Faculty member releases two documentary films

Edmonton—Dr. Michael MacDonald, an assistant professor in the Department of Music is set to release two video documentaries that were funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

*Pimachihowin* focuses on the research completed by Dr. David Lertzman, assistant professor in the University of Calgary’s Haskayne School of Business. It looks at how the Cree philosophy of Pimachihowin, which roughly translates to “living with the land,” might contribute to better working relationships between Indigenous communities and oil companies which tend to have a relationship dominated by political protest.

*The Genius of the Violin* is based on a project by Dr. Guillaume Tardif, associate professor of music at the University of Alberta. It explores the diverse identities of the violin and brings in MacEwan University faculty member Daniel Gervais to explore the spaces where different cultural traditions overlap.

While the two films seem very different on the surface, MacDonald says they are both about the dialogue between cultures. “My own research is focused on cultural sustainability, and that’s really what both of these projects are about,” says MacDonald.

“The research findings in both cases are important, socially relevant and culturally significant, but are difficult to share in traditional ways,” added MacDonald. “As valuable as academic writing is, the film provides a different approach to reach a wider audience.”

When: Thursday, January 28
Where: CN Lecture Theatre (5-142) City Centre Campus
Time: 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.