

The logo features a central purple circle surrounded by three concentric, broken rings in teal and purple. To the right, there are stylized purple leaf-like shapes. The text is overlaid on the rings.

*edmonton*  
**a cappella**  
*festival*

February 2 & 3, 2019

# *Welcome to the third annual* **Edmonton A Cappella Festival!**

This event was conceived two and a half years ago during an Apocalypse Kow rehearsal brainstorming session. That night, the group envisioned an event where Edmonton's hardworking and talented singers could band together both for valuable cross-promotion and to help uplift the next generation of talent. It was in that spirit that the Edmonton A Cappella Festival was born.

From the beginning, there were a number of so-called "pipe dreams". This year, through a fruitful partnership with the ETown Vocal Music Society, many of those pipe dreams have come to pass. For this year's festival, we have expanded to two concerts, opening the door to more participants and a wider variety of performers. Saturday's concert in the Harry Ainlay High School Theatre will feature some of Edmonton's top professional a cappella acts. On Sunday, at Southgate Alliance Church, we will feature emerging talent at our community concert.

Also, we are thrilled to be presenting a full day of professional workshops at Harry Ainlay High School. And thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, we are proud to present those sessions for free. The weekend's activities will culminate in a truly grand finale, as singers from all groups, as well as workshop participants, unite to perform together to close out the festival at Southgate Alliance Church.

The Edmonton A Cappella Festival is thrilled to welcome you to take part this year. From exciting new branding in our eye-catching logo, and a great creative team both preparing and leading the weekend, we hope you enjoy this a cappella experience as much as we have enjoyed creating it.

— *Joel Forth & Misha Nelson*  
*Edmonton A Cappella Festival Organizers*



# Festival Schedule

**SATURDAY** • *Harry Ainlay High School (4350 111 street)*

**08:30–09:00**

Registration

**09:00–10:30**

Arranging for A Cappella with Jane Berry and Caleb Nelson

**10:30–12:00**

Sectionals on Pop Vocal Technique with Brett Ludwig (Beatboxing), David McCune (Bass), Caleb Nelson (Tenor), Sable Chan (Alto), Anne-Marie Switzer (Soprano)

**12:00–13:00**

Lunch break (on your own)

**13:00–14:30**

Live Sound and Microphone Technique with Julian MacDonald and Russell Ault

**14:30–16:00**

Putting It Together — Open Rehearsal with the ETown Vocal Music Society

**19:00–21:30**

Professional A Cappella Concert — Apocalypse Kow, The Olsen Sisters, High Street Sound

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**SUNDAY** • *Southgate Alliance Church (3916 107 street)*


**15:00–17:00**

Community A Cappella Concert — Titan Up Vocal Jazz, ETown Minors, ETown Augmented, **and open rehearsal workshop participants!**

# Festival Workshops


## **ARRANGING** • With Jane Berry and Caleb Nelson

Jane and Caleb will show you a few of their own arrangements, and walk you through the process of taking all the textures of a popular piece of music and emulating them in voices. Including transcribing, chordal harmony, texture considerations, transitions in mash ups, and everything in between, this session will help you demystify the tools and techniques used in arranging for a cappella.




## **SECTIONALS** • **Beatboxing** (Brett Ludwig), **Bass** (David McCune), **Tenor** (Caleb Nelson), **Alto** (Sable Chan), **Soprano** (Anne-Marie Switzer)

What do you need to be a strong a cappella singer? What skills can you work on outside of choir rehearsals to increase your abilities? These expert vocalists are here to share their experience with you, and to work on proper vocal technique, pop stylings, ensemble singing, and any of their other specialties. Whether you are an educator, student, performer, or just a lover of vocal music, you will be sure to learn something new!



## **LIVE SOUND & MICROPHONE TECHNIQUE** • With Julian MacDonald and Russell Ault

How can my group be heard best while performing? What's the difference between "on mic" and "overheard mics"? What do we do outdoors? What should I rent if we have a performance? What kind of microphone should I invest in for my voice, and how do I use it the most effectively? If you have ever had these questions, or simply wanted to hear yourself through an amplified system, this session will give you the tools you need to strengthen that great new sound after the sectional from the morning. Julian MacDonald is currently directing FORM and JoySpring, two contemporary vocal groups through the T.I.M.E. association that almost exclusively perform amplified. Russell Ault is the go-to call in Edmonton's a cappella community for live sound, and has delivered amazing sound in some of the oddest places in our city. Learn to be confident while amplified, and know what works best for your sound!



## **PUTTING IT TOGETHER – OPEN REHEARSAL**

This is your chance to observe and participate in an a cappella choir rehearsal in action! The ETown Vocal Music Society has two choirs, the adult ETown Augmented directed by Caleb Nelson, and the youth ETown Minors

directed by Jane Berry. All workshop participants will get the opportunity to learn a great new mash-up of *Feel It Still* by Portugal. The Man, commissioned for ETVMS, and lead through by both directors and vocal coaches Elle Salvaggio, Nathan Bootsma and Evan Westfal. This ensemble wants to show you how fun a cappella ensemble singing can be, and some tips and tricks for rehearsals to ensure that you are presenting great-sounding popular music with appropriate stylings and a huge amount of fun!

## Instructor Bios



**Jane Berry** comes from a diverse background of musical experience; she grew up singing in choirs from an early age, performing in both jazz and classical settings before eventually going on to begin her music studies at Acadia University where she completed a BMUS in Composition. She then continued to complete an MA at the University of Ottawa and came to Edmonton to pursue her PhD at

the University of Alberta. When not composing or arranging, she sings professionally with ProCoro Canada, is a coach for ETown Augmented and directs ETown Minors.



**Caleb Nelson** joined the Madrigal Singers while attending the University of Alberta, finding his passion for voice among friends who were also dedicated to bringing a cappella arrangements into the mainstream - many of which were released in 2014 on the debut album of 6 Minute Warning. In 2010, Caleb began working as a recording engineer for Edmonton's Wolf Willow sound

as a dialogue editor for television shows and video games. He currently runs "Silver Studios" from home, focusing on voice lessons, recording and live sound, and arranging, while singing in Pro Coro Canada and directing ETown Augmented.



**Brett Ludwig** is a piano player, singer, arranger, and studio musician, with 20 years of experience in choral and a cappella singing, and is an accomplished pianist and accompanist. As an ensemble singer, he has performed with Ben Folds, Glass Tiger, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Reuben Studdard, and Mark Masri, Alberta Ballet, Citie Ballet, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Epsilon, 6 Minute

Warning, and various barbershop quartets. Brett arranges for choirs & a cappella groups and composes choral and instrumental music. He has a diploma in Jazz Piano Performance from Grant MacEwan, studied piano in the Royal Conservatory curriculum, and has been a member of Pro Coro Canada for 10 years.



**David McCune** finished a Bachelor of Music in voice performance at The King's University. Working as a singer, vocal coach, and teacher, he is involved with many choirs internationally, from Pro Coro Canada in Edmonton to the Det Norske Solistkor (Norwegian Soloist Choir) in Oslo. Although his main focus is on classical music, David is a past vocal coach of the ETown Minors, and his ability to navigate solid vocal technique with amazing bass dexterity makes David an enormous asset in any style of music.



**Sable Chan** sings professionally with Pro Coro Canada and the Edmonton Opera Chorus. She received a Masters in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Alberta and a Certificate of Vocology from the University of Iowa. Sable has an interest in using voice science principles to inform her approach to singing. Sable demonstrates her passion for the art of choral music as the author of *The Choir Girl* blog where she publishes her choral musings.



**Anne-Marie Switzer** is thrilled to be actively involved in Edmonton's flourishing choral community singing throughout many Catholic Parishes as a cantor and choir member. During her time as a music director and teacher for elementary and secondary schools in rural areas of Saskatchewan and Alberta, she also applied her skills to other organizational roles in the Arts. She spent five years as the Saskatchewan Choral Federation's Teen and Junior Summer Choir Camp Director, has served as tour manager for Chronos Vocal Ensemble's travel ventures, and most recently, stepped into the role as Executive Director for Concordia University's School of Music summer choral program- Singspiration.



# Professional Concert

**February 2** • Doors at 18:30, Show at 19:00

*Harry Ainlay High School Theatre*

## **THE OLSEN SISTERS** • Barbershop/Jazz/Broadway

The Olsen Sisters have been singing together in an informal capacity for 28 years, mostly for appreciative elderly relatives. They grew up in Southern Alberta, but all currently call Edmonton home. All of the sisters are individually involved in the music and choral community here in the city, and are excited to start sharing their talents together for a wider audience. The Olsen Sisters were raised on Barbershop, Broadway, and folk music, and the songs they perform reflect that history.

## **HIGH STREET SOUND** • Pop/Rock/Alternative

High Street Sound is an Edmonton-based, mixed-voice a cappella group, or “mouthband” specializing in contemporary music. Known for their varied and sometimes quirky arrangements, High Street Sound seeks to explore the versatility of the human voice through rich harmonies, interesting timbres, intricate beat-boxing and funky sound effects. Formed in 2011, High Street Sound has seen many changes but has remained steady in their drive to deliver original and diverse music that is drawn from their eclectic musical backgrounds. Inspired by music ranging from contemporary pop and rock, to tight jazz harmonies, to German hip-hop, High Street Sound likes to keep their audiences guessing.

## **APOCALYPSE KOW** • Pop/Rock/Comedy

Apocalypse Kow is an Edmonton-based a cappella group whose bright, dynamic onstage presence has been entertaining audiences since 1998. These a cappella ninjas have performed for audiences as diverse as political parties, fire departments, international athletes, non-profit organizations, and out-of-town wedding guests, and enjoy performing for volunteers and visitors at charity and fundraising events. They are regular performers at the Edmonton International Fringe Festival. Musically, Apocalypse Kow specializes not in traditional vocal jazz, but music that lies further afield. They like videogame themes, 80s classics, punk and hard rock, and even barbershop, though just for funsies they throw in a jazz standard to mix things up and confuse the crowd. When not performing for adoring fans and festival-goers, these intrepid music heroes make the world better in other ways. They are teachers, speech therapists, tech support, and city employees, without whom the world would be a way worse place. Honest!

# Community Concert

**February 3** • Doors at 14:30, Show at 15:00

*Southgate Alliance Church*

## **TITAN UP VOCAL JAZZ** • Vocal Jazz

Titan Up Vocal Jazz is a students group, made up of auditioned grade 10, 11, and 12 students from Harry Ainlay High School in Edmonton. Members of the ensemble meet to rehearse during lunchtime and after-school rehearsals with their teacher, Joel Forth. Titan Up performs a wide variety of vocal music, ranging from classic jazz standards to modern vocal pop. While they are most often accompanied by their rhythm section, also made up of Harry Ainlay student, they love singing the odd a cappella number. These students stay very involved in the extensive music program at Harry Ainlay— most students sing or play an instrument in at least one other ensemble. Later this month on the 23rd, Titan Up will perform at their annual Big Band Bash alongside Harry Ainlay's other jazz ensembles. And later this year, the group will be travelling to Whistler, BC to participate in the Whistler Cantando Music Festival.

## **ETOWN MINORS** • Pop Vocal Ensemble

ETown Minors is a non-auditioned vocal ensemble for youth (grades 7-12) who love to sing popular music a cappella style! Talented vocal coaches help instruct, mentor, and guide its members to new performance heights regardless of prior singing experience. ETown Minors repertoire has included songs by The Tragically Hip, Amy Winehouse, Linkin Park, Charlie Puth, Twenty One Pilots, and many more. Most songs that ETown Minors perform are arranged in house by our ultra talented director to take advantage of the choir's unique vocal styles and musical interests. Singers are truly involved in the process from helping to pick their favourite popular music to working with their peers in rehearsals.

## **ETOWN AUGMENTED** • Pop/Rock Vocal Ensemble

ETown Augmented is a non-auditioned adult choir in Edmonton dedicated to singing popular music a cappella style. This choir was created for singers of various abilities and experience to come together for music learning, as well as a positive social experience. This choir differs from the traditional choral format, which normally includes a piano accompanist, and is instead instructed entirely a cappella with a director and four professional vocal coaches. Many of the songs that ETown Augmented performs are arranged in house by our ultra talented staff to take advantage of the choir's unique vocal styles and musical interests.



## ETOWN VOCAL MUSIC SOCIETY

The ETown Vocal Music Society is a non-profit organization with a board and staff dedicated to continually bringing a cappella vocal music to each member of both our ensembles. With the ETown Minors youth ensemble in its eighth season, and ETown Augmented entering its fourth season in 2018-19, ETVMS is thrilled to continue encouraging growth in our community by having the two groups occasionally rehearse and perform together! We are also excited to have all the workshop participants from the Edmonton A Cappella Festival join us in the finale at this concert.

### Like what you hear?

ETown Vocal Music Society invites  
you to their next



**February 21, 2019**

7–9PM, for everyone!

Eastwood Community Hall  
11803 86 Street NW



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# Thank you!

The Edmonton A Cappella Festival is made possible with the help of our sponsors and community partners. We cannot thank them enough!

A stylized illustration for the ETown Minors Cabaret Night poster. It features two blue figures on a stage, one singing and one playing a guitar. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of an audience. The background is a mix of blue, white, and black geometric shapes.

## ETOWN MINORS CABARET NIGHT

March 16, 2019

SoundLab Studios  
195 - 130 Broadway Blvd, Sherwood Park

Tickets and details: [www.ETownVMS.com](http://www.ETownVMS.com)