

**MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LONDON SYMPHONIA  
MAKES IT AN EXTRA SPECIAL HOLIDAY SEASON WITH  
JAZZ SINGER LAILA BIALI, H.B. BEAL SINGERS AND  
THE LONDON SINGERS**



**BY THE FIRESIDE WITH LAILA BIALI**  
*Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m*

LONDON, November 28, 2022 – London Symphonia’s upcoming concert, *By the Fireside with Laila Biali* (Saturday, December 10 at Metropolitan United, London, ON) will warm your heart and light up your holiday spirit.

Featuring JUNO award winning jazz singer, Laila Biali, (host of CBC Music’s *Saturday Night Jazz*), the H. B. Beal Singers, The London Singers and London Symphonia, this family-friendly concert is a festive celebration for people of all ages. Tickets are available free of charge for children under the age of 12, secondary and post-secondary students.

“This is a great community event. The music will be gorgeous and uplifting,” said Andrew Chung, Artistic Producer of London Symphonia. “We can’t wait to welcome London families to enjoy this special concert at the newly renovated Metropolitan United.”

“When we learned that one of Canada’s finest jazz vocalists, Laila Biali, had not performed with a symphony orchestra in Canada before, we jumped at the chance to work with this incredibly



accomplished and versatile artist. For the special colour and beauty that only a choir brings to holiday music, we are thrilled that the H.B. Beal Singers and The London Singers, under the direction of David Weaver, will be joining us.”

Scott Good, London Symphonia’s Composer-In-Residence, and conductor for the concert and Laila Biali have collaborated to create fresh arrangements of seasonal classics. The program mix also includes some of Biali’s own compositions as well as new music written specifically for the concert by Good.

“My upcoming debut with London Symphonia genuinely makes me feel like a kid at Christmas,” said Laila Biali. “Scott Good’s orchestral and choral re-imaginings are amazing, and I cannot wait for the audience to experience this music live.

“The last time I performed with an ensemble this size was in London, England. It somehow feels perfect that London, Ontario makes that dream a reality in my home country as the city holds personal significance since my first JUNO win there in 2019. This will be an unforgettable night for me and, I hope, for everyone.”

In addition to many well-loved songs of the season, highlights of the program include a special orchestration for this concert of My Favourite Things, a song that Biali is releasing as a single on December 2, 2022. Concertgoers will also get a sneak peek of songs included in her new album entitled Wintersongs, set to be released later in 2023.

The 7:30 p.m. concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. In-person tickets are \$50 regular, \$68 premium. Free student tickets. \$50 for livestreaming per household. Fees and HST not included. Tickets are available online at [londonsymphonia.ca](http://londonsymphonia.ca).

## LISTING INFORMATION

*By the Fireside with Laila Biali*

London Symphonia

Scott Good, guest conductor

Sat Dec 10 at 7:30pm

Doors open at 6:30pm

Screening of *Behind The Music* at 6:45pm

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

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*By the Fireside with Laila Biali is supported by the London Arts Council through the City of London’s Community Arts Investment Program. London Symphonia is deeply grateful for the continued funding received from our government partners, London Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council.*

## ABOUT LAILA BIALI

Multi award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter, pianist and CBC Music national radio host Laila Biali has headlined festivals and venues spanning five continents from New York City’s Carnegie Hall to Beijing’s National Centre for the Performing Arts, and supported international icon Sting. In 2020, Laila was honoured by SOCAN Music with the Hagood Hardy Award for Excellence in Songwriting. In 2019, Laila’s eponymous release won her a JUNO (Canada’s GRAMMY) for “Vocal Jazz Album of the Year.”

The year prior, she was awarded top prize at the Canadian Songwriting Competition in the Jazz category. Laila was also the youngest-ever double winner at Canada's National Jazz Awards when she was named "SOCAN Composer of the Year" and "Keyboardist of the Year." She received her first JUNO nomination for *Tracing Light* (2011), and a spot on *DownBeat Magazine's* "Best Albums of the Year" for *Live in Concert* (2013) and *Out of Dust* (2020). In September of 2017, Laila was brought on as the host for CBC Music's national radio show, *Saturday Night Jazz*, a weekly show broadcast to listeners across Canada. While Laila continues to earn high honours in the Jazz world, her signature sound transcends genre as she "masterfully mixes jazz and pop, bringing virtuosity and unpredictability to songs that are concise and catchy" (*Washington Post*). Laila's highly anticipated album, *Out of Dust*, which features multiple GRAMMY nominees and winners including Lisa Fischer, Alan Ferber, John Ellis, and Larnell Lewis, was released March 27, 2020 and was also nominated for a 2021 JUNO Award.

## **ABOUT SCOTT GOOD**

Toronto born Scott Good is a unique creative voice in the Canadian music scene as a composer, conductor, concert producer, arranger, and trombonist. As an orchestral composer he has been commissioned by many orchestras including L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montreal, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Esprit, Kitchener-Waterloo S.O., Winnipeg S.O. and the Vancouver S.O. where he was composer in residence (08-12). Major works include *The Hands of Orlac*, a 2 hour tour-de-force accompanying the silent film classic, and *Le Baiser*, and musical portrayal of Rodin's masterpiece. Scott has composed numerous chamber works, including a multi-disciplinary work *Wu Xing* for the Gryphon Trio and Cuban traps virtuoso Dafnis Prieto, and a Canadian tour as composer-trombone soloist with ECM+ in his riotous *Shock Therapy Variations*

He is currently Composer-in-Residence with London Symphonia. In this role he has composed new works, arranged music and conducted concerts, developed youth programs, and acted as part of the artistic planning team along with the Artistic Advisory Council.

## **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](http://londonsymphonia.ca)

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

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