

MEDIA RELEASE
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LONDON SYMPHONIA OPENS SEASON AT NEWLY RENOVATED METROPOLITAN UNITED



Historic concert features London stars Cameron Crozman and Angela Schwarzkopf

LONDON, October 11, 2022 – London Symphonia is kicking off its 2022/2023 Season with a concert on Saturday, October 22 at 7:30 p.m. to welcome the community to its newly renovated home in the sanctuary of Metropolitan United Church which is being transformed into a beautiful concert hall. The renovations, which include a flexibly designed elevated stage and state-of-the-art LED lighting, will create a better experience for audience members and musicians alike.

“Everyone at London Symphonia is thrilled and proud to launch our season at the first concert to be held in London’s newest cultural hub,” said April Voth, Executive Director of London Symphonia. “We are profoundly grateful to the Metropolitan United congregation for their vision and commitment to the transformation of this historically significant venue and to the many donors who made this dream a reality, including the generous support received from the Government of Canada’s Cultural Spaces Fund.”

Entitled **We Are All One**, the inaugural concert celebrates this exciting new beginning for London Symphonia and the community at large, as both come together to connect through music.

“This concert is the ideal program to welcome the community to experience London Symphonia as never before,” said Andrew Chung, Artistic Producer of London Symphonia. “We now have the perfect sized concert space for our orchestra, with renovations and technical additions that will enhance the acoustic and the viewing experience for the entire audience. When I recently stood on the almost completed stage, I had goosebumps from envisioning how the program we have planned this season will play out on this stage.”



Known for bringing fresh perspectives to the podium, Gordon Gerrard, Conductor of the Regina Symphony Orchestra will lead London Symphonia. The dynamic program opens with a fanfare, Akasha (Sky) by Glenn Buhr who recently retired as Professor of Composition at Waterloo's Wilfred Laurier University, followed by a double concerto for harp and cello by Kelly-Marie Murphy performed by two internationally acclaimed artists and hometown favourites: London Symphonia's own Juno-winning harpist Angela Schwarzkopf, and London legend, cellist Cameron Crozman.

One of Canada's most imaginative and expressive composers and winner of the prestigious Azrieli Music Prize in 2018, Kelly-Anne Murphy's dramatic meditation on Sephardic songs, *En El Escuro Es Todo Uno (In The Darkness, We Are All One)* encourages us to understand that beyond society's artificial trappings, we are more similar than we are different. We are grateful to the Azrieli Foundation Music Fund for making the Symphonia's performance of this award winning Canadian composition possible and to the Kiwanis Club of Forest City - London for sponsoring Cameron Crozman's appearance.

Rounding out the concert is Felix Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 (The Italian) well loved by many and a bright, energizing romp into the exciting 2022-2023 season.

The 7:30 p.m. concert can be heard in person or livestreamed online. In-person tickets are \$50 regular, \$68 premium, \$20 for students and \$50 for livestreaming per household plus fess and HST. Tickets are available online at londonsymphonia.ca.

LISTING INFORMATION

We Are All One

London Symphonia

Gordon Gerrard guest director

Cameron Crozman, Cellist

Angela Schwarzkopf, Harpist

Saturday, October 22 at 7:30 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Pre-concert talk at 6:45 pm

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

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Presented with the support of the Azriel Music Prizes Performance Fund.

Guest artist sponsors are Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London and Continental Cork.

ABOUT CAMERON CROZMAN

Named "Canada's next big cello star" by CBC Music and the 2019-20 Classical Revelation artist of Radio-Canada, Canadian cellist Cameron Crozman is making a name for himself both at home and internationally. Performing recitals and chamber music across Canada and the USA as well as over Europe, engagements have taken him to such world-renowned venues as the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, Berliner Philharmonie, Paris Philharmonie, Philadelphia's Mann Centre, and Canada's National Arts Centre.

Cameron's debut album, Cavatine, recorded on the ca.1696 "Bonjour" Stradivarius cello, was released to critical acclaim in 2019 and described by the French publication Classica Magazine as displaying "technical

perfection with a personal style that leaves us wanting to hear more.” His most recent recording of the Britten Cello Suites is garnering similar praise, receiving highest marks from Diapason Magazine, one of the world’s leading classical music publications.

ABOUT ANGELA SCHWARZKOPF

JUNO award winning harpist Angela Schwarzkopf concertizes throughout the Toronto area and beyond as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral harpist. The first harpist to receive a Doctorate of Music in harp performance in Canada, she now teaches at a number of esteemed institutions and performs with top ensembles nationwide. She is also a founding member of The Topaz Duo with flutist Kaili Maimets. Angela works regularly with many top choral and orchestral organizations throughout Ontario, including London Symphonia, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and at the Stratford Festival, among others.

As an advocate for new music, Angela has worked on commissioning projects with many prominent composers. Her debut album, *detach*, of all Canadian new music won a 2020 JUNO award for Classical Album of the Year: Solo or Chamber.

ABOUT GORDON GERRARD

Conductor Gordon Gerrard is among the exciting generation of music directors demonstrating new visions for orchestral leadership in Canada. Currently in his sixth season leading the Regina Symphony Orchestra, Gordon has distinguished himself as a leader in innovative and inclusionary programming. Trained first as a pianist and subsequently as a specialist in operatic repertoire, he brings a fresh perspective to the podium that endears him to audiences and musicians alike. After an international search, Gordon was appointed Music Director of the Regina Symphony Orchestra where he has taken bold steps reimagining the orchestra’s programming, including its Forward Currents Festival dedicated to social change and community engagement.

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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For more information, please contact:

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