

Concerts in Care

Health Arts Societies / La SAMS 2025 Report

National Funders



Seniors at Shasta Community in Edmonton are treated to a free concert to celebrate a grant from the Sienna for Seniors Foundation

Introduction

Health Arts Societies, Concerts in Care Ontario and La SAMS gratefully acknowledge the ongoing contributions of national funding partners BMO and the Azrieli Foundation for the delivery of *Concerts in Care/Concerts en milieu de santé* for Canadian audiences living in care. The following is a brief summary of 2025 activities.

National Association of Health Arts Societies, Concerts in Care and La SAMS

Comprising six individual societies, our unincorporated association remains dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadian elders through a curated schedule of professional concerts. By employing local, paid artists, we bridge the gap between high-quality performance and care environments. Our collaborative framework is sustained through consistent engagement between the staff directors and board chairs of each member society.
2025 Chair: Alison Smith

British Columbia

A Year of Renewal & Strengthening our Foundation for Growth

2025 has been a year marked by stability, renewal, and strengthened impact for **Health Arts Society British Columbia**. Building on the momentum of recent years, we continued to bring music, art, connection, and joy to older adults across the province through our flagship program, **Concerts in Care**. Following the completion of a comprehensive **strategic planning process**, and in response to the changing needs of Canada's aging population, we now have a renewed operational foundation and growing community trust allowing us to focus deeply on quality, relationships, and responsiveness.

Under the continued leadership of **Executive Director Angela Brooks**, the organization moved confidently into a new phase of strategic growth. Our Board and team remained focused on sustainability, thoughtful expansion through pilot projects, and ensuring the arts remain accessible to older adults living in care and in the community throughout British Columbia.

2025 Highlights

- Over 20,000 seniors reached through 451 inspiring **Concerts in Care** across British Columbia, delivered in hospitals, long-term care, assisted living, and community settings. Many trusted client sites continue to invite us back year after year, with a total of 93 different sites visited.
- 124 different professional musicians employed, providing fully paid work while strengthening our provincial roster.
- Presentation of a rich diversity of musical genres, including classical, jazz, folk, and culturally specific programming, alongside many special celebrations.
- Continued growth of our **Adult Day Centres and Community-based programs**, expanding access for seniors living independently at home and their family caregivers.
- **Relaunch of the Helena Choir**, a co-designed choral program for people living with cognitive decline and their care partners.
- Partnership with arts organizations to launch our **first Intergenerational Art-making pilot**, bringing seniors and schoolchildren together in Vancouver's Chinatown.
- Completion of a **robust Strategic Plan**, launching a new chapter of growth and sustainability.
- Deepened relationships with **care partners, community organizations, academic institutions, and regional collaborators**.
- A successful **Fall Fundraising event**, welcoming 50 guests to share stories, food, and the collective impact of music.



Impact on Communities

According to the **National Institute on Ageing's 2024 survey**, 43% of Canadians aged 50+ are at risk of social isolation, and up to 59% have experienced loneliness. The social connections created through the arts remain central to our mission. Our work continues to reduce isolation, foster belonging, and create moments of shared joy for seniors, caregivers, staff, and performers alike across the province.

Our concerts offer not only meaningful engagement for residents, but also moments of respite and reflection for families and care staff. We repeatedly witness powerful, intimate moments of residents singing along, tapping hands, reconnecting with memories, or simply feeling seen and included. These experiences reaffirm the profound role the arts play in emotional wellbeing, dignity, and human connection.

Support and Partnerships

Financial support and collaboration make our work possible. In 2025, we are deeply grateful to those who continue to believe in the value of arts and our work.

- **Donors and Funders:** With sincere thanks to **The Azrieli Foundation, BMO Bank of Montreal, Odlum Brown, Sienna for Seniors Foundation, ZLC Foundation, Martha Lou Henley Foundation, RBC**, and numerous anonymous private foundations. Government supporters include **BC Gaming Commission, City of Vancouver, Vancouver Coastal Health, Fraser Health, and Providence Health**.
- **Board of Volunteers:** We acknowledge the leadership of our volunteer Board of Directors and extend special thanks to **Sylvia L'Ecuyer, C.M.**, who concluded several years of dedicated service.
- **Community Allies and Partners:** We are proud to collaborate with care providers, community-based health and social service agencies, and arts organizations across BC.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we close 2025, we extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports **Health Arts Society**. Looking ahead, we will continue to strengthen **Concerts in Care**, expand community programming through the **Helena**



Trio of Performers at BC Care Awards, Victoria, BC. Special Community Event. Diane Pancel (vocals), Louis Rudner (bass) and Ashley Wey (piano)



Group of senior participants from Community Partner SUCCESS, intergenerational art making pilot program, Vancouver.



Participants from our Helena Choir co-design workshop, Home office, Vancouver, November 2025.



Concert-Van Django Trio, Retirement Home in Vancouver. Cameron Wilson (violin), Finn Manniche (guitar & cello) Brent Gubbels (bass).

Choir, and explore new intergenerational initiatives, including choir and art-making collaborations. Together, we remain committed to ensuring older adults have access to the transformative power of music and the arts now and into the future

Board of Directors: David Helliwell (Chair), Anita Ghatak (Vice Chair), David Cousins (Vice Chair), Michael Gallagher (Vice Chair), Janet Nixon (Treasurer), Sylvia L'Ecuyer, C.M. (Secretary), Chantal Ryan, Heather Peets, Gillian Smith, Lynn Smith, Paul Mitchell-Banks, Sally Warren.

Honourary Patrons: Jane Coop, C.M., Christopher Gaze, O.B.C., M.S.M., George Laverock, Suzie LeBlanc, C.M., Tania Miller, Robert Silverman, C.M.

Staff: Angela Brooks (Executive Director), Roisin Adams (Artistic Director), Cindy Dai (Program Coordinator)

The clients enjoyed the music. It brought a few to tears. One client's mother was an opera singer, so it brought back good memories.

The impact was huge. We have been in outbreaks for about a month and a bit. We have had to cancel most regularly scheduled group programs. This performance came right after outbreak so it was so wonderful to get everyone out to enjoy and they sure did the audiences loved it so much and the performers gave extra time for 1 more song.

It was such a lovely, unique experience for the residents. Free concerts are very rare and appreciated!!

2025 marked a transformative chapter for Concerts in Care Alberta, characterized by unprecedented growth and significant provincial recognition. This landmark year saw the organization achieve its highest performance volume to date.

Beyond reaching record numbers, we focused on deepening our specialized outreach through the expansion of our palliative care series in Calgary and the continuation of essential psychiatric series in Edmonton. We also prioritized accessibility for low-income seniors through strategic local partnerships, ensuring that high-quality professional music remains a bridge to connection and dignity for all Albertans, regardless of their circumstances. Armed with a refreshed public identity following a strategic branding transformation, we move into the next year with a clear, renewed focus on serving our community.

2025 Milestones

- **Record Performance Growth:** We achieved our highest concert volume ever, delivering **426 concerts total** to approximately 20,000 Albertans living in care.
- **Minister's Seniors Service Award:** We were deeply honoured to receive the **2025 Minister's Seniors Service Award**, recognizing our commitment to enriching the lives of Alberta's older adults.
- **Palliative Care Expansion:** Building on our bi-weekly in-room series at the **CapitalCare Gene Zwozdesky Centre** in Edmonton, we successfully expanded our palliative series in Calgary to include **monthly concerts** at the **Dulcina Hospice**.
- **Calgary Low-Income Outreach:** We partnered with the **Calgary Musicians' Association** and the **Music Performance Trust Fund, Carewest** and **Silvera Seniors** to provide high-quality professional music specifically for low-income seniors in Calgary.
- **Continuing Essential Series:** We maintained our essential psychiatric series for in-patients at **Alberta Hospital** and continued our **Library Lunchtime Concert series**, presenting monthly performances at the Stanley Milner Branch of the **Edmonton Public Library**.

Organizational Evolution

2025 marked a period of strategic evolution for our organization

- **Branding Transformation:** Following strategic planning discussions, we successfully transitioned our public identity to **Concerts in Care Alberta** to better reflect the work we do in the community.
- **New Co-Presidency:** **Jessica Deckert-Sookram** joined **Karen Lynch** as co-president of our Board of Directors, bringing shared vision and leadership to our growing organization, and ensuring a healthy succession plan as Karen completes two terms as President.



Financial Support

Our continued growth is made possible by the generosity of our public and private partners. We welcomed a major new funding partnership with the **Sienna for Seniors Foundation** and are grateful for ongoing support from the **Azrieli Foundation**, **BMO Financial**, and the **Edmonton Community Foundation**. Our public sector supporters, the **Alberta Foundation for the Arts**, **Canada Council for the Arts**, the **Edmonton Arts Council**, **Calgary Arts Development**, and the **City of Edmonton** ensured deep local impact in our major hubs.

Board of Directors: Karen Lynch, Co-President, Jessica Deckert-Sookram, Co-President, Kieran F. Ryan, Vice President, Bernie Bolton, Secretary/Treasurer, Faith Boka-Gwinji, Andrea Giesbrecht, Kaitlynd Hiller, Dr. Stella Lee, Dr. Jeffrey Steed, Bruce Munro Wright, O.B.C.

Staff: Meran Currie-Roberts, Executive and Artistic Director, Raymond Aucoin, Administrator, Matthew Dussome, Student Administrator

I just wanted to personally reach out after our concert yesterday at the hospital. I greeted the musicians, welcomed them to our forensic service and enjoyed the concert they provided in our forensic building. I just wanted to pass along some feedback that Dan and Tyson were absolutely wonderful with our patients!! They were so engaging, receptive to our patient questions and taking song requests. We were certainly treated to an amazing concert with them! Thank you again for continuing to enrich the lives of our patients and sharing your wonderful love and talent for music. Our patients continue to be blessed by such wonderful performances.
—Tammy Day Kurash, Recovery Alberta, Edmonton



Board President Karen Lynch and Executive Director Meran Currie-Roberts accepting the Alberta Minister's Senior Service Award



Seniors at Alexandra Place in Edmonton enjoy a free concert by the Obsessions Trio



The Ednova Quartet in Performance



The Jivin' Belles in performance at Edmonton Public Library

The concerts give me so much joy, SO much joy. There's an intrigue in what's going to happen. Sometimes there's maybe two cellos, sometimes three piece. It's just a joy to go. And I watch the people around me and we all feel the same. We come away feeling filled somehow. And to think that it's all right here in our building. All we have to do is go and enjoy.
—Margaret, Audience Member, Edmonton

All I can say is outstanding!! The performances we had this year were phenomenal to say the least! I can not thank you enough for helping me get them here. I promised my residents I would email you their thanks they said "love love loved it."
—Michelle Maschke, Didsbury Long Term Care

This year, Silvera had the pleasure of partnering with [Concerts in Care Alberta] to bring ten free Concerts in Care to our residents. All concerts were performed by professional musicians who are members of the Calgary Musicians' Association. The impact of these performances was immediate and deeply meaningful to the seniors who call Silvera home. Through this partnership, we were reminded that music is powerful. It sparks memories, lifts moods, reduces stress and creates meaningful connections with others. The residents' excitement and engagement at these concerts spoke volumes about the power of the arts to uplift and connect people, particularly seniors who may otherwise have limited access to arts and cultural experiences.
—Nadine Maillot, Silvera for Seniors, Calgary

Saskatchewan

Concerts and Outreach

In 2025, a total of 190 *Concerts in Care* were presented throughout Saskatchewan. Audiences were served in long-term care and retirement communities across the major centres of Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Prince Albert, as well as in many smaller communities. These performances were offered through touring initiatives that reached Biggar, Carrot River, Fort Qu'Appelle, Humboldt, La Ronge, Lanigan, Leask, Lumsden, Melfort, Melville, Nokomis, Raymore, Shellbrook, Strasbourg, Watrous, and Yorkton.

Administration and Volunteer Leadership

Public relations, programme coordination, and overall management of activities continued under the leadership of volunteer Noela Bamford, President of the Board of Directors. In addition to overseeing day-to-day operations, she has played a central role in developing and implementing a variety of fundraising initiatives in support of the Society's work.

Fundraising and Community Support

The Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of an expanded base of individual donors in 2025, supported in large part by the success of the annual board-led "Cup of Cheer" holiday fundraising campaign. New and returning community donors and sponsors this year included the Ann and Roger Phillips Foundation, the Sienna for Seniors Foundation, the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation, Affinity Credit Union, SaskTel, the Topsy Samurai, and the Music Performance Trust Fund.

Looking ahead, the Society is pleased to recognise new commitments already secured for 2026 concert projects, including rural tours, from the G. Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation Fund and the Lorne and Evelyn Johnson Fund, both administered through the South Saskatchewan Community Foundation.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors for 2025 consisted of Noela Bamford (President), David Millar, Madoka Otani, Bob Perry, Vaughn Solomon Schofield (S.O.M., S.V.M.), and Janet Wilson.

A woman with advanced Alzheimer's, non-verbal for months, listened to a Baroque ensemble [Per Sonatori]. After the final piece, she clearly told the violinist: "I used to be a concert violinist. I played every note with you."

A pianist with dementia, during [J.S. Bach's] Brandenburg concerto, raised her hands and played every phrase in the air with perfect technique. For that moment, she returned to herself.
—Resident at Park Side Extencicare (Regina)

A beloved community supporter, heard a solo cello performance in her care home. For the first time in months, she clearly remembered where she had been born. The joy and clarity lasted a full week.
—Resident at Queen Victoria Estates (Regina)



Michael Bridge (accordion) and Kornel Wolak (clarinet) at Extencicare Elmview (Regina)



The Nightingales at Green Falls Landing (Regina)



Payadora Tango Ensemble at Santa Maria Senior Citizens Home (Regina)

In 2025, *Concerts in Care* Ontario continued to focus on increasing our musical footprint beyond the GTA. With impetus from our Soundwaves donors, we made new connections and deepened existing ones in places other than the GTA, which has the greatest density of long-term care and seniors' residences in Ontario. We also initiated *Concerts for the Forgotten*, funded by our individual donors to take music to homes that otherwise would simply not have the means to engage high quality live music.

- CiCO achieved several milestones, including
- 522 concerts – first time past the 500 mark in one year
 - 1,010 musician engagements – first time past the 1,000 mark in one year
 - \$101,321 in individual donations – first time past the \$100K mark

We completed two research projects: *CreateMore*, a 3-year partnership with Sheridan College funded by a Canada Council for the Arts-NSERC partnership, focusing on the effects of live music on front-line healthcare staff over 222 concerts; and *Caregivers' Concerts & Conversations*, a 10-week pilot program funded by Ontario's Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, engaging family and friend caregivers in a long-term care setting.

Highlights:

- We performed in 119 unique facilities in 19 communities, including Sudbury, Barrie, Ottawa, Pembroke, Kingston, Hamilton, London, Brantford, Guelph, Lindsay, and Kitchener.
- The Ambassador Program launched in 2024 gained strength and momentum, with the volunteer Ambassadors creating a reporting community that is increasingly helpful to artists, homes, and to CiCO administration.
- We expanded our services to both Homes First and Loft– bringing live professional music of all kinds to residents living in Homes First shelters and in LOFT supportive housing locations.
- We entered a new partnership with North Simcoe Muskoka Special Geriatrics Services to deliver both in-person and interactive Zoom concerts for seniors across their region.

Concerts in Care Ontario

Financial Support:

- **Public:** Ontario Arts Council granted CiCO its first operating funding for 2026. In 2025, OAC project funding boosted our Soundwaves program, helping us to reach more seniors in more communities. Toronto Arts Council contributed funding towards 23 concerts in the City of Toronto.
- **Private:** CiCO was most grateful for renewed principal support from the Azrieli Foundation, BMO, Bennett Family Foundation, Sienna for Seniors Foundation.
 - We also welcomed major foundation renewals from Catherine and Maxwell Meighen, Takla, Hodgson Family, William and Nona Heaslip, and Crabtree, and welcomed the Green Sanderson Foundation.
 - Individual giving increased by 25%, through both our *Concerts for the Forgotten* campaign and the efforts of our Board with 53 new donors.

Governance

The Board welcomed Laurie Few, Executive Producer at TVO, Kasandra Sharpe, HR professional and former musician, and Dr. Darius Bagli, retired pediatric urologist and pianist.

Honorary Patron: The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

Board of Directors: Alison Smith (Chair), Ronald Hay (Secretary, Nominating Chair), Paul Harding (Treasurer), Jessica Liu (Ambassador Liaison), Julie Ranti (Artistic Liaison)

Staff: Debra Chandler (Executive Director), Andrew Burashko (Artistic Advisor), Brenton Chan (Music Coordinator), Kat Horzempa (GM/Bookkeeper)



Andrew McAnsh at Chester Village



Colin Meier and Matti Pulkki At West Orillia Sports Complex



Diane Nalini with Venvi Colonel By residents



EV Trio-August 6, 2025-CiC-Chartwell Grenadier

Canadian harpist Sharlene Wallace is an impressive musician and storyteller. She engaged residents to add to the story she was telling as she played her Celtic harp (from Scotland). One visitor pulled residents to their feet – and dancing followed. Others were clapping, stomping their feet, and humming along to the music.
—*Village of Humber Heights, Toronto*

Caitlin and Dobrochna were masterful (violin/cello). They played classical pieces (Beethoven) and a several obscure selections. The residents were very engaged – hooting and applause after each piece. And yes, there was dancing!
—*Rygiel Supports, Hamilton*

I would like to thank you very much for facilitating the Limestone Trio's performance at Rideaucrest Home. The afternoon was absolutely magical, and our residents were transfixed with the performance. We would be happy to have another such event in the future!
—*Rideaucrest Home, Kingston*

Richard Underhill (Sax) and Nathan Hiltz (Guitar) entertained an audience of residents (26 at peak) and staff (12) with a highly professional jazz set including many instantly recognisable tunes including Moon River, Mack the Knife, and - most highly applauded - When You're Smiling. Impromptu dancing broke out at the rear of the performance space, and it was clear that the performance was as highly valued by the staff as it was by the residents
—*Wellesley Re kai, Toronto*

The energetic trio of Robert, Brigham and Steve was a real crowd pleaser – an Octoberfest themed concert with full regalia of lederhosen, socks and Alpine hats. They had the audience tapping, or clapping, or even singing along as best they could. We even got a care worker up to join us! It was spirited and lighthearted and the musicians interacted with the audience. It was a very accessible concert for this care home, with residents that are mostly physically or cognitively highly challenged.
—*Chester Village LTC, Scarborough*

1 555 occasions de semer le bonheur, en rendant accessible la musique, le talent et la bienveillance de nos artistes

Grâce à son réseau établi dans les secteurs de la santé et de la culture, ainsi qu'au soutien de ses partenaires et de sa communauté philanthropique, La SAMS a présenté plus de 1 500 concerts et activités musicales à travers la province du Québec lors de sa saison 2024-2025, dont 92 ateliers-chorale SAM'Chante et 34 activités en ligne.

Ce chiffre de diffusion record a permis à plus de 70 000 personnes fragilisées de recevoir les bienfaits de ces visites musicales au service de la santé physique, mentale et sociale, grâce à la collaboration de 230 artistes professionnels, issus des milieux de la musique classique, du jazz, de la chanson et des musiques du monde.

Concerts en groupe et de chambre en chambre

Des concerts en solo, duo, trio ou quatuor ont été offerts dans les CHSLD, les résidences et centres de jour pour aînés, les hôpitaux, notamment dans les services d'oncologie, en soins palliatifs et dans les instituts en santé mentale. Lorsque les résidents ou patients ne pouvaient se déplacer dans les aires communes, nos artistes troubadours leur ont rendu respectueusement visite dans leur chambre, offrant quelques minutes d'évasion musicale et d'apaisement. Dès que la chaleur fut au rendez-vous, des concerts extérieurs ont également été proposés.

Chorales SAM'CHANTE

Les chorales de La SAMS s'adressent à des personnes aphasiques à la suite d'un AVC ou vivant avec des troubles neurocognitifs, comme la maladie d'Alzheimer, ainsi qu'à leurs proches aidants. Décontractés et rassembleurs, ces ateliers ont lieu de façon hebdomadaire durant toute l'année. Ils visent à travailler les mots, la voix, la respiration ainsi que la coordination des participants qui ont des troubles du langage.

Activités en ligne

Des services musicaux en ligne, accessibles gratuitement, ont bonifié l'offre proposée aux établissements et ont permis de rejoindre les aînés à domicile, partout au Québec. Durant les mois d'hiver, La SAMS en direct a proposé à son public des rendez-vous hebdomadaires sur Zoom avec ses artistes des quatre coins de la province.



Financement et partenariats

Pour la saison 2024-2025, un montant de 588 000 \$ a été remis en cachets aux artistes. La SAMS a reçu le soutien du Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec et du Conseil des arts de Montréal. La majorité de son financement provient de ses ententes avec les établissements de santé, de partenaires corporatifs tels que BMO et Banque TD, de fondations comme la Fondation Azrieli, la Fondation Grace Dart, la Fondation Mirella et Lino Saputo, ainsi que de donateurs privés. La soirée-bénéfice du 23 avril 2025, tenue sous la présidence d'honneur de Suzanne Tremblay, Gestion de Patrimoine TD, et animée par Sophie Fouron, fut un grand succès.

Conseillères scientifiques : Isabelle Peretz (Chaire de recherche du Canada en neurocognition de la musique), Julia Chabot (Centre hospitalier de St. Mary et Association des médecins gériatres du Québec), Brigitte Gilbert (Clinique Bien Vieillir)

Conseil d'administration 2024-2025 : Sylvia L'Écuyer, C.M. (coprésidente et cofondatrice), Marc-André LeBel (coprésident), Jack Altman (vice-président), Julie Rizi (trésorière), Marc Lemieux (secrétaire), Claude Beauchamp, Ingrid Jensen, David Levine, Dominique Sorel, Claudine Tremblay-Jolicoeur et Daniel Turp (président émérite et cofondateur).

Au début de l'année 2025-2026, Jack Altman et Marc Lemieux ont quitté le conseil d'administration et deux nouvelles membres ont été nommées, Julie Gosselin et Nadine Lapierre.

Équipe : Florence Troncy (directrice générale), Charlotte Cumberbirch (directrice artistique), Madeleine Owen (responsable, administration artistique), Laurie Gagné (coordonnatrice aux communications), Rosanne Boisvert (bénévole à l'évaluation des concerts)



Le duo Marie-Élodie Serfati et Alexander Lozowski lors d'une visite musicale à l'hôpital St. Mary (CHUM)



Le Early Jazz Band en tournée dans les centres d'hébergement et de soins longue durée (CHSLD) de la région de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue



Le quatuor à cordes de l'Ensemble Obiora en résidence pour aînés



La harpiste Annabelle Renzo en visite en soins palliatifs

« Quand on chante une chanson, il y a une émotion, quelque chose qui revient. Pendant quelques instants, il n'y a plus de maladie, ni d'empêchement à communiquer ou à être ensemble. »

—Tiphaine Legrand, cheffe de chœur, chorale SAM'Chante

« Toute forme de musique va diminuer le taux de cortisol, l'hormone du stress. La musique peut être un analgésique, un relaxant et un stimulant. »

—Dre Isabelle Peretz

« Nous apportons un moment de répit à des personnes très isolées par l'âge ou par la maladie, et nous recevons également énormément. Il y a ces instants de grâce où le temps semble suspendu, lorsque les résidents chantent, d'autres vont même jusqu'à danser, des larmes de bonheur coulent parfois. Beaucoup de mercis, de chaleur humaine, et la sensation d'avoir ajouté une bulle de joie et de paix. »

—Marie-Élodie Serfati, violoniste

Atlantic Canada

Highlights of 2025

Health Arts Society of Atlantic Canada presented 205 concerts in 2025, a big jump from the previous year (119 concerts). We returned to New Brunswick (Saint John and Fredericton) and presented 481 musician engagements in styles including Classical, Country, Jazz, Celtic, Big Band, Blues and Pop/Singer-Songwriter.

The diversity of our musicians included players from the Filipino, Ukrainian, Black, Russian, Jewish, Scottish and Acadian communities. Our musicians were engaged to open new facilities, celebrate significant anniversaries of others, and perform for the holiday get together of CARP in the presence of our Lieutenant Governor and his wife. We provided music for the Nursing Homes of Nova Scotia Association's conference and the Daffodil Garden for Cancer Survivors' anniversary. Our partnership with Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation increased our performances to twice a month.

Funding

We are grateful for renewed funding from the J&W Murphy Foundation and the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia, taking us into venues like the IWK Children's Hospital, Spencer House (seniors' day programs) and the Geriatric Rehabilitation Unit of Camp Hill Veterans' Hospital. We also performed at the Psychiatric Geriatric Assessment Unit of Camp Hill Veterans Hospital and two nursing homes in Wolfville. We also thank Arts Nova Scotia for operating assistance, and Seniors Nova Scotia for their Age Friendly Community Grant. We received funding from the Halifax International Airport (Uplifted) to present concerts in the historic Black community of Cherry Brook at the Black Cultural Centre. We received a grant from the SOCAN Foundation to present all Canadian music by local duo Blackwood. We also benefit from our shared national funding from BMO and the Azrieli Foundation. New sponsors include Universal Realty and House Maestro Realty.

Administrative

Our partnership with Debut Atlantic continued with no-cost concerts with their touring artists in Halifax and Truro and will continue in 2026.

Honourary Patron: Barbara Hannigan, C.M., conductor and soprano

Board: Donna Logan (Chair); David Lemon, M.S.M.; Sylvia L'Ecuyer, C.M., *Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres*; Dave van der Wetering

Staff: Peggy Walt (Administrator)

This program is beneficial in that it allows individuals who may not have the opportunity to hear high-quality music attend concerts while they are in the hospital. On numerous occasions, patients and family members on the Geriatric Assessment Unit, 9th Floor, of the Abbie J. Lane Building, have had the opportunity to attend several concerts in care. Patients have reported that it was an enjoyable experience, and some patients expressed that it was the highlight of their day. It brings much joy and happiness to those who attend. It also provides patients who have extended hospital stays the ability to stay connected to their communities as well as the opportunity to reminisce with the performers and other participants. We look forward to collaborating in the future.

—Bernadine Matthews, BSc (Rec), CTRS, QII Health Sciences Center, Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building

I personally witnessed a young man (not sure if staff or university student) approach the musicians at one of the Gazebo performances to thank and congratulate them on a wonderful performance and said it made his day. Our staff have remarked that they absolutely loved being able to sit and listen to music over their lunch. It's a fantastic program that touches a lot of people in many ways.

—Val Hill, Administrative Assistant, Child Life Services, IWK Health

When I plan programs at Spencer House, our members almost always ask for music. It can be hard to find musicians who not only want to visit but also play the kind of music our members love. That is why Concerts in Care has been such a gift to us. Peggy has a real talent for understanding what our members enjoy and then connecting with the best musicians to bring it to life. Over time, it has become one of the most loved parts of our programming.

I have seen how powerful these concerts can be, especially for members living with vision loss, memory loss, and other health challenges. The change in the atmosphere is incredible. For some of our members, it's like a switch flips, from being sad and depressed to suddenly wanting to sing and clap. Some of our members don't have the ability to communicate what it means to them, and I think these are the people who it impacts the most. Watching people who experience dementia brighten up when they hear a song they know is an experience we can't thank Concerts in Care enough for providing.

—Brittany Lambert (she/her), Program Coordinator, Spencer House Seniors Centre



Owen Lee with a special fan — Dartmouth General Hospital concert



Anthony Rissesco (fiddle/vocals) with a member at Spencer House Seniors concert



Stephen Harding, President and CEO, Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation; Peggy Walt, General Manager, Concerts in Care; Vladimir Sitnikov, guitar; Mike Cowie (trumpet/vocals), Shimon Walt, cellist.



Country Classics Christmas with guest resident, Parkland at the Common, December, 2025



(Left to right) Singer Kim Doolittle, GM Peggy Walt, cellist Shimon Walt, pianist John Ebata and HASAC Board Chair, Donna Logan — Camp Hill Hospital Geriatric Rehabilitation Unit, December, 2025.



Pianist/composer Peter-Anthony Togni and Bass Clarinet/composer Jeff Reilly (Blackwood Duo), performing their original materials at Dartmouth General Hospital, with support from the SOCAN Foundation



Gavin Williamson with Seven Oaks resident.



For more details, please visit: concertsincare.ca, concertsincareontario.com and samsante.org

Pour plus d'information, visitez les sites suivants :
concertsincare.ca, concertsincareontario.com et samsante.org