
Health Arts Society of Alberta (HASA)

Media Kit

healthartsociety
of Alberta

A photograph of a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, playing a grand piano. He is looking down at the keys. The piano is dark wood, and the background shows the ornate interior of a concert hall with wooden paneling and a balcony.

ABOUT US

The Health Arts Society of Alberta (HASA) is a registered charity that elevates Albertans' lives in care and retirement homes by providing compelling performances featuring local professional artists. We aim to create a world where age and disability are not barriers to accessing the arts.

HASA is one of seven 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.

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CONCERTS IN CARE

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

Concerts in Care is proud to use incredible local artists from all genres, including musicians from the CPO and ESO. All musicians are full-time professionals. 100% of donations go towards artist fees, and concerts are subsidized to keep costs low for the 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 the Health Arts Society of 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 the Health Arts Society of Alberta (HASA) as an active musical force in Alberta. HASA 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 the Health Arts Society. 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, Board President

Karen Lynch is a respected community and civic leader, with over 45 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 senior positions in communications at Alberta College, she brought her passion for community volunteerism to Volunteer Alberta. 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 served on the boards of the Edmonton Public Library, 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 chairs the Health Arts Society of Alberta and is vice president of GRIT. 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.

In September 2019, Karen retired from ATB Financial after developing and implementing 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 (and a new grandmother)- Rowan is a professor at Stanford and Whitney is an entertainment lawyer at Netflix in London UK.

OUR TEAM



Stella Lee, Co-Chair

Academic-turn-consultant Dr. Stella Lee is an ed-tech and AI strategist, international speaker, startup advisor, LinkedIn Learning instructor, and technology columnist for the Training Industry Magazine. She is the founder of Paradox Learning Inc., a boutique consulting firm based in Calgary, Canada.

With over 20 years of experience in digital learning, Stella combines her passion, academic background, and knowledge in visual art, human-computer interaction, adult education, and computer science with her unique global insights for her work with clients such as UNICEF, the United Nations, Asian Development Bank, The Open University, Government of Yukon, WorkSafeBC, TransLink, and InnoEnergy. Prior to obtaining her PhD in Computer Science from the University of Hertfordshire, Stella studied communications, adult education, and fine art across three countries (US, UK, and Canada). Currently, she still keeps one foot in academia, advising graduate students and providing guest lectures across the world.

As a trained painter and graphic artist, Stella is passionate about connecting communities and individuals through different art forms. She is excited to serve on the HASA board of directors and looking forward to help bring art to Albertans from all walks of life.

When was Health Arts Society of Alberta Founded?

The Health Arts Society of 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. The Health Arts Society 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 seven independent societies across Canada, including the Health Arts Society of 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 many artists are usually in a Concerts in Care performance?

Generally, it is usually two to three musicians, but sometimes up to six.

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 at the Health Arts Society of 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 the Health Arts Society Alberta goes towards providing concerts for our audience members.

How do I subscribe to Concerts in Care online?

You can subscribe for free at concertsincareonline.ca



CONTACT US

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