

# Transforming Pollack Hall

McGill's principal performance space is being reimagined for the 21<sup>st</sup> century – for students, performers, and our broad community of music lovers

Opened in 1975, Pollack Hall is a landmark for music and culture in Montreal. For decades, it has been the training ground for generations of performers. As we enter McGill's third century, it is time to renew this iconic space, unveiling a Pollack Hall that is fully accessible, acoustically unparalleled, and equipped with the amenities that musicians deserve –and audiences expect – from a premier performance venue.



Seating 600 and known for its enviable acoustics, Pollack Hall is the Schulich School of Music's flagship performance space and the most important public venue on McGill's downtown campus. Welcoming thousands of music lovers to a wide range of events every year, it is a beloved venue that holds a special place in the cultural landscape of Montreal – and, indeed, of Canada.

After the introduction of music degrees at McGill in 1904, a complex evolution, fuelled by imagination and determination, led to what is today the Schulich School of Music—and the creation of Pollack Hall was critical to this growth. When the Hall opened in 1975, McGill was proud to hold 200 events annually, both on and off campus; today, the exceptional capacity provided by Pollack Hall means that it alone hosts over 400 events per year. The Hall also plays a role in educating students across our wide array of programs, including many in streams the School could only dream of offering at the time of Pollack Hall's inauguration.

From performances by the McGill Symphony Orchestra and Opera McGill, to hosting the McGill International String Quartet Academy, to holding the performance examinations of students at all levels of study, to welcoming devotees and neophytes alike to extraordinary musical experiences – Pollack Hall makes so much possible.

**As we enter McGill's third century, we must ensure that Pollack Hall retains its unique character and place in the cultural firmament – all while enhancing its ability to provide exceptional experiences for performers and audiences alike.**

The possibilities Pollack Hall offers as a physical space will always dramatically impact the whole of our operations, expanding our capacity to train performers, to welcome the community, and to be bold in how we conceive of what a 21<sup>st</sup>-century music school can be and do. And we can only imagine what incredible changes a renewed Pollack Hall will make possible in the decades that follow.

Now, in order to upgrade Pollack Hall into a world-class performance venue – a gem in the crown of McGill and a cultural landmark in the city of Montreal – we are seeking visionary partners who will support the project at the highest level.

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## You can help enhance Pollack Hall by supporting the following opportunities:

Bringing our vision to reality will require functional and aesthetic upgrades to the Hall and its related spaces, as we develop new spaces and facilities and enhance existing ones.

### **A cultural landmark reimagined**

Functional and aesthetic upgrades will help us strengthen Pollack Hall's position as a cultural touchstone in Montreal, all while preserving celebrated elements of the Hall, like the extraordinary acoustics that have captivated music lovers for almost half a century.

### **Peerless audience experiences**

Improvements to the entrance and seating area will enhance experiences for in-person guests, while upgrades to our broadcasting capability will allow audiences to experience the magic of a Pollack Hall concert from anywhere in the world.

### **Facilities worthy of our performers**

From the warm-up in the green room, to backstage preparations, to the post-concert celebration, we will provide an ideal environment for artists-in-training to achieve their highest ambitions as 21<sup>st</sup>-century performers.

### **Sustainable spaces designed for everyone**

The Pollack Hall transformation will create a space that is LEED-certified and carefully designed to welcome all music lovers. This will mean enhancing the physical accessibility of audience and performance areas, creating barrier-free paths, and upgrading our systems to ensure the aural health and well-being of all who pass through our doors.

For more information, please contact:

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## **Enhancing Pollack Hall**

The Schulich School of Music is committed to preparing young musicians, sound professionals and recording engineers for their future careers, and Pollack Hall is critical to this mission. We are seeking philanthropic support for the following initiatives that will significantly improve the infrastructure, accessibility, teaching and learning infrastructure of Pollack Hall.

- › **Refreshing architectural finishes in the Hall's historic entrance and lobby**
- › **Improving seating and lighting in the Hall**
- › **Preserving the Hall's excellent acoustics while ensuring a safe listening and performing environment**
- › **Re-designing the backstage area to accommodate larger productions**
- › **Outfitting the Hall with state-of-the-art recording and broadcasting technology**
- › **Enhancing dressing rooms and other artists' facilities**
- › **Redesigning the East Lounge as a flexible rehearsal space and reception room**
- › **Acquiring a new grand piano**
- › **Extending accessibility for audience and performers alike**
- › **Ensuring that health and safety upgrades are carried out to support the well-being of all users**