



15th Banff International String Quartet Competition

2025

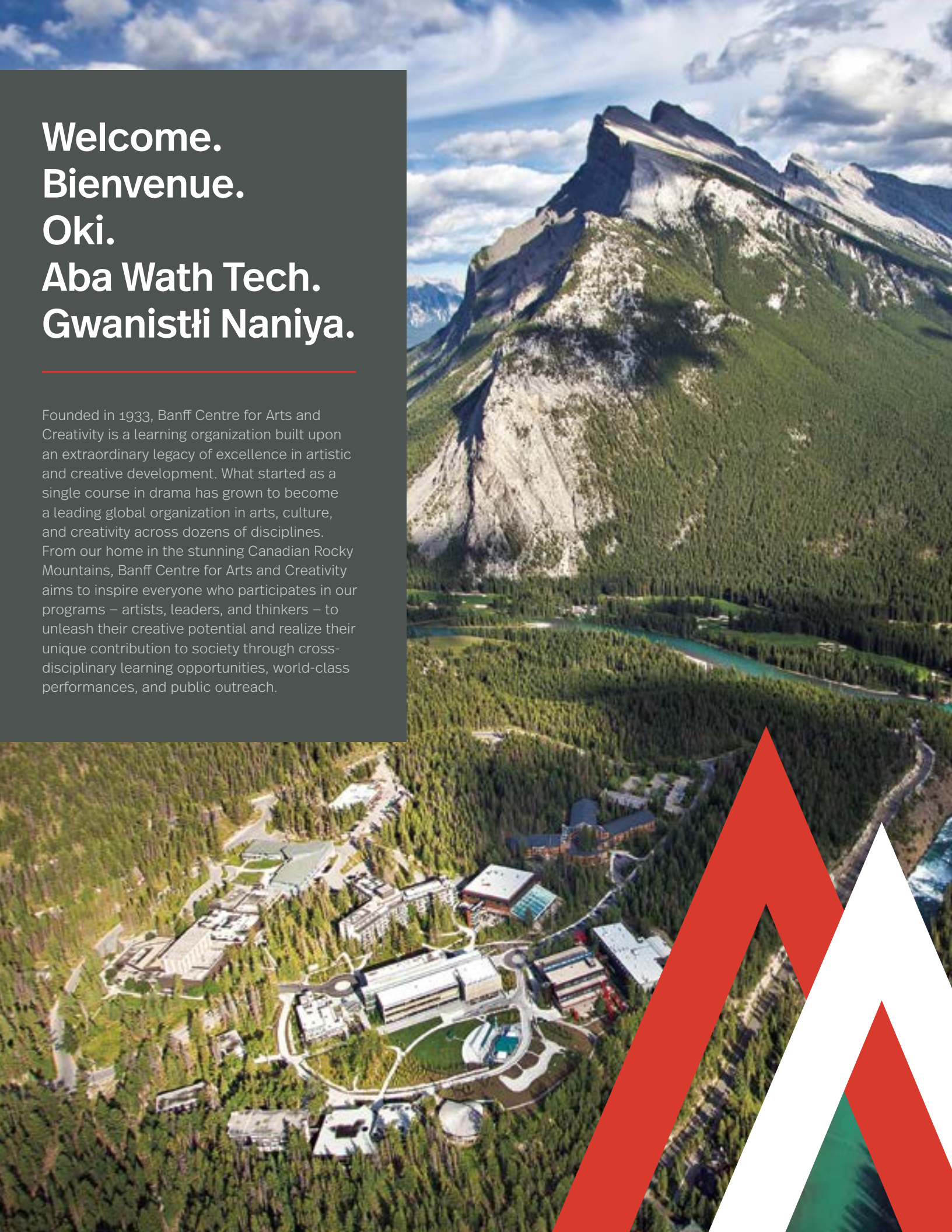
August 25 - 31, 2025



BANFF
CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CREATIVITY

Welcome. Bienvenue. Oki. Aba Wath Tech. Gwanistłi Naniya.

Founded in 1933, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity is a learning organization built upon an extraordinary legacy of excellence in artistic and creative development. What started as a single course in drama has grown to become a leading global organization in arts, culture, and creativity across dozens of disciplines. From our home in the stunning Canadian Rocky Mountains, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity aims to inspire everyone who participates in our programs – artists, leaders, and thinkers – to unleash their creative potential and realize their unique contribution to society through cross-disciplinary learning opportunities, world-class performances, and public outreach.



We acknowledge, with deep respect and gratitude, our home on the side of Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain. In the spirit of respect and truth, we honour and acknowledge the Banff area, known as "Minhrpa" (translated in Stoney Nakoda as "the waterfalls") and the Treaty 7 territory and oral practices of the Îyârhe Nakoda (Stoney Nakoda) – comprised of the Bearspaw, Chiniki, and Goodstoney First Nations – as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation and the Blackfoot Confederacy comprised of the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai. We acknowledge that this territory is home to the Shuswap Nations, Ktunaxa Nations, and Métis Nation of Alberta, Rockyview District 4. We acknowledge all Nations who live, work, and play here, help us steward this land, and honour and celebrate this place.



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BISQC 2025

August 25 - 31, 2025

For nearly 40 years, Banff International String Quartet Competition has celebrated the art of chamber music while providing career support for emerging string quartets. Intended as a one-time special event, the first competition was held in 1983 to mark the 50th anniversary of Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. The outstanding success of the first competition inspired organizers to make this a triennial event.

The world's finest young string quartets will compete for over \$500,000 CAD in cash, prizes, and career development opportunities which include touring, a recording residency, the Southern Methodist University Peak Fellowship Ensemble-in-Residence Prize of a paid residency worth \$110,000 CAD, an Esterházy Foundation Residency with concerts at Haydn Hall in Eisenstadt and the Lucerne Festival, and an opportunity for a two-week Chamber Music in Residency at the prestigious Britten Pears Arts in England.

Travel Information

Banff Centre is located in Banff National Park and overlooks the town of Banff. Banff Centre is a convenient ten-minute walk from the centre of the town of Banff.

Banff National Park is a protected and preserved natural environment and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. All guests of Banff Centre are encouraged to consider public transportation options that help to maintain the ecological integrity of the area.

Getting Here by Car

If you choose to travel by private vehicle, you will find the route is well-signed. For more information on getting here, click [here](#).

Once you have arrived at Banff Centre you will check in at the Professional Development Centre (PDC). There is a large reception sign in front of the building. View [maps of Banff Centre](#).

After you have checked in, you will need to move your car to a designated long-term parking area.

Getting Here by Shuttle

The closest airport is The Calgary International Airport (YYC) from which you will take a two-hour airport shuttle to Banff Centre. When planning your travel/shuttle, remember to allow adequate time for customs and baggage retrieval.

For those of you travelling by shuttle, the Banff Airporter is located between exit doors 5 & 6 at area 'C' of the main Arrivals level. When you arrive at the Airporter desk, just let them know your name and they will direct you to the shuttle.

If you arrive early OR late in Calgary, please immediately see Banff Airporter at the desk to see if you can get on an earlier or later shuttle. The Airporter staff will be checking your arrival times as well.

For a 15% discount on your travel with Banff Airporter, use code BISQC2025 at time of booking

Mountain Environment: A word of caution

Our mountain surroundings are undoubtedly beautiful, but can also be dangerous. If you are planning an excursion, contact the Parks Canada Information Centre on [1.403.762.1550](tel:1.403.762.1550) from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m Mon-Sun, for up-to-date weather and avalanche information, reports on trail conditions, and wildlife activity. Alternatively, visit pc.gc.ca/banff for more information



What to Bring

While at Banff Centre, you will find that the style of dress around campus is fairly casual. The dining experience is very often a highlight, but please note that the atmosphere does not call for dressing up, even for special meals.

As the temperatures in Banff can fluctuate widely, **dressing in layers is usually appropriate**. Please note that it is wise to check the extended forecast on the [Environment Canada website](#) before you come.

We recommend you bring the following:

- Rain jacket
- Fleece, down/synthetic layer, warm sweater
- Short and long sleeve shirts
- Pants
- Hiking boots, runners
- Warm socks
- Gloves; toque, scarf or hat
- Sunscreen and hat
- Swimsuit and workout clothes
- Water bottle
- Concert dress clothes (concert dress in Banff can range from hiking casual to dressy - bring what you are most comfortable in)
- Consider:
 - Flashlight
 - Travel mug





Arrival and Registration

Hotel Check-In

The closest airport is The Calgary International Airport (YYC) from which you will take a two-hour airport shuttle to Banff Centre. Wh

If you are staying on-site, check in at the front desk in the Professional Development Centre (PDC) on arrival. Check-in time begins at 4 p.m. If you arrive earlier than 4 p.m., you are welcome to store your luggage with the front desk while you explore the campus and obtain your Name Badge. You will be asked to provide a credit card for incidental charges to your room (anything you order to your room, specialty coffees/drinks, etc.). Costs associated with your accommodation and meal plan will not be charged to your credit card by the Front Desk, as they have already been pre-paid as part of your BISQC audience package.

Name Badge

As part of your package materials, you will receive a BISQC name badge that will serve as your campus ID, concert access with seating information, and meal access in Vistas Dining Room. Your room card will give you access to Sally Borden Recreation Centre.

Your name badge will be provided to you upon package pick-up (see details above).

Please keep your name badge on your person at all times, as our Security personnel may ask to see it. If you require any changes to your name badge or lose your badge, please see BISQC staff in the Jenny Belzberg Theatre lobby for a replacement.

Package Pick-Up

BISQC staff will be in the Professional Development Centre (PDC) lobby, across from the front desk, to greet you with your package materials (competition program guide, shuttle schedule, name badge, and other information) during these times:

Full week arrivals on Sunday, August 24 (on-site and passport packages) between 3:00 and 6:00pm.

Weekend package pick-up between 3:00 and 6:00pm.

In addition, you will be able to pick-up your package materials in the Jenny Belzberg Theatre (JBT) lobby 30 minutes prior to any concert.

If you expect you will be arriving late and wish for us to leave your name badge at the front desk so you can access breakfast the next day, please email BISQC office at bisqc@banffcentre.ca to note this request. package or passport in the Jenny Belzberg Theatre (JBT) lobby, 30 minutes before any concert.

Meals

Banff Centre features two food outlets offering a variety of options for eat-in dining. You can use your name badge to eat at Vistas for food and non-alcoholic beverages. Maclab is not included with your BISQC package meal plan..

Vistas Dining Room (\$)

Delicious and creative buffet dining seating with seating for all BISQC audience guests.

Breakfast: 7:00 - 9:30 a.m. **Lunch:** 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Dinner: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **except Thursday-Sunday dinner starts at 5 p.m.**

Maclab Bistro (\$\$)

Features healthy, creative comfort food inspired by fresh local ingredients.

Coffee & Pastry Takeout: 8:00 am - 11:00 am

Full Menu & Dine-In: 11:00 am - 11:00 pm

Bar: 11:00 am - 1:00 am.

Esterhazy Castle

Come to Maclab Bistro between 4:00 and 11:00 PM every day to experience live music, performed by members of the Youth Chamber Music Program or by audience members (that's you!) who are invited to jam and play music together.

Vistas Dining Room

If you are attending with an on-site full-week or weekend package, your meals will be provided in Vistas Dining Room, including arrival day dinner and departure day breakfast. Full-week packages do not include lunch on Wednesday, August 27 so you can enjoy time exploring the area.



Wildlife & Environment



It is common to see wildlife across campus at Banff Centre, within the Town of Banff and across Banff National Park more widely. An animal sighting can be an exciting experience, but always keep in mind that these are wild animals in wild spaces. For your safety, and theirs, please treat them with respect and keep your distance. Please do not feed any of the animals in the Park, including the many squirrels on campus, as they are protected by law and this can result in a hefty fine!

Elk can be fast and dangerous, especially during Spring calving (May 15- July 1) and the Fall rut (Sept. 1 - Oct. 15). If you encounter any elk, keep your distance and use an alternative route, if possible. You must stay at least three bus-lengths away from elk at all times. Remain aware when hiking and do not use headphones on trails, or go alone. It is always best to travel in groups and to be aware of your surroundings at all times.

If you see wildlife on campus, please contact Security Services via [ext.7777](tel:7777) on a campus phone, or [1.403.760.0098](tel:14037600098) from your cell phone.

It is your responsibility to educate yourself on the topic of wildlife and how to prepare for [wildlife encounters](#) during your time in Banff.

Banff Centre is located on the side of Sacred Buffalo Guardian Mountain, which is 1400m/4500ft above sea level. You may notice shortness of breath, lightheadedness, and difficulty sleeping. Banff is also a dry climate, so stay hydrated.



Amenities & Information

Facilities

At Banff Centre you will find some useful communal spaces including access to:

- Lloyd Hall coin laundry, lounges with various amenities.

Sally Borden Centre

The Sally Borden is a multi-use community centre, with pool, gym, climbing and weight-room facilities. There are change rooms and showers available with towels and locks included. You'll scan your room card to get free access to these amenities.

The Sally Borden will be available for free access if you are staying on-site as a hotel guest. If you are staying off-site, you may still access the facilities with the purchase of a day membership (\$20.00 + GST, or \$16.00 + GST if you are 60 and over) or a multiuse punch card.

Fitness Centre

Cardio equipment, free weights and running track

Monday to Friday: 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Statutory holidays: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Climbing Gym

Daily: 12:00 pm - 8:00pm

Statutory holidays: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

* Climbing gym will be closed Sundays and Mondays until further notice.

Aquatic Centre

25 m Pool, hot tub and wade pool - swim at your own risk. NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY

Monday to Friday: 7:00 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Social Media

We welcome you to tag us on your posts before, during, and after you arrival: [Instagram](#), [Twitter/X](#), [Facebook](#), [BISQC Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#). We also encourage you to tag your posts with **#BanffCentre** **#BISQC** and **#BISQC2025**. You can check our [YouTube channel](#) and [Events page](#) to be informed and keep up-to-date on Banff Centre's happenings.

Music Huts

There are well-equipped practice huts nestled among the trees on the Banff Centre campus. While these huts are primarily assigned to participants for their private use throughout the competition, two of them have been set aside for audience members to. These huts provide a quiet, inspiring space for personal music practice. If you're interested in using one, please see the BISQC audience information desk in the Jenny Belzberg Theatre for further details.

Concert Schedule

Monday, August 25, 2025

Concert 1 - 21st Century Haydn Round	2:00 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
Concert 2 - 21st Century Haydn Round	7:30 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Concert 3 - 21st Century Haydn Round	10:30 a.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
Concert 4 - 21st Century Haydn Round	2:00 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
Concert 5 - 21st Century Haydn Round	7:30 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Concert 6 - Romantic Round	2:00 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
Concert 7 - Romantic Round	7:30 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Concert 8 - Romantic Round	10:00 a.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
Concert 9 - Alumni Concert	8:00 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre

Friday, August 29, 2025

Concert 10 - Kati Agócs World Premiere Round	10:00 a.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
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Saturday, August 30, 2025

Concert 11 - Beethoven/Schubert + 20th Century	10:00 a.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
Concert 12 - Beethoven/Schubert + 20th Century	2:00 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
Concert 13 - Beethoven/Schubert + 20th Century	7:30 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Concert 14 - Finals	2:00 p.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
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All times listed are MST/MDT.

Special Events Schedule

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Audience Welcome, followed by a mini-lecture with Denis Brott on what you will hear in Round 1 of the competition.	7:30 p.m.	Cenovus Great Hall, KCCI
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Monday, August 25, 2025

A conversation on training young quartets with mentor-in-residence Mark Steinberg, director Barry Shiffman, and select BISQC jurors	11:00 a.m.	Cenovus Great Hall, KCCI
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Tuesday, August 26, 2025

Lecture with violinist, educator, and disability advocate Adrian Anantawan	9:00 a.m.	Cenovus Great Hall, KCCI
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Wednesday, August 27, 2025

Youth Chamber Music Program Open Masterclass	4:30 p.m..	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
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Friday, August 29, 2025

Director Barry Shiffman in discussion with composer Kati Agócs on her new work Rapprochement (all concert ticket holders welcome)	9:00 a.m.	Jenny Belzberg Theatre
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Viennese Waltz Night - afternoon optional group dance lesson for ticketed guests	3:30 p.m.	Rolston Recital Hall
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Viennese Waltz Night - dancing, live music, regional wines and desserts for ticketed guests	8:00 p.m.	Rolston Recital Hall
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Sunday, August 31, 2025

Lecture with Denis Brott on Gregor Piatigorsky	11:00 a.m.	Cenovus Great Hall,
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All times listed are MST/MDT.

Key BISQC Staff at Banff Centre

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We look forward to meeting you.
