

GUEST FACULTY

Mel Kirby



Mel Kirby has been a free-lance performer, specialist in classical vocal repertoire, and choral conductor for over 40 years. He was most recently the vocal coach/accompanist and Manager for 19 years of Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Program overseeing the post-graduate training and transition to a professional working career of young Canadian opera singers in a program he created. Previous positions include those with the University of Calgary Music Department, the Banff Centre's Music Theatre Program, and the Vocal Academy and Diploma Programs at Mount Royal College Conservatory & University in capacities as diverse as staff accompanist, vocal coach, and lecturer in vocal literature and music history.

His choral/orchestral experience includes 32 seasons as Artistic Director of Calgary's Festival Chorus and directing the Calgary Bach Festival Society and the Civic Symphony amongst others. Described by the Calgary Herald as the "always excellent" recital accompanist he has performed with vocal and instrumental soloists in Canada, the United States, and Germany, as well as recorded for the C.B.C..