

WELCOME!

Founded in 1985, Youth Singers of Calgary (YSC) is an organization built on the belief that every person should have the opportunity to enrich their lives through the performing arts. YSC has become one of Calgary's largest performing arts companies and training program.

We are proud to be able to expand our programs to include even more young people. The YSC program nourishes and celebrates the whole person and builds a strong sense of citizenship and pride in our community. We look forward to the many rewards and memories this experience will afford to all its participants and their families.

Sincerely,



Shirley Penner,
YSC Artistic Director & CEO



Fun Fact!

Interactive strategies that include musical instruments and song games can promote social skills such as turn-taking, following directions, and cooperative play.

Kids make great music... Music makes great kids!



Jennifer Morton

CO-DIRECTOR



Jennifer brings to STAR a wide variety of musical and professional experience. She has a strong passion for music and has had a relationship with Youth Singers of Calgary for 29 years. Jennifer has experienced

firsthand the life long memories and enriching experiences that Youth Singers offers its participants.

After completing her post-secondary education in Social Work, Jennifer began what has become a 18 year career of supporting individuals with special needs. Beginning as a frontline therapist, she provided direct treatment programming to children with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum for several years. Jennifer now works as a Registered Social Worker, supporting families and children living with autism and related disorders.

Jennifer, herself, is a parent of a child with special needs. She recognizes the value of appropriate programming that enhances social skill development and a successful sense of belonging.



David Morton

CO-DIRECTOR



David is a graduate of the University of Calgary Music Department, studying voice, and holds a degree in Theory and Composition. As a performer, he has enjoyed performing countless concerts, festivals and competitions all over the world. David has been involved with Youth Singers of Calgary for over 28 years as one of the original members, joining the artistic staff of the organization over 10 years ago. In addition to arranging choral music for all ages and skill levels at YSC, David works as a track producer, band leader/ guitarist and currently directs the YSC a cappella ensemble, ONCUE. He lives in Calgary with his wife Jennifer, a YSC alumnus, and their 2 children who are also members of YSC.

Amanda Croteau

SESSIONAL INSTRUCTOR



Amanda has been a part of the Youth Singers family for over 20 years, and currently performs with the Division SHINE. She graduated in 2008 from Mount Royal University with a Child Studies Degree and Certificate in Mental Health. After completing her degree program, she expanded her professional experience by working with organizations such as the Special Olympics, Between Friends Club, the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary and Side Door. Working with these specific community programs shaped her desire to combine her two biggest passions in life – performing arts and working with special needs children.

Thank you for
considering the STAR
Program for your
child!!





Special Talents in Arts & Recreation

What is the STAR Program?

STAR (Special Talents in Arts and Recreation) is a new and interactive experience that allows children with cognitive delays to participate in a tailored program that uses music, movement, and instruments to further benefit their current abilities and strengths in the performing arts. STAR aims to develop a love for music and dance in a safe, stimulating, and fun environment. STAR encourages and allows children to grow and gain confidence, build friendships and find an appreciation for the performing arts.

Program Overview

Classes provide an opportunity to experience personal development and growth. Sessions could include African drumming, learning choreography, playing musical games, and singing a variety of songs. Every session is instructor and participant lead, taking the children's interests and goals into consideration with each lesson and plan. Parent and care-givers are encouraged to take part with their child. STAR students are encouraged to share their new found skills and abilities with family and friends in a performance at the end of the term.

Is the STAR Program right for my child?

Is your child between the ages of 8 and 15 that has special needs and a love for the performing arts? A one-on-one interview allows you to ask questions and discuss individual needs to determine if STAR is the right fit for your child.

Major YSC Sponsors



THANK YOU from STAR

- ROZSA Foundation
- Hunter Family Foundation
- The Calgary Foundation
- Telus Community Board
- Alberta Culture (CIP)



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This document is available online!
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Youth Singers of Calgary



Special Talents in Arts & Recreation



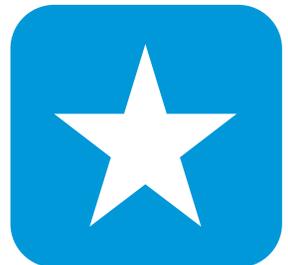
STAR's Mission:

To provide safe, exciting and beneficial music and movement education to children with special needs.

To develop flexibility, rhythm, increased body awareness, and the ability to follow instructions.

To promote growth using a variety of creative music experiences.

BE A PART OF THE ARTS



www.youthsingers.org