
**Welcome to the
Young Canadians Junior/Intermediate/Senior Auditions!**

Calgary Stampede Foundation

The Calgary Stampede Foundation is committed to providing the youth of Alberta with the opportunity to develop strong roots in their culture and heritage through programs that enhance personal growth, citizenship and education.

The Calgary Stampede has always been an active supporter of community events and makes significant contributions annually to a wide variety of programs. Many of these programs relate to youth and their development in agriculture, the arts and general scholastics.

The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts is one of several Stampede Youth Programs operating under the Calgary Stampede Foundation, a charitable organization created in 1994 to generate income for the development of youth in Southern Alberta.

The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts

The Young Canadians School of Performing Arts is an engaging opportunity to train youth in dance, voice, and performance, by a professional faculty. Training is provided by a diverse team of specialists who encourage technical development, artistic creation, and performance excellence.

The Junior, Intermediate and Senior companies are comprised of dedicated youth ages 7-21 from the Calgary area. The Young Canadians train and perform throughout the year leading to their performance for an international audience of over 150,000 spectators at the annual Grandstand Show at the Calgary Stampede. The training and performance season runs from September to July annually with annual auditions held in late spring for interested youth.

Junior Young Canadians

- Singers and Dancers range in ages 7-11 years
- Receive approximately 7 hours of training per week
- Training Days – Wednesday/Friday/Sunday

Intermediate Young Canadians

- Singers and Dancers range in ages 11-14 years
- Receive approximately 12 hours of training per week
- Training Days – Wednesday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday

Senior Young Canadians

- Singers and Dancers range in ages 15-21 years
- Receive approximately 16 hours per week
- Training Days - Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday/Sunday

Additional training/rehearsal hours are added prior to performances.

From September to May the Young Canadians School of Performing Arts provides performance training in disciplines such as vocal instruction, ballet, jazz, tap, acro (and much more). In May, the Young Canadians School transitions to training and rehearsals for the Stampede and culminates in 10 exciting days of performing as part of the Calgary Stampede's iconic Grandstand Show held each year in early July.

In addition to the Grandstand Show, Young Canadians have the opportunity to perform in the community throughout the year, including dance and vocal showcases.

Our Leaders



Donna Sharpe, Manager, Young Canadians School of Performing Arts

Donna brings to the Young Canadians a wealth of experience in production and stage management as well as education and program delivery. She has stage managed everything from one-person Fringe Festival shows to international touring productions, from technically complex opera and theatre to outdoor festivals and event management.

She has been a faculty member, instructor and mentor at Banff Centre, Opera on the Avalon, Red Deer College, and the University of Calgary. She was a stage and event manager for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Whistler, and has worked with Calgary Opera, Beakerhead, Rainbow Stage, and Green Mountain Opera Festival to name just a few of her accomplishments.



Susan Mensinger, Director

Susan Mensinger is very proud to say that she has operated and taught under Artistic Dance Academy in Calgary for 40 years! Students of Miss Mensinger have gone on to perform in "Love", "Wicked", "Storm", "Notre Dame", "Moulin Rouge", "Tap Dogs", "Tokyo Disney", "Aida", "Zumanity" as well as Princess, Royal and Celebrity cruise lines. It has been exciting to watch dancers of hers on "SYTYCD", "Dancing With The Stars" as well as numerous music videos. Most recently students of Miss Mensinger can be seen as the lead in the new "Dirty Dancing" tour, head choreographer and dancer for "Groove Academy", solo tap dancer in the Opening Ceremonies of Olympics and featured soloist tapper in The Grandstand show at the Calgary Stampede. She is very proud of those that have taken on teaching roles as well, in studios and workshops as well as artistic director of the contemporary company "O2 the dance company". Miss Mensinger's love of dancing and dancers has been a lifelong affair.



John Morgan, Vocal Director

John Morgan has a passion for music education and performance and believes in bringing out the best in musicians, vocal groups and individual artists he works with by creating a working environment that fosters learning, creativity, musical development, collaboration, and fun. John focuses on directing multi-genre vocal groups, as well as delivering full-service music direction for local artists, corporations and events through his studio, Morgan Music, in Calgary. He is a conductor, organist, pianist, recording engineer and published composer and arranger whose work has been performed by groups across North America including the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

John is the Artistic Director of Mount Royal Kantorei, an auditioned 60-voice mixed chorus attached to Mount Royal University's Conservatory; Artistic Director of Revv52; Vocal Director of the Young Canadians, a 110-member auditioned vocal and dance group made up of youth and young adults between the ages of 8-19 and is the Music Director and Organist at St. Anthony's Church. He also works with variety of other musical groups and ensembles in the City.

Audition Requirements

	Dance	Vocal
Juniors (ages 7-11)	A minimum of 2+ years of dance training in both Ballet and Jazz.	All singer/vocal candidates are required to have previous vocal training as well as basic experience in dance or movement.
Intermediates (ages 11-14)	A minimum of 4+ years of dance training in both Ballet and Jazz.	
Seniors (ages 15-21)	A minimum of 6+ years of dance training in both Ballet and Jazz.	

For the 2020-2021 auditions the Young Canadians will be using a two stage process:

- Stage 1 – Video Submission
Deadline for submissions is August 19, 2020
- Stage 2 – Callbacks for live audition
Live auditions will occur between August 25 and September 4, 2020

Frequently Asked Audition Questions

- Can I audition as a dancer and a singer? YES!! All candidates can auditions as a dancer or a singer. Just submit a dance video audition and also submit a vocal video audition.
- What does it cost to be a Young Canadian?
 - Annual Membership Fee: \$1,200
 - Partners of the Young Canadians Annual Fundraising Contribution: \$750 (may vary depending on the season)
 - Members are also responsible for purchasing their dance shoes.
- I can't afford to be a Young Canadian, what can I do? Thanks to the generous support of the Rotary Club of Calgary at Stampede Park, youth members and their families can apply for fee relief.

Notification – Audition Outcome for Stage 1

We thank you for sharing your talent with us and for auditioning to be part of the Young Canadians. Notification of Stage 1 results will begin July 27, 2020 and continue until the video submission deadline on August 19, 2020. Successful candidates will receive information for the callback audition in their notification.

For More Information, please contact

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