



Photo: f8photography

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Helping students follow their creative passions

BY SARAH PRATT

A passion for the arts connects **Seka Owen**, '77 BFA, and her daughter, **Maya Owen**, '84 BSc(ChemEng). Art also helps them connect to themselves. "Music is the essence of my soul," says Maya, a classically trained pianist.

For Seka, an acclaimed painter, her connection with the arts came later in life. She loved art as a child, but her parents wouldn't allow her to study it in university so she studied microbiology in her native Zagreb, Croatia. Shortly after moving to Canada in 1955, though, she felt something was missing. That something was art.

So, at age 40, she set out to earn a bachelor of fine arts degree from the University of Alberta. When people asked her why she wanted another degree, Seka would reply, "Life begins at 40, and I have to fulfill my passion."

Seka's daughter faced a similar choice. As Maya was deciding on a major in university, she saw two paths in front of her: music and engineering. She had been playing the piano since the age of five, so she decided to tackle engineering as a new challenge, knowing she would always have her music. It turns out that her musical background helped her develop a successful engineering career. *Article continued on next page.*

RECEIVE A FREE ESTATE PLANNING ORGANIZER

The University of Alberta estate planning organizer helps you keep track of your important documents now so that you can provide your family with a written, comprehensive list of where papers are stored and who to contact in the event of your disability or death.

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Gift of Registered Retirement Funds

Saving for your retirement has become an essential part of a complete financial plan. However, your strategy should also consider what happens to your RRSP or RRIF when you pass away.

Upon your death, where a surviving spouse is a named beneficiary, these registered savings are transferred to his/her name without tax liability.

However, where there is no surviving spouse (or disabled child) listed as the beneficiary, these accounts are deemed to be disposed of and 100 per cent of the remaining balance is added to your income in the year of death.

The tax liability resulting from this disposition will be borne by your estate on your final income tax return. If other income was earned in the year of death, this could easily be subject to tax at the highest marginal tax rate.

Benefits of a RRSP/RRIF gift:

- Simple to arrange through a change in beneficiary or alternate beneficiary form from your financial institution.
- Naming the University of Alberta as beneficiary or alternate beneficiary can be changed if needed.
- Tax credits for donor's estate can effectively eliminate the taxes due on the disposition of the RRSP/RRIF on the final tax return and potentially on the previous return.
- Gift is not subject to probate.
- You can designate the area you would like to support.
- You will become a member of our Quaecumque Vera Honour Society, our special donor recognition program.



Photo: f8photography



Photo: Byron Robb

“We want to set an example for younger generations and give them an opportunity to make a difference in society.”

– Seka Owen

“As a musician you are trying to connect with your audience, so I learned how to connect and collaborate with people,” says Maya, who also credits music with helping her learn and develop discipline, focus, determination, patience and memory.

“It’s so important to have a passion and a creative outlet,” says Maya. “I want to give students the opportunity to pursue their dreams and not be limited. It’s unfortunate when people say they can’t afford to go to university. The university gave my mom and me such educational opportunities, and we want to pay it forward.”

As a way to show their gratitude and encourage students to fulfill their

passions and creativity, Maya and Seka have left gifts to the University of Alberta in their wills. The charitable bequests have been planned for a long time, Seka says, and will be given to the Department of Art & Design and the Department of Music for student support, scholarships and bursaries.

“Art is such an important part of culture,” says Seka. “We want to set an example for younger generations and give them an opportunity to make a difference in society.”

“Living is a process of learning, and no matter what happens in life, no one can take away what’s in your head or your heart.”

We Are Here to Help

Planning now for a bequest allows you to leave a legacy after your lifetime that will benefit students, faculty, researchers and the community in the future. Many people are surprised at how great an impact a planned gift, no matter how large or small, can have. Meet the people who can help you make a lasting impact in the world in a way that honours your personal and family interests, goals, values and financial means.



Derek Michael
DIRECTOR,
PLANNED
GIVING

The best part of our work is getting to know caring, hard-working people who simply want to make a lasting difference. Many come to realize that a planned gift is the best and last opportunity to express and affirm their life passions and values.

I fondly remember what a privilege it was to assist one couple who wanted to share their blessings with as many people as possible but were overwhelmed with the possibilities. We talked about their passions, their goals and what they hoped to achieve with their gift. They were thrilled to leave an anonymous bequest in their will that will change, improve and prolong the lives of countless cancer patients. This is the magic of planned giving: you can make a transformational gift, on a scale larger than you might expect, that will benefit the community for years to come.



Julian Solberg
ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR,
PLANNED
GIVING

So many outstanding University of Alberta accomplishments would not be possible without the support of our donors. I have the privilege of meeting with these donors on a daily basis and helping them achieve their goal of creating a positive impact on campus, in the community and beyond.

In the same day, I had the privilege of working with an alumnus who wanted to establish a scholarship as a way of saying thank you for the scholarship he received as a student, and with an alumna who wanted to support medical research on a disease that had affected her family. It is heartwarming and rewarding when a donor is able to give back in a way that is meaningful to them and have an impact they never dreamed possible.



Kathy Fitzgerald
ASSOCIATE
DIRECTOR,
PLANNED
GIVING

When donors make gifts through their wills, they are making a gift from their savings — savings that reflect a lifetime of hard work. It's a privilege to work with donors to ensure their gifts make the most impact. Endowed gifts, for example, will benefit students year after year or fund research in perpetuity that can improve people's health, the environment or our understanding of the world.

It's a special thing to help people the donor will never meet. One woman I worked with even wrote to future recipients of her award, congratulating them on their career choice and encouraging them with their studies. What a kind and thoughtful way to inspire future generations as they work to create rewarding lives for themselves and make our society better.

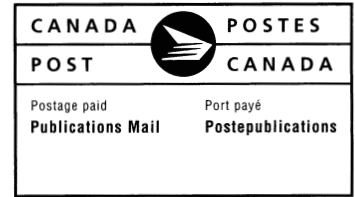
Quaecumque Vera Honour Society (QVHS) Luncheon

Calgary – May 25, 2017
Edmonton – May 30, 2017
Vancouver – Sept. 19, 2017
Victoria – Sept. 20, 2017

Invitations will be sent to QVHS members approximately six weeks before the event in your area.



Office of Advancement
 Planned Giving
 3-501 Enterprise Square
 10230 Jasper Avenue
 Edmonton, Alberta
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WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Quaecumque Vera Honour Society recognizes donors who have notified the University of Alberta of a gift in their estate plans. If you have already provided for such a legacy gift, we would like to welcome you into this special group and learn about your future plans.

To notify the university, or to learn more about making a legacy gift, please complete and forward by mail, fax or email.

All contacts are treated with the strictest confidence and entail no obligation.

- I have already made a legacy gift to the University of Alberta (bequest, insurance, an RRSP/RRIF or other) and would like to let you know.
- Yes, I would like more information about making a legacy gift to the University of Alberta.
- Yes, please send me my complimentary copy of the University of Alberta's estate planning organizer.
- Yes, I would like more information about making a gift to the University of Alberta while receiving a life income.**

Please provide the following information:

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If you prefer to speak with someone directly about the various options, please contact Derek Michael, Director, Planned Giving:

Tel: 780-492-4310	Office of Advancement Planned Giving
TF: 1-888-799-9899	3-501 Enterprise Square, 10230 Jasper Ave.
Fax: 780-492-1862	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5J 4P6
Email: derek.michael@ualberta.ca	giving.ualberta.ca

We hope you enjoyed reading the Spring 2017 edition of *What Will Your Legacy Be?*, the University of Alberta's semi-annual planned giving newsletter. We would love to hear your thoughts and comments on this newsletter.

Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance in fulfilling your personal legacy goals.

Contact:
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