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LONDON SYMPHONIA'S SEASON FINALE CONCERT FEATURES CANADA'S MOST SOUGHT-AFTER VIOLINIST



JAMES AND THE GIANTS

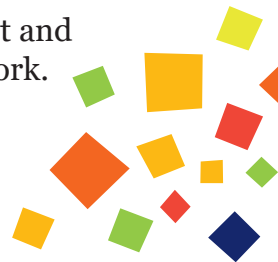
Saturday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m

LONDON, May 9, 2023 – London Symphonia is bringing its highly successful season to a triumphant finale with a thrilling concert featuring classical music superstar violinist James Ehnes, and the gifted conductor and communicator, Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, performing music by two giants of classical music, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johannes Brahms.

“Excitement at London Symphonia is at fever pitch,” said Andrew Chung, Artistic Producer. “We are thrilled to welcome James Ehnes back to London, Ontario and to welcome Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, who is making his debut with London Symphonia. James Ehnes, Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, Brahms’ Violin Concerto and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2 – we’re ending the season on a high note!”

James Ehnes is one of the most sought after violin soloists in the world, with a flawless technique, and a unique sense of expression and purity of tone that makes his sound instantly recognizable.

Written in 1878, Brahms’ Violin Concerto was dedicated to his friend Joseph Joachim and premiered in 1879 in Leipzig, with Joachim as the soloist and Brahms conducting. Violinist and orchestra are equal partners, collaborating and interacting in a dialogue throughout the work.



Brahms loved the music of Beethoven, who he revered as a giant, blending similarities in approach and scope in his Violin Concerto that his idol Beethoven used in his.

“We are relishing the opportunity to work with James Ehnes on this monumental concerto,” said Chung. “Brahms’ Violin Concerto is very demanding for both the soloist and orchestra. We are sure that the audience will be as thrilled as the London Symphonia musicians are.”

Also on the program is Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2. This symphony was written at a time of personal crisis as Beethoven first confronted his deteriorating hearing. The work is strongly influenced by his brilliant classical predecessors Mozart and Haydn, but Beethoven forges a new path with the shock, humour, beauty and brilliance that we now recognize as hallmarks of his style.

“I am extremely excited to debut with London Symphonia,” said Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser. “I have worked with many of the musicians in the orchestra over the years and am thrilled to lead this performance.

“It will be a joy for all of us to welcome James Ehnes to the stage, and accompany him through what will no doubt be an inspiring performance of Brahms’ Violin Concerto. It is going to be a wonderful time of music making, due, not only to the thrill of working with James, but also to Beethoven’s incredible Symphony No. 2 that is so full of fire and energy.”

Tickets are selling fast!

The 7:30 p.m. concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. Premium tickets are sold out. In-person tickets are \$50 regular, and \$50 for livestreaming per household, plus fees and HST. Free tickets for high school and university students and children under 12 accompanied by an adult. Tickets are available online at **londonsymphonia.ca**.

LISTING INFORMATION

James and the Giants

London Symphonia

James Ehnes, guest artist

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, conductor

Sat. May 20 at 7:30pm

Doors open at 6:30pm

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

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London Symphonia is deeply grateful to Serenata Music for its generous sponsorship of this concert and the continued support of our government partners, London Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council.

ABOUT JAMES INNES

James Ehnes has established himself as one of the most sought-after violinists on the international stage. Gifted with a rare combination of stunning virtuosity, serene lyricism and an unfaltering musicality, Ehnes is a favourite guest of many of the world’s most respected conductors including Ashkenazy, Alsop, Sir Andrew Davis, Denève, Elder, Ivan Fischer, Gardner, Paavo Järvi, Mena, Nosedá, Robertson and Runnicles. Ehnes’s long list of orchestras includes, amongst others,



the Boston, Chicago, London, NHK and Vienna Symphony Orchestras, the Los Angeles, New York, Munich and Czech Philharmonic Orchestras, and the Cleveland, Philadelphia, Philharmonia and DSO Berlin orchestras. Alongside his concerto work,

James Ehnes maintains a busy recital schedule. He performs regularly at the Wigmore Hall, Carnegie Hall, Symphony Center Chicago, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Ravinia, and Montreux. In 2021, Ehnes was the recipient of the coveted Gramophone Artist of the Year award.

ABOUT DANIEL BARTHOLOMEW-POYSER

A passionate conductor and communicator, Daniel brings clarity and meaning to the concert hall, fostering deep connections between audiences and performers. Daniel Bartholomew- Poyser is concurrently the Principal Youth Conductor and Creative Partner of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Principal Education Conductor and Community Ambassador of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Artist in Residence and Community Ambassador of Symphony Nova Scotia, and Resident Conductor of Engagement and Education of the San Francisco Symphony. He served as Assistant Conductor of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and Associate Conductor of the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and has performed with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and Calgary Philharmonic. Daniel is the host of Canadian Broadcasting Company's nationally broadcast weekly radio show *Centrestage*.

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**

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