

Canada Council for the Arts 150  
P.O. Box 1047, Elgin Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V8

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Windwood Music Festival - Grant Application

On behalf of Airdrie City Council, I am pleased to provide a letter in support of the Windwood Music Festival's application to the **Explore and Create: - Concept to Realization** for **\$38,500** of funding for their two-week **Windwood Music Festival** in August of 2025.

Airdrie has experienced one of the highest growth rates in Canada and is currently the fastest-growing city in Alberta. Airdrie is home to an estimated 80,000 people and supporting the sustainable growth of the city's arts and culture scene, plays a crucial role in strengthening our community. The Windwood Music Festival has been instrumental in addressing the arts needs of a rapidly growing city and supporting this organization's sustainable development greatly benefits our local community.

Airdrie is a city that loves the arts. The Windwood Music Festival has celebrated three seasons in Airdrie and each year they see their audience base growing, their collaborators and supporters increasing and their community reach expanding. In 2024, the festival and its resident artists partnered with the Airdrie Abilities Center, Airdrie Adult Care facilities at Bethany Airdrie, Souto Farms, the Airdrie Public Library, and St. George in the Pines in Banff. As well as performing in the aforementioned locations they also performed in the Bert Church Theatre, Chinook Winds Park, and Brella Vida. Each of these venues attract their own unique communities and most of their audiences do not have easy access to classical music. We repeatedly hear that it is great to have such high-level classical music in Airdrie, rather driving to Calgary to see similar events.

They have a strong group of collaborators who want to continue to build their relationship with them, including the Nose Creek Players, local arts groups such as the Calgary Civic Low Brass Quartet and Flute Duo, the Airdrie Community Choir, Airdrie Scots Pipe and Drums, Solfeo Academy, Starbright Academy, mezzo-soprano Alicia Woynarski, local audio engineers, photographers and drone artists, event spaces, venues, farms, churches and breweries. Each year, this list grows.

In short, Windwood takes classical music beyond its usual locale of concert halls and places it in many of Airdrie's most-loved recreational spaces. Furthermore, the festival has also brought impactful collaborations with local small businesses, the city's theatre group, other regional musicians and our seniors' community to life.

Council and I are pleased to support the Windwood Music Festival's request for funding from the Canada Council for the Arts 150.

Sincerely,



Heather Spearman  
Deputy Mayor