

The Quill and Scroll Ensemble—Bios

Alexandra Lee. A graduate of the University of Toronto's Music Performance program, and trained as a Royal Conservatory artist-educator and certified Suzuki teacher, Alexandra is an engaging performer and pedagogue. Ms. Lee has initiated several successful artistic projects: Silver Birch Concerts (chamber music series), the City of Lakes Music Society (chamber music workshops and concerts), Contes des violoncelle (French story-book & cello production for preschool and kindergarteners), Cello Café (an open-mic style performance opportunity for amateur cellists), and Cello Steps (a multi-level cello and dance collaborative project). As former cellist of the Silver Birch String Quartet she has had many adventures across the continent, including a Juno-nominated recording with jazz pianist John Roney, as well as performing with many of Canada's headlining musicians, including Tanya Tagaq, Peter Longworth, the Penderecki String Quartet, Scott St. John, and many more. She is currently the Associate Principal Cello of Vancouver Island Symphony and teaches cello at the Nanaimo Conservatory of Music.

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Frances Armstrong. Originally from Surrey, BC, holds a Master's degree in Collaborative Piano from the University of Toronto, where she studied with Steven Philcox, and a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance with Distinction from the University of Victoria. She has explored a wide range of repertoire under the guidance of internationally renowned artists at summer programs including the Franz Schubert Institute, Toronto Summer Music, and the Music Academy of the West. Frances has completed intensive training as an apprentice coach with both l'Opéra de Montréal and the Canadian Opera Company. She is in high demand as a collaborator and coach across Canada, having served as Head Coach at Edmonton Opera for two seasons, and continues to be invited back as a regular collaborator with City Opera Vancouver, Edmonton Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, and Highlands Opera Studio.

Rachel Dunstan Muller is a multi-genre author, editor, and oral storyteller. She has been invited to perform at events and festivals across Canada and the US and she is the author of four children's novels and over a hundred articles and stories for adults. The original stories from her two podcast series, *Hintertales: Stories from the Margins of History* and *Sticks and Stones and Stories*, have collectively been downloaded more than 45,000 times. In 2021, her story "Grace and the Banshee" was chosen by Storytellers of Canada - Conteurs du Canada as the winner of the "Story for All" competition for Canadian Storytelling Day. With the aid of a Canada Council for the Arts grant, her most recent full-length project was *Once Upon a Fiddle*, a live spoken word and music concert that celebrates the power of art and the resilience of the human spirit. She is the managing editor of WordWorks magazine and the Federation of BC Writers Press. Find her online at <https://racheldunstanmuller.com> or <https://sticksandstonesandstories.com/>