

JazzYYC Nomination of New Directors, 2023 (joining Mar 7, 2024)

Maham Aftab



Maham is a corporate sustainability expert, passionate about the once-in-a-generation opportunity presented by the global transition to a low carbon economy- and embedded within this opportunity, the potential for long term community transformation. Much of her work focuses on designing ESG driven business solutions and sustainability reporting, grant writing, Indigenous rights-holder and stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning. An active community volunteer, she has served on the board of Solar Alberta, an Emerald award-winning non-profit dedicated to advocacy towards accelerating the energy transition in Alberta. She also served on the City of Calgary's Climate Advisory Committee and is currently an Energy Futures Lab Fellow. She holds graduate degrees in Policy and Strategy, and Economics and International Business.

A resident of downtown Calgary, Maham is a keen supporter of live arts and music in the city- especially jazz. She is thrilled to participate in Jazz YYC's efforts to make live jazz more widely accessible to Calgarians, advocate for performers, and build stronger partnerships in the process.

Shelley Cameron



Shelley is an enthusiastic Human Resources professional with 30 years' experience in a variety of HR roles, primarily within the North American and global energy industry. She is currently Senior Talent Management Advisor for Parex Resources, where she is focused on enhancing employee engagement and creating programs to promote diversity and cross-cultural awareness. Shelley is recognized for her creativity, positive outlook, and ability to build strong business relationships while providing practical human resources solutions. In addition to holding a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Regina, Shelley is a Chartered Professional in Human Resources (CPHR) in Alberta.

Shelley has a lifelong love of music and knows all the words but can't carry a tune. When she isn't learning Spanish, Shelley's reading a book or gardening.

Darren Cooper



Currently a Sales Manager with Siemens Energy, Darren provides Electrical, Automation and Digital solutions to Energy Customers in North America as well as developing Automation and Power Management solutions for integrated Wind, Hydrogen, Ammonia projects throughout Canada. Darren holds a Bachelor of Applied Information Systems and has over twenty years experience providing Sales, Commercial and Project Management to the Utility, Oil & Gas, Energy, and Industrial space. Darren brings energy and ideas to develop businesses and engage people.

Darren's volunteer experience over the past five years has included Event support for the JazzYYC International, Summer and Canada Jazz Festivals as well as volunteering for the Calgary Folkfest and CKUA. Early in his career Darren volunteered for CJSR as On-Air and Production support then pursued Recording Engineering and worked as a Sound Reinforcement Engineer. A long time Calgarian, Darren enjoys downhill skiing and scuba diving and is eager to combine his professional and musical activities to grow the Calgary jazz community.

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Michael Crowe



Michael joins the JazzYYC board with over 10 years of executive and board governance experience in the non-profit and educational sectors. His first introduction to jazz came in high school where he was the drummer for the school's swing band. This initial fascination quickly evolved into a lifelong dedication for jazz music, jazz musicians, jazz history, and jazz education. More recently he was part of a short-lived collaboration with his two sons: The Black Pearl Trio. He brings with him an enthusiasm for jazz and the jazz community in Calgary, and a dedication to advancing the mission of our organization.

Glennis Houston



Dr. Glennis Houston is a jazz musician, educator, researcher, recording artist, composer, arranger, administrator, and life-long learner. Her PhD studies in Music, through York University, focused on extracting pertinent information from the complexities of jazz theory and creating an aural-based jazz theory course that would be applicable and informative for community singers – those singers who often did not have formal musical education sufficient to comprehend typical instrumental-focused jazz education. She also researched contemporary voice and its application to improvising; instrumental vs vocal jazz education in applied music studios in the university setting; as well as the use of Solkattu (South-Indian rhythm syllables) for rhythmic study. Glennis has presented her research at conferences in Calgary and St. John's, NF. While finishing her dissertation, she completed her B. Ed. through Ambrose U. to enable her to teach within the public school system. She is currently Director of Music Education at Louis Riel School with the CBE, teaching Grades 7-9 band, along with providing music education to children in younger grades. She has performed throughout Calgary and surrounding areas for many years, in a variety of groups. Currently, she is a member of LUSH Vocal Jazz, a four-part vocal group concentrating on tight vocal jazz harmonies. She has recorded two vocal jazz CDs with some of Calgary's top musicians, writing both words and music to many of the songs.

Artur Khachatryan



Artur is a passionate jazz and contemporary music enthusiast with 20 years of experience in event organization and the travel industry. Currently, he serves as the CEO of My Caribbean Luxury Travel, a luxury tour operator exclusively working with the Dominican Republic. Artur's jazz and musical tastes have been shaped by Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Bill Evans, Joe Zawinul, and Keith Jarrett. However, his introduction to jazz music was influenced by the Musique Concrète genre, pioneered by Pierre Schaeffer and Jean Michel Jarre. Artur has organized several events that complement his interests in music and cinematography, dedicated to the works of Miles Davis, Jean Michel Jarre, David Lynch, Ingmar Bergman, and Canadian film directors David Cronenberg and Atom Egoyan.