

EDETTE GAGNÉ

inspiring ~ elevating ~ collaborating

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Impact

A visionary leader who inspires others to go beyond what they thought were limitations, in order to achieve amazing results. I create communities where people feel valued, included and safe to take chances, so that they can grow, flourish and be their best. I champion creative programming, including staging and performances that captivate artists and audiences alike, and am known for inspiring people to rise above the ordinary. I strategically connect with and engage community support for performing arts organizations, resulting in increased sponsorship and audience growth. I value peer mentoring and teaching, especially through the vehicles of workshops, webinars and conferences. Throughout my career, I have demonstrated a deep work ethic and a commitment to creative collaboration.

Leadership Roles

Artistic Director and Conductor, Orchestra

Empowered community players to perform exciting standard orchestral repertoire, well above the level they thought was possible. Fostered an appreciation for creative programming. Engaged the community on the Sunshine Coast [British Columbia], resulting in sold-out performances and a 300% increase in audience base. Connected with local media resulting in consistently expanded coverage of orchestra events.

Coast Symphony Orchestra: 2008-2017; West Vancouver Sinfonia and Youth Orchestra: 2009-2012

Artistic Director and Conductor, Choir

Helped singers find their true singing voices and their passion for performance. Championed creative programming which spoke to performers and audience alike. Fostered a community of inclusion, where everyone felt valued and respected. Inspired confidence with foreign languages and a myriad of performance styles. Created opportunities for collaboration with artists from different backgrounds. Created workshops, retreats and gala events.

Vivaldi Chamber Choir: 2015 to present; British Columbia Boys Choir: 2007-2020

Music Director and Stage Director, Opera and Musical Theatre

Encouraged amateur performers to deliver a consistently near-professional level product. Envisioned and created inspiring and entertaining performances of staged works. Supported board members' efforts through public speaking engagements, writing press releases and connecting with media reviewers. Mentored conductors, pianists and directors to help them grow their skills within theatrical genres.

Renegade Arts Company: current; North Shore Light Opera Society: 2009-2011, 2016, 2018, 2019; Opera Appassionata [Vancouver]: 2008-2017; Kamloops Interior Summer School of Music: 2015; Vancouver Academy of Music: 2009; Gilbert and Sullivan Society at UBC: 2007-2008; Okanagan Vocal Festival [Vernon]: 2006; University of Calgary: 2003-2005

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Leadership Roles

President, Bursary and Scholarship Chair

Empowered a 115-year-old society to move to a fully digital recital series, in order to continue to fulfill its mandate of supporting young musicians and giving them opportunities to perform for appreciative audiences, in spite of the impact of COVID-19. Spearheaded rebranding the society and bringing it into the modern age, by expanding website and social media presence, moving a Bursary Competition process onto a digital platform and expanding financial options for membership and ticket sales. Planned, secured talent and recruited support for a wide variety of fundraising events.

Vancouver Women's Musical Society [VWMS]: 2007 to present

Event Facilitator

Inspired participants to step outside their comfort zones and be creative and empowered with musical instruments. Guided participants to go from “zero to hero” with the help of teams of collaborators, allowing them to “perform” familiar works of music in under 90 minutes. Acted as a “change agent” empowering participants to return to their work environment feeling like no task is impossible.

Eventology Canada: 2017 to present; Catalyst Mexico: 2019

Skills

Passionate life-long learner; Fluently bilingual - English and French; Conversant in German and Italian; Voice teacher and coach - self-managed studio; Confident with Google Suite, Zoom and Social Media platforms; Performance diplomas in Piano and Voice; Creative problem solving and risk mitigation; Charismatic, experienced public speaker

Education

Master of Music, Instrumental and Choral Conducting, University of Calgary, Alberta
Bachelor of Education with Distinction, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB
Bachelor of Arts with Distinction, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

Other training

Conductor: International Conductors' Festival, Kiev, Ukraine;
Oregon Bach Festival Masterclass, Eugene, OR
Conducting Fellowship: Pleven Philharmonic Orchestra, Bulgaria;
Allentown Symphony Orchestra, Pennsylvania; Norwalk Symphony, Connecticut
Emerging Artist: Rose City International Conductor's Workshop, Portland, OR

Peak Interests

Curating connections between arts organizations and individuals
Supporting not for profit arts and music organizations
Fostering opportunities for collaboration and mentorship
Programming and creating unique events
Developing safe strategies for pandemic arts recovery
Investing in the power and impact of community outreach