



The Royal Occasion

APRIL 24, 2025

A Message

FROM ALEXANDER BROSE

On behalf of The Royal Conservatory, I extend my sincerest thanks for joining us for The Royal Occasion, our marquee annual fundraising event. Your presence and support are invaluable as we come together to celebrate the transformative power of music and the arts.

Over the years, The Royal Conservatory has grown into Canada's largest music education institution and an internationally respected leader in the arts community. This remarkable evolution has been made possible through the dedication of our patrons, donors, and sponsors, whose generosity fuels the development of our talented students and the continuation of our core programs.

Tonight, through an array of performances, we celebrate the extraordinary legacy of our country's most beloved musicians and the amazing future we have on the horizon. We will recognize the inimitable Rufus Wainwright for his astonishing career and impact on the Canadian music landscape, and longtime Royal Conservatory supporters and advocates for music and the arts, Rayla and George Myhal. It is through our shared love of music—and deep appreciation for the role RCM plays in Canadian society—that we continue to be able to enrich lives.

Thank you being a part of the festivities! Your presence here this evening ensures that we can continue to inspire creativity and bring the power of music to communities far and wide.



Alexander Brose

Michael and Sonja Koerner President & CEO



Schedule

PRESIDENT'S EXPERIENCE

6:00 p.m.

Cocktail Reception
Ihnatowycz Hall, 2nd Floor

7:00 p.m.

President's Dinner
Temerty Theatre

9:00 p.m.

CONCERT

Featuring Paul Shaffer & Friends, Rufus Wainwright,
Amanda Marshall, Jens Lindemann and Dragonette
Koerner Hall

10:30 p.m.

After Party: DJ MelBoogie
Orchestra Level, Leslie & Anna Dan Galleria

Menu

AMUSE-BOUCHE

Fig Cracker

Eggplant Relish, Pomegranate Seeds (*Gluten-free, nut-free, vegan*)

APPETIZERS

White & Green Asparagus

Grissini, Basil Aioli, Herb Salad, Egg Yolk Emulsion

(*Gluten-free, nut-free, vegetarian*)

Fresh Breads with Butter

Creamery Butter, Himalayan Pink Sea Salt, Micro Greens

(*Nut-free, vegetarian*)

MAIN COURSE

Grilled Flank Steak

Bloody Mary Salsa (*Gluten-free, dairy-free, nut-free*)

Haricot Vert Bundle (*Gluten-free, nut-free, vegan*)

Pommes Parisiennes (*Gluten-free, nut-free, vegan*)

PESCATARIAN ALTERNATIVE

Tamarind Twist Cod

Spice-Crusted Black Cod Braised in a Smoked Tomato Olive Oil

Arugula Sprouts (*Gluten-free, dairy-free, nut-free*)

Forbidden Black Rice (*Gluten-free, nut-free, vegan*)

Haricot Vert Bundle (*Gluten-free, nut-free, vegan*)

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN ALTERNATIVE

Ratatouille Tian

Basil Oil, Sliced Tofu, Tofu Tomato Cream Sauce

(*Gluten-free, nut-free, vegan*)

Tonight's dinner has been generously sponsored by:





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For more than 20 years, TELUS and The Royal Conservatory of Music have shared a vision of enriching young lives through music at the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning. Together, we continue to create transformative musical experiences that inspire the next generation of artists.

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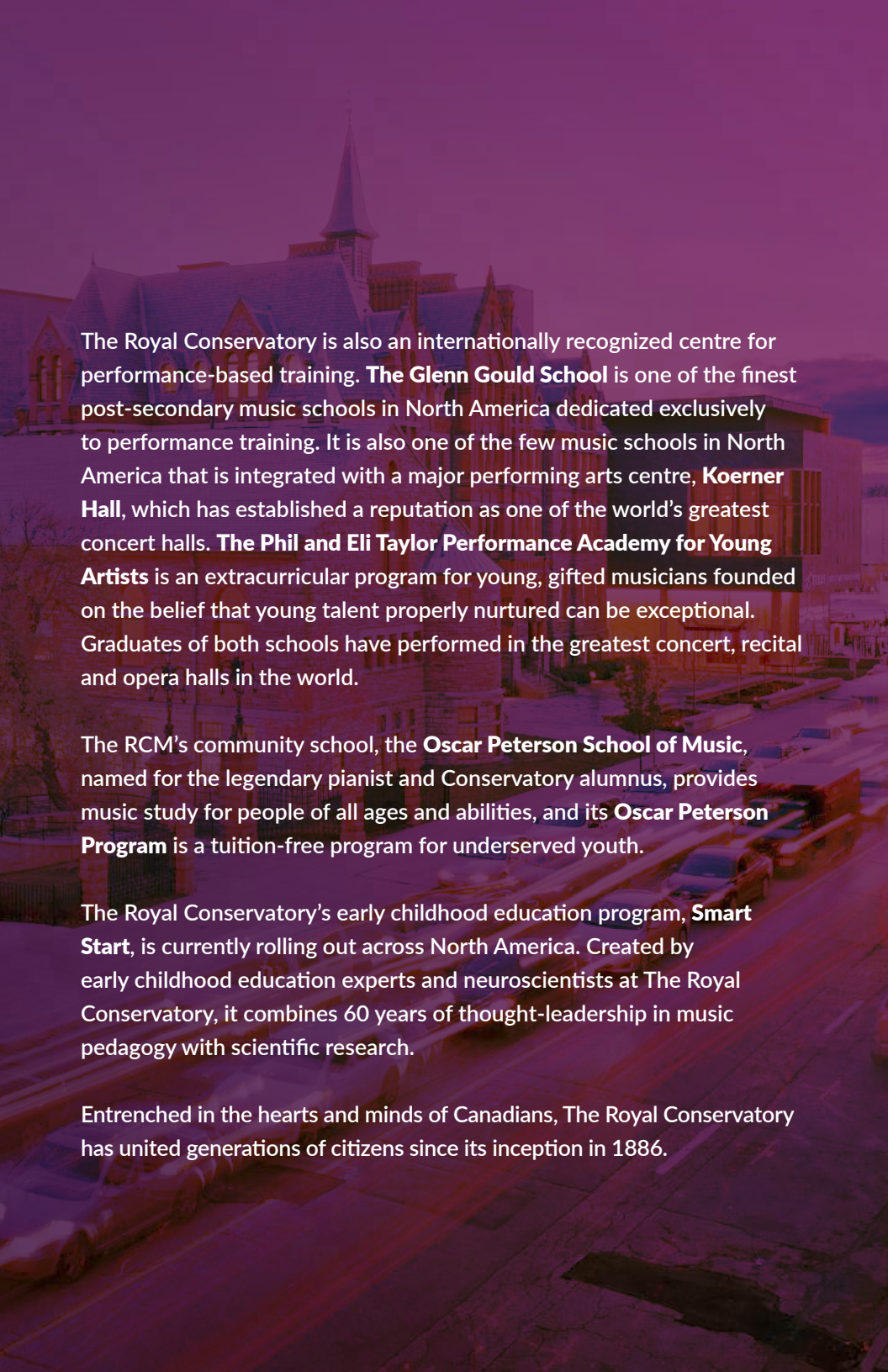
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ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC: WHO WE ARE

The Royal Conservatory is one of the largest and most respected music education institutions in the world, setting the definitive standard of excellence in curriculum design, assessment, performance training, and teacher certification. It is also home to one of North America's most diverse concert seasons and the acclaimed Koerner Hall. Our mission—to develop human potential through leadership in music and the arts—is based on the conviction that the arts are humanity's greatest means to achieve personal growth and social cohesion. Advancing the transformative effect that music and the arts have on society lies at the heart of everything The Royal Conservatory does.

The RCM Certificate Program is the foundation of our educational mission; it provides students with a guided path for music study and achievement. More than 400,000 students and 20,000 teachers across North America use the Certificate Program annually and more than five million RCM alumni have benefitted from the creative riches of music study, helping them to excel in a wide range of careers, including medicine, education, science, and professional sports.





The Royal Conservatory is also an internationally recognized centre for performance-based training. **The Glenn Gould School** is one of the finest post-secondary music schools in North America dedicated exclusively to performance training. It is also one of the few music schools in North America that is integrated with a major performing arts centre, **Koerner Hall**, which has established a reputation as one of the world's greatest concert halls. **The Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists** is an extracurricular program for young, gifted musicians founded on the belief that young talent properly nurtured can be exceptional. Graduates of both schools have performed in the greatest concert, recital and opera halls in the world.

The RCM's community school, the **Oscar Peterson School of Music**, named for the legendary pianist and Conservatory alumnus, provides music study for people of all ages and abilities, and its **Oscar Peterson Program** is a tuition-free program for underserved youth.

The Royal Conservatory's early childhood education program, **Smart Start**, is currently rolling out across North America. Created by early childhood education experts and neuroscientists at The Royal Conservatory, it combines 60 years of thought-leadership in music pedagogy with scientific research.

Entrenched in the hearts and minds of Canadians, The Royal Conservatory has united generations of citizens since its inception in 1886.



HONOREES

RAYLA & GEORGE MYHAL – HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

Tonight, for their exceptional philanthropy and contribution to creating opportunities, we are proud to recognize Rayla and George Myhal with Honorary Fellowships – The Royal Conservatory's highest designation.

The impact of Rayla and George Myhal's philanthropy and leadership has been extraordinary. As Vice Chair of our Board of Directors and Co-Chair of tonight's Royal Occasion, Rayla has championed the Conservatory's mission to make the arts accessible to all. Together, the Myhals have helped nurture the next generation of artists by supporting scholarships, educational programs, and performance opportunities.

Beyond the arts, their philanthropic reach spans education, healthcare, and humanitarian aid—always with a focus on creating lasting, positive change. From supporting Indigenous nursing students and funding leading-edge healthcare facilities, to rebuilding schools in conflict zones, their giving reflects a deep and abiding commitment to human dignity and social progress. Their generosity strengthens not only the cultural fabric of Canada, but the very foundation of a more compassionate and creative society.

Thank you, and congratulations, Rayla and George Myhal.

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

Few artists have reshaped the cultural landscape with the fearlessness, originality, and talent of Rufus Wainwright. With a voice that stirs the soul and a creative spirit that knows no boundaries, Wainwright has captivated audiences across genres and generations. Whether creating a Requiem, composing operas, reimagining pop standards, or performing with iconic orchestras and beloved family members, he brings a singular brilliance to everything he touches.

Rufus Wainwright embodies the values of artistic integrity, innovation, and cultural leadership that we at The Royal Conservatory celebrate. Tonight, in recognition of his profound impact on music, performance, and cultural life—both in Canada and around the world—The Royal Conservatory is proud to award Rufus Wainwright an Honorary Fellowship. This distinction is reserved for individuals whose contributions to the arts embody excellence, innovation, and lasting influence. Rufus Wainwright is all of these—and so much more—making him a truly deserving recipient of this prestigious honour.

Tonight's

SPECIAL GUESTS



PAUL SHAFFER & FRIENDS

For 33 years Paul Shaffer served as David Letterman's musical director and sidekick. He began his career in 1972 as musical director of the Toronto production of *Godspell* and has proceeded to conquer the world of music in writing, performing, composing, acting and creating with some of modern music's most celebrated acts. Mr. Shaffer is truly one of the most unique and accomplished artists the RCM has been able to call an alumnus.

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

Praised by The New York Times for his "genuine originality", Rufus Wainwright has established himself as one of the great male vocalists, songwriters, and composers of his generation. The New York-born, Montreal-raised singer-songwriter has released 10 studio albums to date, three DVDs, three live albums, completed a Requiem in 2024, and has been nominated for a Grammy three times.



AMANDA MARSHALL

As a singer, Amanda Marshall followed the typical cliché. She sang before she could walk – and never wanted to do anything else. Her self-titled debut album is one of only 18 albums in Canadian history to achieve Diamond status and has achieved Gold or Platinum status in 18 countries! Subsequent albums have also achieved multi-platinum status, making the "proud member of the Conservatory alumni" one of Canada's truly iconic artists.



JENS LINDEMANN

As the first classical brass soloist to ever receive the Order of Canada, Jens Lindemann is hailed as one of the most celebrated artists in his instrument's history. Mr. Lindemann has played both jazz and classical in every major concert venue in the world: from the Philharmonics of New York, Los Angeles, London, Berlin, Moscow and Tokyo to Carnegie Hall and even the Great Wall of China. Jens was named an Honorary Fellow of The Royal Conservatory in 2012.

DRAGONETTE

Martina Sorbara, better known as the electro-pop outfit Dragonette, has lived multiple musical lifetimes over the past 15 years. A Juno-winning artist and sought-after songwriter, Sorbara has scored numerous global hits, including "Pick Up the Phone," "Let it Go," and the chart-topping "Hello" with Martin Solveig. She's collaborated with the world's biggest DJs, and released four acclaimed albums including the Juno-nominated *Fixin to Thrill* (2009) and *Bodyparts* (2012).



DJ MELBOOGIE

For over 30 years DJ MelBoogie has been one of the country's best-known female DJs. With roots deeply embedded in radio, she's currently an on-air host on Toronto's VIBE105FM. As the DJ on the JUNO Awards Tribute to 50 Years of Hip Hop, she shared the stage with some of Canada's greatest icons of Black music, including Kardinal Offishall, the Dream Warriors, Choclair and more. She has also opened for some of the most respected names in entertainment, including Kevin Hart, Lauryn Hill and Snoop Dogg.



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AN INTIMATE EVENING
WITH

Renée
Fleming

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025
7:30 PM | KOERNER HALL

Step into a world of elegance, artistry, and pure musical magic as **the legendary Renée Fleming** makes her **Koerner Hall debut** in a spectacular gala event - **the most anticipated cultural evening of the season!**

For those who seek **the ultimate gala experience**, an **exclusive pre-concert cocktail reception and exquisite dinner** set the stage for an unforgettable evening. This is **the only way to secure the finest seats in Koerner Hall**, offering unparalleled views and an opportunity to celebrate in the company of fellow arts patrons - all in support of **The Royal Conservatory's mission to develop human potential through leadership in music and the arts.**

Presented In Memory of Gary Miles

Exclusive gala tickets and tables available but limited, please contact berat.barzanjee@rcmusic.ca to reserve yours today!

Gala tickets \$1,500
Gala tables \$15,000



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Right: Volksgarten: © WienTourismus/Christian Stemper

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Scan this QR code or visit app.galabid.com/rc2025 to start bidding today. Good luck!

Note: Online auction closes on Sunday, April 27 at 11:59 PM



Jet-setting the stage

We believe in the magic of music to inspire and bring people together. That's why we're proud to support The Royal Conservatory of Music and their mission to nurture the next generation of artists. Together, we celebrate the harmony of talent, passion and excellence—because just like travel, music has the power to move us all.

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Thank You

The Royal Conservatory would like to thank everyone who supported The Royal Occasion and made this event possible.

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We would like to recognize the incredible efforts of our Co-Chairs — thank you for making this evening a success!

HEATHER BALA EDWARDS
SONDRA LINDROS
RAYLA MYHAL