

**Bill Dimmer** has been described as a “cornerstone” of Edmonton’s music scene. The structural metaphor explains his selection as an Artist/Builder in Edmonton’s Arts and Culture Hall of Fame 2014.

Between his arrival in 1971 and his retirement from the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in 2014, Bill served as a teacher, mentor, administrator, conductor, and performer, including a potential Canadian record 43 seasons as ESO assistant principal trumpet. Bill played a seminal role in creating the ESO’s educational concert series, which he was involved in for over 20 years and introduced a generation of Edmontonians to the orchestra. The ESO has been at the forefront of educational programming in North America and much of the credit is due to Bill’s talent for engaging young people – he’s been known to don eye-popping theme costumes, from green cats to aliens, to win their attention.



Bill has shared his musical knowledge with countless private students, teaching at post-secondary institutions such as the University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan University, acting as clinician and adjudicator at workshops and festivals in Western Canada, and, with students at the MusiCamrose summer music camp, where he served as managing director for several years. He has performed with several groups including the Tommy Banks Band and the Plumbers Union, and is currently music director of the Nova Musica Concert Orchestra and is active as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator. A skilled pilot, he is an active air crew member and instructor with the Civil Air Search and Rescue Association and ground school instructor at the Edmonton Flying Club. He has been known to fly colleagues to remote northern communities as part of the National Arts Centre’s music outreach clinics.

**Deanna Dolstra** has been playing fiddle for approximately 30 years and is trained in Ottawa Valley Step dance. She competed in fiddle and step dance in the Ontario Contest Circuit for many years, retiring in 2000. She recently has begun competing again in her home of Alberta, most recently placing 2nd in the Championship Class at the Métis Spring Competition in St. Albert in May 2016.

Performance and instruction has been the focus for Deanna along with the recent return to competition. For the last decade Deanna has performed with the Newfoundland based band “Celtic Powerhouse” on fiddle, step dance, keys, and back up vocals. Celtic Powerhouse released their debut album “Bound to Raise a Little Dust” in 2009. Prior to this Deanna released her own independent album in 2002. She has been a guest performer and has appeared on recordings various other artists and groups including Randy Carville, Claidhmor, Fraser MacDuff, and world music band Barakah.



Deanna began her dance career as a Clogger, dancing with the Step In Time Cloggers with Darryl Linnington. She was trained by Michelle Lubiniecki and Judy Waymouth in Ottawa Valley Stepdance and prepped for competition in individual and group categories.

Deanna studied with fiddle teachers Michelle (Lubiniecki) Charlton and Victor Pasowisty, and is also classically trained studying with Witold Swoboda. She also attended the Ceilidh Trail School of Celtic Music in Inverness, Cape Breton.

**Joseph Fridman** has earned two Master's Degrees – as a pianist and opera director – both from the world-renowned St. Petersburg State Conservatory (Russia). He is a concert pianist, teacher, vocal coach and accompanist. He performs in solo and chamber recitals and has been broadcast frequently on CBC Radio.

Joseph taught at the Schools for Musically Gifted Children of St. Petersburg and Kiev and the Pskov Music College, and performed with the St. Petersburg and Pskov Philharmonics and Orchestras. He served on the faculty of the Alberta College Conservatory of Music and the University of Alberta. He also worked as a repetiteur and diction coach at the Opera Nuova and Edmonton Opera.

He was a producer, performer, and stage director for "Musical Encounters", a series of concerts for children combining instrumental and vocal music, theatre, puppetry and fine art. Joseph lectures and gives masterclasses and workshops throughout Canada, Ukraine, Russia and the USA. He has taught at various summer schools such as: "Strings and Keys" (Bergen), Alberta College International Music Academy (Edmonton), "Vivo!" (Edmonton) and was a clinician at the CASSA (Calgary) Summer School.

He has adjudicated a number of festivals and competitions, including the prestigious Canadian Music Competition (CMC) and Seattle Young Artists Music Festival (SYAMFA). Mr. Fridman is a founder and co-director of the Alberta Music Academy, where he currently teaches. Joseph's piano students have received first class honors and medals in RCM and Conservatory Canada Exams, first and second prizes in the Kiwanis Festival, Fall Festival and Northern Alberta Concerto Competition. Many of his students have continued their studies at prestigious institutions such as McGill University, University of Toronto and Juilliard School.



**Mireille Rijavec** has appeared as a mezzo soprano soloist with the Alberta Baroque Ensemble, the Richard Eaton Singers, Pro Coro Canada, the Edmonton Metropolitan Orchestra, Concordia University Chorus and Orchestra, Opera Breve Vancouver, Western Concert Opera, Opera Lyra Ottawa, and in productions supported by Edmonton Opera. She has been heard as the inimitable Julia Child in Lee Hoiby's *Bon Appétit!*, an operatic version of one of Julia's cooking shows, which brought her critical acclaim in Vancouver and at the Edmonton Fringe.

Mireille is also in demand as a cabaret singer: she presented her cabaret *Brie, Baguette* and a *Broad* many times in the last 10 years. In 2013, Mireille appeared in the Edmonton Fringe in the critically acclaimed *Lost in Montmartre*, a cabaret/wake in honour of the composer Erik Satie, where "...classical singer Mireille Rijavec is the sublime vocal highlight who helps you get lost in Satie's Paris." (Edmonton Journal). In 2015 Mireille was in ***A Most Beautiful Deception***, the story of how a poet was inspired by the music of Chopin, Debussy, Robert and Clara Schumann.



Mireille has a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of British Columbia. She was Music Faculty at the University of Alberta's Campus Saint-Jean from 1999 to 2012 and was on staff at Concordia University of Edmonton from 2006 to 2016 as a voice instructor, Manager and Program Coordinator of Concordia's School of Music. Mireille has been heard many times on the CBC as a soloist and has been a member of Edmonton's professional choir, Pro Coro Canada since 2001. In 2016, she took on the role of Executive Director of the choir and in June 2018 was elected to the Edmonton Arts Council.

Mireille has a private voice studio and works with students of all levels, from children to adults. Mireille's pedagogy is based in the realm of classical vocal music. She stresses the importance of being able to read music, healthy vocal technique, and ultimately the joy of communicating through song.