



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

[DATE]

Kokopelli introduces Kikimasu a brand-new choir for kids!

Edmonton's renowned Kokopelli Choir Association is about to get bigger—and smaller.

Auditions will soon be held for Kikimasu, a new choir for kids aged 8–12. This fall, Kikimasu will take its place among the other three ensembles in the Kokopelli family—Kokopelli Youth Choir (ages 14–24), Òran (a young adult choir), and Shumayela (an apprentice treble-voice choir for ages 12–16). Kikimasu (Japanese for “hear it”) represents a new entry point for kids who hope to eventually join Kokopelli.

“We’re so excited about Kikimasu,” says Scott Leithead, Kokopelli founder and artistic director. “We launched Shumayela three seasons ago, and some of its graduates have now jumped up to Kokopelli. So, by starting kids younger, we’ve made the whole organization that much stronger. Kikimasu is the obvious next step.”

The new choir will be conducted by Carmen So, a recent Kokopelli member and one of Edmonton's most passionate young music educators. “We’ve been blown away by Carmen’s work with the All-City Junior Choir,” says Leithead. “She has a gift for drawing great music out of young choristers.”

For her part, So is thrilled about this new opportunity. “Kokopelli is one of the most amazing things that ever happened to me, both as a musician and as a person,” she says. “Now I get to share that experience with my own new choir. I can’t wait!”

Like all Kokopelli choirs, Kikimasu will embrace music from many cultural traditions, many languages, and many eras. The choir will perform at all major Kokopelli season concerts, participate in local music festivals, and enjoy workshop opportunities with world-class clinicians and conductors. The young choristers will also enjoy the active mentorship of colleagues in the older choirs. Above all, they will make glorious music in a supportive, creative, and energized environment.

Beginning in September, Kikimasu will rehearse Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. For more information about the choir and upcoming auditions, contact choir manager Katy Skinner (780-964-1212 or katy@kokopellichoir.com).