



The Tuning Fork

December 2020

The EYO Annual General Meeting was held online October 20, 2020 at which time the following Board was nominated and ratified. Thanks to all who attended!

Edmonton Youth Orchestra Board 2020 - 2021

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| President | Sue Ooraikul Thomas |
| Vice President | |
| Past President | Dave Rumbold |
| Secretary | Dina Gerwing |
| Treasurer | James Merkosky |
| Casino Chairperson | |
| Director | Teresa Seibel |
| Director | Ken Regan |
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| Music Director | Michael Massey |
| General Manager | Heather Dolman |

Thank you! It was also the time to say goodbye, with sincere thanks, to past board members, Cathy Koller, Joanne Dartana and Jacquie Dawkins - for the time and service they have most generously given to the EYO over these past years.

We also welcomed to the Board, [Ken Regan](#). Historically the EYO Board has been made up of parent volunteers. Ken, our first community board member, brings a vast amount of expertise and experience to the EYO Board. Ken is a journalist, music and arts evangelist, and former CEO of the CKUA Radio Network. In addition to his work at CKUA Ken has also served on the University of Alberta



Senate, as Chair of the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Arts Awards Board of Directors, and has been honored with a Western Canadian Music Alliance Legacy Award and the Syncrude Award for Excellence in Arts Management. **Welcome Ken – we look forward to working this you!**

There are still openings on the Board. If you are interested in furthering the goals of the EYO for the benefit of our young orchestra members, by working as a Director, please contact: President Sue Ooraiukul Thomas at 780-497-1198.



A message from EYO Music Director, Michael Massey

Dear members and parents of the EYO,

I would like to thank you all for continuing to work with the EYO during these difficult times and to wish you all a peaceful and restful holiday season. Let us

hope that in the new year things can slowly get back to normal and our orchestras can resume playing together as is meant to be.

I have always thought that a symphony orchestra with its players exhibiting their individual and collective skills achieved after many years of study and playing the inspired works of the great composers of the ages, is at the pinnacle of human achievement and civilization. The year 2020 has robbed us a little of this experience. However, I think we can be inspired by other musicians in recent history who have overcome enormous hardships and obstacles to attain musical heights.

Here are a few thoughts:

The French composer Olivier Messiaen was captured early in World War II and spent 3 years in a concentration camp. During this time, he composed one of the great chamber music works of the 20th century, *The Quartet for the End of Time*. He wrote the work for a clarinetist, a violinist and a cellist who were fellow inmates of the camp, joined by Messiaen on the piano. It was first performed in the camp for the prisoners and guards "in order to bring some light into dreary times".



Further to this, there was a young Canadian Air Force pilot and musician who was shot down over Germany early in WW II and spent almost all of the rest of the war in Stalag Luft 3 prison camp (site of the *Great Escape*). There he formed and conducted an orchestra, a dance band, and a choir, in order to keep peoples spirits up and make the time pass faster. After the war he became Music Professor at the University of Alberta and conducted the University Symphony. When I played Rachmaninoff 2nd Piano Concerto in my graduation year at the U of A, he was my conductor. His name was Dr. Arthur Crighton.



The British composer, Frederick Delius, who at the end of his life was blind and crippled by disease stopped composing but re-started and composed some of his greatest work by dictating note for note what he heard in his head to a wonderful young assistant named Eric Fenby – truly a labour of love.



Handel, I think, wrote "Messiah" after he was blind.

Lastly, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Beethoven, let us never forget that he composed all the amazing and powerful works of his later period while completely deaf - perhaps one of the most outstanding examples of overcoming adversity to create greatness.



So let us take inspiration from these and others who have experienced long periods of hardship and look forward to better times soon. In the meantime, keep practicing, studying and listening to music and think how wonderful it will be to be together again.

Sincerely,
Michael Massey

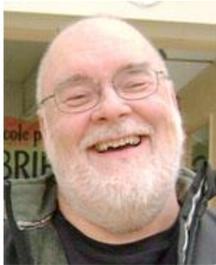
Rehearsal Schedule

The Intermediate and Senior Orchestra virtual rehearsals continue. A reminder of the rehearsal schedule around the holiday season:

- **Senior Orchestra:**
 - **Last rehearsal of 2020 – December 12**
 - **First rehearsal of 2021 – January 9**
- **Intermediate Orchestra**
 - **Last rehearsal of 2020 – December 9**
 - **First rehearsal of 2021 – January 6**

We commence in January 2021 once again in the online environment, via Zoom, with new repertoire and some new player groupings. Please watch your email for new schedules and updated rehearsal information.

Once again we thank our teaching faculty, working alongside and under the direction of Michael Massey: [Ewald Cheung](#), [Neda Yamach](#), [Bill Dimmer](#), [Alden Lowry](#), and our conducting intern, [Meijun Chen](#).



We gratefully acknowledge our sponsors and individual donors – your contributions and support are most appreciated!



Alberta Music Education Foundation RECOGNITION AWARD



Many congratulations to our esteemed Music Director and Conductor, Michael Massey, who was presented with the [Alberta Music Education Foundation Recognition Award](#) on Sunday, November 29th! This prestigious award recognizes music educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education in Alberta.

Hoodies and Sweatshirts

The EYO hoodies and sweatshirts have arrived and are being distributed. Extra stock is also available. If you did not place an order and are still wanting a sweatshirt or hoodie please email eyo@shaw.ca.



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