

MEDIA RELEASE

LONDON SYMPHONIA AND AWARD WINNING PAYADORA TANGO ENSEMBLE TURN UP THE HEAT THIS NOVEMBER



Payadora Tango Ensemble and London Symphonia will take audiences on an entertaining journey exploring the music, emotion and stories behind tango on November 15, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. at Metropolitan United, London, ON.
L to R: Mark Camillieri, piano; Drew Jurecka, bandoneon, violin; Rebekah Wolkstein (leader), violin, vocals; Elbio Fernandez, vocals; Joe Phillips, double bass, guitar

PAYADORA – THE SOUL OF TANGO **Saturday, November 15, 2025 at 7:30 p.m**

LONDON, ON, October 21, 2025 – Now you can experience tango like never before when the award winning Payadora Ensemble performs with **London Symphonia** in a concert sure to entertain. **Payadora – The Soul of Tango** is a genre-crossing celebration of rhythm, melody, and cultural connection that will take you on a vibrant journey from Argentina across Eastern Europe, exploring the music, song, storytelling and dance behind this multidimensional artform that continues to captivate the world. **Scott Good, London Symphonia's Composer-In-Residence** will conduct. **(Saturday, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Metropolitan United, London ON.)**

Composed of players who are each musical powerhouses, Payadora is taking the world by storm! Officially endorsed by the Argentinian Consulate in Toronto for its adherence

to the spirit of tango, this “superstar group” has combined their deep knowledge of tango with their classical, jazz and world music backgrounds to create something entirely new. Together with London Symphonia, this dynamic concert will dig deeper into the meaning of tango as an art form, telling stories of resilience and grace with an unwavering respect for tradition.

“Over the past 13 years, Payadora has developed its musical personality from one that closely studied and emulated the great tango masters, to one that performs across Europe, North and South America to great musical acclaim,” said **Andrew Chung, Artistic Producer, London Symphonia**. “They have created a special London Symphonia concert version of the music they love so much; and we can’t wait to perform with them.

“It is with the greatest admiration that I see longtime **Payadora member and London Symphonia principal bass, Joe Phillips**, bringing together his favourite groups to celebrate this soulful music,” Chung added. “With Uruguayan roots and a lifelong love for this music, singer Elbio Fernandez’ extraordinary voice sings with the intensity and passion of the very best tango performers”

The soul of tango is one that may have originated in Argentina and Uruguay but has long captivated the world for its mix of melancholy, passion, longing and embrace.

“We are excited to perform with London Symphonia,” said **Rebekah Wolkstein, leader of the group**. “This concert offers a vibrant and wide-ranging journey through Argentine and Latin-inspired music. From the dramatic sweep of tango classics by Mores, Piazzolla, and Gardel to contemporary works by **Payadora members Rebekah Wolkstein and Drew Jurecka**, the evening blends tradition with innovation. The program also features folkloric Argentine styles and theatrical songs, showcasing the emotional storytelling at the heart of this music. We hope you will join us. It’s going to be a great evening!”

Concertgoers can choose to attend **Payadora – The Soul of Tango** in person at Metropolitan United, home of London Symphonia, or virtually through London Symphonia’s new **Watch and Listen** video on demand channel featuring high quality 4K HDR videos of 2025-26 concerts along with a treasure trove of past seasons.

LISTING INFORMATION: LONDON SYMPHONIA CONCERT

Payadora – The Soul of Tango

London Symphonia

Scott Good, conductor

Payadora Tango Ensemble

Sat. November 15, 2025 at 7:30 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 now at londonsymphonia.ca.

Subscriptions to all concerts, including the Family Concert, and individual concert rentals will be available on London Symphonia's **Watch and Listen video on demand channel**. Find out more at 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 PAYADORA

Founded in 2013, Payadora features some of the most respected chamber musicians in Canada: Rebekah Wolkstein (violin, vocals), Drew Jurecka (bandoneon, violin, mandolin), Joseph Phillips (double bass, guitar), Mark Camilleri (piano) and Elbio Fernandez (vocals). Payadora's broad scope in tango draws from the height of Buenos Aires' Tango tradition, including compositions by De Caro, Pugliese, Troilo, and Salgan, to the masterful, contemporary sounds of Astor Piazzolla and beyond. They compose and arrange their own repertoire.

Recent awards include the 2024 Folk Music Ontario Award for Best Album for "Silent Tears: The Last Yiddish Tango." The album reached No. 1 on the World Music Charts in Europe, accompanied by rave reviews, airtime, and press coverage around the globe, including the BBC, CTV, CBC television and radio, the Bangkok Post, NPR, and RTE Irish Public Radio. "... The most memorable release I have ever had the privilege to listen to and review" (WholeNote Magazine). They have been named on "Best of" lists on NPR's Rhythm Atlas, Finnish National Radio and CBC Classical. They were also nominated for the Folk Music Awards as "Best Performing Artists." Payadora won the German world music prize in 2024 (Weltmusikpreis RUTH award) and performed at the famous world music festival, Rudolstadt, where they received the award. In October 2024, Payadora toured Atlantic Canada with Debut Atlantic.

In January 2025, Payadora performed their show "Tango Apasionado" with PointeTango Dance Company across Florida including shows in Miami, Key West and Palm Coast. Payadora has presented concerts and sold-out shows in Poland, Austria, Brazil, Argentina, at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa Chamberfest, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Toronto's Harbourfront Centre, Stratford Summer Music, Toronto Summer Music, Festival of the Sound, Vancouver Island MusicFest, Toronto Jazzfest, the COC's World Music Series at the Four Seasons Centre and the World Accordion & Tango Festival in Victoria, Music in the Morning in Vancouver, and Vancouver Island Music Festival. Payadora has also collaborated with the London Symphonia, the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony and the Hannaford Street Silver Band. Their sold-out 2023 European tour (Madrid, Copenhagen, Budapest and London) included a live-to-air BBC performance.

"Playful, Spontaneous and Sexy!" - Classical 96.3 FM

"With influences from Argentina to Eastern Europe to the great Astor Piazzolla, Payadora plays the tango like it's meant to be: sultry, steamy, but with grace and precision. You will be entertained!" - Words + Music magazine

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. His most recent project with London Symphonia is the 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 to be 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

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, London Symphonia conducts dynamic music education programs and community outreach programs to provide greater access to music across the community.

Website: londonsymphonia.ca

Social media: Join the conversation on Facebook | Instagram | YouTube | BlueSky

For more information, please contact:

Janet Mowat

Sr. Marketing Consultant

[e] janet@londonsymphonia.ca

Jo-Dee Burbach

Digital Communications Associate

[e] jo-dee@londonsymphonia.ca