

Mark Fewer
Artistic Director

Crystal L. Spicer
Executive Director

19 Waterloo Street South
P.O. Box 1013
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 6W4

Phone 519.271.2101

Stratford Arts Foundation
A Registered Canadian Charity
87819-7417 RR0001

May 8, 2025

Miranda Franken
Council Clerk Secretary
Corporate Services, City of Stratford

Dear Miranda,

Please consider the text below as a letter of request for Council to proclaim July 17 - 20, 2025 as Stratford Summer Music Week,

Dear Mayor Martin Ritsma and Members of City Council,

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Stratford Summer Music (SSM) and we respectfully request Council to proclaim July 17 – 20, 2025 as Stratford Summer Music week to coincide with our season opening.

Since our beginning in 2001, we have presented hundreds of concerts, entertained tens of thousands of people, and created significant economic impact for Stratford while enhancing the region's reputation as an exceptional home for all the arts.

SSM provides audiences with a level of musical excellence rarely found outside of large urban centres. In 2024, we were honoured to be named one of BBC Music Magazine's Best Classical Music Festivals in the USA and Canada.

From a 10-day festival in 2001, we have grown into a multi-week summer festival and the producer of all-season programming that together features over 100 artists in concerts held throughout the community. SSM allows audiences to deepen their connection to music across diverse genres and foster a lifelong appreciation of the art form.

We value engaging the community: 50 per cent of our programming is free of charge, increasing access to music and encouraging audiences to experience the joy that music brings.

As a steward of music in and beyond the community, SSM's commitment extends to educating and training the next generation of musicians through our Jazz and Vocal Academies.


We hope that Stratford Summer Music's request for a proclamation from the City of Stratford will help to raise our profile and build awareness of the positive impact of our 25 years in Stratford, and to help us achieve our vision: To nurture, celebrate and grow music in Stratford and beyond, and to be recognized as stewards of musical excellence.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Crystal L. Spicer | Executive Director
Stratford Summer Music



Jeremy Wreford | Chair
Stratford Summer Music Board of Directors