

150 Words

Dakota Perez was born in Dallas, Texas but lived in Calgary for most of his life. Most recently, he performed with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra as a winner of the 2024 RBC Concerto Competition and the Calgary Civic Symphony in 2021 as a winner of the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition. For two years, Dakota has been in the Calgary Pro Musica Dick Matthew's Young Artists Development Program. He recently graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Music in the studio of Dr. Jani Parsons and began a Master of Music this fall, studying with HieYon Choi at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. While in Calgary, he valued the community and opportunities of his collaborative work.

250 Words

Dakota Perez was born in Dallas, Texas but lived in Calgary for most of his life. Most recently, he was selected as a winner of the 2024 RBC Concerto Competition, and performed the first movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. He made his orchestral debut with the Calgary Civic Symphony in 2021 as a winner of the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition, performing the first movement of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 1. For two years (2021-22 and 2023-24), Dakota was in Calgary Pro Musica's Dick Matthew's Young Artists Development Program.

Dakota has studied with Katrina Thompson-Fost, Dr. Karen Gerelus, Dr. Lana Henschell, and was a student in the Academy for Young Artists at the Mount Royal University Conservatory. He received his ARCT in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music at the age of 16. He recently graduated from the University of Calgary with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance in the studio of Dr. Jani Parsons and began a Master of Music in Piano Performance in the Fall, studying with HieYon Choi at the Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University. During his time in Calgary, he has found value in teaching music theory and most of all, his collaborative work with the opportunities and community that it provides.

300 Words

Dakota Perez obtained his ARCT in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music at the age of 16. He made his debut with the Calgary Civic Symphony in December 2021 with the first movement of Rachmaninoff's first piano concerto as one of the winners of the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition. In March 2024, after winning the RBC concerto competition, he performed the first movement of Grieg's piano concerto with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. Dakota was a participant in the Calgary Pro Musica Dick Matthew's Young Artists Development Program in 2021-2022 and now for 2023-2024; he performed in the Rozsa Center at the University of Calgary in a concert with the other participants in May 2022. He placed second in the CANIMEX Canadian Music Competition in his age category in 2021,

competed in the final round of the 39th Calgary Stampede Talent Search in 2019, and in the final round of the Vancouver International Music Competition in 2021 and 2023.

Dakota started his musical journey with Katrina Thompson-Fost before receiving advanced training from Dr. Karen Gerelus and Dr. Lana Henschell. He was a student in the Academy for Young Artists at the Mount Royal University Conservatory. From the University of Calgary, Dakota has received the Vondis Miller Entrance Award in Music, the Allan Sangster Prize, two Carr Prizes, the Millennium Prize for the Russian Performing Arts, and two Alice Cobb Scholarships. He has completed his BMus in Piano Performance at the University of Calgary studying with Dr. Jani Parsons. In the fall, Dakota began to study with HieYon Choi at the Peabody Institute for his MMus in piano performance. During his time in Calgary, he has found value in teaching music theory and most of all, his collaborative work and the opportunities that it provides.

500 Words

Dakota Perez was born in Dallas, Texas but began his musical journey here in Calgary through local piano lessons with Katrina Thompson-Fost inspired by his grandmother's interest and mother's experience. Despite a juvenile struggle with his RCM Level 8 exam he decided to continue to pursue music and fell in love with the art. He received his ARCT in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music at the age of 16 while studying with Dr. Karen Gerelus. During the same time, he began competing in local and national competitions such as the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition and the Canadian Music Competition. Dakota was a student at the MRU conservatory in the Academy for Young Artists and participated in masterclasses with Rolf Bertsch, Dr. Akiko Tominaga, Marilyn Engle, and received a lesson from Dr. Sasha Starceвич. He has performed in masterclasses by other prominent figures such as Jena Pang, Dr. Deanna Oye, Dr. Jacques Despres, Dr. David Potvin, Assaff Weisman, and Katherine Chi. He continued his love of learning at the University of Calgary first with Dr. Lana Henschell. Under her guidance, Dakota debuted with the Calgary Civic Symphony in December 2021 playing the first movement of Rachmaninoff's first piano concerto as one of the 2021 Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition winners.

Dakota placed second in the CANIMEX Canadian Music Competition in his age category in 2021. He also competed in the final round of the 39th Calgary Stampede Talent Search in 2019 as well the Vancouver International Music Competition in 2021 and October 2023. Dakota was a participant in the Calgary Pro Musica Dick Matthew's Young Artists Development Program in 2021-2022 and performed in the Rozsa Center at the University of Calgary in a concert in May 2022 with the other participants. He enjoyed being able to partake again in 2023-2024. Dakota studied with Dr. Jani Parsons in the last year of his Bachelors. While studying with her he won the 2024 RBC Concerto Competition and performed the first movement of Grieg's Piano Concerto with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. From the University of Calgary, Dakota has received the Vondis Miller Entrance Award in Music, the

Allan Sangster Prize, two Carr Prizes, two Alice Cobb scholarships, and the Millennium Prize for the Russian Performing Arts. He is now pursuing his Masters of Music in piano performance at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University with Professor HieYon Choi.

On top of the piano, Dakota loves theory, music history, composition, and enjoys teaching it all. He has composed over two dozen works for varying instrumentation. He enjoys being a collaborative pianist to various instruments and choirs including strings, winds, brass, and vocalists. Some of the collaborations he greatly values were with David Sussman and Laurie Matiation. He now works as an opera accompanist for Peabody's opera department in a full Graduate Assistant position. He enjoys performing any era of music from continuo in Renaissance era to modern music including Messiaen and Ann Southam. He has an affinity for Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin. He hopes to communicate his unique voice through a thorough understanding of music that brings clarity to even the most complex pieces of music.