

MEDIA RELEASE  
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## LONDON SYMPHONIA KICKS OFF 2025 WITH THREE UNIQUE CONCERTS SHOWCASING LONDON MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS



### 2025 OPENER: JOE LANZA'S BAROQUE FAVOURITES Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 7:30 p.m

**LONDON, January 7, 2025** – There is no better way to start the New Year than by celebrating one of our own! London Symphonia is proud to present **Joe Lanza's Baroque Favourites**, a feast of some of the best Baroque music ever written, curated and performed by the orchestra's Concertmaster, Joe Lanza, with the London Symphonia Strings. (Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 7:30 p.m., Metropolitan United in London, ON.)

"Joe Lanza is regarded as one of Canada's finest concertmasters. His playing is a bright jewel in London's musical crown. We are so fortunate to have a musician of his calibre in the important position of concertmaster," said Andrew Chung, Artistic Producer, London Symphonia.

**Joe Lanza's Baroque Favourites** will take the audience on a musical tour of Italy, Germany and England, sampling some of the most striking innovators of orchestral

music of the 17th and 18th centuries, including works by Vivaldi, Handel, and J.S. Bach. The program will demonstrate how this music has left a rich legacy of ideas that has inspired composers for centuries afterwards.

“The pieces I have selected are powerful, or have some really interesting aspect to their creation, or are simply just really cool,” said Joe Lanza. “All are evocative and poetic. In every case, I feel a special relationship with the work, the composer, or both.”

In true Baroque fashion, Lanza will lead the London Symphonia Strings from the concertmaster’s chair.

Known as one of the finest Baroque music interpreters in Canada, Lanza is Director of the Early Music Studio at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western University. “This is a very special concert in so many ways. I am thrilled that three members of the London Symphonia Strings are Early Music Studio alums,” he said.

Each of the three exceptional London Symphonia concerts in January and February 2025 will present an intriguing musical journey. In addition to the pure Baroque joy of **Joe Lanza’s Baroque Favourites**, the orchestra will celebrate Lunar New Year with **A New Moon Celebration** on February 1, and Black History Month on February 22 with **The Life and Troubled Times of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**, an unjustly neglected composer regarded as a musical genius 100 years ago.

Concertgoers can choose to attend in person at Metropolitan United, home of London Symphonia, or virtually through high quality 4K HDR Video On Demand productions that include 21 days of unlimited access.

## **LISTING INFORMATION:**

### **LONDON SYMPHONIA CONCERT**

*Joe Lanza’s Baroque Favourites*

Joe Lanza, leader and soloist

Sat. January 18, 2025 at 7:30 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

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

In-person tickets are \$55 General Admission, \$75 Reserved Seating, and \$55 for unlimited Video On Demand 21-day access, plus fees and HST.

Ticket packages start at \$155 for 3-concert General Admission subscription and \$212 for Reserved Seating, plus fees and HST. 5-concert packages are also available. In person and Video On Demand tickets are available online at [londonsymphonia.ca](http://londonsymphonia.ca).

Free tickets are available for post secondary, high school and children aged 6 to 12. Family-Flex Packs and tickets to individual concerts can be purchased online at [londonsymphonia.ca](http://londonsymphonia.ca).

*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.*

## **ABOUT JOE LANZA**

Joe Lanza has been the Concertmaster of London Symphonia and its forerunner, Orchestra London since 1987. He is well known to audiences as a regular soloist with the ensemble in every musical genre and has directed programs with his colleagues on numerous occasions.

In addition to appearing several times as the lead violinist of the Westben Festival Orchestra, Joe has been a concertmaster/mentor for many years at The National Academy Orchestra, a training program for young professionals that features guest concertmasters from Canada's finest orchestras.

A busy freelance musician across the region, Joe is particularly active on the period instrument scene in southern Ontario. In 2016, he served as one of four creative directors of Nota Bene Baroque Players in Kitchener. He is proud of, and takes great satisfaction in being regularly engaged by Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra since 1996, including numerous recordings and tours around the world.

Joe is active in music education. He has taught both violin and baroque performance at Western University since 1995 and is now coordinator of the Don Wright Faculty of Music Early Music Studio. Joe coaches chamber music at Forest City Talent Education and is an enthusiastic teacher committed to the development and growth of his students. He is a frequently sought after adjudicator for music festivals across Ontario.

## **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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