



CALGARY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

**c/o Mount Royal University Conservatory  
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW  
Calgary, AB T3E 6K6  
Tel: (403) 440-5978 Fax: (403) 440-6594  
Web page: [www.cyo.ab.ca](http://www.cyo.ab.ca)  
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# **2019-2020 HANDBOOK**



**MOUNT ROYAL  
UNIVERSITY  
1910**

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Calgary Youth Orchestra is an internationally renowned youth orchestra and is the flagship ensemble of the Mount Royal University Conservatory.*

*The Calgary Youth Orchestra contributes to the community by providing opportunities for unique musical, educational and cultural experiences for all young musicians in the greater Calgary area. The CYO is committed to the development of youth and to excellence in musicianship.*

## VALUES

*The CYO values:  
Musical skill and discipline, personal commitment, teamwork and community service.*

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# Calgary Youth Orchestra

e-mail: [cyo@mtroyal.ca](mailto:cyo@mtroyal.ca)

website : [cyo.ab.ca](http://cyo.ab.ca)

The Calgary Youth Orchestra (CYO), considered to be the flagship ensemble of the Mount Royal University Conservatory, is recognized as one of the finest youth orchestras in the country.

CYO's high artistic achievements have generated reviews such as:

*"Encore after encore, the audience just simply did not want to go home. I have never seen anything like this..."* Management – Krzysztof Penderecki European Centre for Music, Poland

*"Already with their first piece, the brilliantly played "Reformation-Symphony" by Mendelssohn, they had the audience captivated. Applause lasting for several minutes rewarded the young musicians."* Markische Allgemeine, Jüterbog, Germany, 2014

*"The Calgary Youth Orchestra of Canada created magical moments for music lovers... Under the direction of Edmond Agopian the young musicians transcended the music..."* Ouest France, Caen, France, 2012

*"The connection between movements, the musical emphasis, the dynamic control of impeccable resolution, and the precise rhythmic beat, flavored with a good dramatic tempo, made the music a pleasure... The music was played with such sincere enthusiasm that it generated a rush felt by all..."*  
– La Opinion de Granada–Critica Granada, Spain.

Under its music director, Edmond Agopian, the CYO has toured Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and New Zealand.

The CYO was honoured to perform for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Calgary in May 2005, and for His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, at the Saddledome in 2009.

The orchestra has commissioned works from a number of composers, most recently Canadian composers Michael van der Sloot, George Fenwick, Laurie Radford and Scott Ross-Molyneux. The CYO has also presented the world premieres of works by Claude Debussy, completed and orchestrated by the renowned English musicologist Robert Orledge.

The CYO has worked with such illustrious conductors as Roberto Minczuk, Mario Bernardi, Bramwell Tovey, Ivars Taurins, Jean Lamon, Andrés Cárdenes and Hans Graf, among others.

The orchestra has performed in collaboration with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and with Jeunesse Classique Ballet, at festivals throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan, and on-stage at the 2008 Juno Awards.

CYO alumni can be found in such world-renowned ensembles as the New York Philharmonic, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as well as all major Canadian orchestras.

CYO's recording of music from Western movies titled The Thrill of the Western has received excellent reviews, including one from Rick Phillips, CBC Radio's Sound Advice:

*"Imaginative interpretation... nicely pulled off... played to the fullest, with enthusiasm and energy..."*  
CDs are for sale @ \$20 per CD during each CYO performance.

# Calgary Youth Orchestra 2019/2020 Handbook

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# Calgary Youth Orchestra Funders and Sponsors:



**Government  
of Alberta ■**



**Calgary Youth Orchestra  
CALENDAR 2019-20**

*Please note that this schedule is subject to change.  
We will notify you during weekly email updates and during rehearsals if changes will occur.*

**September 2019**

Sat. 14	first rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Sat. 14</b>	<b>Parents' Meeting and AGM</b>	<b>Atelier room</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
Sat. 21	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 28	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**October**

Sat. 5	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Sat. 12</b>	<b>NO REHEARSAL</b>	<b>(Thanksgiving)</b>	
Sat. 19	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 26	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**November**

Sat. 2	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Fri. 8</b>	<b>Travel to Banff Centre for Youth Orchestra Symposium</b>		
		<b>Leave MRU</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>
<b>Sat. 9</b>	<b>In Banff</b>		
<b>Sun. 10</b>	<b>Concert in Banff</b>	<b>Margaret Greenham Theatre</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
	<b>Travel to Calgary</b>	<b>Arrival at MRU 6:30 pm (approx.)</b>	
Sat. 16	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Sun. 17</b>	<b>dress rehearsal</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>2:00-4:30</b>
	<b>Concert</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>
Sat. 23	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Sat. 30</b>	<b>rehearsal w. choirs</b>	<b>Leacock Theatre</b>	<b>9:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>

**December**

<b>Sat. 7</b>	<b>rehearsal w. choirs</b>	<b>Leacock Theatre</b>	<b>9:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>
<b>Fri. 13</b>	<b>tech rehearsal</b>	<b>Bella concert hall</b>	<b>approx. 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm</b>
<b>Sat. 14</b>	<b>Sounds of the Season concerts</b>		
		<b>Bella concert hall</b>	<b>1:30 pm call, 2:00 concert</b>
		<b>Bella concert hall</b>	<b>7:00 pm call, 7:30 concert</b>

***HOLIDAYS! (no rehearsals until Jan.11 )***

## January 2020

Sat. 11	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 18	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 25	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm

## February

Sat. 1	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Fri. 7</b>	<b>Concerto competition</b>	ED 2009, Conservatory	<b>4:00 pm – 9:00 pm</b>
Sat. 8	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Fri. 14</b>	<b>Concerto competition</b>	ED 2009, Conservatory	<b>4:00 pm – 9:00 pm</b>
<b>Sat. 15</b>	<b>NO REHEARSAL (Family Day)</b>		
Sat. 22	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 29	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm

## March

Sat. 7	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 14	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Sat. 21</b>	<b>NO REHEARSAL (Spring Break)</b>		
<b>Sat. 28</b>	<b>NO REHEARSAL (Spring Break)</b>		

## April

<b>Sat. 4</b>	<b>rehearsal with Fretless</b>	<b>TransAlta Pavillion</b>	<b>9:30 am – 12:30 pm</b>
<b>Sun. 5</b>	<b>dress rehearsal</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>2:00-4:30</b>
	<b>concert with Fretless</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>7:00 call, 7:30 pm concert</b>
Sat. 11	<b>NO REHEARSAL (Easter)</b>		
Sat. 18	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 25	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm

## May

Sat. 2	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sat. 9	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Sat. 16</b>	<b>NO REHEARSAL (Victoria Day)</b>		
<b>Mon. 18</b>	<b>dress rehearsal</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>5:00 – 6:30</b>
	<b>MusicFest concert</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>8:00</b>
Sat. 23	regular rehearsal	TransAlta Pavillion	9:30 am – 12:30 pm
<b>Sun. 24</b>	<b>dress rehearsal</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>2:00 - 4:30</b>
	<b>concert</b>	<b>Bella Concert Hall</b>	<b>7:00 call, 7:30 pm concert</b>

## END OF REGULAR SEASON

July or early August – potential tour to Belgium and the Netherlands

## THE 2019-20 SEASON

**2:00 pm Sunday, Nov. 10, Margaret Greenham Theatre, Banff**

Youth Orchestra Symposium Concert

**7:30 pm Sunday, Nov. 17, Mount Royal University's Bella Concert Hall**

The CYO will perform Brahms' Symphony #1, and music by Beethoven, Schubert, and Lecuona.

**7:00 pm Saturday, Dec. 14, Mount Royal University's Bella Concert Hall**

### **Sounds of the Season**

Mount Royal Conservatory's annual celebration of the season.

*NOTE: There will be an afternoon performance of the concert for Mount Royal University donors, beginning at 2:00. Tickets will not be sold for this performance.*

**7:30 pm Sunday, April 5, Mount Royal University's Bella Concert Hall**

The CYO will perform on the high profile Wyatt Series as guests of Juno award winners The Fretless – an amazing Canadian string quartet with a modern take on traditional Irish folk music.

**8:00 pm Monday, May 18, Mount Royal University's Bella Concert Hall**

Featured orchestra on the high profile MusicFest Nationals Festival. Repertoire TBA.

**8:00 pm Sunday, May 24, Mount Royal University's Bella Concert Hall**

The concert will include a performance by the winner of the 2019 Frank Simpson Concerto Competition, Dvorak's New World Symphony, and music by Franck, and Mozart.

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*Admission to the November 10 concert in Banff is free.*

*Tickets for Sounds of the Season and the Wyatt Series concert on April 5 will be available at [tickets.mru.ca](http://tickets.mru.ca) or by calling the Mount Royal Ticket Line: 403-440-7770.*

***CYO parents will receive two complimentary tickets to the  
Nov. 17 and May 24 concerts.***

*Otherwise, tickets will be available at [taylorcentre.ca](http://taylorcentre.ca) or by calling the Mount Royal Ticket Line: 403-440-7770.*



## Welcome Message from the Music Director to the CYO members

Congratulations! I am pleased that you are a member of the **Calgary Youth Orchestra**. I look forward to an upcoming season that promises to be very exciting and busy.

### Preparation

A typical CYO season will cover approximately ten hours of repertoire. On average, that's at least five times more than the amount of solo repertoire covered by most students during the course of a year. Furthermore, works such as Brahms' First Symphony are as technically and musically challenging, or even more so, than much of the solo repertoire. **Therefore, set time aside on a regular basis to practice your orchestra parts.**

Further recommendations:

- "You are what you think." Please think of all the musical/technical aspects discussed in rehearsals as you practice. Practice your orchestra parts with the metronome.
- "Repetition is the mother of success." During rehearsals there is not always the time to solidify and secure challenging passages. Please go over them at home till they are secure.
- Sectionals can only cover a limited amount of material, so remember to ask your teacher for assistance with particular technical challenges, such as fingerings.
- Listen to recordings of the repertoire under study and develop an appreciation for the recordings of the renowned orchestras of the world: Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Philadelphia, Cleveland, etc.
- Attend Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra concerts; pay close attention to all aspects of the music-making and witness the professionalism with which the musicians treat their task.

### Strings

- Always keep an eye in front of you for bowings, in case yours differ; check the principal's parts for the correct bowings at the first available opportunity.
- Always bring your own parts. Mark the bowing changes and other indications into your own music even if you are not using it at the time.

### Winds/Brass

Parts will be doubled often.

Through the audition process I endeavor to even out as much as possible the playing level in the orchestra. However, the repertoire sometimes presents technical challenges in a solo line that are not within the capability of the player. In such cases, the part will be covered by a guest performer/mentor.

## **Principal positions**

The criteria for choosing principal players are: **attendance, ability, seniority** (in no particular order)

## **Seating: Strings**

We will use a rotating seating system.

1<sup>st</sup> violins: The concertmaster/1<sup>st</sup> desk positions will change for each concert.

First desk seating for the other string sections will change periodically.

The rest of the seating arrangement will remain the same for all the dress rehearsals and concerts (“concert seating”).

**For each rehearsal**, each desk will move up one desk, except the 1<sup>st</sup> desk; for the dress rehearsals and concerts the seating will revert to the original “concert seating”.

Example:

**desk 5** of the first violin section moves to desk 4 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> rehearsal, to desk 3 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> rehearsal, to desk 2 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> rehearsal, to desk 12 for the 4<sup>th</sup> rehearsal, and so on; there approximately 25 rehearsals throughout the season. For ALL the dress rehearsals and concerts desk 5 moves back to desk 5.

# **1. OBLIGATIONS OF CYO MEMBERS**

Upon joining the CYO, students take on a number of responsibilities and obligations to themselves and to the other musicians in the CYO. Students failing to meet acceptable standards as noted below may be asked to leave the orchestra.

## **1.1 Rehearsals and Sectionals**

- Rehearsals are held in the Transalta pavillion in the Taylor Centre for the Performing Arts at Mount Royal University.
- Rehearsals start **promptly at 9:30 a.m.** each Saturday morning. Students are expected to arrive at the TransAlta pavillion **15 minutes prior to rehearsal** in order to be on stage, tuned and ready to play by 9:30 a.m.
- Students will be advised by e-mail of any subsequent revisions to the rehearsal schedule by the Orchestra Manager, and at regularly scheduled rehearsals.
- There is a twenty-minute break mid-morning. Failure to consistently return on time from breaks may result in the need to extend rehearsal times.
- Rehearsals are scheduled to finish at 12:30 p.m.
- In the event of sectional rehearsals, room assignments will be posted by email, and outside the Transalta pavillion by 9:15 a.m., Saturday mornings.

## **1.2 Music**

- Students are required to provide a post-dated cheque (dated June 30, 2020) in the amount of \$75.00 at the beginning of the season for the use of CYO Library music and rental music. The cheque will not be cashed except in the event of loss or damage to

music. To save postal charges, it is our preference to shred all cheques not cashed or have you pick them up at the Conservatory office in June 2020. Please indicate your preference on the Online Members Info form.

- Music will be distributed to each student and must be kept in the music folder provided.
- Students are expected to bring their music, a pencil and an eraser to each rehearsal.
- Members are expected to care for their music and return it in good condition to the Orchestra Manager when requested.
- Lost or damaged music will be assessed at its replacement value and deducted from the \$75.00 at the end of the year.

### **1.3 Attendance**

- **Members are expected to attend and be on time for all rehearsals, concerts and workshops. Full participation in rehearsals and concerts is essential for the overall growth and success of the orchestra.**
- A maximum of THREE (3) unexcused absences throughout the year will be permitted. Excused absences would include other musical commitments, i.e. direct conflicts with competitions, exams, festivals, etc. Please inform George of any scheduling conflicts as soon as you find out. Some personal absences will be allowed, but the conductor has the authority to determine if any absence is excused.
- Any member who exceeds three unexcused absences will become ineligible for scholarship consideration and participation in the CYO Concerto Competition. If members expect any conflicts, please discuss them with the appropriate people as far ahead as possible (teachers, band directors). At the discretion of the conductor in consultation with the Orchestra Manager and the CYO Board, members may be asked to leave the orchestra due to poor attendance.
- If a student must miss a rehearsal, concert or workshop, he or she is required to contact and advise George Fenwick, the CYO Manager, prior to the absence, by phone at 403-440-5978, by e-mail: [cyo@mtroyal.ca](mailto:cyo@mtroyal.ca), or by letter delivered to the CYO Mailbox c/o the MRU Conservatory Office.

### **1.4 Members Online Information**

If members have not already done so, please fill out and submit the Members Online Information. It is essential that we have all pertinent contact information.

1. Go to the CYO Member Resources page of the MRU Conservatory web site:  
<http://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/FacultiesSchoolsCentres/TheConservatory/Programs/CalgaryYouthOrchestra/MemberResources/index.htm>
2. Click on the "Member Information Form" link
3. Complete the google docs form, and submit it.

### **1.5 Concert Dress**

**Ladies** (adopted from CPO dress code)

- Black, closed-toe dress shoes and black unpatterned hose are required for all concerts.
- Long black dress with long sleeves, long black skirt with formal black long-sleeved blouse, or formal black pant suit.

- Clothes in a dressy fabric such as silk, velvet, satin, crepe de chine or good quality polyester are required, and they should be in a suitable style and classic fit.

### **Gentlemen**

– Black dress pants, black shirt with long formal tie of any colour, black shoes and black socks.

Concert attire is formal. Clean and pressed concert dress must be worn for every public performance.

## **1.6 Dress Code for rehearsals**

Just as there is a mode of dress suitable for business, professional work, the gymnasium, or various social activities, there is also a mode of dress suitable for CYO rehearsals. Players are asked to exercise good taste and judgment when dressing for rehearsals.

Styles in dress and grooming become unacceptable when they go to extremes which threaten propriety or when they become a distraction.

## **1.7 Behavior**

Over the past six decades, the CYO has cultivated a reputation as an excellent ensemble, and as a community leader.

On stage and off, CYO members agree to behave in a manner that enhances the orchestra's reputation, and its image.

## **2. Expenses of the CYO**

The CYO Society is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the orchestra. The average cost to the CYO Society for each member is approximately \$1,500.00 annually. These funds are raised through CYO fees, grants, corporate donations, ticket sales and parent fundraising efforts.

## **3. Fees**

### **3.1 MRU fees**

Mount Royal Conservatory's registration fee for 2019/20 is **\$550**. Parents may pay this fee by credit card (Visa and Mastercard only) by contacting the Conservatory office (403-440-6821). This fee contributes to the Conservatory's cost for conductors, music library, music purchases, rehearsal space, secretarial support services, and other aspects of administration. Payment is due when you register for Calgary Youth Orchestra at the Conservatory office by August 31, 2019. In cases of financial hardship, students are encouraged to apply for Conservatory Special Scholarships, which may cover all or part of the conservatory fee. Additionally, please check with the Conservatory for payment options.

### **3.2 Calgary Youth Orchestra Society fees**

The following cheques should be made payable to the Calgary Youth Orchestra:

- **\$500.00 CYO fees.** Parents may choose to pay this fee by credit card (Visa and Mastercard only) by contacting the Conservatory office (440-6821). Alternatively, post-dated cheques may be presented to the Orchestra Manager at the September meeting which represents payment over the period from September to December, with the final payment due on December 15, 2019.
- **\$75.00 music deposit** (dated June 30, 2020)

Please note that the music deposit cheque will be returned to you or shredded (your choice) after all music and folders are returned in good condition at the end of the season.

The \$500.00 CYO fee helps to pay for clinicians, the part-time Orchestra Manager, subsidizes the Youth Orchestra Symposium at the Banff Centre, music rental, concert hall rentals, scholarships, concerto competition awards, and advertising and promotion.

Members of the CYO for whom payment of the CYO fee is a financial burden should apply **in writing**, no later than **September 28, 2019**, to the CYO Society President, c/o George Fenwick, Orchestra Manager, for consideration of a reduction or waiver of fees. All applications will be kept in the strictest confidence. Please contact the Orchestra Manager for more information.

***Please note that unless CYO and Conservatory fees are paid, or alternate arrangements are made, by November 1, 2019, CYO students may not be allowed to participate in the Youth Orchestra Symposium in Banff (Nov. 8-10), or to participate in other orchestra activities throughout the year.***

### 3.3 Concert Promotion

A warm and appreciative audience is as vital to the success of a CYO concert as the music prepared. As a member of the CYO, you will find it exciting to perform to a full house. This is only possible if each and every CYO member commits to promotion (and, in some cases, sale of tickets) for the entire CYO concert season to their friends and relatives.

**CYO families will receive two complimentary tickets to each of the Nov. 17 and May 24 concerts.**

To purchase tickets for the Sounds of the Season concert, Wyatt Series concert on April 5, or additional tickets to the November or May concerts, please go to [tickets.mru.ca](http://tickets.mru.ca), or call the contact the MRU Conservatory Ticket Line (403-440-7770).

## 4. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CALGARY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The Calgary Youth Orchestra was founded in 1957 by the late Frank Simpson as the Calgary Junior Philharmonic School Orchestra. The initial funding to establish the orchestra was provided by the late John Bach, a previous Director of the Mount Royal University Conservatory. In 1965, the orchestra joined the Conservatory at Mount Royal College. When Mount Royal University moved to the present Lincoln Park Campus in 1973 the CYO moved along with the Conservatory. The CYO Society was incorporated in 1973, which served to broaden the basis for community involvement and financial support of the CYO. In 1984, artistic direction for the CYO came under

the umbrella of the Conservatory. The CYO is now the flagship ensemble associated with the Orchestral Program of Mount Royal University Conservatory.

Over the years, the CYO Directors have been:

Founding Director, Frank Simpson	1963 -1984
John Thompson	1984 -1988
Nicholas Pulos	1988 -1992
Tyrone Paterson	1992 -1993
Dr. Glenn Price	1993 -1995
John Thompson	1996 - 2002
Edmond Agopian	2002 -

The basic format is comprised of Saturday morning rehearsals at MRU, coaching sessions with the best available clinicians, resident and/or guest conductors, one or two weekend workshops, and three to six concerts in Calgary and surrounding communities.

## **5. ORGANIZATION OF THE CALGARY YOUTH ORCHESTRA**

### **5.1 *Calgary Youth Orchestra Society***

The Calgary Youth Orchestra is sponsored by the Calgary Youth Orchestra Society, an independent, non-profit society, incorporated in the Province of Alberta and has a non-profit tax number:

**88737 – 7190 – RR0001**

All donations (private, corporate and “in kind”) of \$25 or more receive tax deductible receipts.

All student members of the CYO, their parents and guardians are automatically members of the CYO Society. Citizens from the community may also become members of the CYO Society. The CYO Society is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of not less than ten (10) and not more than fifteen (15) Directors:

- Appointed Director: Edmond Agopian, Conductor and Artistic Director
- One appointed Director representing the Conservatory of Mount Royal University
- The past-president of the Society
- Twelve (12) members of the community at least six (6) of whom shall be nominees of the Parents or Guardians of the students of the CYO
- Honorary Life Member: John Thompson

The CYO Society holds an Annual General Meeting in September of each year at which board members are elected for a 12-month term. The Board of Directors meets approximately every 6 weeks and the Executive more often as necessary. The income and revenue of the CYO Society are derived from membership fees, ticket sales, corporate and private donations, fundraising activities, and grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and Calgary Arts Development. The Society’s financial obligations include paying for conductors, clinicians and the Orchestra Manager, music rental, renting concert halls, paying for advertising and promotion, contributing to the cost of fall and/or winter workshops, subsidizing the cost of touring for individual members, concerto competition awards, and sponsoring scholarships and bursaries.

Parents are encouraged to contact any member of the CYO Board of Directors if they have any questions concerning the operations of the CYO. Please contact the Orchestra Manager ([cyo@mtroyal.ca](mailto:cyo@mtroyal.ca) or 403-440-5978) for contact information.

## 5.2 Mount Royal University Conservatory

The Calgary Youth Orchestra is the most advanced instrumental ensemble associated with the Conservatory at Mount Royal University. The Conservatory is responsible for the artistic and musical direction of the CYO and provides the conductor, music library, facilities, secretarial support and administrative services.

The Conservatory is extremely proud of its association with the CYO. It recognizes the excellence of the CYO and applauds the orchestra's accomplishments. The Conservatory salutes all the students, parents and community members of the Society who work to provide such an outstanding musical, educational, social and learning experience for the youth of Calgary and district. The Calgary Youth Orchestra Society and the Conservatory enjoy excellent working relations. Communication and consultation between the Director of the Conservatory, the Conservatory Coordinator of Orchestral Programs, the Conductor, the CYO Society President and the CYO Manager are frequent, cooperative and productive.

Students and parents are encouraged to contact Brad Mahon, Director, or Jean-Louis Bleau, Program Administrator, General & Orchestral Programs, if they have any questions concerning the musical and artistic direction of the CYO.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Fax</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Program Director, Conservatory	Brad Mahon	440-6017	440-6594	bmmahon@mtroyal.ca
Program Administrator, Orchestral Programs	Jean-Louis Bleau	440-8956	440-6594	jbleau@mtroyal.ca

## 5.3 Music Director and Conductor

A violin graduate of the Juilliard School, **Edmond Agopian** began his studies in his native Romania. In 1991, he relinquished his post at Acadia University to take up positions as Professor of Violin and Conductor at the University of Calgary, and Artist-in-Residence at Mount Royal Conservatory. He was appointed Music Director of the Calgary Youth Orchestra in 2002.

He has been awarded the Calgary Arts Award, and the Alberta Centennial Medal “in recognition of outstanding achievement and service to the people and province of Alberta”. At the University of Calgary he was awarded the John Peter Lee Roberts Distinguished Professorship in Fine Arts.

As a violinist, he has been featured on regional and national CBC, French and English radio programs, Radio Europa, and as soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. He is First Violin of the University of Calgary String Quartet in Residence, whose recording on the American label MSR Classics has received enthusiastic reviews from radio broadcasters and magazines, including *Fanfare Magazine* (USA).

Edmond Agopian's performances have received numerous accolades, including:

*“His performance was a triumph both of technique and integration...”* Toronto Star

"... dramatic heart-felt playing with biting rhythmic emphasis. His pitch and tone were immaculate..." Calgary Herald

"... he not only revealed the great charm of the work (Bruch, Violin Concerto in G minor), but his own musical integrity as well" Halifax Chronicle Herald

"The Canadian Chamber Orchestra, conducted by concertmaster Edmond Agopian played with requisite grace..." Edmonton Journal

"One of the best recordings of the year..." CBC Radio – Off the Record

"From the first note to the last they captured the symphonic sound... Their dynamic range was elastic, giving the phrases sculptural depth as well as linear tension." Halifax Chronicle-Herald

Conducting work has included performances with the Canadian Chamber Orchestra (conductor and concertmaster), the Shanghai Opera Orchestra, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra, and conductor and soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. His *Sundogs* CD recording with the University of Calgary Orchestra, of Canadian orchestral music, was described by one critic as a "hands-down winner". Under his direction, the Calgary Youth Orchestra has toured, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and New Zealand.

For thirteen seasons he was Music Director/Concertmaster of Calgary's professional string orchestra, the Kensington Sinfonia and for twenty years he was on the faculty of the Morningside Music Bridge International Music Festival at Mount Royal University Conservatory, in Beijing, Shanghai, and Gdansk, Poland.

His violin method *The No Time to Practice Technique Companion* has been on the SHAR Music Company's Bestseller List since 2002 and has been positively reviewed in the *American String Teacher* magazine. His students have won local, national and international awards, including the Rose Bowl – Calgary Performing Arts Festival, and are members of major orchestras, including four violinists in the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

His newest ensemble, the Calgary Musicscapes Band, features repertoire which reflects the wide array of music of the Calgary musical community. From Klezmer to Mariachi, from Jazz to Métis fiddling, Edmond Agopian's arrangements display the wide spectrum of Calgary's international musicscapes:

"The most common question after the concert was: *When are they coming back?*" - ProArts concert series director

"... dynamite Romanian fiddler Edmond Agopian." Penguin Eggs–Canada's Folk, Roots and World Music Magazine



## 5.4 *Orchestra Manager*

Contact: 403-440-5978 or [cyo@mtroyal.ca](mailto:cyo@mtroyal.ca)

George Fenwick is a free-lance composer and arts administrator, CYO alumnus, and sometime librarian and journalist.

A native Calgarian, he studied composition with Allan Bell and Quenten Doolittle, and received his Bachelor of Music from the University of Calgary in 1988. After obtaining a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of British Columbia in 1993, George was an Area Children's Librarian for several years with the Fraser Valley Regional Library in B.C.

He has been involved in the music scene in Calgary for over two decades through his work with the Canadian Music Centre, Land's End Chamber Ensemble, Spiritus Chamber Choir, and many other musical organizations.

The Orchestra Manager's duties include:

- primary contact for students and parents
- coordinating with conductor
- hiring coaches and clinicians
- coordinating the production of workshops and concerts
- preparing grant applications
- coordinating the music library
- coordinating ticket sales
- supervising student and parent volunteers where appropriate
- administration of the orchestra's business and finances
- tour management

Weekly updates will be sent by email, containing important information for the upcoming rehearsals and concerts.

***CYO members are encouraged to contact the Manager if they have any questions, or need to obtain information concerning rehearsals, concerts, music and attendance.***

## 5.5 **CYO Parent Volunteers**

The CYO parent volunteers assist the Society President and Orchestra Manager in the day-to-day operations of the CYO and are actively involved in fundraising to financially support the CYO Society and to help finance workshops and tours.

CYO students and parents with any questions concerning the activities and volunteer opportunities are encouraged to contact any member of the Board of Directors or the Orchestra Manager.

### 5.5.1 **Volunteer Responsibilities**

Acceptance to the CYO is an honour and a privilege. With “honour and privilege” comes responsibility. Because volunteers are an important resource for the CYO, their contribution to all aspects of organizational operations is essential.

Parents and/or members meet their responsibility to the Society Board by **fundraising** and **volunteering** to assist with CYO activities.

1) **Fundraising** at this time includes the **requirement to volunteer** for at least **one** shift at any planned Casino event.

The next fundraising casino will take place during the summer of 2020.

Funds raised are first used to finance the activities of the CYO during the season and to support the development of all sitting orchestra members. Funds surplus to these needs may be contributed to future CYO expenses and tours.

2) **The Society Board requires that each member of the orchestra, or their parent/guardian, contribute at least four (4) hours of volunteer time each year in one of the following ways:**

- Fundraising Committee
- Instrument Truck Drivers (normally, 1 tonne truck)
- Workshop chaperones (Banff)
- Concert assistants
- Administrative Support - CYO members can assist the Orchestra Manager in various ways – photocopying, working in the music library, and other activities as they arise.
- Tour committee