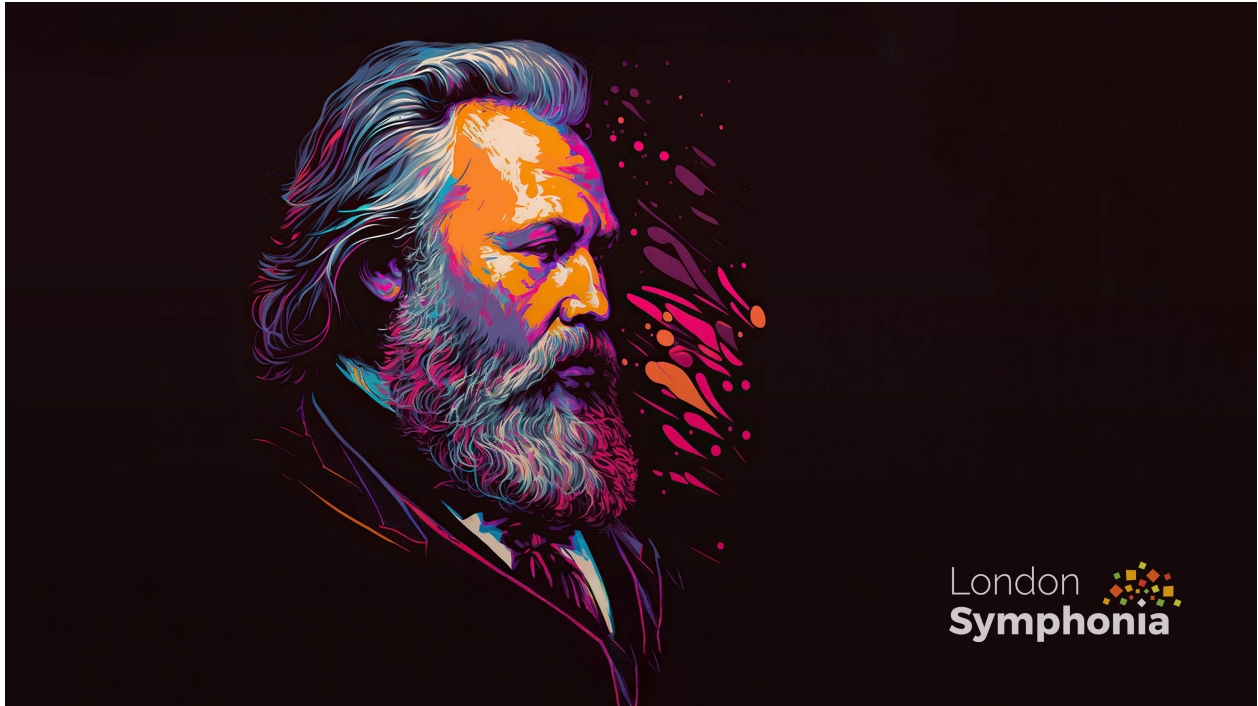


MEDIA RELEASE
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LONDON SYMPHONIA SHOWCASES ITS OWN IN AN EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC TREASURES



THE BRAHMS EFFECT WITH TOM ALLEN Saturday, APRIL 18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

LONDON, March 31, 2026 – The musical journey of discovery continues when London Symphonia presents **The Brahms Effect with Tom Allen**. **Tom Allen**, musician, consummate storyteller and host of *About Time* on CBC Radio 2, will lead the audience through an exploration of how the creative passion behind Brahms' Clarinet Quintet, a beloved masterwork of the Romantic era, has changed the course of music history through its profound influence on generations of composers. **Graham Lord**, principal clarinet, and **London Symphonia's String Quartet** will perform selections from works inspired by the richness of the composition, including Steve Reich's rarely performed *New York Counterpoint*, in addition to the quintet. **(The Brahms Effect, Saturday, April 18, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at Metropolitan United, London ON.)**

"We are delighted to welcome back Tom Allen, one of Canada's most captivating storytellers to our stage in this concert dedicated to the music and influence of composer Johannes Brahms," said **Andrew Chung**, Artistic Producer of London Symphonia. "Tom will tell the intriguing story of how Brahms' incredible Clarinet Quintet came to be and how it changed

the music that came after as we sample works by Gerald Finzi, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Steve Reich. His weaving of the stories behind these compositions and their connections back to Brahms will enhance our emotional understanding and enjoyment of the music, and our appreciation of Brahms' genius."

A cherished and essential piece of the clarinet repertoire, the Brahms Clarinet Quintet is regarded as a pinnacle chamber music masterwork.

"I've performed the Brahms Clarinet Quintet twice before and am thrilled to be presenting it alongside my dear colleagues from London Symphonia," said Graham Lord, principal clarinet, London Symphonia.

"A highlight of this concert for me will be performing Steve Reich's *New York Counterpoint* for live clarinet plus taped clarinets. This complex work is not often performed. I'll be playing all the parts – including a recording of myself from almost 20 years ago! I'm absolutely delighted by all the pieces on the program, and so happy to share them with the audience here in London. I hope you can join us."

Concertgoers can choose to attend **The Brahms Effect with Tom Allen** in person at Metropolitan United, home of London Symphonia, or to view the concert video production virtually through London Symphonia's new Watch and Listen channel featuring high quality 4K HDR videos of 2025-26 concerts along with a treasure trove of past seasons.

London Symphonia is deeply grateful to Presenting Partner Serenata Music for their support of this concert and to our government funders: the London Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council..

LISTING INFORMATION

LONDON SYMPHONIA CONCERT

The Brahms Effect with Tom Allen

London Symphonia

Guest Artists: Tom Allen, narrator

Graham Lord, principal clarinet

London Symphonia String Quartet

Sat. April 18, 2026 at 7:30 pm

Doors open at 6:30 pm

Metropolitan United, 468 Wellington St, London, ON

Subscriptions and Tickets on Sale Now

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 are available on London Symphonia's **Watch and Listen** video on demand channel. Find out more at londonsymphonia.ca.

ABOUT TOM ALLEN

Tom Allen was born in Montreal. He worked as a bass trombonist in New York City when there were still places you just didn't go, toured with the Great Lakes Brass and began working for the CBC on his 30th birthday, a very long time ago. He has written books, created and hosted countless shows for theatre companies and orchestras, as well as touring a series of chamber musicals with his beloved, the harpist Lori Gemmell. Those include *The Missing Pages*, *Being Lost* and JS Bach's *Long Walk in the Snow*, plus a forthcoming exploration of the music of deep geological time with the poet Don McKay. Tom was recently granted an honorary Doctoral degree from Brandon University. His latest project is an 18th century-style *Classical Musick Almanack*, being created with illustrator Ian Bell, built on gossip, smut, steampunk technology and, within certain limitations, history.

ABOUT GRAHAM LORD

Originally from the Vancouver area, Graham Lord is the principal clarinetist of both London Symphonia and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. An active freelancer from coast to coast, he has been invited to perform as guest principal with the symphony orchestras of Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Nova Scotia, and Thunder Bay. As a concerto soloist, he has performed works by Mozart, Copland, Nielsen, Weber, Krommer, and Martin. Appearances abroad include the Scotiabank Northern Lights Music Festival (Ajijic, Mexico), Yale University's Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (Connecticut), and the COSI summer opera program (Sulmona, Italy). Graham has given masterclasses at Western University, the University of Manitoba, Acadia University, and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

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

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

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