



Amici String Program

**Amicini
Junior Amici**

2026-2027

**Student and Parent
Handbook**





Welcome to the Amici String Program. We hope you will find this a place where everyone can grow in a positive and nurturing environment, where high standards of playing are expected and all students have access to fine teaching.

Junior Amici offers masterclass/technique, musicianship/ear training, chamber music and 4 recitals to string students playing RCM levels 3-5.

The **Amicini** program offers a variety of violin and cello classes ranging from our class for absolute beginners to those who are playing at approximately an RCM level of 2-3. Classes include skill development, establishing a technical foundation for cello or violin and note reading; all presented in an atmosphere of fun. There will be 2 recitals.

This handbook is intended to provide the basic administrative information you will need for the year. A copy of it is posted on the Amici website at amicistringprogram.com, and you can always look there for up-to-date information about the program.

Please be aware that the policies described in this handbook continue to evolve and are subject to change without notice.

Please advise of absences in advance by emailing to amici.stringprogram@gmail.com. Absences may also be reported by texting Stu White (587-224-1297) or Diane Lane (403-852-4135).

Mission Statement

The Amici String Program was developed to:

- ◆ Provide a positive and inclusive atmosphere for string students to develop their skills, their love of music, and their friendships.
- ◆ Provide quality musical education in a non-judgmental environment, where all students, parents, and instructors are treated respectfully and equitably.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for students to fulfill their full potential, but musically and personally.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for students to interact with the community through music.

Expectations For Students

In order to make the program a positive, productive, and fun experience for all participants, students should be aware of the following expectations.

◆ **Students must be respectful** of other students and faculty to bring a positive attitude of expecting to learn and to enjoy music.

◆ **Students and parents should have an email address** that they check regularly. If you are not receiving Amici emails, it is your responsibility to inform us at amici.stringprogram@gmail.com.

◆ **Students should be on time, tuned, and ready to play** each week at the designated hour of rehearsal or class.

◆ **Absences much be reported** to amici.stringprogram@gmail.com. Last minute absences should be reported by text to Stu White (587-224-1297) or Diane Lane (403-852-4135).

◆ It is important to make every effort to attend class, recognizing the impact of absences on others. Early notice of absences is important. Amici students who miss chamber music without notice or due cause may forfeit their chamber music placement.

◆ The programs are intended to enrich the musical education of string students currently studying privately. **All students are required to be studying on a regular basis with a private teacher.**

A good quartet is
like a good
conversation among
friends listening
to each others' ideas.
- Stan Getz

◆ Students must not bring snacks or any other sort of food into the sanctuary.

◆ Students are responsible for preparing and learning their individual chamber music parts at home and should feel free to ask their Amici program coach or private teacher if they have any questions or need additional guidance.

◆ **Students are expected to participate in the set-up of rooms** in which they are practising and performing, and in the clean-up at the end of sessions, under the direction of the instructor of the class. This will involve helping to move music stands and chairs. Students must be respectful of the facility, taking care not to damage or dirty any part of the building.

◆ **Chamber and music group parts are the responsibility of each student.** In the event of lost music, contact Stu at amici.stringprogram@gmail.com or Tokie Onoda at tokie@calgaryclassical.ca. A replacement fee may be levied.



How Amici Works

Junior Amici

- ◆ repertoire level of approximately **RCM Grade 3** and above
- ◆ Knowledge of third position

Amicini

- ◆ From absolute beginners to RCM Level 2 /3

Placement in classes will be at the discretion of the director in consultation with the student's private teacher.

Volunteering

Volunteers are the heart of Amici. The time that parents give to the program is the ingredient that the Amici String Society needs to offer high-quality classes at affordable rates.

All families must provide a volunteer bond cheque of \$250, dated October 1 **2027**. If families are not able to volunteer in 2026-2027, then the cheque will be cashed in October 2027.

Volunteers are needed throughout the year. There is a volunteer sign-up form available for parents. Volunteers may choose, for example, to help with weekly classroom setup, to help clean up after a end of semester reception, or to take a shift at the casino fundraiser. Some parents will join the Amici board and help run the program. Others will take tickets and provide help at festival concerts. We have lots to do and many places where people can contribute.

More information about volunteering will be distributed at the beginning of the semester and at the Annual General Meeting in October 2026.

Recitals

Playing in public is an important part of becoming a musician, and Amici's public recitals are an important part of our musical outreach to the community. Students must dress appropriately for each recital. Students in casual dress, such as jeans or running shoes, will not be allowed to participate in the recital.

Amicini

Amicini students have two recitals, one at the end of each term, where they will perform a solo and a group piece. Solo pieces will be rehearsed the week before with a staff accompanist.

Junior Amici

Junior Amici students will have four recitals. The mid-semester recitals will be solo pieces only and will be preceded the Monday before by a rehearsal with a staff accompanist. Students will also have a 15 minute *individually scheduled* rehearsal. The end of semester recitals will include both a solo and a group piece.

Junior Amici Solo Recital Dates

Autumn Recital: November 2, 2026.

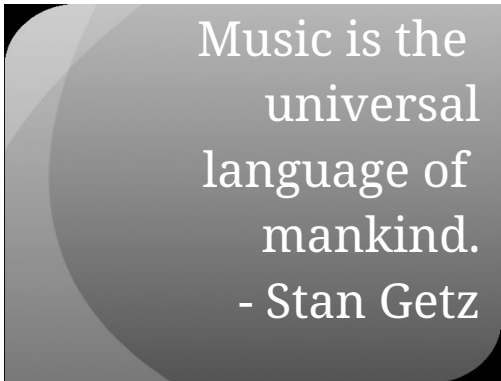
Winter Recital: February 8, 2027.

Junior Amici and Amicini Chamber Recital Dates

Autumn Term Recital: December 7, 2026.

Winter Term Recital: April 12, 2026.

Student rehearsals at 4:30 pm, performance beginning at 5:00 pm.



Music is the
universal
language of
mankind.
- Stan Getz

*If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician.
I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music.
I see my life in terms of music.*
- Albert Einstein

Faculty Biographies

Fiona Carnie, violin, Artistic Director

Fiona Carnie is much in demand as an adjudicator and clinician. She played for many years with organizations such as the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. Fiona was also a member of the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Music for 20 years. She holds a B. Mus (with distinction) in Violin Performance from the University of Calgary and a M.M. in Violin Performance from Yale. A noted pedagogue, whose current and former students are competition winners, members of many professional orchestras and teach at musical institutions across the continent, she continues to maintain a sizable private studio and to direct the Amici String Program, now established as a leading organization in education for young string players. Fiona is honored to have received the Alberta Music Education Foundation Recognition Award in 2023.

Diane Lane, violin, Amicini & Junior Amici Coordinator

Born in Claresholm Alberta, Diane began her violin studies in Lethbridge before attending the Mount Royal Conservatory in Calgary. Diane graduated from McGill University with her Bachelor of Music degree under the tutelage of Yehonatan Berick. She continued her studies with Edmond Agopian at the University of Calgary and graduated with a Master's degree in violin performance. Diane is a founding member of Calgary's Lily String Quartet. The quartet has performed across Canada, participated in seminars in North America and has released several cross-genre CDs. Diane has 20 plus years of teaching and coaching experience from Mount Royal Conservatory and Amici String Program. Diane is a highly sought-after orchestral and chamber performer, performing with various ensembles in and around Calgary.

She is currently the Assistant Concertmaster of the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra, a member of Kensington Sinfonia and also performs regularly with two baroque ensembles, String Theory Music Collective and Rosa Barocca. Diane has adjudicated at numerous music festivals throughout Alberta and British Columbia.

Andrea Case, cello

Andrea Case is Co-Artistic Director of Calgary's Kensington Sinfonia and performs as principal cellist with this group along with Astralis String Quartet and baroque ensembles String Theory Music Collective and Early Music Voices. Kensington Sinfonia released its 35th Anniversary recording, Forces of Nature, in 2023, celebrating the voracity of the music scene in Southern Alberta and has an upcoming new album titled Tapestries with celebrated trumpeter Adam Zinatelli. Andrea is co-founder and cellist of the Lily String Quartet, a group that has completed multiple tours across Canada, has performed for CBC Radio and released a jazz CD titled Hollow Trees with the award-winning Hutchinson Andrew Trio. She records in multiple genres including pop, folk, jazz and classical, maintains a large and vibrant teaching studio in Calgary and adjudicates regularly. Andrea has played at festivals and with orchestras in Canada, Asia and Europe.

Christine Chen, violin

Christine is a versatile violinist and educator, performing in classical, pop, EDM, and beyond. She plays with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Red Deer Symphony, and is Guest Concertmaster of the Calgary Civic Symphony. She is now on the violin faculty at the Mount Royal University Conservatory.

An alumna of the Mount Royal University Conservatory Academy and Calgary Youth Orchestra, she holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Calgary, where she studied with Edmond Agopian. She refined her artistry at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee with Paul Laraia and Lynn Chang, winning the 2021-2022 Honor Chamber Music Competition and making her Carnegie Hall debut as a first-prize winner of the Concert Artists International Competition. She also performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Boston Conservatory Orchestra.

Olena Kilchyk, cello

Olena Kilchyk, native of Odessa, Ukraine, graduated from the Odessa State Music College and the Odessa State Conservatory. Since the age of 14, Olena has won numerous concerto competitions. While in Ukraine, she was the principal cellist and soloist of the Academia Odessa Chamber Orchestra and Virtuosi of the Odessa Chamber Orchestra.

After immigrating to Canada, Olena received a Master of Music Degree in Cello Performance from the University of Calgary. In 2000 she was the winner of the Department of Music Concerto Competition and performed with the U of C String Quartet.

Olena has been a member of the Prince George, Okanagan, Red Deer and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra as well as Sinfonia Alberta Chamber Orchestra, Baroque Modern Chamber Orchestra, Players Chamber Ensemble and Saint Crispinis Chamber Ensemble.

Ms. Kilchyk toured extensively throughout Russia, Ukraine, Europe, Canada and China. Many of her performances have been broadcast on CBC and other radio and television networks and she had the opportunity to play with such artists as Michael Buble and 2Cellos.

Sora Kim, violin

Sora has enjoyed an active career for the past 11 years as a Calgary-area teacher and performer. In addition to her private studio, she has been a regular clinician via the MRU Conservatory workshop program, strings instructor at Rundle College, and adjudicator for local festivals. Sora is an alumnus of the MRU Conservatory Academy, and is currently pursuing a BSc/BMus with Edmond Agopian at the University of Calgary, where she also serves as co-concertmaster of the University of Calgary orchestra. She holds a special interest in non-profit, accessible, and equitable strings education.

Andrea Poon, viola

Andrea Poon completed her BMus in performance with honours from the University of Toronto, her MMus in performance, as well as her Pre-Doctorate Diploma (D.E.P.A) from l'Université de Montréal. Andrea has been very fortunate to have studied with Fiona Carnie, Katharine Rapoport, and Jutta Puchhammer-Sédillot.

As an avid ensemble musician, Andrea has had the opportunity to play with many diverse chamber ensembles and orchestras across the country and Europe. In 2019 Andrea, along with Timepoint Ensemble, premiered Ghost Opera as after completing a residency at the prestigious Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

Ronelle Schaufele, viola

Canadian violist Ronelle Schaufele is an active solo, chamber, and orchestral musician who performs frequently throughout Western Canada as well as in Cuba, Brazil, the United States, New Zealand, and

Europe. She is a founding member of Rosa Barocca, an ensemble that specializes in baroque repertoire performed on period instruments. In 2022 Rosa Barocca recorded *Early Italian Cello Concertos*, a collaboration with Elinor Frey, which received the 2023 Juno Award for Classical Album of the Year (small ensemble). Solo performances include concerts at the Arts & Letters Club of Toronto, the Euro Festival in Leipzig Germany, and the Music by the Sea Festival. In addition, she was a founding member of the Sage String Quartet and is currently assistant principal violist in the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra. Ronelle also completed an Artist in Residency program at Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and has been delighted to be the Artistic Advisor for the Youth Quartet Program in cooperation with the Banff International String Quartet Competition since 2021. An active instructor, Ronelle is currently on faculty at the Amici String Program and founded the Banff String Academy of Music.

Liza Scriggins, viola

Violist Liza Scriggins is a graduate of Williams College and the New England Conservatory. An active freelance musician, she is a member of Kensington Sinfonia and has performed with Calgary Philharmonic, Red Deer Symphony, the National Ballet, and Theatre Calgary. Liza also teaches both violin and viola at the Mount Royal University Conservatory. In recent years, she has ventured into writing as the founder of StoryMusic, which presents storytelling chamber music concerts, and has performed for numerous children at immigrant service centres, libraries and schools, thanks to grants from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts and the National Arts Centre. Calgary Philharmonic selected Liza's version of Little Red Riding Hood, set to Beethoven's Quartet Op. 95, for their 2021 Education Concerts. StoryMusic's second recording is in Education Concerts. StoryMusic's second recording was released in early 2025.

Junior Amici and Amicini at a Glance

Please retain these pages for reference

Absences

In advance:	amici.stringprogram@gmail.com
On Monday afternoon:	587-224-1297 (Stu)
	403-852-4135 (Diane)

Lost Music:

◆ In the event of lost music, email Stu at amici.stringprogram@gmail.com or Tokie Onoda at tokie@calgaryclassical.ca. A replacement fee of \$2 a page may be levied.

Recitals:

Junior Amici Solo Recital Dates

- ◆ November 2, 2026 and February 8, 2027.
- ◆ Students need to schedule a 15 minute private rehearsal with their accompanist. This rehearsal should take place the week before the recital.
- ◆ Email Stu at amici.stringprogram@gmail.com if you need contact information for the accompanists.

Amici Would Like to Thank:

Individual donors

Anonymous	Noreen Linton
Jen Adria	Sonya Lowe
Paul Beke	John Lowry & Liza Scriggins
Linda Gael Blackhall Estate	Asako Perejma
Jean Carnie	Michael Ross
Rainie Chen	Joni Rynsburger
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