

## ANDREW ALCORN – WINDS/BRASS and BANDS



Andrew Alcorn is a native of Antigonish, Nova Scotia. After completing a Diploma in Jazz Studies in 1982, he finished his BA Mus. at St. F.X. in 1983 and a Graduate Diploma in 2003. He spent some time in Toronto with The Royal Canadian Artillery Band, the Silverthorne Brass band and did freelance work. After returning to Nova Scotia, Andrew started a teaching career that spanned over 30 years in the New Glasgow area. He had the good fortune to work alongside his wife Janice (vocalist, choir director) for most of these years building a well-rounded and reputable program. He taught all levels of bands from elementary to high school, including concert bands, jazz bands and a variety of instrumental ensembles. His bands were often top award winners at local, provincial and national festivals. During his career he has also performed in or directed over 50

Broadway style musicals. His three daughters are all enjoying a life in the music industry as well.

Alcorn was president of the Nova Scotia Band Association from 2001-05. Andrew was a director with Nova Scotia Honours Jazz and Acadia jazz camp staff for over 20 years. He has done workshops with the Nova Scotia Youth Wind Ensemble and Junior Wind Ensemble on many occasions and has been a presenter at the Nova Scotia Music Educators Conference several times. When he is not teaching, Andrew can be found performing or recording with any one of many top Nova Scotian ensembles including the Stadacona Band, The Back Alley Big Band, Latin Groove, Nova Brass, Hubtown Big Band and many others. He is the recipient of the “Excellence in Teaching” award, the NSMEA “Lifetime Achievement” award and the Nova Scotia Band Association’s “Master Teacher” award.

Andrew retired from teaching in 2016 and is enjoying performing, recording, adjudicating, and a large variety of outdoor activities with friends and his family.

## ALEXANDER DOBSON – SENIOR VOICE and CHOIRS



Recognized for his "ringing, present sound" and "rich, flexible, baritone", Grammy Award Nominated British-Canadian Baritone Alexander Dobson has been praised for his musicality and dramatic awareness on both opera and concert stages.

Some roles include the title roles in *Wozzeck* and *Don Giovanni*, as well as *Guglielmo* (*Così Fan Tutte*), *Belcoré* (*L'elisir d'amore*), *Ned Keene* (*Peter Grimes*), *The Count* (*The Marriage of Figaro*), and *Marcello* (*La Bohème*), Alexander has appeared with conductors such as Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Trevor Pinnock, Nic McGegan and Paul Goodwin; on the stages of L'Opéra du Montréal, Opera Ontario, Milwaukee's Florentine Opera, Calgary Opera, Opera Lafayette, Royal Opera House Covent Garden and with the Toronto Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Orchestre Métropolitain, Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Philadelphia Orchestra, National Arts Centre

Orchestra, Tafelmusik and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Recent engagements include World Premiere of *The Night Falls* by Ellis Ludwig-Leone with Ballet Collective, Handel's *Messiah* in New York, Jacksonville and Halifax, *Escamillo* in *Carmen* with the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony and *Pulcinella* with Artis Naples, Florida, *Raimbaud* in Edmonton Opera's production of Rossini's *Le Comte Ory*, *Against Nature* with Citadel and Compagnie and *Il Conte* in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Florentine Opera, *Angel's Bone* with Loose Tea Opera and *Mozart Requiem* with Arion Baroque Orchestra.

Upcoming engagements include *Beethoven 9* with the Hamilton Philharmonic and *St. Matthew Passion* with the Peterborough Singers. Alex is currently teaching Voice at Mount Allison University.

## **CHRISTINA HALDANE – JUNIOR VOICE and MUSICAL THEATRE**



Christina Raphaëlle Haldane's career spans the UK, Europe, Asia and North America, and she is based in Canada's Atlantic Provinces. She has interpreted many lead opera roles, having performed for opera houses such as The Finnish National Opera, The Royal Opera Covent Garden, Scottish Opera and Musica Viva Hong Kong. Her specialism is performing HANDEL'S HEROINES, COMEDIC BEL CANTO roles and CONTEMPORARY opera. Christina enjoys performing and curating RECITAL and CHAMBER MUSIC concerts, and she is often invited to perform with LEADING ORCHESTRAS. Her exploration of contemporary music has led to many collaborations with composers, and she continues to bring their VOCAL WORKS TO LIFE. Christina is a bilingual English and French

speaker with Acadian heritage, and she is proud to be a citizen of Canada and Great Britain.

As a recording artist, Christina fuses Western art music aesthetics with folk, jazz, and avant-garde styles. She has released two critically acclaimed albums '... LET ME EXPLAIN' (2019), a collection of Canadian art songs and 'Tu me voyais' (2022) with Leaf Music, a francophone vocal album which celebrates music from her Acadian roots.

Christina strongly believes in mentoring the next generation of talented young singers, and has an international profile as a vocal educator, adjudicator, and clinician. She is the head of the Atlantic division of Canada's national opera training program COSA and is the president of the Canadian Atlantic Provinces National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) chapter. Christina is also on the voice faculty at two summer voice programs, BIIMA – Breno Italy International Music Academy and Musique sur mer en Acadie, New Brunswick. She was on the Voice Faculty at Dalhousie's Fountain School of Performing Arts from 2019, and joined the team at Mount Allison's Department of Music in July, 2022, where she continues to combine her love of performing with teaching.

For her formal training Christina enjoyed a broad international vocal education. Christina received a BMus from the University of Toronto, spent a year at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, was awarded a PDVT and an MMus from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, and a DMA from the University of Toronto.

Christina lives in Moncton, New Brunswick, with her partner Patrice and their two diva dog Pomeranians, Wally and Sissi.

## JENNIFER JONES – STRINGS and ORCHESTRAS



Jennifer Jones lives in Halifax where she is Assistant Concertmaster of Symphony Nova Scotia. She received her early training from Jean Fraser at the Maritime Conservatory of Music and then continued with Philippe Djokic at Dalhousie University. Jennifer advanced her studies at Indiana University with Josef Gingold, obtaining a Master of Music degree in Performance and Pedagogy. Following her studies at Indiana, Jennifer travelled to France where she studied with Sylvie Gazeau of the Paris Conservatoire.

Jennifer has a passion for teaching and teaches at Acadia University and privately in Halifax and Wolfville. She is a coach of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and has adjudicated exams and festivals throughout the Maritimes.

Chamber music has always been important to Jennifer and she has been frequently recorded by the CBC. A favourite musical endeavour is her work with the “Blue

Engine String Quartet”. Private performances for Philip Glass and Dudley Moore are highlights as well as performing with Michael Buble. In 2005, the quartet released a CD entitled “If It Be Your Will...Songs of Leonard Cohen” and a Christmas CD in 2007. The quartet was the core ensemble of the Elizabeth Bishop Legacy Project CD. “I am in Need of Music” and honoured to work with Canadian Soprano, Suzie LeBlanc. The recording received the 2013 ECMA Classical Recording of the Year Award and was performed in Toronto in 2016. Jennifer is also a member of Rhapsody Quintet, one of the Maritimes most popular musical ensembles.

## JENNIFER KING – INTERMEDIATE and SENIOR PIANO



Spirited and sensitive, Jennifer King is a versatile pianist who enjoys exploring the world of classical music in the 21st century. Her remarkable career spans three decades and the impact of her artistry has inspired the dedication of piano works and a growing number of commissions. King's countless contributions to musical life in the province have been celebrated with an Award of Appreciation from

the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.

Frequently heard on CBC Ici Music and CBC Radio 2, her growing catalogue of recordings begins with the 2018 release of *O Mistress Moon*. Consecutive releases include a live recording in 2019 (*Doolittle: Minute Études "Excerpts"*) and a collection of twelve short piano works in 2020 (*Twilight Hour: Collected Stories for Piano*). In 2022, Jennifer released *O Mistress Moon: Canadian Edition*. Distributed by Leaf Music, Halifax, this set of twelve piano works has been praised for its "dramatic out of this world sonic listening" (*The WholeNote*). It won Classical Album of the Year at ECMA 2023.

A familiar face on stages across Atlantic Canada, Jennifer has presented hundreds of recitals as a soloist and as a collaborative artist. Recent performances include Nova Scotia Music Week, the East Coast Music Awards, and the Cecilia Concert Series. With the latter, King combines her musical gifts and strong community spirit to curate, host, and perform in Cecilia Concerts' Sensory-Accessible Concert Program.

Jennifer's academic achievements include a Master of Music in solo piano performance from McGill University, a Bachelor of Music from Acadia University, and postgraduate diplomas from the University of Reading (UK) and the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in London, England. Her artistry has been encouraged every step of the way through the support of scholarships and grants.

As an artist, King continues to grow and explore by pushing boundaries and finding new meaningful ways to connect with the community.

## CHARLES NICHOLAS - INDIGENOUS MUSIC



Charles Nicholas was born at Tobique First Nation, the son of the late Anthony and Fern Nicholas.

He went to Indian Day School until grade 4 and was then sent to Perth-Andover Elementary for grades 5 and 6. He attended Junior High School and went on to Southern Victoria High School. Charles went to New Brunswick Community College St Andrews after completing his GED and graduated from the welding program.

Over the years Charles has worked for Tobique First Nation in different fields of employment, including Tobique police, Tobique fishery, Tobique forestry, Tobique alcohol/drug treatment center, as well as with special needs.

During his time at the treatment center, he started to learn and practice his native culture. He has been sharing his culture for over 30 years. He is a drummer and chanter, a pipe carrier and he carries the people's pipe. Charles was trained to help deliver the Kairos Blanket Exercise. Charles has traveled to different countries including France and China to share his culture and teaching.

Most recently, Charles has worked with NBCC for the past seven years as the Indigenous Student Advisor. Now retired, he continues to do cultural teaching and presentations with NBCC and other school districts and government agencies upon request.

## JACQUELINE SORENSEN YOUNG – JUNIOR PIANO



Jacqueline Sorensen Young is a Registered Music Teacher (RMT), a Certified Teacher of the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM Advanced Specialist), and an Examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. As a member of the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association, she has adjudicated for over 55 music festivals across Atlantic and Central Canada since 2000. She is currently Director of Music at St. Mark's Presbyterian Church in Charlottetown and freelances as a Collaborative Artist for local professional musicians, students and choirs.

In addition to 35 years of private teaching experience, she also concurrently taught at the University of Prince Edward Island Music Department for 19 years as a Sessional Lecturer from 1994-2013 and at Holland College's School of

Performing Arts for 2 years as a Piano Instructor from 2018-20. Her private students' successes have also garnered her Gold Medal Teacher certificates from the Royal Conservatory of Music on multiple occasions, awarded for having students achieving the highest mark in their level of their piano exam in the four Atlantic Canadian Provinces within a full calendar year. Jacqueline holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Prince Edward Island.

As a Charter Member of The Prince Edward Island Music Teachers' Association, Jacqueline has served in several executive positions since 1995, including: President, Past-President, Registrar, Public Relations Officer, and Delegate to the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations. She has been actively serving as Treasurer of the PEIRMTA since 2014.

Jacqueline is looking forward to the opportunity to share her joy of music-making with the next generation of talented musicians and wishes to encourage all participants to enjoy this valuable performance and educational experience.