

IMPACT REPORT 2025/26

Your gift at work

Because of you, the Mount Royal University Conservatory is a thriving home for artistic potential. Your generosity brings the transformative power of music and speech arts to students of all ages who might otherwise face barriers to access. By providing world-class instructors, instruments, and access to the state-of-the-art Taylor Centre, you are taking the education of every student and artist to the next level.

Your impact extends far beyond our walls, providing vital mentorship for local school music programs and aspiring young artists across Alberta. You are also helping create a centralized resource hub that uniquely unites researchers, artists, and healthcare professionals.

You are building upon a century of excellence. As we grow beyond our expectations, remember that our success this year belongs to you. Thank you for making it all possible.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

It's been a busy, exciting year at the Conservatory. Growing registration and community interest reflect the incredible work of our passionate instructors and staff. We know the profound benefits of the performing arts, which is why we are immensely grateful to our generous donors.

Your support of Conservatory bursaries and scholarships helps reduce barriers to arts education, creating vital opportunities for students to thrive. We couldn't do this without you.

Thank you for your incredible generosity and commitment to our community!

Terry Clark
Director

3,000+
Conservatory Students

 **4.5%**
Increase from last year



\$116,000+
Granted in bursaries and scholarships



\$182,600+
Raised for the Conservatory in 2025/26



**YOU CAN BE PART OF
THE SUCCESS OF
THE CONSERVATORY!**

REGISTER, ATTEND
PERFORMANCES AND
LEARN MORE

Shaping tomorrow's artists through your support

Because of your generous support, music and speech arts at the Mount Royal University Conservatory are thriving. Demand for our programs is at an all-time high, and donor investment is making it possible to expand artistic horizons, empower our educators, and enrich learning across Calgary.

Thanks to the visionary support of the John and Naomi Lacey Foundation, our Academy Ensembles in Residence program partnered with the University of Calgary's Music Department for two joint residencies. Over several intensive days, students worked side-by-side with the composer before sharing the stage with professional musicians. Your support didn't just fund a performance—it bridged the gap between classroom learning and real-world execution.

Beyond the stage, your investment is helping us meet growing demand by nurturing talent internally. Under facilitator Jennifer Orr, two senior Speech Arts students progressed from teaching assistants to co-instructors, preparing to become instructors this fall. We are now expanding this model into a Conservatory-wide mentorship program.

At the same time, generous support from an anonymous donor provided one-to-one mentorship for teachers within local schools and tailored professional development for nearly 170 Conservatory instructors in our custom workshop program.

Together, these initiatives create a powerful ripple effect across Calgary. By investing in both emerging performers and dedicated educators, you are bringing high-quality, inspiring artistic experiences to the students at the Conservatory and beyond!

**YOUR GIFT MAKES
THIS POSSIBLE**

Thriving school workshop program

**200+ SCHOOLS
25,000+ STUDENTS**



**Local school bands and choirs
benefiting from the expertise of
Conservatory instructors and
experiencing the magic of the
Taylor Centre**

Immersive Masterclasses

1,000+



**Masterclasses anchor Academy
instruction, allowing students to
perform for peers, faculty, and
guests while developing critical
listening skills.**



My name is Gabrielle and I play the flute. Outside the conservatory I am also finishing my bachelor of music in flute performance at the University of Calgary. I've had a great time taking part in the APP program this year. I've met and played with some amazing people and I've improved so much musically I can't wait to put the skills I've learned to use as I hopefully go on to pursue my masters. Thank you!

~ **Gabrielle Marquis**,
Christine and Arto Viiri Bursary

Meet the artists you empower

Your support gives gifted young musicians in the Academy and Advanced Performance Program (APP) the world-class mentorship and resources needed to achieve excellence and follow their dreams.



My name is Minsol Kim and I want to express my sincere appreciation for your generous support during my musical journey at the Conservatory.

I am a Korean Immigrant to Canada, pursuing my lifelong passion as a percussionist has come with its share of challenges, particularly the financial strain of tuition. Your kindness and warm support provided a lot of stability in allowing me to pursue and focus on my studies. I sincerely appreciate your help.

These awards allowed me to successfully complete my senior year of high school and I have achieved my biggest goal of the past three years, being accepted into the University of Toronto's faculty of Music performance, where I've also been awarded grants. Lastly, I really want to thank you for your help and I will carry this gratitude with me as I begin my new chapter in Toronto.

Thank you again for helping me achieve my dream. ~ **Minsol Kim**
Conservatory Music/Speech Scholarship

This space is much too small for me to possibly express all my gratitude, but special people like you deserve our greatest efforts to be reminded of just how much you help. I am Luca, born and raised in Calgary and a violinist in the APP Conservatory program for the past 3 years.

My growth here through the incredible teaching and performance opportunities has been nothing short of life-changing for me. The Conservatory has forever left a mark of who I am as a musician and person. I have particularly loved playing alongside professionals and residents this year such as the Uchida-Crozman-Chiu Trio and Trio Fibonacci. Your support has not only greatly helped me study at the Conservatory but it has alleviated so much financial strain on my family of seven.

Next year I will be attending the The Schulich School of Music at McGill University and taking with me the many lessons and memories that I have gained at the Conservatory. Please know that your support for me has placed me on a springboard for my professional music career and left me with so many memories to cherish.

Thank you so much!!! ~ **Luca Todea**
Joan C. Snyder Academy Scholarship



Unlocking potential: the Arts Care Hub in action

Because of your generosity, the Mount Royal University Conservatory's Arts Care Hub is pioneering a first-of-its-kind initiative in Canada—bridging the gap between the arts, education, and healthcare. Your investment drives a strategic three-pillar framework that addresses critical community needs—ranging from early childhood development and neurodivergence to mental health, dementia, and healthy aging—delivering deep, systemic impact across programming, education, and research.

Thanks to the Arts Care Hub and donors like you, young musicians like six-year-old Grace are finding a space to truly belong. Music has always been Grace's native language—a joyful way to connect and express herself. Yet for her parents, finding a program with both the specialized expertise and patience required for a neurodivergent child felt almost impossible. That changed when they found the MRU Conservatory.

The Conservatory's flexible approach—offering both group and individual lessons, allowed Grace to connect with an instructor who brought a powerful combination of technical mastery and music therapy expertise. Through one-on-one modeling and auditory connection with her instructor, "Mr. Marc," as she affectionately calls him, Grace unlocked her musical potential, turning her passion into remarkable focus, confidence, and joy.

Grace's story is proof of what happens when specialized arts and healthcare principles align. By funding targeted programming for neurodivergent youth alongside applied research into arts-in-health outcomes, donor support ensures that students like Grace not only find a safe, inspiring space to let their gifts bloom, but that future generations of practitioners are equipped to serve them. Your support makes these life-changing breakthroughs possible every single day.



BEYOND WORDS: THE IMPACT OF MUSIC

"The practice of music is inherently a practice of listening, attending, concentrating, awareness, memorizing and communicating. Not only does it touch upon a multitude of brain regions, tapping into areas of emotion, speech, motor planning which are crucial for child development but it provides a unique opportunity for developing social skills through a long term relationship with a teacher, as well as peers.

Neurodivergent students often experience challenges in one or several of these areas. For non-verbal students, music provides a unique avenue for communicating, relating and expressing that does not rely solely on language."

Marc Houde
Music Therapist & MRU
Conservatory Instructor



Because Grace learns primarily through modeling and auditory connection, working one-on-one with Marc has unlocked her abilities in ways we could have only hoped for. Observing Marc's musical style and guidance has provided her with the exact foundation she needs to develop as a young musician.

Working with your team has brought remarkable growth, confidence, and joy into Grace's life. As parents, having a teaching team we trust completely with our daughter's development is an incredible gift. Seeing Grace get genuinely excited before every lesson with Mr. Marc means more to us than words can fully express.

Thank you for taking a chance on Grace, for seeing her potential, and for creating a safe, inspiring space where her musical gifts can bloom. We look forward to many more years of shared milestones and music.

With our warmest regards and deepest gratitude,

Derek & Adila, Parents of Grace