

# A Home for Music

Bringing the Prairie voice to the world,  
and the world to the Prairies

**T**his is a special place. A place where prairie winds echo across shimmering wheat fields, carrying with them the songs of generations past — and generations to come. A place where timeless and timely, old and new, classical and modern blend seamlessly to create a tone that's uniquely our own. Where neighbours sing well wishes as they pass each other in the street, and no matter where you go, you're sure to be welcomed with a smile.

At the heart of it all stands the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO). For nearly 100 years, the SSO has kept the cultural beat of our community by bringing musicians and music-lovers together to celebrate the sounds of our own backyard.

As we approach our 100th anniversary in 2031, we are taking a leading role in nurturing, inspiring, and connecting Saskatchewan's dynamic music community. Our goal is to build a creative hub for our community; one that offers more than a facility for the SSO to practice and perform, but a home for all musicians. A place where we can come together to learn about music and musicianship, improve musical literacy, and experience the magic that happens when artists and audiences meet. Your investment will make this possible.



**saskatoon symphony orchestra**

[WWW.SASKATOONSYMPHONY.ORG](http://WWW.SASKATOONSYMPHONY.ORG)



## We envision a home for music that:

### As Saskatchewan as the skies

From humble roots, the SSO has flourished into a fully professional orchestra; one that has captured the hearts and minds of a dynamic music community that extends far beyond Saskatoon. As one of only two professional orchestras in Saskatchewan, we have an important role to play in exploring and celebrating our collective Prairie voice. It's a responsibility we take seriously.

Today, we play to audiences who trudge through cold winds and dust storms, and wear their dress shoes through snow banks and mud puddles. Our audience is proud to know what a combine is and what it does. They know that the Saskatoon Berry is far superior to other, lesser berries. And they understand the smell of wet dirt, a wheat field, and Fall suppers. It's time the world did too.

- houses adaptive spaces for rehearsals, meetings, creation, and interaction.
- honours the diversity of voices, sounds, and performances.
- inspires, activates, and raises our music community to its full potential.
- is inclusive for all people.

The SSO is working with Bob Essert and Anne Minors, two of the world's leading sound and theatre design consultants, to create a brief that builds on our vision to meet the musical needs of those who will use the facility now and in the future.

Their impressive resume includes Koerner Hall at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto; Massey Hall in Toronto; La Maison Symphonique in Montréal; and, the Jenny Belzberg Theatre at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity in Banff.



## Setting the stage

Following an unprecedented few years, we have emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic stronger, more resilient, and ready to claim our place at the forefront of Canada's classical music industry. We are committed, now more than ever before, to preserving and promoting the distinct, world-class musical voice of our community. A dedicated facility will ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for the SSO—and the music community in Saskatchewan—in more ways than one.

How exciting it is that a kid can grow up on a farm in Saskatchewan, fall in love with music, find inspiration in the prairie skies, go off to develop a career, and return to be celebrated by their own orchestra?

**Mark Turner**  
CEO and Creative Producer  
Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra

### Bringing the world's best to Saskatchewan

An industry-leading concert hall will allow the SSO to attract and retain world-class musicians and music educators who not only want to perform here, but prepare the next generation of musicians.

### Developing the Prairie voice

Fully-equipped music studios and rehearsal halls will enable the SSO to expand educational programming, and inspire young musicians to pursue professional careers in the performing arts.

### Inspiring a love of music

Creative spaces—like an instrument museum and music library—will support community programming, and encourage musical creativity, engagement, participation, and lifelong learning.

### Ensuring the future of the SSO

An SSO-owned and operated facility will enable the SSO to build a business model that is financially sustainable for many years to come.

### Contributing to the Saskatoon economy

A home for music will provide an affordable and accessible space for the community, support job creation, and foster creative research opportunities.

# Be part of the movement

While a dedicated facility will include a concert hall with quality sound resonance to deliver world-class performances, it will offer the music community in Saskatchewan so much more.

By supporting the SSO, you're ensuring people in Saskatoon and farther afield have the opportunity to learn from the best, to share their creative expressions, and to contribute to a legacy of musical excellence in our province.

After all, there's no place like home.

**Mark Turner**

*CEO and Creative Producer*

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