

CONCERTS IN CARE ALBERTA

MEDIA KIT



2025

ABOUT US

Concerts in Care Alberta is a registered charity dedicated to enriching the lives of Albertans in care facilities and retirement homes through compelling performances from local professional artists.

We aim to create a world where age and disability are not barriers to accessing the arts.

Concerts in Care Alberta is one of six independent societies across Canada focused on bringing vibrant artistic experiences to seniors. We reach over 10,000 Albertans in care with live concerts annually.

Our roster of over 100 local professional musicians includes musicians from the Calgary Philharmonic (CPO) and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO), as well as jazz, Celtic, world, folk, and blues musicians.



CONCERTS IN CARE ALBERTA

Launched in 2016 as the Health Arts Society of Alberta, Concerts in Care Alberta brings live music to retirement homes, long term care facilities, and psychiatric hospitals and features local artists in a concert setting. For each performance, ensembles play different styles of music, including classical, opera, and jazz.

Concerts in Care Alberta is proud to use local artists from all genres, including musicians from the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. All musicians are full-time professionals. 100% of donations go towards artist fees, and concerts are subsidized to keep costs low for care homes.

Executive Director Meran Currie-Roberts wanted to provide live music to this age group, as age and disability should not be a barrier to accessing the arts. Without Concerts in Care, Albertans in care would have minimal access to professional arts.



OUR TEAM

Meran Currie-Roberts **Executive & Artistic Director**



Originally from Victoria BC, Meran Currie-Roberts has a successful career across Canada as a cellist, fundraiser, arts administrator and teacher. She is currently the Executive Director of Concerts in Care Alberta as well as a cellist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. After graduating with a B.Mus and M.Mus from the University of Toronto, Meran was an active cellist and teacher in the Toronto area.

She frequently appeared with the Kitchener-Waterloo, Thunder Bay, and Windsor Symphonies as well as a five-year stint playing for the Toronto production of The Lion King! Meran moved to Winnipeg with her young family in 2009, quickly establishing herself with an appointment as Dean of the Manitoba Conservatory of Music and Arts.

She was responsible for a music faculty of over forty teachers, as well as programming for locations in Winnipeg and Steinbach, MB. With a subsequent move to Calgary in 2011, Meran was initially responsible for the education and outreach programs at the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. Her fundraising success led to an invitation to move to Alberta Ballet, where she managed corporate and individual giving.

Throughout her years as a full-time administrator, Meran continued to play cello, performing with the Winnipeg Symphony and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestras. With her family's move to Edmonton in 2015, Meran was delighted to join the rich cultural fabric that is our city. In 2016, along with a dedicated board, Meran established Concerts in Care Alberta as an active musical force in Alberta. Concerts in Care Alberta is a registered charity that brings over 400 professional concerts to elders in care annually. With a roster of over 100 of Alberta's finest musicians and more than 100 partner care facilities, the organization subsidizes the cost of professional artists so that marginalized elders have access to the same high-quality music that the general public enjoys.

Meran joined the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra after a successful audition in 2018. She is thrilled to "get back to her roots" as a cellist while continuing to further her administrative career and the mandate of Concerts in Care Alberta. She spends her spare time enjoying her two children, training for marathons, baking bread and visiting her public library branch at least twice a week to support her reading habit.

OUR TEAM

Karen Lynch
Co-President



Karen is a respected community and civic leader, with over 50 years of diverse experience. That's why she has developed a reputation for *making things happen* and *getting things done*.

She put herself through the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts by driving trucks as a Teamster on the Syncrude site in Fort McMurray. After graduating with a degree in Economics, she served as Executive Assistant to the Speaker in the Alberta Legislature. After senior positions in communications at Alberta College and the Workers' Compensation Board, she brought her passion for community volunteerism to Volunteer Alberta. During her eight years as Executive Director, the organization developed into a dynamic and multifaceted resource for engaging Albertans in the non-

profit and voluntary sector.

Karen's forte is creating and nurturing networks of people involved in building community leadership. She has served on the boards of the Edmonton Public Library Board, Volunteer Canada and Alberta Ballet, and as the elected President of the Alberta Library Trustees Association and Canadian Parents for French, and chaired the Greater Edmonton Foundation, Alberta's largest provider of homes for low income seniors. She now co-chairs Concerts in Care (Health Arts Society of Alberta) and Kids Included (formerly GRIT) serving families with children who live with disabilities. Karen received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 for her nonprofit sector leadership. Over 42 years in the political arena, Karen has been involved in over 30 municipal, provincial, federal, leadership and referendum campaigns – with an enviable win/loss record!

In September 2019, Karen retired from her position at ATB Financial where she developed and implemented a successful post-secondary initiative strategy to support student success, recruit the brightest and best, and leverage ATB's presence and investments on Alberta campuses.

Karen is an avid reader, e-bike cyclist and traveler. She is the proud mother of twins – Whitney is an entertainment lawyer at Netflix in London, UK and Rowan is a professor at Stanford and added two adorable grandkids to her life since 2021.

OUR TEAM

Jessica Deckert-Sookram **Co-President**



Jessica Deckert-Sookram is a nurse practitioner, mother of three, amateur pianist and travel enthusiast. She is currently working as the clinical lead for the nurse practitioner group at the University of Alberta Hospital emergency department. She and her husband travel with their children at every possibility and Jessica will be visiting her 70th country this calendar year.

Jessica joined our board after recognizing the valuable work being done to bring high quality music to those living in care, while paying professional musicians a living wage. Growing up in a musical family where celebrations always included an impromptu concert of some sort, she continues to foster that love of music in her own children as they study the violin and cello.

Recognizing the social and mental isolation that can accompany living in care, she hopes to bring more recognition and support to Concerts in Care Alberta by connecting with more of the music-loving healthcare community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When was Concerts in Care Alberta Founded?

Concerts in Care Alberta was created with the support of a decade-old, evidence-based model that works with care homes, musical organizations, and individual musicians to bring professional concerts free of charge to the underserved population of elders in care.

Concerts in Care in British Columbia was incorporated in 2006. The value of the program and its success in BC inspired the staff and board to replicate the model across the country. There are now six independent societies across Canada, including Concerts in Care Alberta.

When did the Concerts in Care program launch?

The Concerts in Care program launched in 2016 and has grown to perform for over 10,000 Albertans in care annually.

How do I get Concerts in Care to come to a care home facility?

Contact Meran Currie-Roberts at meran@healtharts.org if you would like to book a concert at a care home facility or would like Concerts in Care to come to your care home facility. You can also donate online at concertsincare.ca/alberta to provide a free concert to a facility of your choice.

What inspired you to start Concerts in Care?

After successfully launching the program in BC, Concerts in Care was launched across Canada to other societies.

The main goal was to be able to give access to performances to those who were unable to experience the arts due to frailty, physical or mental health. 100% of donations to Concerts in Care Alberta goes towards providing concerts for our audience members.

How do I subscribe to Concerts in Care online?

You can subscribe for free at <https://concertsincare.ca/alberta/>

How many artists are usually in a Concerts in Care performance?

There are usually two to three musicians, but sometimes up to six.

CONTACT US

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Quotes from Audience Members

“It was very nice—thanks for coming!”

“Wonderful!”

“Very well done!”

“It was a treat!”

“[The music} brought back a lot of memories.”

“Beautiful!”

“So good, it was over too soon!”

“We don’t get out to the Winspear anymore, so this is great!”

“It was awesome!”

“Great variety!”

“I felt like dancing!”

“Do come back—I look forward to the next one!”

