

ISSUE NO. 4

FEATURED COMPOSER: ALLAN GORDON BELL

WINTER 2026

# MUSE

CELEBRATING COMPOSERS ACROSS THE PRAIRIES  
& NORTHWEST TERRITORIES



PERFORMANCE | EDUCATION | PROMOTION

ALLAN GORDON BELL  
2026 ECC WINNER  
VINCENT HO

PRAIRIE RESONANCE AWARDS  
NEW ASSOCIATE COMPOSERS

# WINNipeg NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL

20  
26 F

JAN. 21-29, 2026

CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL  
DESAUTELS CONCERT HALL  
STUDIO LAB xR

PREMIER PATRON  
**MICHAEL NESBITT**

[WNMF.CA](http://WNMF.CA)

# CONTENTS

## 4 Editor's Note



## 5 Emerging Competition Winner & Runner-Up

Announcing the WINNER and RUNNER-UP of the 2026 Emerging Composer Competition



## 6 Composers in Conversation: Vincent Ho

CMC Prairie Director Janna Sailor sits down with Vincent Ho to discuss collaborations, inspirations, and his most recent release

## 8 MUSE Subscription

Information on how to get your copy of MUSE

## 9 CMC Prairie Award Winners

Presenting the CMC Prairie Award Winners



## 10 Allan Gordon Bell

Recipient of the 2025 Violet Archer Achievement Award



## 12 Megumi Masaki

Recipient of the 2025 Violet Archer Achievement Award

## 16 Awards of Excellence

Ensembles, Organizations, and Collectives

## 17 Prairie Resonance Award

Individual Artists / Composers

## 18 Prairie Resonance: Future Sounds

Music Educators and Rising Stars

## 21 Composers to Watch

Composers to have on your watch list



## 19 Newly-Admitted Associate Composers

Presenting the latest class of Prairie Associate Composers:

- Liam Elliot (Calgary, AB)
- Yun (Ester) Shyuan Ling (Calgary, AB)
- Nick MacMahon (Winnipeg, MB)
- Dianna Neufeld (Margaret, MB)
- James Watson (Calgary, AB)

## 23 Printing and Binding

Browse CMC Prairie's printing and binding services

## 25 Find Your Composer

A list of all CMC composers across the Prairies



*Janna Sailor*

DIRECTOR, CMC PRAIRIE REGION



*Carlos Tinoco*

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
EDITOR OF MUSE

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Dear Creative Community,

Welcome to the latest issue of the Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region's MUSE magazine!

This month's celebratory issue highlights the breadth, vitality, and contribution of Canadian music creators across the Prairies and Northwest Territories, as we warmly welcome our newest Associate Composers, highlight the recipients of the Violet Archer Awards, and announce the winners of our annual Emerging Composer Competition!

We also spotlight this year's Prairie Resonance and Prairie Excellence Award winners, whose work continues to shape and inspire our musical landscape. Rounding out the issue are in-depth features on composers Allan Bell and Vincent Ho, offering insight into their creative voices and enduring contributions to Canadian music. We invite you to read, listen, and celebrate alongside us!

In service,

Janna

*Do you have an article you would like to submit for future editions of MUSE? Contact us to find out how!  
Contact us at: [prairie@cmccanada.org](mailto:prairie@cmccanada.org).*

# EMERGING COMPOSER COMPETITION

The Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region is thrilled to present the winner and runner-up of the 2026 Emerging Composer Competition (ECC)!

**Chris Byman's** winning piece, *Scherzo Oscuro*, will be premiered by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra at the 2026 Winnipeg New Music Festival.

**Ashton Latimer** was awarded Runner Up for his piece, *Overflow*.

Both Chris and Ashton were inducted into the 2026 WNMF Composer's Institute.

**Join us in congratulating Chris and Ashton!**



Winner:

*Chris Byman*

Born and raised on the Manitoban prairies, Canadian composer and clarinetist Chris Byman earned B.Mus and M.Mus degrees from Brandon University, specializing in clarinet performance and literature. As a freelance artist, Chris has collaborated with musicians across Canada and abroad, and has performed locally with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Royal Canadian Air Force Band, the Canadian Bacon Wind Quintet, and the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival. As a composer and arranger, Chris enjoys writing for orchestras, concert bands, and chamber ensembles. His works have been performed by the Brandon University New Music Ensemble, the University of Lethbridge Incanto Singers, the Brandon Community Orchestra, and many more.

Runner Up:

*Ashton Latimer*

Ashton Latimer (b. 2006) is a Canadian composer living in Vancouver, British Columbia and is inspired by the textures and sound worlds that can be created by acoustic instruments. Through this exploration, he has begun to earn recognition through awards, competitions, and performances of his work. Ashton has written for a wide range of ensembles, including symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, chamber groups, and solo instruments. His music has been performed by musicians such as the Sonorous Trio, the Rose Gellert String Quartet, UNCSA Viola and Horn ensembles and recorded by recognized percussionist Ksenija Komljenović.



# COMPOSERS IN CONVERSATION

**Janna Sailor**, CMC Prairie Region Director and host of the *MUSiNG* podcast, sat down with composer and performer **Vincent Ho** to discuss collaborations, inspirations, and his most recent release!



© Hannah Eden Ph

**Janna:** For listeners just discovering your music, how do you describe your musical approach and output?

**Vincent:** These days I'm a composer full-time and I work at home. My process is dependent on what I'm inspired by, what the project is, and who I'm writing for. In fact, who I'm writing for plays an incredibly important factor on how I write my music. It's much like how a playwright writes a play depending on who they have as a cast. If I get contacted by an ensemble, orchestra, or soloist that wants to work with me, I try to gauge whether it's a good fit. I also try to see if the soloist or ensemble has the kind of talents that I feel would generate an inspired composition. I'm very fortunate to get requests from many artists that I truly admire and respect.

Many of the pieces I've written are inspired by those artists; Dame Evelyn Glennie (percussionist), Timothy McAllister (saxophonist), Vicky Chow (pianist), Land's End Ensemble, and so many more. I've developed such long-term collaborative relationships where it yields many projects.

## Vincent's Creativity and Inspiration

**Janna:** Your works contain many programmatic elements and you derive subject matter from things like comic books and movies to the world around you. What kind of elements do you try to embody and capture in your music?

**Vincent:** You know the saying "always listen to your inner child"? The other part of that that I add is "be sure to guide it with your outer adult". That's the approach that I take with every piece or every process. I try to still maintain that childlike sense of wonder and enthusiasm; I don't want to get jaded by the realities of the professional world. I still want to retain that fascination and curiosity that I once had when I started out composing, or even when I started out as a child playing with Lego. Super villains are a great example.

Several years ago, I found my collection of *Batman* comics and it was also during a time when I wanted to write some my own set of piano etudes, but I didn't have a theme for it. As I was rereading these comics, I realized that many of the *Batman* villains are put in *Arkham Asylum*, which is not a prison. That suggests that they have neurological or mental disorders that are manifested in criminal form. That got me thinking "what if I did a psychological profile on them"? And that's what I did. *Riddler*, *Two-Face*, *Penguin*, *Catwoman*, *Poison Ivy*, and of course *Joker*. It was fascinating just to treat these characters as actual human beings with case studies. Once I had their psychological profiles, then I gave it to three dancers and choreographers and asked them: "if these were real people and you read their profiles, how would you recreate their movements? How would they walk? How would they move their hands when they talk"? And I filmed them and I found their interpretation's fascinating. That triggered a lot of ideas for me to recreate them in pianistic form. This collection, entitled Supervillain Études has become my most performed collection and was nominated for a JUNO Award.

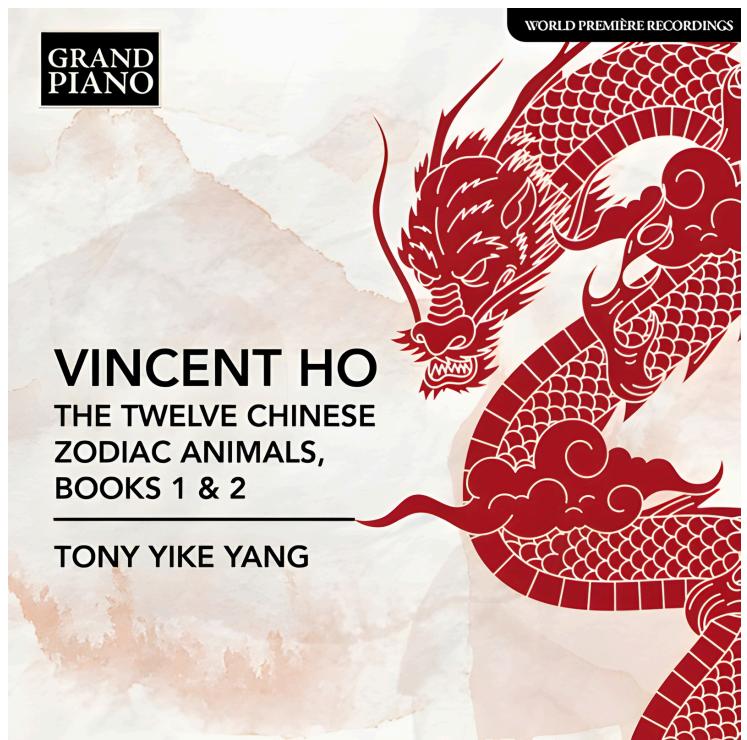
**Janna:** Talk to me about significant turning points or milestones in your career.

**Vincent:** Firstly, definitely the *Arctic Symphony* because I've never written a symphony. Up until that point it was just little orchestra works, but a full-on symphony was a tall order. I felt I really needed to up my game and pour my heart into that project because I wanted to create a symphonic portrait of the Arctic as I experienced it. That was an incredible process; going to the Arctic, visiting the indigenous communities, meeting with the scientists and learning about the Arctic from both sides of the world, and trying to take all that in and express it in musical form. That was a profound impact on me as an artist, to bring the scientific world and the traditional world together in symphonic form.

The other was my percussion concerto, *The Shaman*, written for Dame Evelyn Glennie. I had never written anything for a musician of that caliber. I went through a very arduous process to prepare for that. I spent three months practicing on the piano to try and raise my musical skills as close as I possibly could to her level if I'm going to write a piece for her, I have to be sure that we spoke the same language in terms of musical abilities, or at least as close to as possible to be able to write something that honors her abilities.

I had a diet of composers that I chose for specific reasons: the late Beethoven for the emotional content, Prokofiev for the rhythmic vitality,  Ligeti for technical virtuosity, and Ravel for sonic colors. After those three months, I felt I was in peak form and was ready to write the piece. I poured my heart into writing that piece, and she premiered it with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on the opening night of their 25th anniversary; it was broadcast nationwide. Writing for a musician of that caliber on that scale was one of the most significant events of my career. It was something that we are both very proud of.

**Check out the full conversation with Vincent [HERE ->](#)**



### Vincent's Latest Release

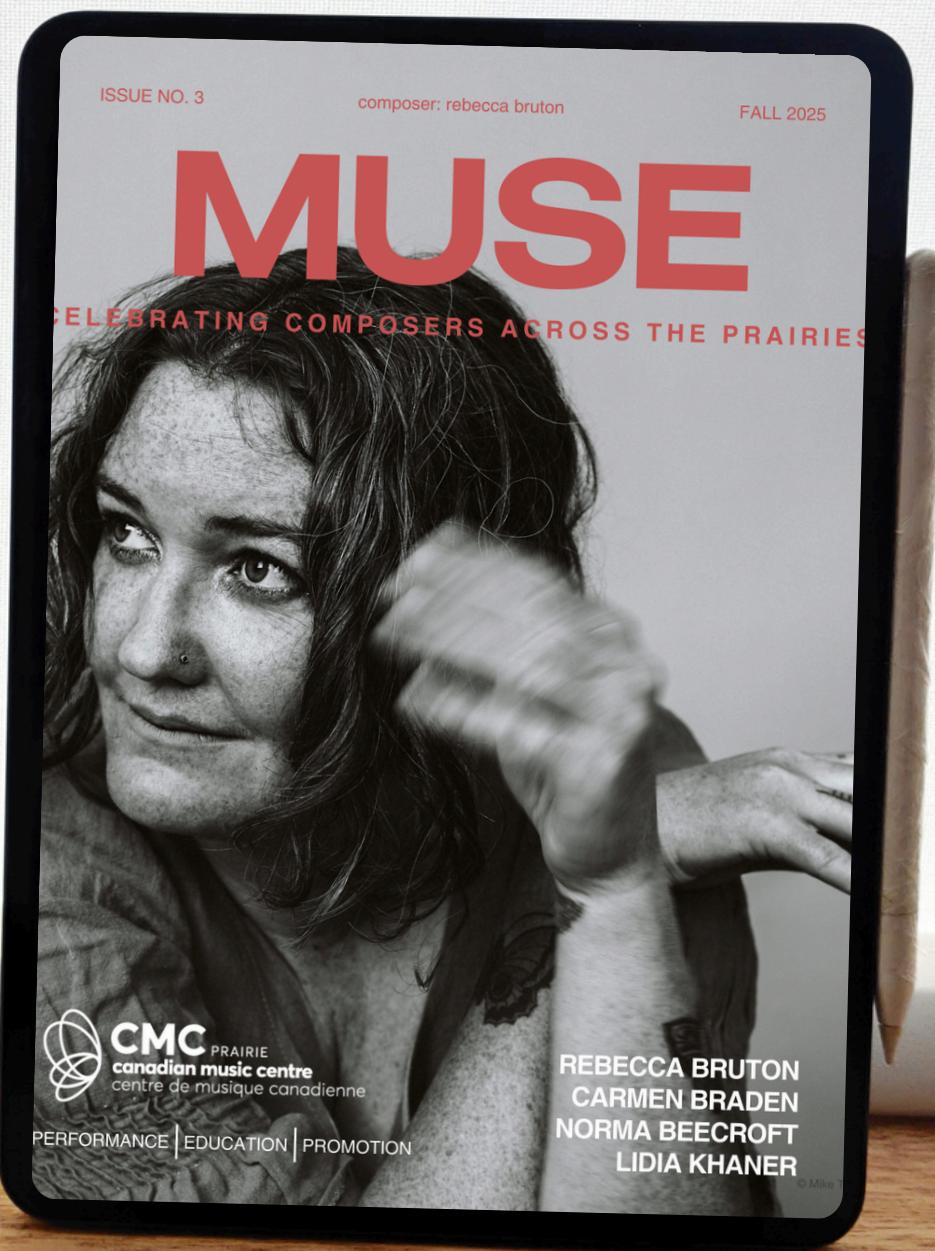
**Janna:** You have an amazing new album out featuring pianist Tony Yike Yang, can you tell us more about that?

**Vincent:** The album features my two piano collections, the *Twelve Chinese Zodiac Animals: Book 1 & Book 2: Preludes and Fugues*. I was inspired to write a collection of piano pieces for my daughter that were little portraits of each zodiac animal. I started with her [zodiac animal], which was Dragon. The process was enjoyable and so I wrote the remaining pieces for the remaining 11 animals. When I submitted it to the Royal Conservatory of Music, they selected 10 of the pieces to be included in their piano repertoire, which is phenomenal; the pieces have really taken off. That inspired me to write *Book 2*, a collection of *Preludes and Fugues* that depicts the animals in their teenage years. These were premiered here in 2023 during Lunar New Year by 12 of the students from the University of Calgary's piano department. At that time, I was introduced to Tony Yike Yang.

He gave a wonderful performance at the Royal Conservatory, when they were released the brand new piano series. I was invited to talk about my pieces there, and that's where I met him. I just felt that he was the right fit. He's so talented! He's so easy to work with and as a product of Chinese culture, he knows about the Chinese zodiac animals. We started talking and he agreed to record the pieces. We're very happy with the process and the album released on November 7, 2025 through *Grand Piano Records*.

# Want to make sure you don't miss another edition of MUSE?

Subscribe to either a physical or digital copy below!



*MUSE is published quarterly and features quality content, industry news, and celebrates Prairie Region Composers!*



**CMC PRAIRIE**  
**canadian music centre**  
centre de musique canadienne

# AWARDS

In 2025, In honour of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CMC Prairie Region, we introduced new awards designed to celebrate the extraordinary contributions of composers, artists, and educators in our community!

These awards recognize individuals, collectives, and organizations whose creativity, dedication, and leadership have made a lasting impact on throughout the Prairie Region. Through these honours, CMC Prairie seeks to acknowledge excellence, inspire, continued artistic growth, and highlight the vital role these individuals, collectives, and organizations play in shaping the Canadian musical landscape.

Recipients were nominated by the community and peer reviewed.

#### **Violet Archer Lifetime Achievement Award**

- Open to individuals who have contributed over their career in a profound way to the Canadian music scene over decades of dedicated and legacy-building activity.

#### **Violet Archer Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Canadian Music**

- Celebrates exceptional patronage that advances Canadian composers and strengthens Canada's musical legacy.

#### **Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region Award of Excellence: Ensembles, Organizations, and Collectives**

- Open to ensembles, organizations, and collectives that demonstrate an active and ongoing commitment to the promotion of Canadian music in the CMC Prairie Region and have a proven track record of creative output.
- Demonstrate extraordinary qualities and contributions to their musical community.

#### **Future Sounds: Award for Music Educators/Student ensembles/Composers to Watch**

- Nominations for extraordinary educators and/or educational/student ensembles that demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the performance of Canadian Music.

#### **The Prairie Resonance Award for Individual Artists and Composers**

- Recognizing extraordinary individual artists/composers/music creatives of any career stage that are creating waves on the Canadian music scene.



2025 Violet Archer Lifetime Achievement Award

**ALLAN GORDON BELL**



Pictured from left to right: Janna Sailor, Allan Gordon Bell, Norma McCord, Eleanor Archer  
Photographer: BandiPhotoGraphy

**Allan Gordon Bell** is a beloved and visionary Canadian composer whose life work has profoundly shaped the musical landscape of Canada and beyond. Over a career spanning decades, he has created a remarkable body of music rooted in beauty, reflection, spirit, and place – work that speaks deeply to the human experience and our relationship to the world around us.

Allan has dedicated his life to not only composition, but also to listening, mentoring, and uplifting others. His influence can be seen in the many students, collaborators, and emerging composers he has guided with generosity, humility, and unwavering commitment to artistic truth.

Allan was born in Calgary in 1953. He received a Master of Music degree from the University of Alberta where he studied with Violet Archer, Malcolm Forsyth, and Manus Sasonkin. He also did advanced studies in composition at the Banff Centre for the Arts where his teachers were Jean Coulthard, Bruce Mather, and Oskar Morawetz. He has created works for solo instruments, chamber ensembles, orchestra, band, and electroacoustic media as well as scores for contemporary dance productions and opera. His music has been performed by various amateur and professional organizations internationally. The Association of Canadian Choral Conductors presented him with the award for “Outstanding Choral Composition” in both 1994 and 1999. From 1996 to 2006, Bell designed and supervised the Young Composers Program for the Esther Honens Foundation, which introduced creative music to students in elementary schools.

In addition, Allan’s composition *Field Notes* was awarded both the 2014 JUNO and Western Canadian Music Award for Classical Composition of the Year. From 1984 to 1988 and from 2006 to 2010, he served as President of the National Board of the Canadian Music Centre. He is a recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and an honorary doctorate from the University of Alberta. Bell’s contributions have been recognized with inductions as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and a Member of the Order of Canada. Allan is currently on faculty as Professor of Composition at the University of Calgary. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions to Canadian music and his lasting impact on generations of artists,

Did you know  
that Allan was  
interviewed on  
MUSING?  
Listen here!



Allan Gordon Bell was presented the Violet Archer Lifetime Achievement Award by members of the Archer family as part of ArcherFest 2025. His legacy continues on, not only in the works he has composed, but in the countless lives and creative journeys he continues to inspire.

**Congratulations, Allan!**



2025 Violet Archer Lifetime Achievement Award  
**MEGUMI MASAKI**



**Megumi** has profoundly shaped the landscape of Canadian music through her work as a pianist, multimedia artist, educator, curator, and advocate for equity and innovation in the arts. Her achievements embody the visionary spirit of **Violet Archer** - a commitment to artistic excellence, education, and community engagement that continues to inspire generations of musicians.”

- Rita Ueda, CMC Associate Composer (BC Region)

**Megumi Masaki**, based in Brandon Manitoba, has redefined the role of the pianist in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Her pioneering work in multimedia and interactive performance explores sound, image, text, and movement through technologies such as gesture and motion tracking, live electronics, 3D visuals, and e-textile sensors.

As Artistic Director of the *Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition* since 2006, Megumi has revitalized one of Canada's most important music competitions that uniquely centers Canadian music and musicians. In this role, she has brought top Canadian musicians to Manitoba annually, commissioned 19 new Canadian works, many by Indigenous or marginalized composers, and mentored hundreds of artists who have gone on to distinguished Canadian and international careers.

As Professor of Piano at Brandon University's School of Music, Megumi directs the New Music Ensemble and curates the Brandon University New Music Festival with a focus on Canadian new music. In 2006, she founded the *Rising Stars* outreach program, bringing Canadian music to communities across the Prairies embodying the values of access and inclusion that lie at the heart of her career. Recognizing the underrepresentation of Indigenous voices in music institutions, Megumi co-founded the *Indigenous New Music Festival* at Brandon University with local Knowledge Keepers.

Megumi's contributions have been recognized through her appointment as a Member of the Order of Manitoba and election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

**Congratulations, Megumi!**



Violet Archer Award

Extraordinary Contribution to Canadian Music

**WALT & IRENE DEBONI**



Pictured from left to right: Walter DeBoni, Irene DeBoni, Janna Sailor, Léa Plourde-Archer  
Photographer: BandiPhotoGraphy

*In honour of the tremendous legacy of Violet Archer, and CMC Prairie's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we created the **Violet Archer Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Canadian Music.***

*This award is bestowed on behalf of the composers of the CMC Prairie Region.*

CMC Prairie Associate Composer Vincent Ho wrote a statement on the deserving recipients for this inaugural award:

*"Walt and Irene DeBoni have played a critical role in building our local, regional, and national musical culture by commissioning new creations from many of our Country's leading composers. Their support for the arts has enriched our cultural fabric in far-reaching ways while directly improving and impacting lives. Like many great patrons throughout history, the DeBoni's commitment to supporting the arts has shaped our national identify by defining who we are in musical form. As a result of Walt and Irene's dedication to the support of composers, there are now more works than ever entering the canon of Canadian repertoire that orchestras, chamber ensembles, soloists, and students can learn from and perform in concerts far beyond our nation's borders, thereby making significant cultural impacts on a global scale."*

*For these reasons and more, and on behalf of the entire Canadian new music community, we the composers fully support CMC's decision to award Walt and Irene DeBoni the **Violet Archer Award for Extraordinary Contribution to Canadian Music.**"*

Walt and Irene were presented with this award by members of Violet Archer's family at ArcherFest 2025.

**Congratulations, Walter and Irene!**

# Prairie Resonance Awards

## Ensembles, Organizations, and Collectives



### ENSEMBLES



#### UltraViolet

Edmonton, Alberta

Awarded for their dedication to Canadian contemporary music and education, dedication to gender parity and cross-cultural commissions.



#### New Music Edmonton

Edmonton, Alberta

In recognition of 40 years of contribution to an accessible, healthy, and vibrant artist ecosystem through support, presentation, and programming of local and Canadian artists.

### HONOURABLE MENTION

**the daniel pelton  
collective**

The Daniel Pelton Collective

Calgary, Alberta

For blending musical genres and creating community through music.

# Prairie Resonance Award Individual Artists / Composers



## INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS



**Mark Turner**  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

CEO of the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra, Mark has played a vital role in advancing Canadian music by championing Canadian composers and artists while strengthening the orchestral music scene in Saskatchewan.



**Virginia Jessica Sparvier-Wells**  
Cochrane, Alberta

Recognized for her work as a flutist, composer, and multi-faceted artist advancing Indigenous presence and decolonizing perspectives and repertoire within the Canadian contemporary music scene.



**Allison Balcetis**

Edmonton, Alberta

For her leadership in performing and promoting new Canadian works through interdisciplinary, inclusionary, and innovative collaboration.



**Rune Bergmann**

Calgary, Alberta

Conductor Emeritus of the Calgary Philharmonic, Rune is recognized for championing, commissioning, and performing new works by Canadian composers during his tenure.

# Prairie Resonance: Future Sounds



## Music Educators and Rising Stars



### D. Geoffrey Bell

Diamond Valley, Alberta

For his dedication to creating engaging educational and concert works for school programs, choirs, and concert stages.

## COMPOSERS TO WATCH



### James Watson

Calgary, Alberta

Part of a new generation of Canadian composers actively shaping local new-music scenes—collaborating closely with performers, writing for musical communities, and contributing work that feels both current and durable.



### Daniel Pelton

Calgary, Alberta

Daniel's music combines bold imagination with cultural and community impact, bringing a fresh perspective on contemporary Canadian composition.

# NEW PRAIRIE ASSOCIATE COMPOSER



## Liam Elliot

**Liam Elliot** is a Canadian composer, improvisor, instrument maker, and sound artist from Calgary, Canada. His work creates a sense of place and reflects a fascination with the sounds and processes of the natural world. He is drawn to simple forms with complex, emergent detail and to continuous unfolding processes. He creates acoustic and electroacoustic pieces for concert performance, performs improvised electroacoustic music, and build sound installations and instruments that transform natural processes into musical sound.

**Liam** completed his PhD in music composition at Princeton University, where his research examined music, sound art, and instruments that emphasize the creation of place rather than narrative. He holds an MPhil in Music Studies from the University of Cambridge and a BMus from Acadia University. He has designed and taught courses in topics including handmade sound practices, interdisciplinary arts, electronic music, and composition at Princeton University and the University of Calgary. His work has been performed and exhibited across Canada, the USA, and several European countries by performers and ensembles including JACK Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, Latitude 49, Alkali Collective, Bergamot Quartet, and Sō Percussion.

# NEW PRAIRIE ASSOCIATE COMPOSER



photo: Mike Tan

## **Yun (Ester) Shyuan Ling**

**Yun Shyuan Ling**, who writes under her artist name, **Esther Ling**, is a Malaysian-Chinese Canadian pianist, singer-songwriter, recording artist and soulful composer, most recognized for her poignant songwriting. Marked by her raw honesty and musical vulnerability, Esther empathetically weaves stories of true people in her lyric writing; the beauty of our shared life experiences, crafting wholesome, warm and tender music.

Stories fascinate her. Through her music, she explores healing, belonging, and the quiet strength found in our shared human stories. Having lived the life of an immigrant, writing music has allowed her to express deep wounds, paving the path for her own healing. As an artist, her passion is to share that same journey and connection with others.

Her debut single, "Pink Walls", brought a profound message on domestic violence; it was featured on CBC Radio, CKUA Radio, 20 independent radio stations worldwide, and used by women shelter organizations in domestic violence campaigns across USA and Canada. Since then she has independently released two singles, a solo piano composition, and continues to work towards her first EP.

Her debut children's song, "Cheeky Wind" is the winning song of the 2025 Grande Prairie Boys Choir Songwriting Competition and her first dive into choral composition, of which was premiered by the Grande Prairie Boys Choir, receiving local acclaim for its charm and creativity. Esther continues to write fun, modern choral songs for children to sing, and is actively working on commissioned pieces for children's choirs in Alberta.

Esther currently lives in Calgary, Alberta with her husband and two children. She continues to support the local music community as an accompanist, build her wedding live music business, and develop her artistry in songwriting -- hoping that her listeners can find a vestige of the healing and connection that music is for her.

# NEW PRAIRIE ASSOCIATE COMPOSER

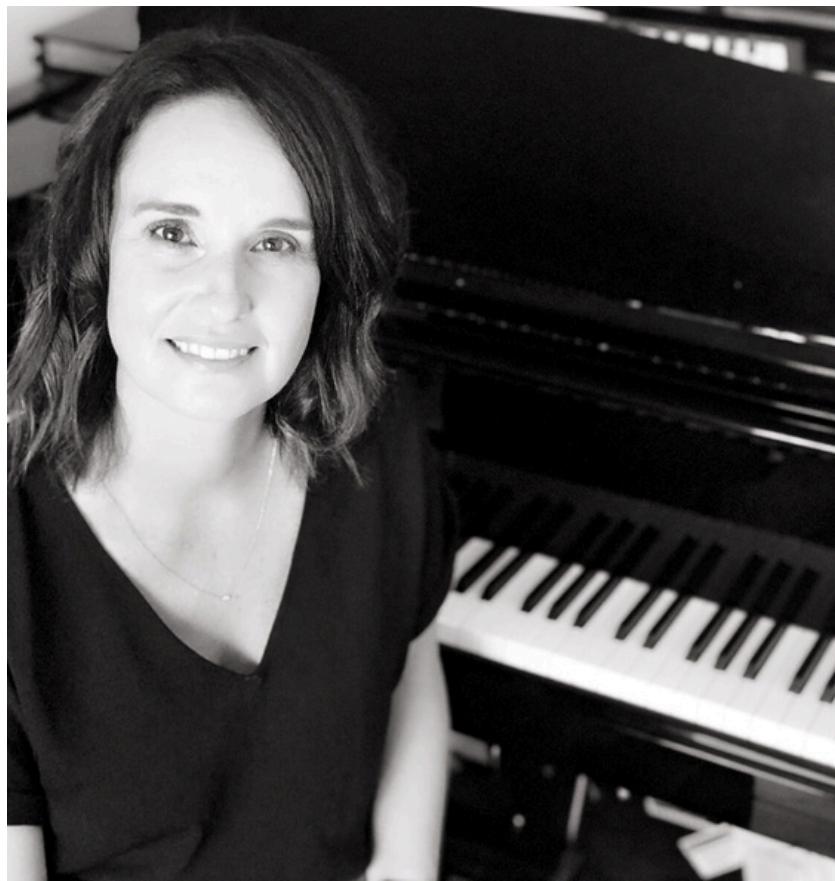


## Nick MacMahon

**Nick MacMahon** is an active composer based in Winnipeg. Like most composers, his journey began with classical piano, but a world opened up when he discovered classical guitar & soon after electric guitar. He was relentlessly committed to virtuosic lead guitar, eventually joining a rock group where he contributed catchy electric guitar riffs & self-indulgent solos. Outside of his group, he composed experimental pieces for classical guitar & piano. His compositions were initially grounded in classical & progressive metal, until he began to formally study jazz harmony. Then his focus shifted to jazz guitar, & eventually he was accepted to Grant MacEwan University's jazz performance program. He decided to decline the offer & continued his music studies privately.

He eventually completed a Bachelor of Arts in English, which led to a career teaching English as a second language. While teaching in France, he was exposed to contemporary French classical music, which led to explorations into electroacoustic music. Like his discovery of jazz, this further expanded his musical palette. Composition took a back seat while he focussed on his career as an English instructor, but he found his way back when he met a Game Development instructor at RRC Polytech who invited him to compose video game scores for his students. In preparation for the endeavour, he began intensive study of audio engineering at Precursor Productions. This experience & training gave him the confidence to pursue his real passion: film scoring. He recently scored his first short and feature films. Film scoring remains his primary focus.

# NEW PRAIRIE ASSOCIATE COMPOSER



## Dianna Neufeld

In her roles as pianist, composer, collaborator, educator, and administrator, **Dianna** cultivates a community-centered creative practice that is inviting, inventive, and ever evolving.

Highlight recent musical endeavors include studying and performing as a collaborative pianist at Musiktag am Rhein Festival in Neuwied - Engers, Germany (2022), Brandon Chamber Players' 2023: a presentation of contemporary 4-piano works which featured **Dianna** both as a pianist and composer, the Brandon Pro Series (2024) featuring the unveiling of the Steinway at Brandon University, and collaborative pianist at the Casalmaggiore Music Festival in Italy(2024/25). Well-known for the vivid imagery which often inspires her piano and chamber works, **Dianna's** catalog includes appealing compositions for all levels of learners, from pre-reading to early professional. Most recently, her solo piano composition Nocturne "For A Winter's Night" was featured by Moving Classics TV and selected to be published by EVC Music/UK - Hal Leonard Europe.

**Dianna** serves as a sessional instructor at Brandon University and continues to delight in her thriving private studios in Boissevain and Brandon, Manitoba. As the President of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers Association of the Brandon and Westman Branch, **Dianna** works together with local private teachers to encourage and support the future of the musical community, supporting events which feature Canadian music and musicians. Her work has also extended across Canada as the administrator for The Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition, which promotes contemporary classical music and honours the musical work of S.C. (Sophie) Eckhardt-Gramatté. **Dianna's** current role as Director of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music at Brandon University allows her to continue this community building work on a deep level, bringing teachers and students from the southwest corner of Manitoba together through satellite programs and creating accessible music learning spaces for all abilities and cultures.

# NEW PRAIRIE ASSOCIATE COMPOSER



## James Watson

**James Watson** is a collaborative performing, recording, touring, and sessional artist armed with his violin, a bachelors of music (minor in linguistics) from the University of Calgary, and a ceaseless drive for music-making.

**James** is a founding member (and composer/arranger) of Music As Puppetry, Electronic Symphonia, and the Sunnyside Quartet/jazz combo. He is a full time member of internationally touring bands Cabrakaän and Deathlettuce. Festival performance highlights include appearances at the Calgary Folk Music Festival, Sled Island, and 70,000 Tons Of Metal in the Caribbean.

As a sessional musician **James** has performed with international musicians, collaborated with Calgary and Edmonton's poet laureates (Tiotlope Sonuga, Wakefield Brewster, Shone Thistle), and regularly performs and records sessionally for numerous artists. Including: Celogen, Deathlettuce, Weather Without, The Daniel Pelton Collective, Long Time No Time, and the Calgary Opera's Opera 212 program. Additional freelance collaborations include contemporary classical, jazz, rap, EDM, pop, metal, bollywood, dance, and film music.

**James** is a seasoned orchestral and chamber player through his work as principal second violinist of the Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra, Electronic Symphonia, and the Key 30 Orchestra, in addition to his work with Orchestre de la Francophonie, Symphony of the Kootenays, Kamloops Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Korean Orchestra, St. Giles Orchestra, University of Calgary Orchestra, and sessional event orchestras.

**James** is a two time 2024 YYC Music award recipient for Metal Recording of the Year with Cabrakaän and Ensemble Of The Year with Rocky Mountain Symphony Orchestra. Additionally he has earned the RMD Enterprise's Musician of the Year Award 2023, and Top Music School with Leroux Music Studios 3 years running. He has presented his academic work at the University of Calgary Graduate Music Conference and the Rhythm Changes Jazz Conference in Amsterdam.

# PRINTING AND BINDING SERVICES

Did you know that CMC Prairie offers printing and binding services? We offer multiple binding and paper options at very competitive prices!. Contact us at [prairie@cmccanada.org](mailto:prairie@cmccanada.org) for more information!

## PAPER STOCK

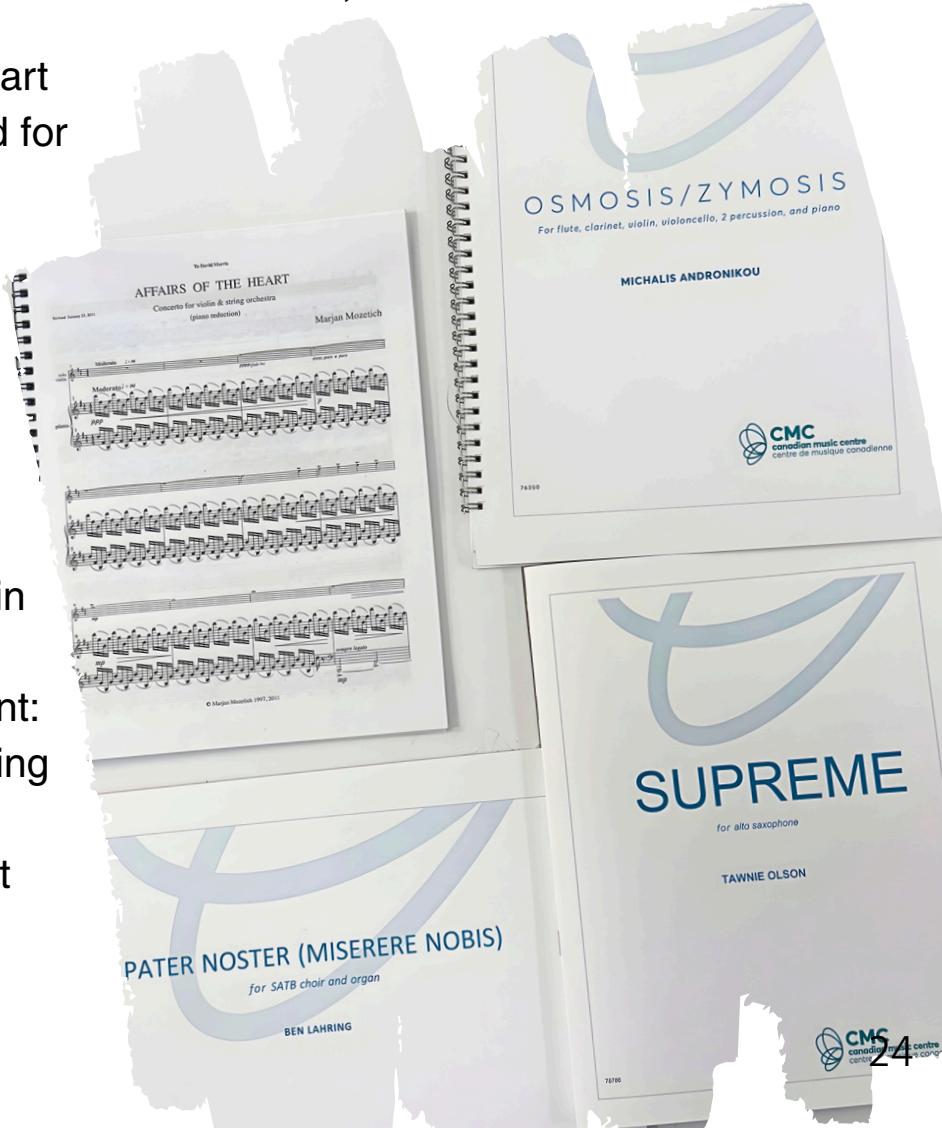
- 8.5"x11" (Letter): #20 white or #70 cream paper.  
Recommended for parts or small scores.
- 9"x12": 70# off-white part size paper. Recommended for parts or small scores
- 9.5"x12.5": 70# off-white part size paper. Recommended for parts or small scores
- 11"x15": 70# cream score paper.
- 11"x17": 70# cream score paper or 20# white paper.

## SCORE COVERS

- 8.5"x11" (Letter): available in 24pt.
- 8.5"x11" (Letter) Transparent: recommended for showcasing cover art or score details.
- 9.5"x12.5": Available in 15pt
- 11"x15": Available in 15 pt.
- 11"x17": Available in 15 pt.

## BINDING

- Coil: We offer metal coil binding that can accommodate up to about 80 sheets.
- Staple (saddle stitch): Staple binding is available up to about 60 sheets, on folded 11x17 sheets.



# FIND YOUR COMPOSER

*CMC Prairie is proud represent over 100 working-composers across Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Northwest Territories. The following list is organized by area to help you connect with a composer near you!*

## Alberta

### Calgary and Surrounding Area

[John Abram](#)

[Michalis Andronikou](#)

[Colleen Athparia](#)

[Arthur Bachmann](#)

[Allan Gordon Bell](#)

[D. Geoffrey Bell](#)

[Rebecca Bruton](#)

[Liam Elliot](#)

[Kristin Flores](#)

[Sonya Guha-Thakurta](#)

[Lesley Hinger](#)

[Vincent Ho](#)

[Peter Jancewicz](#)

[Irene Johansen](#)

[William Jordan](#)

[Benjamin Lahring](#)

[Greg Levin](#)

[Yun \(Ester\) Ling](#)

[Jessica McMann](#)

[Daniel Pelton](#)

[Laurie Radford](#)

[Allan Rae](#)

[Helve Sastok](#)

[Donovan Siedle](#)

[Michael van der Sloot](#)

[Babur Tongur](#)

[Ilkim Tongur](#)

[James Watson](#)

### Lethbridge and Surrounding

#### Area

[Rolf Boon](#)

[Scott Godin](#)

[Mark Mitchell](#)

[Lavinia Kell Parker](#)

[Arlan Shultz](#)

[D. Andrew Stewart](#)

### Red Deer and Surrounding

#### Area

[Denis Nassar Baptista](#)

[James Bicigo](#)

[Cheryl L. Cooney](#)

[Vernon Murgatroyd](#)

### Edmonton and Surrounding

#### Area

[George Andrix](#)

[Stuart Beatch](#)

[Allan Bevan](#)

[Mari Alice Conrad](#)

[Andrew Creaghan](#)

[Ian Crutchley](#)

[Emilio De Mercato](#)

[David Dykstra](#)

[John Estacio](#)

[Allan Gilliland](#)

[Thom Golub](#)

[Piotr Grella-Możejko](#)

[Heather Hindman](#)

[Mark Hannesson](#)

[Laura Hawley](#)

[Jacobus Kloppers](#)

[Emilie LeBel](#)

[Michael Massey](#)

[Jeffrey McCune](#)

[John McPherson](#)

[Don Ross](#)

[Scott Smallwood](#)

[Jacek Sobieraj](#)

[Charles Stolte](#)

[Reinhard von Berg](#)

[Scott Whetham](#)

## Saskatchewan

### Saskatoon

[Neil Currie](#)

[Darren Miller](#)

[Monte Keen Pishny-Floyd](#)

# FIND YOUR COMPOSER

## Regina and Surrounding Area

[Richard O. Burdick](#)

[Ilies Constantinescu](#)

[David Dahlgren](#)

[David L. McIntyre](#)

[Laura Pettigrew](#)

Robert Ursan

[Jonathan Ward](#)

## Manitoba

## Winnipeg and Surrounding

### Area

[Andrew Balfour](#)

[Glenn Buhr](#)

[Bruce Carlson](#)

[Gordon Fitzell](#)

[Richard Gillis](#)

[Laura Gow](#)

[James Hiscott](#)

[Naina Jinga](#)

[David Litke](#)

[Peter Meechan](#)

[Lubomyr Melynk](#)

[Dianna Neufeld](#)

[Ron Paley](#)

[Alain Perron](#)

[Sid Robinovitch](#)

[David R. Scott](#)

[Örjan Sandred](#)

[Larry Strathan](#)

[Neil Weisensel](#)

[Willyn Whiting](#)

Zane Zalis

## Northwest Territories

### Yellowknife

[Carmen Braden](#)

### Quebec

#### Montreal

[Jeff Presslaff](#)

#### Gatineau

[Duane Hendricks](#)

### Ontario

#### Toronto and Surrounding Area

[Jason Cullimore](#)

[Henry From](#)

#### Waterloo

[Karen Sunabacka](#)

### International

[Gyula Csapó](#)

[Carl Defler](#)

[Brent Dutton](#)

[Vivian Fung](#)

[Aaron Gervais](#)

[Michael Horwood](#)

[Veronika Krausas](#)

[Tawnie Olson](#)

[William Pura](#)

[Erin Rogers](#)

Heather Schmidt

[Miroslav Spasov](#)

[Zachary Wadsworth](#)

## Deceased Prairie

### Composers

[Violet Archer](#)

Hugh Bancroft

[Tommy Banks](#)

[Herbert Belyea](#)

[Rémi Bouchard](#)

[Roger Deegan](#)

[Querten Doolittle](#)

[Chester Duncan](#)

[S.C. Eckhardt-Gramatté](#)

[Bob Erlendson](#)

[George Fenwick](#)

[Paul Fu](#)

[Richard Jonhston](#)

[Leslie Mann](#)

[Diana McIntosh](#)

[Kenneth Nichols](#)

[Arthur Polson](#)

[Manus Sasonkin](#)

[Roberta Stephen](#)

[Robert Turner](#)

[Sara Turner](#)

[Arthur Ward](#)

# MUSING

MUSIC  
CONVERSATION  
INSPIRATION

*Hosted by*  
Janna Sailor



SCAN  
ME!



A WEEKLY PODCAST FOR THE ADVENTUROUS LISTENER

COMPOSERS, ARTISTS, AND CREATIVES IN CONVERSATION

Heard every Monday on CJSW 90.9FM in Calgary  
and on all your favourite podcast platforms!

## NOVEMBER FEATURES

Violet Archer: Two Part Special  
Centrediscs Playlist of the  
Month

## DECEMBER FEATURES

Erin James  
Frank Horvat  
Winter Wonderland  
Best of Centrediscs 2025

## JANUARY FEATURES

Cris Derksen  
Allan Gordon Bell  
WNMF Preview  
One Year of Musing

# MUSE

MUSE is a publication of the Canadian Music Centre: Prairie Region.

The CMC is Canada's largest community of professional composers, promoting, publishing, and distributing the music of Canada's contemporary music composers across the country and around the world. With over 800 established Associate Composers to date, the CMC is Canada's primary resource for scores, parts, recordings and information about Canadian composition. It plays an essential role in documenting, preserving and facilitating the growth of Canadian musical culture through its Centrediscs recording label, libraries, events and online social network.

Contact us!

2500 UNIVERSITY DR NW  
CALGARY AB T2N 1N4

[pr.cmccanada.org](http://pr.cmccanada.org)

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts  
du Canada



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY



Alberta  
Foundation  
for the Arts



calgaryarts  
development



CALGARY  
FOUNDATION  
FOR COMMUNITY, FOREVER



90.9FM  
Long & McQuade  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS