

**Dr. Suzu Enns
welcomed as
Director of Education
and Community
Engagement**

Suzu joined the staff of the MCO in November 2021, relocating from Montreal where she held administrative positions at McGill's Schulich School of Music and worked with community arts organizations serving youth and seniors.

Suzu has said: "I am originally from Manitoba, and I couldn't be more thrilled and excited to be "coming home!" I grew up just east of Winnipeg, and I am fortunate to have spent my formative years commuting to Winnipeg for lessons, attending concerts and festivals, participating in MBA Honour Bands and the Winnipeg Youth Symphony Orchestra, and so much more! As a lifelong MCO fan, I am delighted at this opportunity to reconnect with the community in this exciting new role and to join an incredible team. I look forward to building on the MCO's impactful and essential work in Education and Outreach, and to developing and strengthening partnerships with communities across the province."

Over the past year, Suzu has worked to build and strengthen ties throughout Manitoba, creating meaningful online and in-person learning opportunities and resources. A proud graduate of Brandon University, University of Ottawa, and McGill University where she completed a Doctor of Music Performance Studies in Clarinet Performance, Suzu is a valued member of the MCO team.



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Manitoba Chamber Orchestra

MCO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / 23 NOVEMBER 2022

MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES 26 YEARS IN THE BLACK



The MCO's Fiddlers on the Loose performing at the Wolseley Farmers Market on September 1st, 2022. It was the first of several wonderful community concerts organized in advance of the MCO's 50th Anniversary season!

THE MANITOBA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

remains deficit-free for the 26th year in a row, despite a planned shortfall on the season.

The 21/22 season was the first since the pandemic that the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO) consistently hosted in-person concerts, coupled with digital concerts for maximal accessibility. Like performing arts groups across Canada, the MCO found audiences were initially cautious about returning to live concerts in full force. Strong and coordinated efforts across MCO departments, as well as artistically excellent and diversely optioned programming, stimulated a steady increase in in-person attendance. Audiences also continued to express enthusiastic support for the MCO through donations, sponsorships, informal and formal feedback, and consistent engagement with our online and outreach presentations.

With more than 40 concert presentations

(online and in-person), the 21/22 season was MCO's most ambitious ever — and one of our most strategic. These diverse offerings accomplished several goals.

They empowered the MCO to return top Canadian music and musicians to local stages, honouring commissions of new works we'd initiated before the pandemic and re-establishing Manitoba as a home and hub for internationally renowned musical talent. The MCO's free online concerts in our Winter Series (featuring artists both familiar and new, established and emerging) promoted vital audience retention as well as outreach with new audiences across the province — lowering the barrier of entry associated with geography, ticket-prices, and health concerns about social gatherings. Our ticketed online concerts accomplished much the same, thanks to significant online ticket discounts. The MCO felt an urgency

about reconnecting with audiences on a more intimate level and reminding them of the magic of live, in-person concerts. By presenting each of our Westminster in-person concerts twice, on back-to-back evenings, we were able to pursue this priority while reducing crowd density and offering patrons more choice of dates.

Education and outreach efforts were also ambitious, including the MCO's first Fiddlers on the Loose tour of Manitoba in three years and the hiring of Dr. Suzu Enns in the newly created position of Director of Education and Community Engagement. Supported by fundraising, these expanded efforts accomplished two broad strategic goals. They successfully responded to our strategic goal of pursuing a strengthened emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. They further allowed MCO to connect with new and fledgling audiences through satellite concerts

and workshops across Winnipeg and throughout the province, supporting the MCO's efforts to rebuild audiences for a post-pandemic world.

February 2022 also saw the MCO's second online Heartstrings Gala. Hosted by MCO Music Director Anne Manson, the gala featured several musical performances and raised vital funds for the MCO. Overall efforts by the development team were strong, raising \$373,751 in the 21/22 season. MCO's Endowment Fund, administered by The Winnipeg Foundation, received more donations from supporters and matching funds from the Foundation and the federal Endowment Incentives Program. On July 31, 2022, holdings were \$2.243 million, plus a \$375,000 life insurance policy. The MCO Board of Directors expressed satisfaction with the year's results and has turned its focus to the promise of the current season.

