

The Calgary Fiddlers

Audition Information

Number of Positions and Eligibility

- A maximum of 15 positions are available in The Calgary Fiddlers.
- Age 13-18 (must be attending school full-time).
- Must have and maintain a minimum average at school of 70%. This policy has been implemented to stress the organisation's belief that school must remain a successful candidate's priority, in addition to ensuring members are capable of missing some school for performances.

Auditions

- Auditions will take place in May or June of each year.
- Auditions will require both parent and candidate.
- All current members of the Calgary Fiddlers may be required to participate in this audition/interview process.

Uniform

Part of the Calgary Fiddlers uniform is provided by the Association and part is at the cost of the family. This will be discussed with the candidate when they are accepted into the program.

Parental Commitment

Upon enrolment in the Calgary Fiddlers program and payment of fees, an Associate membership is granted to each family with a child in the program. The Associate membership gives the family an opportunity to vote for a parent representative who is a voting member of the Board of Directors of the Calgary Fiddlers Association. The family may also attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association, which occurs before the end of October each year.

The Calgary Fiddlers Association requires each Fiddler and their family to participate in the following:

1. Selling Tickets to all concerts hosted by the CFA.
2. Parents may be asked to volunteer for various fundraising events and concerts as well as assisting staff a Casino once every 18 months.

Parents are required to provide transportation to and from all local performances. As well, they are responsible for ensuring that their child is prepared for each public performance and attired according to the dress code for their child's group.

Please do not underestimate this commitment... we do approximately 60 performances in Calgary to which you will need to drive your fiddlers!

Criteria

In order to ensure that the selection process is fair to all candidates, the following criteria will be used to rank each individual. A mark will be assigned in each category. Some information may be gathered outside of the actual audition. Final selections for group membership will be made on the basis of the candidate's individual merit only.

NOTE: Technical proficiency on instrument should be a minimum of Grade VI.

1. Fiddle Club Book 3 – the candidate will be asked to play a number of small excerpts of the adjudicators' choosing. To be fully prepared, the candidate should have all music memorised, including solo sections. Attention to style and note accuracy should be foremost in the candidate's mind.
2. 1 piece outside of repertoire– candidate's choice. Must be a fiddling piece (any style) but should not be from the past year's repertoire.
3. Sight-reading. The candidate will be asked to sight read a small passage provided by the adjudicators at the audition.
4. Ear training. The candidate will be asked to play a short melody back after hearing it played twice on the piano.
5. Identification. The candidate will be asked to identify the time signature or type of fiddle tune (waltz, jig, etc.) of an audio excerpt.
6. Right Hand Technique. Candidate will be required to demonstrate Spiccato and Ricochet bowing techniques.
7. Left Hand Technique. Candidates will be required to play the following Technique from memory:
 - ❑ Bb Major Scale, 3 octaves, 8 notes to a bow
 - ❑ C Minor Melodic Scale, 3 octaves, 8 notes to a bow
 - ❑ G Major double Stop Scales in 3rds, solid form, 1 Octave, 1 note per bow
 - ❑ A Major double Stop Scales in 6ths, solid form, 1 Octave, 1 note per bow
 - ❑ B Major double Stop Scales in Octaves, solid form, 1 Octave, 1 note per bow
 - ❑ Dominate 7th Arpeggio starting on D, 2 octaves, 4 notes to a bow
 - ❑ Diminished 7th Arpeggio starting on C, 2 octaves, 4 notes to a bow
8. Stage presence. Stage presence is a vital component of The Calgary Fiddlers. Throughout the audition, the candidate will be judged on their performance presentation and communication.
9. Fiddler will be asked to talk about the previous year, in addition to self-examination of what they accomplished. Future goals will also be discussed at this time.
10. Time commitment. The ability to make the time commitment and to complete the required tasks. At this point in the audition, the parent or guardian will be asked to join the audition/interview.

Returning candidates should carefully consider their priorities as other activities may conflict with scheduled Calgary Fiddlers' activities. These conflicts must be worked out prior to joining the group. At the audition, candidates will be asked to identify any possible conflicts.

Program Fee Description and Payments (Subject to Change for Audition Year)

Calgary Fiddlers Program Fees may be paid as follows:

1. One payment of \$1510 by cheque or credit card on October 1 **OR**
2. \$800.00 on October 1 and balance of \$705 on January 15 **OR**
3. \$800.00 on October 1 with the balance of fees paid in equal instalments of \$145 on January 15, February 15, March 15, April 15, and May 15. A service fee of \$5 per instalment has been included for this option. The Calgary Fiddlers Association requires post-dated cheques or credit card authorization on October 1 for these future payments.

Mount Royal University Registration Fee: **Please note changes

The Calgary Fiddlers Association is an affiliated program of the Mount Royal University Conservatory and this affiliation provides certain privileges such as the use of MRC facilities. As such, all students in the Calgary Fiddlers program must pay a \$20 registration fee directly to Mount Royal University.

Payment of the Mount Royal University registration fees allows the family to purchase a parking pass at Mount Royal University.

Withdrawal from Program and Refund of Fees:

The CFA's program withdrawal and refund policy:

1. If the student withdraws prior to December 1, their fees will be prorated according to the number of group lessons that have been held and the number of coaching sessions attended or forfeited to the date of withdrawal.
2. If the student withdraws on or after December 1, they are responsible for full payment of fees for the program year.
3. The Artistic Director must be informed of the withdrawal either by email or telephone.

Expectations and Cost (Subject to Change for audition year)

- Fees indicated are for the year. Although not expected to increase, fees for the audition year are pending approval of the Board of Directors.
- Successful candidates will be expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances.
- Candidates will be required to be absent from school on occasion.
- Private insurance should be purchased on all instruments.
- A fee of \$1,510.00 must be paid to Association.
- The Association will provide the following:
 - Group Classes - approximately 28 group rehearsals
 - Private Coaching Sessions with the Artistic Director, Assistant Director or an extra curricular instrumental coach -approximately 16 hours

Activities

- Local performances (approx. 60).
- Banff Conferences (approx. 15).
- Stampede Performances (as required).
- Touring by bus or van (approximately 2 tours per year).
- Recording Experience (approximately once every 3 years).
- International Tours (approximately once every 3 years).

Solos

- Every member accepted into the Calgary Fiddlers will be given one solo, (this could be in the form of a duet, trio, quartet or an extra curricular instrument feature). Any additional solos will be awarded according to playing ability during live performances.

Benefits

- Development of personal skills such as discipline and confidence.
- Where possible, opportunity to work with professionals.
- Opportunity to socialize with peers who have similar musical interests
- Cultural experience and travel.
- Exposure to a variety of types of fiddle music