

MEDIA RELEASE
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LONDON SYMPHONIA PRESENTS A CAPTIVATING EVENING OF ROMANTIC MASTERWORKS LED BY TWO DYNAMIC WOMEN



LOVE IN THE AGE OF MELANCHOLY

Saturday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m

LONDON, March 28, 2023 – London Symphonia’s musical exploration continues with **Love In The Age Of Melancholy** (Saturday, April 15 at Metropolitan United), an evening of great melodies for both voice and orchestra by two beloved composers of the Romantic era, Hector Berlioz and Franz Schubert.

“We are delighted to welcome the wonderful Mezzo-Soprano Julie Boulianne for her debut with London Symphonia, performing Hector Berlioz’s song cycle, *Les Nuits d’été (Summer Nights)*. Conductor Tania Miller, a favourite collaborator of London Symphonia musicians and audiences alike, is returning for her third performance with the orchestra. Known for her energy and dynamic interpretations she will also lead the orchestra in Franz Schubert’s Symphony No. 9, known as “The Great”.

Les Nuits d’été is an emotional journey that explores six visions of love. With a voice acclaimed for its vocal agility and expressive power, Julie Boulianne is well versed in portraying a wide range of personas in her international career spanning both the operatic and concert stages, including the Metropolitan Opera, Wiener Staatsoper, and the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden.

Schubert's monumental Symphony No. 9 is filled with musical complexity and a wonderful opportunity for London Symphonia musicians to shine. Each of the four movements tells its own musical story building to the final movement where we hear the triumph of spirit and humanity over adversity.

"It's always a joy for me to come to work with the London Symphonia," said Maestra Miller. "As I think of their particular musicality and beautiful ensemble, I think that the works we will be performing will be special repertoire for us to do together.

"Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* is perhaps his most popular work, and takes us through six poems about love and loss. These miniature explorations about love are a beautiful contrast to Schubert's Symphony No. 9 "The Great". Schubert's symphony is a delicate, joyful work written upon a grand symphonic canvas. I love how so many beautiful Schubertian melodies sing over a tapestry that dances with constantly shifting rhythms."

The 7:30 p.m. concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. In-person tickets are \$50 regular, \$68 premium, and \$50 for livestreaming per household, plus fees and HST. Free student tickets. Tickets are available online at **londonsymphonia.ca**.

LISTING INFORMATION

Love In The Age Of Melancholy

London Symphonia

Julie Boulianne, mezzo-soprano

Tania Miller, conductor

Sat. April 15 at 7:30pm

Doors open at 6:30pm

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

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ABOUT JULIE BOULIANNE

French-Canadian mezzo-soprano Julie Boulianne is acclaimed for the vocal agility and expressive power of her dark-hued tone, focusing on the works of Berlioz, Mozart, and Rossini. The Independent recently said, "Julie Boulianne's Marguerite is gloriously sung, her sound replete with grace and power." She has performed with renowned opera companies including the Metropolitan Opera, the Wiener Staatsoper, the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, the Glyndebourne Festival and, in her native Québec, Opéra de Montréal and Opéra de Québec On the concert stage, Ms. Boulianne has performed César Franck's *Redemption* with the Netherlands Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by James Gaffigan, Berlioz's *Les nuits d'été* with the Gulbenkian Orchestra in Lisbon, and Ravel's *Shéhérazade* and *Cinq mélodies populaires grecques* with Orchestre Classique de Montréal.

ABOUT TANIA MILLER

Canadian Conductor Tania Miller has distinguished herself as a dynamic interpreter, musician and innovator. On the podium, Maestra Miller projects authority, dynamism and sheer love of the experience of making music. As one critic put it, she delivers calm intensity . . . expressive,

colorful and full of life . . . her experience and charisma are audible.” Others call her performances “technically immaculate, vivid and stirring”.

Recently named as the interim Principal Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic, Miller’s 2022-2023 season also features debuts with the Warsaw Philharmonic, I Musici de Montreal, the New Haven Symphony and Springfield Symphony. Miller has appeared as a guest conductor in Canada, the United States and Europe with such orchestras as the Chicago Symphony, Ottawa’s National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Bern Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Naples Symphony, Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal, Toronto Symphony and numerous others.

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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