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MacEwan University faculty to perform at Carnegie Hall

Edmonton—How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Become a member of MacEwan University’s music faculty. On May 8, 2012, four music program instructors will be travelling to New York as part of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra’s (ESO) 60th anniversary celebrations.

The ESO was the only Canadian orchestra invited to perform as part of Carnegie Hall’s second annual Spring for Music Festival, which is a concentrated festival of concerts by North American symphony and chamber orchestras. John Taylor, head of the bass department at MacEwan University and assistant principal bassist for the ESO, Brian Thurgood, head of MacEwan University’s drum department, and Joel Gray, trumpet instructor at MacEwan University, will all get the opportunity to perform on the legendary New York stage for the first time. Allan Gilliland, MacEwan University’s head of composition, will also be in attendance to hear the ESO and internationally renowned trumpet soloist Jen Lindemann perform the US premiere of his piece, “Dreaming of the Masters III.”

This will be the ESO’s Carnegie Hall debut, an ultimate achievement of their diamond jubilee season, as well as a once in a lifetime opportunity for its musicians. “It’s very rare to get the chance to play at Carnegie Hall, especially when you live in Edmonton,” says MacEwan University music program chair, Bob Gilligan. “I think it shows the quality and level of expertise of our music faculty – as both writers and players. They are not only well known around Edmonton in the jazz and contemporary world, but also world class musicians performing with the ESO and elsewhere,” he adds.

The ESO, made up of 64 musicians from Canada and around the world, will join five other North American orchestras on the renowned stage next spring. Under the direction of William Eddins, the orchestra performs more than 80 concerts each season.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University is proudly celebrating its 40th anniversary. As a comprehensive university, MacEwan University offers more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training. Its philosophy of inspiring minds, providing career opportunities and opening the doors to academic excellence, continues to be its guide as it serves the educational needs of students across Alberta, Canada and the world.

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