners of the East Kootenay Music Teachers Association Piano Concerto Competition. As well, Allen will be appearing as soloist in Shostakovich's First Piano Concerto with the Symphonie of the Kootenays in March and will be adjudicating Senior Piano in Medicine Hat.

Mount Royal Children's Choir continues to provide wonderful choral experiences for the developing singer. Director **Anita Perlau** applies Kodaly principles to the training of these singers. Musicianship training is coupled with the learning of fine choral music. This year the group of 40 members is comprised of young singers aged seven to 13. Over half of the singers are brand new to our choral program! The children are highly anticipating the annual Winter Retreat at Camp Horizon at the end of January. Check **Mark Your Calendar...** (page 8) for the group's public performance schedule.

Giving of a musical kind... The Conservatory is thrilled to receive the donation of a Steinway and Sons model "M" dating back to 1945.

Former and current students of Fiona Carnie doing well...

Donovan Seidle has won the position of Assistant Concertmaster with the CPO; **Diane Lane** is now on the Conservatory faculty and will be taking part in the Banff Winter Program from January to April. **Eva Aronian** (Junior Academy) won a Branch Teachers' scholarship for her Grade 5 Violin exam and **Bianca Courteight**, (Senior Academy) won a scholarship for her performance at Contemporary Showcase in November.

Fiona, meanwhile, examined for the RCM in Winnipeg and Saskatoon last semester. She also taught at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto for its Young Artists Program and gave masterclasses at the Etobicoke Suzuki School in November.

Cudos to... **Tereza Lucia Stanislav** who was recently appointed Assistant Concertmaster of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra by Maestro **Jeffrey Kahane**. She is also a member of the Enso Quartet, who will be performing this year in Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Panama, Merkin Concert Hall and for the Pittsburgh Chamber series. The quartet is also recording for the NAXOS label in 2004. Her former teachers are indeed proud, including **Fiona Carnie**, **John Kadz**, **Janice Waite** and the late **Dr. Lise Elson**.

Early Childhood Programs Information Meeting...

Plan to attend the all-purpose information meeting outlining ALL the early childhood programs offered at The Conservatory.

Tuesday, April 27, 7:30 pm
Rm Q309A, Mount Royal College

Kodály Musicianship New Parents Meeting...

An information meeting for prospective Kodály parents to familiarize them with aspects and philosophy of the program.

Monday, May 3, 7:30 pm
Nickle Theatre, Mount Royal College

Conservatory Portraits...

The Conservatory runs like a fine-tuned instrument thanks to about 165 faculty and 35 staff. They work quietly and diligently behind the scenes making sure The Conservatory stays on track as a centre of excellence. In each issue we will bring you a different staff and faculty member so you can start to meet them.

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Dan Bartholomew-Poyser, Conductor, Mount Royal Youth Wind Band



Dan Bartholomew-Poyser (back row, far right), with his crew of volunteer-builder Grade 9 students from Glenmore Christian Academy in Ensenada, Mexico. Students fundraise throughout the year to pay their own way to help build homes for the underprivileged through Youth With a Mission.

Born in Montréal, Québec, Dan moved to Calgary when he was 5 years old. While in Calgary he attended French immersion school and took up the tuba in Grade 7. Since then he has gone on to receive Bachelors degrees in Music Performance and Education, as well as a Diploma of Fine Arts in Wind Conducting, all from the University of Calgary. He currently teaches Band Grade 6-9 at Glenmore Christian Academy. Having grown up playing in the bands and orchestras of the College he is very pleased to have joined the faculty in September of 2003.

What I love most about teaching is... interacting with the students and seeing them become increasingly excited about the beauty of music. It is great to see this love of music progress over time.

What frustrates me most about teaching is... the actual administration of sheet music. No matter what, parts are always going missing and they never all come back.

My mentor is/was... for performing I would say Mike Eastep. For conducting there have been a few: Dr. Glenn Price, Ross McIntyre and Dr. Mark Hopkins among them.

My favourite place in the world to vacation is... anywhere in Germany or France, particularly the Black Forest and Alsace regions.

Another passion of mine is... theology, as well as philosophy of religion. I love to study and read in these areas.

My favorite book and author is... *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky for fiction and *The Divine Conspiracy* by Dallas Willard, for non-fiction.

If I suddenly had some free time I would... head to the hills with an arm load of books and scores to catch up on reading and study.

My biggest accomplishment is... as part of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets I worked for and received my Private Pilot's License when I was 17 years old.

The best kept secret about me is... I am trying to learn German and have been known to accost German speakers in shopping malls and grocery stores in an effort to practice my fledgling skills (much to their chagrin I might add)!

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Rodd Bauman, Academy Assistant

Rodd is a native Calgarian who spent two years at the Mount Royal College Conservatory in the Diploma Program (violin performance – study under Joan Barrett) and four years at the University of Calgary in the Bachelor of Music Program (viola performance – study under Nick Pulos). After completing his diploma/degree, he and his wife, Debbie, traveled to New Zealand where Rodd won a full-time position with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. During his time in Auckland, Rodd also played with both the Royal New Zealand Opera and the Royal New Zealand Ballet, and had the opportunity to be guest sub-principle with the Kyshu Symphony in Fukoka, Japan.



Rodd came back to Calgary in 2000 where he took an administrative position with the internationally acclaimed performing group BARRAGE, and began working on his MBA at the Haskayne School of Business.

I've been at The Conservatory... since November 24th, 2003 after Janice Illsey left to start her own doggy day care business.

If I had another job to do for only one day I would... work with a relief organization like the Samaritan's Purse in a disaster area.

The strangest job I've ever had... and one of the toughest jobs I've ever had was shoveling sand out of fish tanks at the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery (12 hr. days).

If I suddenly had the day off I would... spend the whole day with my dear wife and six month old daughter, Kyla.

I have a background in... music and administration.

I'm also passionate about... helping people.

continued next page

Esteemed musicians visit The Conservatory



Visiting Professor, **Zhao Wei**, from Beijing Conservatory of Music teaching Conservatory student, **Debra Park**.

The Conservatory's international reputation attracts the world's pre-eminent performers and professional practitioners. They are dedicated to sharing their passion for the arts with our young aspiring students and that's why you will find them here in the upcoming months.

February 29 - March 1... Kai Gleusteen (violin)

Calgary born Gleusteen is currently Concertmaster of the Spanish Orchestra 'del Gran Teatre del Liceu'.

March 1 - 2... Peter Lloyd (flute)

Former principal flute with the London Symphony, Lloyd is known throughout Europe for his world class work as soloist and chamber musician.

March 7 - 9... James Markey (trombone)

Markey joined the New York Philharmonic as Associate Principal Trombonist in 1997. Previously, he was the Principal Trombonist and the youngest member of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra.

March 28 - 29... Sergiu Schwartz (violin)

Romanian born Schwartz has been described as "one of the best violinists of his generation" by Quebec's Le Soleil.

April 26... Jim Thompson (trumpet)

Professor of trumpet at the legendary Eastman School of Music, Thompson is guest professor at the Trompeten-Academy Werder in Bremen, Germany.

May 2... Desmond Hoebig (cello)

One of Canada's finest instrumentalists, Hoebig is now principal cellist of the Houston Symphony and Associate Professor at the Shepherd School of Music.

Homestay for Morningside Music Bridge: one family stays the course

For several years, my husband and I went to many of the Morningside Music Bridge concerts and marveled at the talent of the students, ages 12-18. In 2002, we decided to be more involved and offered to have two students stay with us. By doing so, we were able to be part of the Music Bridge world. We got to know many more of the students and were able to watch them practice, perform and just having fun together.

The students come from all over the world – seven countries last year – and are accepted into the program through an audition process. It is a workshop without barriers as all fees except living expenses are covered for them. They are all very good musicians but they quickly realize that they are going to be challenged as never before. They are playing with the best, both students and instructors alike. Initially, they are overwhelmed and appear a little threatened by the new 'competition' but in a matter of days, they rise to the occasion and start to work together and become soul-mates. To watch and be part of this process is what being a host home is about. We hosted two more students in 2003 and it was every bit as thrilling. Both were pianists, one from China and the other from Alberta. We were really worried about the food and cultural differences but we all ate each other's food, learned about each other's lives and the two students got along beautifully.

I still have fond memories of seeing an 18 year old cellist from the Netherlands hugging a 12 year old pianist from Poland following the farewell party. They didn't want to say good-bye. Everybody seemed to be in tears at the end as they had accomplished so much together and had become so close. We have recognized personally how music is truly the international language. And yes, it is a time commitment but very worthwhile and we are going to be a host home again.

Trish Blaker

For more information, call the program's coordinator, **Maimie De Silva**, 1-866-742-4519, or email mdesilva@mtroyal.ca.

Conservatory Portraits... *continued from page 5*

The best vacation I had... was back in 2000. Debbie and I were on our way from Auckland to Calgary when we stopped in Fiji for a couple days on the beautiful resort island of Malolo. A political coup was being staged at the time and rather than landing, our Air NZ flight flew right on by Fiji leaving us stranded. Fortunately, Pacific Air had space on it, so we were able to leave on schedule.

I'm most proud of having accomplished... an overseas career, half of my MBA, and I'm most proud of my amazing wife and daughter!!

The best kept secret about me... I'm in really bad shape – but that will change in 2004!!! (New Year's resolution #1)

Mark Your Calendar...

Mount Royal College Theatre Program

The Diviners by James Leonard

Directed by Joe-Norman Shaw

February 11 – 14, 2004

Nickle Theatre, MRC

8:00 pm

The Diviners is a story of a troubled young boy and his friendship with a disenchanted preacher. It is set in the early 1930's in a small southern Indiana town. When the boy was very young he almost drowned; his mother died saving him. As a result, the boy is deathly afraid of water, yet gifted with the ability to "divine" wells and predict rain.

The preacher comes to Indiana, having given up on God and preaching. He wanders into town unaware that the people are starving for religion and some form of salvation. The play explores the relationship between the boy and preacher as they journey to discover their faith despite interference from friends and family.

Village of Idiots by John Lazarus

Directed by Jean-Pierre Fournier

March 25 – 27, 29 – April 3, 2004

Wright Theatre, MRC

8:00 pm

A young Jew deserting the Russian Army finds himself in legendary Chelm, the Village of Idiots. This is where an enterprising married couple survives by selling glasses of schnapps to each other, and where a traveler claims to have grown up in another Chelm, exactly like this one; and where it is forbidden to walk upon the first snow of the winter. A quirky comedy based on a beloved tradition of Jewish folklore.

Ticket Prices: \$12 adults/\$8 student/senior

For tickets and information call the Theatre Department at 440-6139.

Classical recitals take place the first Tuesday of the month in the Leacock Theatre from noon onwards. Dates: February 3, March 2, and April 6.

Jazz recitals take place the first Wednesday of the month in the Leacock Foyer from noon to 1:00pm. Dates: February 4, March 3 and April 7.

Organ recitals take place the first Thursday of the month in the Wyatt Recital Hall from noon to 1:00 p.m. Dates: February 5, March 4, April 1, May 6 and June 3.

Cantos Lunchtime Concerts featuring students from The Conservatory's Piano Academy program. Tuesdays, February 24 and March 30, starting at 12:10 pm. Located at the Cantos Music Foundation Building, located at 134 - 11th Avenue SE. Admission is free.

Monday, February 2... Mount Royal Kantorei presents *CARMINA – An Evening of Song* – concluding with Carl Orff's spectacular *Carmina Burana*. Performing are soloists **Janet Youngdahl**, **Leon Leontaridis** and **Gregory Brookes**, the **Bergmann Piano Duo**, six percussionists, and special guests, the **Mount Royal Youth Choir**. 8:00 pm at Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, Rozsa Centre, at the U of C. Tickets: \$18 for adults/ \$15 for seniors/students. Tickets are available in advance from members, by calling the Campus Ticket Centre (220-7202), or at the door the night of the concert. For further information, call 440-6821.

Saturday, February 7... The Calgary Bach Society, joined by **Conservatory Strings (Nick Pulos, Conductor)** and the Conservatory's **Intermediate Chamber Players**, presents *A Children's Concert* in the Leacock Theatre. Concert starts at 2:00 pm but at 1:00 pm parents and children are invited to play and discover musical instruments. Tickets: \$8 for adults/\$6 for children. Family pack of 4 tickets (2 adult and 2 children) for \$20. Call the Calgary Bach Society at 232-8525 for information and tickets.

Provincial grant underwrites theatre upgrades...



The Alberta Government through the Alberta Lottery Fund and the Community Facility Enhancement Program gave The Conservatory \$50,000 to help support theatre upgrades.

This cheque was presented to Judith Eifert (above right), VP Academic Affairs, and Sheldon Nadler (centre), Acting Director of The Conservatory, in The Conservatory Boardroom by Jon Lord, M.L.A. for the Calgary Currie Constituency, this past November.

Mark Your Calendar... *continued from page 7*

Sunday, February 22... **Calgary Youth Wind Band, Dan Bartholomew-Poyser**, conductor. Featuring major works for wind band from the last century as well as chamber music. In the Leacock Theatre. Call 440-6821 for time and ticket price information.

March 1-20... The Calgary Kiwanis 2004 Music Festival at the Jubilee Auditorium. For more information check www.calgarykiwanisfestival.ca or call 283-6009.

Monday, March 1... Graduation recital of **Lana Henschell** (Junior/Intermediate Strings Accompanist) at the U of C's Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall starting at 8:15 p.m. On the program will be works of Beethoven, Chopin, Ligeti, Eckhardt-Gramatte and Stravinsky. Free admission.

Saturday, March 6... J.Webb Wine Merchants, in association with the Nota Bene String Quartet, Mount Royal College Conservatory and Janice Beaton Fine Cheese, invites you to participate in *Tasting Notes – An Evening of Oral and Aural Nourishment*, at J.Webb Wine Merchants starting at 7:30 pm. Tickets: \$150.00. Support The Conservatory – call 253-9463 for tickets.

Saturday, March 20... The Mount Royal Children's Choir presents *De Colores* (directed by **Anita Perla**) at 3:00 pm at Scarboro United Church (134 Scarboro Avenue SW). Special guests: William Reid Children's Choir and Glenbrook School Choir. Tickets: \$5.00 per person. For information, please call 440-6769.

Saturday, March 27... *Marching to a Different Beat* in the Leacock Theatre at 7:30 pm. A celebration of artistic expressions from the heart featuring Japanese Koto and Ikebana, Men's Chorus, Peter & the Wolf, traditional Chinese orchestra and modern dance. Tickets are available by calling 440-7770 at \$49 per person. This is a gala event in support of the **Suzuki Piano Pedagogy Program**.

Sunday, April 4... **Calgary Youth Orchestra** in the Leacock Theatre from 8:00 pm performing Schubert's *Symphony No. 8*, "Unfinished", and Sibelius's *Symphony No. 1*. Tickets: \$15 general and \$12 students/seniors. For more information call 440-5978.

Friday, May 7 & Saturday, May 8... **Calgary Youth Orchestra** joins the **Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra** from 8:00 pm at the Jack Singer Concert Hall for two performances of Saint-Saëns' *Symphony No. 3*, "Organ". For tickets and prices, call TicketMaster at 299-8888.

Saturday, May 8... *Spring Song* presented by **Mount Royal Children's Choir, Mount Royal Youth Choir** and **Mount Royal Chamber Ensemble**. Conductors: **Anita Perla, David Ferguson** and **Ben Neumann**. 3:00 pm, location TBA. Tickets: \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 for students/seniors. Information: 440-6769.

Wednesday, May 12... *Connecting with Kids*, a joint project between the **Mount Royal Children's Choir** and Calgary's elementary schools. From 9:30 to 11:30 am in the Leacock Theatre. Admission is free. Call 440-6769 for more information.

Alumni...

The Conservatory is currently updating its records.

Please contact Silvana Saccomani with your current information. Call 440-6710 or email ssaccomani@mtroyal.ca.

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Conservatory Notes is published in the fall, winter and late spring by The Conservatory (Sheldon Nadler, Acting Director). Phone (403) 440-6821, fax (403) 440-6594, www.mtroyal.ca/conservatory. Stories and comments for the spring issue are invited and should be submitted by Friday, April 2, 2004, to Silvana Saccomani, ssaccomani@mtroyal.ca, (403) 440-6710.

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