

**25  
26** | **WHERE MUSIC  
COMES ALIVE!**



London  
**Symphonia**



## **WELCOME TO LONDON SYMPHONIA'S 9TH SEASON!**

An incredible world of music comes alive this season. We are thrilled to bring you eight concerts filled with great music performed by internationally and locally acclaimed guest artists including Lara St. John, David Jalbert, Payadora, Denise Pelley and Tom Allen.

This season you will experience timeless orchestral masterworks and works by some of today's leading composers. Discover the soul of tango, dip into the boundless world of chamber music, be part of the excitement of a World Premiere, and celebrate the holidays and Valentine's Day with some of the best contemporary and classical music.

### **New This Season:**

#### **Family Concert on Sunday March 8, 2026 at 3:30 pm.**

Enjoy a performance of everyone's favourite, *Peter and the Wolf*. Please note: This concert is not included in Subscription packs. We are grateful to Canada Life for their continued support of Family-Flex discount ticket packs.

#### **More Reserved Seating Available**

We listened! You'll find more seats in the Reserved Seating sections on the main floor and balcony to choose from.

#### **New Video On Demand Channel Coming September 15, 2025**

Stay tuned for more news about the launch of our new Video On Demand channel.

We can hardly wait to share this great season with you starting with Opening Night: Mozart, Ravel and Beyond on October 4.

See you soon!

April Voith  
Executive Director

Andrew Chung  
Artistic Producer



# OPENING NIGHT: MOZART, RAVEL AND BEYOND

OCTOBER 4, 2025 at 7:30 pm

## Guest Artists

- Cosette Justo Valdés, *conductor*
- David Jalbert, *piano*

## David Jalbert performs Ravel's spirited Piano Concerto in G Major.

Join us as London Symphonia's 9th Season springs into life in this dazzling season opener.

Virtuoso pianist David Jalbert, ranked by the CBC as one of the 15 best Canadian pianists of all time, will perform Ravel's Piano Concerto in G Major. Mozart's Symphony No. 39, an orchestral masterpiece, Augusta Holmès' lush prelude *La Nuit et l'Amour*, and Rodrigo Prats' *Canta el Carretero Cuando Dan Las Seis* round out the program.

Cuban-born Maestra Cosette Justo Valdés, a rising star on the world concert stage, makes her debut conducting London Symphonia.

## Program

Augusta Holmès, *La Nuit et l'Amour*

Rodrigo Prats, *Canta el Carretero Cuando Dan Las Seis*

Ravel, Piano Concerto in G Major

Mozart, Symphony No. 39

Presenting Partner: *Serenata Music*



# PAYADORA – THE SOUL OF TANGO

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm

## Guest Artists

Payadora Tango Ensemble

- Rebekah Wolkstein, *violin, vocals*
  - Joseph Phillips, *double bass, guitar*
  - Drew Jurecka, *bandoneon, violin*
  - Mark Camilleri, *piano*
  - Elbio Fernandez, *vocals*
- Scott Good, *conductor*

**Pack your bags! It's time to go on a journey with Payadora and London Symphonia.**

"With influences from Argentina and 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*

Composed of players who are musical powerhouses in their own right, Payadora is taking the world by storm. Through their dynamic tango performances, they dig deeper into the meaning of the art form: telling stories of resilience and grace with an unwavering respect for tradition. Every performance is filled with joy, virtuosity, humour and intense passion for the music they play. Experience tango like never before!

## Program

Piazzolla, *Libertango*

Mariano Mores and Rodolfo Taboada, *Por qué la quise tanto*

Rebekah Wolkstein, *Silk and Lace*

Gerardo Matos Rodriguez, *La cumparsita*

Carlos Gardel, *Por una cabeza*, and more...





Photo courtesy of the City of London

# THE SOUNDS OF HOME

DECEMBER 6, 2025 at 7:30 pm

## Guest Artists

- Alexandra Kane, *musical director*
- Olivia Sinclair-Brisbane, *vocals*
- Tiffany Deriveau, *vocals*
- Henry Firmston, *vocals*
- Trevor Patt, *vocals*
- London Gospel Collective

## A heartwarming festive celebration to delight everyone in the family!

We are delighted to welcome Alexandra Kane, frequent music director at the Grand Theatre and well known musical theatre performer and community activist to the podium to lead this special concert.

Join us for an unforgettable experience as we fill Metropolitan United with sounds and stories of the holiday season performed by stars of the Canadian Stage whose roots are right here in London.

From the comfort of familiar carols to the excitement of more contemporary favourites, this joyful concert is the perfect way to share the magic of the season with family and friends.

Come and make memories that will last a lifetime. Don't miss this London-proud celebration.

## Program

Popular Holiday songs from film and stage arranged by Mike McClellan

Concert Sponsor:





# LARA ST. JOHN: THE ANCIENT FLAME

**JANUARY 17, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

## Guest Artists

- Nicolas Ellis, *conductor*
- Lara St. John, *violin*

**Acclaimed violinist, Lara St. John, performs brilliant concerto.**

Lara St. John makes her debut with London Symphonia in this performance of Avner Dorman's extraordinary Violin Concerto No. 2, "Nigunim". Since her performance of its World Premiere in 2018, the year it won an Azrieli Music Prize, Lara continues to bring it to audiences around the world. At times playful and at others heart-achingly thoughtful, "Nigunim" bubbles with energy and sophisticated craft rooted firmly in the traditions of Jewish music.

Bookending this example of tradition made new are works by two master composers of Jewish descent, both icons of Western music. Felix Mendelssohn's inspired incidental music to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* captures his joy and playfulness. Aaron Copland's music for the ballet *Appalachian Spring* became the sonic template for an entire generation of American composers.

Join us as we celebrate great music and brilliant artistry.

## Program

Mendelssohn, *Midsummer Night's Dream Suite*  
Avner Dorman, Violin Concerto No. 2 "Nigunim"  
Aaron Copland, *Appalachian Spring*

Co-Presenting Partners: *Serenata Music*  
and Beverley Zaufman



# LOVE AND ROMANCE WITH DENISE PELLEY

**FEBRUARY 14, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

## Guest Artists

- Denise Pelley, *vocalist*
- Roy Lewis, *poet and narrator*
- Scott Good, *arranger and conductor*

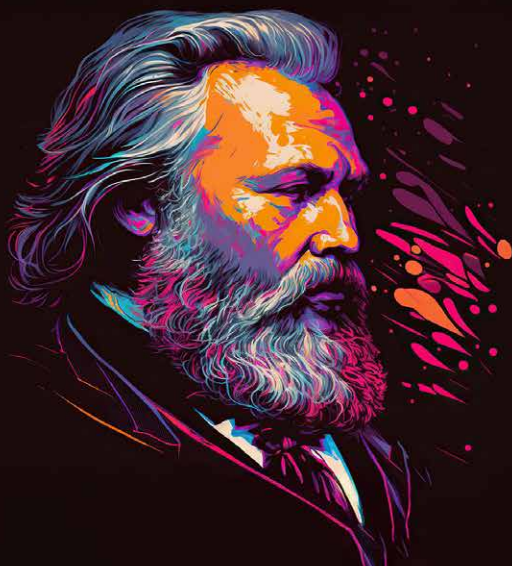
## An evening of musical wine and roses!

This Valentine's Day, enjoy some of the greatest romantic music written from pop to beloved orchestral masterworks. Love songs by the Bee Gees, Stevie Wonder, Tina Turner and many more performed by London's own Denise Pelley, original poetry read by Roy Lewis, and romantic orchestral favourites such as the Adagietto from Mahler's 5th Symphony (originally written as a love song to his wife), will make the evening unforgettably special.

If music be the food of love, then this concert will be a feast. Make it the centrepiece of your Valentine's Day plans!

## Program

Songs of The Bee Gees, Tina Turner, Stevie Wonder and more  
Mahler, Symphony No. 5, Adagietto  
Grieg, *Morning Song*  
Sibelius, *Romance*  
and more...



# THE BRAHMS EFFECT WITH TOM ALLEN

APRIL 18, 2026 at 7:30 pm

## Guest Artists

- Tom Allen, *narrator*
- Graham Lord, *clarinet*
- London Symphonia String Quartet
  - Joe Lanza, *violin*
  - Émilie Paré, *violin*
  - Kelvin Enns, *viola*
  - Ben Bolt-Martin, *cello*

## Tom Allen recounts the history and influence of Brahms' Clarinet Quintet.

Johannes Brahms was ostensibly retired after he had composed what be considered to be his final piece when he heard clarinetist Richard Mühlfeld play. All of a sudden, the retirement was off. Brahms went on to create some of the most successful chamber music of his career, including the highly influential Clarinet Quintet. While he was not the first to write for this ensemble, the richness of this work inspired generations of composers. Tom Allen guides us through the history of the Quintet and a sampling of some of the brilliant works inspired by it.

## Program

Gerald Finzi, *Five Bagatelles*

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, from Clarinet Quintet

Steve Reich, *New York Counterpoint*

Brahms, Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in B Minor Op. 115

Presenting Partner: *Serenata Music*





# BEETHOVEN, SHOSTAKOVICH, AND MARSH

**MAY 2, 2026 at 7:30 pm**

## Guest Artists

- Tania Miller, *conductor*
- Laura Chambers, *flute*

## A Thrilling End to a Brilliant Season!

We are delighted to welcome back celebrated Canadian conductor Tania Miller to lead this performance of monumental music.

Join us as we present the World Premiere of Alexis Marsh's new concerto written specially for our Principal Flute, Laura Chambers, and commissioned by London Symphonia. This new concerto promises the emotional impact and cinematic scope of a Canadian composer steeped in the language of film and television scoring.

Shostakovich's Chamber Symphony, an attestation of the resilience of the human spirit, together with Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, which ends with a bombastic and thunderous expression of joy and triumph, are the perfect conclusion to this extraordinary concert and outstanding season.

## Program

Alexis Marsh, Flute Concerto: *View of a Cartwheel from an Ascending Plane*, World Premiere  
Shostakovich, Chamber Symphony Op. 110a  
Beethoven, Symphony No. 7

## NEW! FAMILY CONCERT

### POST-CONCERT INSTRUMENT PETTING ZOO

After the concert, get to know the instruments even better at the Instrument Petting Zoo in the Great Hall. Courtesy of Long & McQuade, Fanshawe Park Road W.



# AN ENCHANTING AFTERNOON: PETER AND THE WOLF

**Narrator**

To be announced

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 at 3:30 pm**

### Spark a life-long love of music!

Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* continues to enchant audiences, no matter what their age. Join us as we bring to life the story of a young boy's woodland adventures through the many instruments in the orchestra. Every instrument is given a character to play, for example, Peter is played by the strings, his grandfather by the bassoon and the wolf by the horns.

In a similar way, the work of Algonquin-Anishinaabe storyteller and composer Spy Dénommé-Welch uses musical imagery to evoke the natural world.

General admission seating. Check out our Family-Flex ticket packs.

#### Program

Prokofiev (arr David Matthews), *Peter and the Wolf*  
Spy Dénommé-Welch, New composition (World Premiere)

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Save 50% (\$65) when you subscribe to London Symphonia's new Video On Demand channel.

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On Demand access to any concert in your package for 21 days: **\$15\* per concert.**

#### NEW! VIDEO ON DEMAND CHANNEL

We will be launching our new Video On Demand channel on September 15, 2025. View each concert in the 2025-26 Season PLUS enjoy a catalogue of selected concerts throughout the year.

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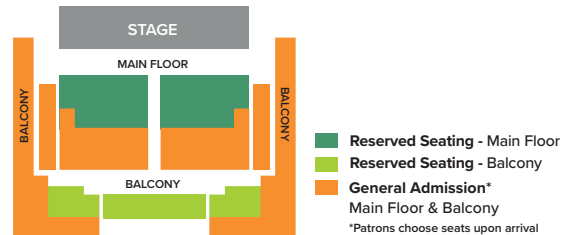
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Save 10% when you purchase single concert tickets anytime during the 2025-26 Season with this code: **G2526D10.**

#### SEATING GUIDE



#### IT'S EASY TO ORDER!



Online at [www.londonsymphonia.ca/concert-packages](http://www.londonsymphonia.ca/concert-packages)



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#### QUESTIONS?

Email us at [contact@londonsymphonia.ca](mailto:contact@londonsymphonia.ca) or call **226-270-0910**

##### Note:

- We accept VISA and MasterCard and cheques by mail,
- All artists, programs, dates, prices, availability and packages are subject to change without notice.

\* Not including fees and HST

\*\* Subscribers unable to attend a performance may exchange their tickets for another concert in the 2025-26 Season or return their tickets before the date of the concert and receive a charitable donation receipt for the full value.

#### VENUE FOR ALL CONCERTS

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London Symphonia's concerts, School Programs, Family Cushion Concerts and other community outreach programs are made possible by committed music lovers like you.

Help us share our passion for music. **PLEASE DONATE TODAY!**



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2. Mail your cheque to London Symphonia at 100-289 Dufferin Avenue, London, ON N6B 1Z1
3. Call us at 226-270-0910, leave a message. We'll get back to you.

THANK YOU.

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