London Symphonia 10
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MEDIA RELEASE

LONDON SYMPHONIA LAUNCHES 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON OF CELEBRATION

Superstar Violinist Kerson Leong and Mahler Headline Opening Night on October 17, 2026



London's Own Cellist Cameron Crozman and Polaris Music Prize Winner Lido Pimienta JUNO Award Winning Cellist Elinor Frey and Soprano Katy Clark among featured 2026-27 Guest Artists

LONDON, ON -- September 30, 2026 – London Symphonia is turning 10 and to celebrate Andrew Chung, Artistic Producer, has created a 2026-27 Season that is brimming with **eight dazzling concerts** showcasing brilliant guest artists. Each concert has been specially crafted to take both audiences and the musicians on new musical journeys of exploration and discovery. **Opening Night: Breathtaking Mahler and Good** kicks off the Season on **Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 7:30pm at Metropolitan United, London ON.**

“We are thrilled to welcome back internationally acclaimed Canadian violinist Kerson Leong to open our 10th Anniversary Season with the world premiere of *Yinyang*, a concerto for violin and orchestra, composed by Scott Good, London Symphonia’s Composer-In-Residence. What an unforgettable way to launch our milestone 10th season,” said Chung.

Good has been Composer-In-Residence with London Symphonia for the past 10 years. A prolific composer, his catalogue spans orchestral works, concertos, chamber music, vocal music, film scores, arrangements, orchestrations, jazz/classical crossover projects, children’s music, and multimedia works.

“I am challenging myself in a number of ways,” said Good. “*Yinyang* is my first violin concerto. The violin has so much expression and my goal is to explore the instrument in its farthest reaches. With Kerson Leong as soloist, I know I can take the music to incredible places.”

A composer interested in connecting the orchestra to other artistic forms and musical cultures, Good has incorporated the *guzheng*, a Chinese zither, as a special addition to the orchestra. This unique instrument provides a cultural link between the work’s Chinese philosophical roots and the Western orchestral art form, while also serving as a bridge between the violin soloist and the orchestra. Lina Cao, renowned as a virtuosa of the instrument, will be performing.

Also on the Opening Night program is Mahler’s Symphony No. 1, known as “The Titan”. “There is always something special about performing Gustav Mahler’s music that truly takes one’s breath away,” said Chung. “This is music on an epic scale that is thrilling for the audience and for the musicians yet also relatable on a deep level. When Mahler is played well, it comes alive in a unique way. I am looking forward to diving into his Symphony No. 1 with Conductor James S. Kahane, Music Director of the Hamilton Phil,” said Chung. Known for his passion and attention to detail, Kahane makes his London Symphonia debut.

Thanks to the generous support of the **Paul Seed Fund**, the 10th Anniversary Season Sponsor, London Symphonia’s 2026-27 Season is bigger and bolder than ever!

2026-27 CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING NIGHT: BREATHTAKING MAHLER AND GOOD, October 17, 2026
London Symphonia looks to the future with the thrilling world premiere of *Yinyang*, Concerto for Violin and Orchestra by Composer-in-Residence Scott Good and performed by virtuoso violinist, Kerson Leong. Mahler’s First Symphony, known as “The Titan”, is full of sweeping melodies, dramatic contrasts and unforgettable themes. James S. Kahane, principal conductor of the Helsinki Chamber Orchestra, co-principal conductor of the Orchestre de Chambre de la Drôme, and music director of the Hamilton Phil (formerly known as the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra) makes his London Symphonia conducting debut. Funding for the composition of Yinyang, Concerto for Violin and Orchestra is supported by the London Arts Council through the City of London’s

Community Arts Investment Program, and the Ontario Arts Council and the Province of Ontario.

CARIBBEAN SUBLIME WITH LIDO PIMIENTA, November 14, 2026
Lido Pimienta, London-based Polaris Music Prize winning composer, vocalist, curator and boundary bending interdisciplinary artist will perform selections from *La Belleza Caribenya*, her new double album released in July. In *La Belleza*, which means beautiful in Spanish, Lido creates classical music from a Caribbean point of view. What started as an experiment relying on technology grew to be a sublime experience of belonging and growth with Lido creating live orchestrations assisted by her mentor and arranger, Owen Pallett. In *Caribenya*, a play on words in Spanish that combines the Caribe Indigenous people and Enya, the Irish experimental singer, Lido sees herself as the Caribbean Enya, who embodies the beauty of the islands and its peoples.

MESSIAH with THE ELORA SINGERS, December 5, 2026
We are excited to collaborate, once again, with The Elora Singers in a fresh interpretation of *Messiah*, a perennial holiday favourite loved by audiences for its thrilling drama and operatic breadth, from poignant arias to blazing choruses, including the transcendent "Hallelujah Chorus". Unlike many other choirs, the arias are shared and performed by soloists who are members of this superb professional ensemble, handpicked for this performance by Mark Vuorinen, Artistic Director of The Elora Singers. Join us and rediscover everything you love about *Messiah*.

FAMILY CONCERT
THE CABOOSE WHO GOT LOOSE, January 24, 2027 at 3:30pm
London Symphonia's Family Concert returns! Scott Good, Composer-in-Residence and conductor of this performance, brings the endearing children's story, *The Caboose Who Got Loose* by author and illustrator Bill Peet, to life through his music. The story follows Katy Caboose, who is the last car on a train that climbs mountains and rushes through tunnels, as she finally breaks free to find peace in nature. It's a memorable tale about realizing your value—even when you feel like you're "just the caboose."
Fun for all the family– complete with music related activities kids will love!
FREE children's and student tickets!

THREE GREATS: TCHAIKOVSKY, ELGAR AND CROZMAN, February 6, 2027
We are thrilled to welcome back London's own Cameron Crozman to perform a great romantic masterwork, Elgar's wistful *Cello Concerto*. Crozman's expressive and emotionally charged interpretation of this pinnacle of the cello canon is one you will definitely want to experience!

Tchaikovsky asked for his *Fifth Symphony* to be performed 'with desire and passion' and when guest conductor Cosette Justo Valdés steps up to the podium to lead London Symphonia, we can promise exactly that. Maestra Justo Valdés formed a powerful connection with London Symphonia musicians and won the hearts of concert goers at her highly successful debut in 2025.

BAROQUE MADNESS WITH ELINOR FREY AND KATY CLARK, March 6, 2027
Star cellist Elinor Frey and acclaimed soprano Katy Clark explore the spellbinding obsessions of Baroque music. Many Baroque composers depicted these tumultuous states with surprising, unpredictable, and impassioned music. This stunning performance of Vivaldi, Rameau, Handel, and others, combines theatrical energy with the timeless beauty of Baroque melody, letting the listener experience the pleasure of enjoying something so much, it drives them almost mad.

JOSEPH BOLOGNE: 18TH-CENTURY ROCK STAR, April 10, 2027
A rock star of French society, Joseph Bologne, the Chevalier de Saint-Georges, was a man of colour, a champion swordsman, a composer whose music was universally praised and a violinist whose playing amazed. The stories of the Chevalier are rich with love, ambition, triumph and deception. With the French Revolution on the horizon, the royal court of Queen Marie Antoinette was a place of power and intrigue, and Bologne was in the middle of it all! Roy Lewis, celebrated Canadian actor, reimagines the story of this fascinating man while London Symphonia performs music by Bologne as well as works by Mozart and Haydn, who knew him.

Join us as Joe Lanza, London Symphonia's beloved Concertmaster, leads London Symphonia from the chair, in his final concert before his retirement. Celebrate one of Canada's finest in his 40th season as Concertmaster.

LONDON LISTENS EXTRAVAGANZA WITH TOM ALLEN, May 1, 2027
Inspired by *Canada Reads*, Tom Allen hosts this novel musical program where everyone is a winner. Three compositions by living Canadian composers compete for the title of the No. 1 piece of music that Canada needs to hear. Each composer's work will be championed by a London-based advocate who defends the piece. London Symphonia performs each composition, and the audience selects their favourite work. Gordon Gerrard returns to conduct this Canadian conclusion to our blockbuster 10th Anniversary Season!

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING IN 2026-27

In addition to presenting concerts, London Symphonia is making a deep impact in the community through the diverse range of its all-ages Education and Joy of Music Seniors programs.

As it celebrates its 10th Anniversary, London Symphonia is future focused:
Education programs give the next generation a deep love and understanding of music that will enrich them throughout their lives. Highlights include:

- The merger of the London Youth Symphony into London Symphonia's family of Education programs.
- London Symphonia's free Schools music education programs now extend from kindergarten through high school so that students of all ages can experience the transformative power of music.
- The London Symphonia Fellowship program with Western University provides a rich package of training to help emerging artists advance their careers.
- The Joy of Music Seniors Programs provide seniors groups and residents in retirement homes with opportunities to experience the positive impact of live performance by attending an Open Rehearsal or a performance onsite in their retirement home.

London Symphonia is deeply grateful for the support of our government partners, London Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council.

LISTING INFORMATION:

LONDON SYMPHONIA CONCERT
Opening Night: Breathtaking Mahler and Good
London Symphonia
James S. Kahane conductor
Kerson Leong, violin
Saturday. October 17, 2026 at 7:30 pm
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Metropolitan United, 468 Wellington St, London, ON

Subscriptions and Tickets on Sale Now

Ticket packages start at $155 for 3-concert General Admission subscription and $212 for Reserved Seating, plus fees and HST. 5-concert and 7-concert packages are also available. Individual adult tickets range from $55 General Admission to $75 Reserved Seating, plus fees and HST. Family Flex packs and free student tickets are also available. In person subscriptions and tickets can be purchased online at londonsymphonia.ca.

Video on Demand

London Symphonia's WATCH and LISTEN digital program enables music lovers to access the latest London Symphonia concert videos – recorded live – plus a treasure trove of exceptional performances from the past four seasons in the London Symphonia Catalogue. Video On Demand subscriptions and rental of individual concerts are available at londonsymphonia.ca.

ABOUT KERSON LEONG

Kerson Leong has been described as “not just one of Canada’s greatest violinists but one of the greatest violinists, period” (Toronto Star). Forging a unique path since his First Prize win at the International Yehudi Menuhin Violin Competition in 2010, he continues to win over colleagues and audiences alike with “a mixture of spontaneity and mastery, elegance, fantasy, intensity that makes his sound recognizable from the first notes” (Le Monde). His recent album for Alpha Classics featuring the solo violin sonatas by Eugène Ysaÿe was awarded the Diapason d’Or Découverte and the Choc de Classica, with Classica proclaiming him “more than a discovery, a veritable revelation” and Gramophone declaring that “his recording could be a happy first choice for any discerning listener”. Highlights of the 2026/27 season include his debut at the Amsterdam Concertgebouw as soloist with the Nederlands Kamerorkest during a tour around the Netherlands, as well as his debut in South Korea, where he appears with the Korean Chamber Orchestra in Seoul. The season also sees a tour of Sweden as soloist with the Camerata Nordica. Further orchestral debuts include the Orchestra of Teatro Verdi di Trieste, the Louisville Orchestra, the Colorado Springs Philharmonic, the Elgin Symphony, and the Kaohsiung Symphony Orchestra, and he has been invited by pianist Alexandre Tharaud to join him in recital at the Cité de la Musique in Paris.
Kerson performs on the ‘ex Bohrer, Baumgartner’ Guarneri del Gesu violin courtesy of Canimex Inc, Drummondville (Quebec), Canada.

ABOUT JAMES S. KAHANE

James S. Kahane is the Music Director of the Hamilton Phil (formerly Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra), Principal Conductor of the Helsinki Chamber Orchestra and Principal Conductor of the Orchestre de Chambre de la Drôme. Commended for his ability to “weave the musical phrases together with flexibility and determination, as well as the musicians between them” (Bachtrack) and to “take the orchestra to its extremes” (Keskisuomalainen), Kahane has worked with first-rate orchestras around the world such as the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra or the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. His debut album with the Helsinki Chamber Orchestra, released by Resonus Classics, has been lauded as a “colossal album that will inspire for generations to come” (The Flute View).

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. *Yinyang*, his first concerto for violin and orchestra, will be performed by the internationally acclaimed violinist Kerson Leong at London Symphonia’s 2026 opening night concert. Previously London Symphonia performed the world premiere of *Lasker-Schüler Songs* composed for rising star soprano Midori Marsh and London Symphonia (2024). He has composed three silent film scores: *The Hands of Orlac* for orchestra performed at the Forest City Film Festival (2025), *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

Established in 2016, London Symphonia has earned the reputation as one of Canada's finest regional orchestras. With a core of 30 players, the professional symphony orchestra is committed to performing vibrant and bold musical experiences for London and the region. The 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. Concertgoers enjoy a rich, artistic programs that showcase accomplished performers and conductors who represent a blend of locally, nationally and internationally recognized talent. A registered charitable organization, London Symphonia makes a deep impact in the community through its important contributions to London's vibrant arts scene, its diverse Schools Programs and its Joy of Music seniors programs.

Website: **londonsymphonia.ca**
Social media: Join the conversation on Facebook | Instagram | YouTube

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26/27 CELEBRATE YOUR ORCHESTRA! 10