

EDETTE GAGNÉ

elevating ~ collaborating ~ inspiring

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Impact ~ A visionary leader who inspires others to go beyond their perceived limitations

- creating communities where people feel valued, included and safe to take chances, so that they can be their best
- collaborating to create empowered teams, resulting in 25-40% increased profit margins
- championing creative problem-solving, curriculum delivery, programming, staging and performances
- strategically connecting with and engaging community support for performing arts organizations
- increasing stakeholder engagement, sponsorship, membership and audience growth by 30-50%
- facilitating peer mentoring and teaching, through apprenticeships, workshops, webinars and conferences
- maximizing the effective use of technology for program delivery and communications

Professional Achievements

Elevating:

Supporting and aligning arts organizations with their goals and missions

- supported board efforts through public speaking, written press releases and media reviews [Vivaldi Chamber Choir]
- engaged community on the Sunshine Coast [BC] resulting in 300% increase in audience base [CSO]
- connected with local media to consistently expand coverage of events, with sold-out performances as a result
- empowered 115-year old society to move to a fully digital recital series, in order to fulfil its mandate [VWMS]
- expanded options for competitors, memberships and ticket sales via digitalization and expanded social media

Developing safe strategies for pandemic arts recovery

- researched, developed and implemented a re-launch and safety plan for an adult choir [Vivaldi Chamber Choir]
- spearheaded creation and dissemination of varied digital programming [VWMS; Vivaldi Chamber Choir]
- actively participated in forums, groups and webinars to foster collaborative problem solving opportunities

Collaborating:

Curating connections, collaborations and mentorship

- created opportunities for collaboration between artists/ensembles from different backgrounds [B.C. Boys Choir]
- mentored conductors, pianists and directors in growing their skills within theatrical genres [NSLOS]
- supported young musicians, giving them opportunities to perform for appreciative audiences [VWMS]
- collaborated with gifted community members to mentor young musicians in creating their media presence [VWMS]

Empowerment, inclusion and creative collaboration

- fostered communities of inclusion, where everyone felt valued and respected
- encouraged amateur performers to deliver consistently near-professional level product
- helped singers find their true voice and their passion for performance; inspired confidence with foreign languages
- empowered event participants to go from “zero to hero” with unfamiliar instruments [Eventology; Catalyst]
- empowered community players to perform standard orchestral repertoire, well above their previous achievements

Inspiring:

Programming, creating and facilitating events

- created workshops, retreats and touring programs [British Columbia Boys Choir; Vivaldi Chamber Choir]
- inspired participants to step outside of comfort zones, in large-scale team-building events [Eventology; Catalyst]
- fostered an appreciation for and championed creative programming for orchestra, choir and opera
- envisioned and animated inspiring and entertaining performances of staged works [NSLOS; KISSM]
- planned, secured talent and recruited support for a wide variety of events [VWMS]
- maximized interdisciplinary approaches to engage participants, performers and audience members
- curated the recruitment of soloists, coaches and staff for a wide variety of educational platforms

Key Leadership Roles

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

Artistic Director and Conductor: Vivaldi Chamber Choir: 2015-present

Artistic Director and Conductor: British Columbia Boys Choir: 2007-2020

Event Facilitator: Eventology Canada and Catalyst Mexico: 2017-present

Artistic Director and Conductor: Coast Symphony Orchestra [CSO]: 2008-2017

Conductor: West Vancouver Sinfonia and Youth Orchestra: 2009-2012

Stage and Music Director: Renegade Arts Company: current production

Stage and Music Director: North Shore Light Opera Society [NSLOS]: 2009-2019

Resident Conductor: Opera Appassionata: 2008-2017

Stage Director: Kamloops Interior Summer School of Music [KISSM]: 2015

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

Expertise

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; Proponent of the power and impact of community outreach; Creative problem solving and risk mitigation; Charismatic, experienced public speaker