

Calgary Pro Musica

Dick Matthews Young Artist Development Program

Official Rules and Application

Deadline - May 18, 2026

About Calgary Pro Musica and the Dick Matthews Young Artist Development Program

The Calgary Pro Musica Society Young Artist Development Program is intended **to discover, nurture and promote young Calgary musicians**. The resources of CPM allow us to offer unique opportunities in individual instruction, performance and career development for emerging musicians in Calgary. We are looking for players with outstanding talent and a serious commitment to developing themselves as well-rounded musicians. Participants in the Program will receive exclusive instruction from the CPM visiting artists, be presented in a fully sponsored and publicized CPM concert and prepare and perform a series of school concerts with CPM Education Director. We will also provide scholarship support to the winning individuals or pre-formed ensemble. Scholarships will be used to fund the student's regular individual instruction. Depending upon the audition results, there will be 2 to 5 students in the program per season.

The Calgary Pro Musica Society is a registered non-profit chamber music presenter with the mandate **to promote chamber music in the city of Calgary and region**. We believe chamber music can enrich the lives of Calgarians and help develop talent in our youth. CPMS presents two Subscription Series of the finest chamber ensembles in the world. Recent performers include the Pacifica Quartet, Tafelmusik, Busch Trio, Mandelring Quartet, Manhattan Chamber Players, Formosa Quartet and Young Concert Artists. CPMS also presents performance classes, lectures, family concerts and other educational events through its Talmon Hertz Legacy Series.

Calgary Pro Musica Society
Dean O'Brien, Artistic Director
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Brentwood PO
Calgary, AB T2L 1Y4
T. (403) 244-8277
E. Info@calgarypromusica.ca

Official Rules

Eligibility

- Students living and studying full time in Calgary age 16 to 26 (as of September 1, 2026) during the 2026 - 2027 academic year.
- Open to individual String, Piano, Woodwind, Brass and percussion instrumentalists or to pre-formed traditional chamber ensembles (String Quartet, String Trio, Piano Trio, Piano Quartet, Piano Quintet, Woodwind Quintet, Brass Quintet and other ensembles considered on a case by case basis*).
- Participants may be asked to provide proof of eligibility.
- Participants who have participated in the YADP in past season will be considered but not given preference. Previous participants' success in the YADP will be considered when evaluating.
- Applications must be received by May 18, 2026.

*Instrumentation of applicants may be taken into consideration. Preference may have to be given to applicants that play instruments equivalent to CPM visiting artists for the given season. This is to allow for reasonable instructional opportunities with visiting artists.

Application Process

- Complete applications (see checklist below) must be received by May 18, 2026. Mail complete applications to: Calgary Pro Musica, PO Box 45059, Brentwood PO, Calgary, AB T2L 1Y4. Please do not bind, staple, clip or put application in a folder. Application packages cannot be returned. Alternately, applications may be electronically submitted to "info@calgarypromusica.ca." Submit text documents in PDF, Apple Pages or Word format, audio samples in MP3 or ACC format and/or video clips in MPEG4 or QuickTime or uploaded to YouTube. Please try to limit file size if emailing your application.
- Finalists will audition and interview live in May or June 2026.
- Winners will be notified in June/July 2026.
- Selection to the YADP is the sole responsibility of Calgary Pro Musica. Decisions are final and may not be appealed.

Award

- Up to three (3) \$2,500 scholarships for individuals or \$7,500 in scholarships for a pre-formed ensemble with multiple players.
- Coachings and exclusive instruction with Calgary Pro Musica visiting artists.*
- Performance opportunity in a CPM sponsored public concert on Monday, May 3, 2027 in the Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall at the University of Calgary's Rozsa Centre. If you are unable to commit to this performance date, please do not apply.
- Scholarship payments will be made in two installments - September 15, 2026 and May 3, 2027 following YADP debut concert. Participants must have successfully fulfilled all responsibilities of the YADP and may be asked to submit a letter from your major teacher to verify adequate progress in lessons to receive second scholarship payment. The determination of a participant's fulfillment of YADP responsibilities is the sole judgement of the CPM and may not be appealed.

*Exact opportunities to work with CPM visiting artists is TBD and cannot be guaranteed. Equal time with visiting artists cannot be guaranteed to all YADP participants due to instrumentation limitations and visiting artists' schedules.

Responsibilities

- Attend all Calgary Pro Musica "Masters" and "Horizons" Series concerts. Participants will also be expected to provide concert support (meet subscribers, help Administrator at CPM table in the lobby, announcements, page turn etc) as required.
- Perform in a CPM sponsored public concert on May 3, 2027 in the Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall at the University of Calgary's Rozsa Centre.
- Attend and perform at CPM annual sponsorship event.
- Perform up to five school concerts under the direction of CPM Artistic Director and/or CPM Educational Advisor, Samantha Whelan Kotkas.
- Represent the CPM in the community in a positive manner and help in the promotion of the YADP concert.
- Be punctual, professional and appropriately dressed for all CPM events.
- Participate in a constructive evaluation of the YADP following the completion of the program.

Application Checklist

Prior to submitting your application, please complete the following checklist and include it in your application. If applicant is a pre-formed ensemble, each individual member must submit items 1 - 3. Your application must include:

- Personal Information and Current Resume* (2 copies if mailed) - include your **full name, address, date of birth, phone numbers, email address** and a history of your study on your instrument and ensemble history if applicable.

- Application Questions* (2 copies if mailed) - Limit your responses to a total of 2-3 pages and include the questions in your text. Your responses will be assessed on the criteria of originality, clarity and understanding of the objectives of the Young Artist Development Programme.

- Letters of Recommendation* (2 copies if mailed) - include a letter of recommendation from your current teacher addressing specifically the applicants compatibility with the YADP. Up to two additional letters may also be submitted in support of the application.

- Recordings* (2 copies if mailed) - Include a 10-12 minute recording of a current performance of the applicant or ensemble. Recording should include two or three selections of varied styles of applicant's choice.

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Application Question

Please submit your responses to the following questions. Limit your responses to a total of two to three pages and include the question in your text. Your responses will be assessed on the criteria of originality, clarity and understanding of the objectives of the Young Artist Development Programme.

1. How has your musical training shaped your personal growth? What strengths can you bring to the YADP program?
2. What responsibility do musicians have in preserving musical traditions of the past while also encouraging innovation for the future?
3. How do you define "Classical" music and are you optimistic about the future of "Classical" music?
4. Please describe a moment in your musical background (performance, obstacle, training, etc.) that inspired or influenced your decision to pursue music.
5. With the YADP school concerts in mind, please give us some examples of ideas or concepts you could demonstrate as a musician on your instrument.