

**MEDIA RELEASE
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**LONDON SYMPHONIA PRESENTS
WORLD PREMIERE OF NEW WORK
BY LONDON COMPOSER**



**A BOHEMIAN LIFE
Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

LONDON, March 21, 2024 – London Symphonia’s transformative musical adventure continues with **A Bohemian Life**, a multidimensional celebration of creativity, passion and artistry. (Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 pm, Metropolitan United.)

Highlights of this special concert include:

- The World Premiere of *Lasker-Schüler Songs*, a stunning song cycle composed by London-based composer, Scott Good.
- The return of two favourite London Symphonia guest artists, conductor Tania Miller and Soprano Midori Marsh.
- The farewell performance of Christine Newland, who is retiring after 48 years playing principal cello with London Symphonia and previously with Orchestra London.
- And, the glorious music of Debussy and Dvořák.

“A Bohemian Life is one of our most intriguing concerts of the season,” said Andrew Chung,

Artistic Producer of London Symphonia. “We have woven the concept of what it means to live a Bohemian life into every facet of the program — to sweep you away, and make you listen anew.

“Tania Miller, known for her dynamism and innovation, is the ideal conductor to lead this program. She is returning for her third performance with London Symphonia and I know she will create an exquisite evening of music that the audience will remember for a long time.”

London Symphonia commissioned composer Scott Good, who subsequently received an Ontario Arts Council Music Creation Project grant, to write *Lasker-Schüler Songs*. The colorful and dynamic song cycle is based on five poems by the radical poet and Bohemian artist, Else Lasker-Schüler.

“These works create a tapestry of emotional mood and energy that facilitates a wide-ranging musical response and provides a vivid window into Else Lasker-Schüler’s fascinating life and the struggles she faced,” said Good.

“I’m thrilled to realize this project with soprano Midori Marsh, who bedazzled us at her concert with London Symphonia last season. The range and colour of her voice and her unique counter-culture virtuosity will bring these poems to life.”

A Bohemian Life is brimming with highlights.

The special performance of Bohemian composer Antonín Dvořák’s *Silent Woods* by Christine Newland pays tribute to a dedicated member of the orchestra. “There is no finer way to recognize Christine’s retirement from London Symphonia than her performance of this much cherished piece with her colleagues,” said Chung.

Add Debussy’s beautiful symphonic poem, *Prélude à l’après-midi d’un faune*, which still creates a magical effect for listeners today over 100 years after it was written, and Dvořák’s Symphony No. 8 that includes Bohemian folk music and you’ll see why **A Bohemian Life** is a concert no one should miss.

Concertgoers can choose to attend **A Bohemian Life** in person or view the Livestream and then enjoy unlimited 4K HDR On Demand Access until May 1, 2024.

The 7:30 p.m. concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. In-person tickets are \$52 Regular seating, \$70 Premium Seating, and \$50 for Livestream / On Demand access plus fees and HST. Tickets are available online at londonsymphonia.ca.

LISTING INFORMATION

A Bohemian Life

London Symphonia

Tania Miller, conductor

Sat. Apr. 6 at 7:30 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Metropolitan United, 468 Wellington St, London, ON N6A 3P8

The concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. In-person tickets are \$52 Regular seating, \$70 Premium seating, and \$50 for Livestream / On Demand Access plus fees and

HST. Free tickets are available for Post Secondary, High School and Children aged 6 to 12. Compose Your Own subscriptions, Family-Flex Packs and tickets to individual concerts can be purchased online at londonsymphonia.ca.

London Symphonia is deeply grateful to the continued support of the London Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council.

ABOUT MIDORI MARSH

Midori Marsh is an American-Canadian soprano, hailing from Cleveland, Ohio. She took first prize at the 2023 Quilico awards, was a semifinalist in the Metropolitan Opera's 2023 Laffont competition and a 2023 Lotte Lenya finalist. In 2022 she was nominated for a Dora Mavor Moore Award for her portrayal of Papagena in the COC's 2022 production of *The Magic Flute*. In 2020 she was named one of the CBC's "30 hot Classical Musicians under 30" and in fall 2019 she took home both first prize and audience choice award at the Canadian Opera Company's Centre Stage competition. She recently completed her third year with the COC's young artist ensemble. While at the COC she was seen as Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*, the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*, Annina in *La Traviata*, Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* and Frasquita in *Carmen*. A "polished and poised performer", with "a truly gorgeous, expressive sound" she is a known quantity in the Canadian Opera scene, performing with Tapestry Opera, Against the Grain Theatre, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the National Arts Centre and more.

ABOUT TANIA MILLER

Recently named Artistic Director of the Brott Music Festival, Tania Miller is also Artistic Director and Conductor of the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and of Brott Opera. Maestra Miller's 2023-24 season includes her debut with Vancouver Opera in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, a recital with the Vancouver Opera orchestra and Opera West with soprano Sondra Radvanovsky and debuts with the Baton Rouge Symphony, Illinois Symphony, and return engagements to the Springfield Symphony, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, and London Symphonia, among others. Miller served as interim Principal Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic in 2022-23, and recently made her debut with the Warsaw Philharmonic, I Musici de Montreal, and the New Haven Symphony. She conducted Calgary Opera's 2022 production of Lehar's *Merry Widow* and numerous opera productions as Artistic Director of Michigan Opera Works and guest conductor of Opera McGill in Montreal. She was Music Director of the Victoria Symphony for 14 years and was named Music Director Emerita for her commitment to the orchestra and community.

ABOUT SCOTT GOOD

Scott Good is a composer, conductor, concert designer and trombonist whose music is driven by the desire to create beauty, evoke emotion, and play with groove. As Composer-In-Residence with London Symphonia (2015-present) and the Vancouver Symphony (2008-2011), he has composed numerous orchestral works and orchestral arrangements. His most recent project is the premiere of Lasker-Schüler Songs composed for rising star soprano Midori Marsh and London Symphonia (2024), and two silent film scores: *The Passion of Joan of Arc* for a mixture of voices and period instruments to be premiered by Ensemble Caprice in Montreal (2026), and a two-and-a-half hour score for large orchestra and

chorus accompanying the epic silent film classic Metropolis with the Kingston Symphony, celebrating the film's 100th anniversary (2027).

ABOUT LONDON SYMPHONIA

London Symphonia is a professional symphony orchestra committed to performing vibrant and bold musical experiences for London and the region. With a core of 30 players, our versatile group meets the community's needs for quality programming by presenting well-known symphonies, Canadian premieres, and collaborations with some of Canada's finest singer-songwriters. We deliver a rich, artistic experience by seeking out the most accomplished performers and conductors representing a blend of locally, nationally and internationally recognized talent. A registered charitable organization, we perform a number of outreach and music education engagements each season for students and seniors in our community.

Website: londonsymphonia.ca

Social media: Join the conversation on Facebook | Instagram | Twitter | YouTube

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