

25 | WHERE MUSIC
26 | COMES ALIVE!



PAYADORA – THE SOUL OF TANGO

NOVEMBER 15, 2025 | 7:30 pm | Metropolitan United

Guest Artists:

Payadora

- Rebekah Wolkstein, *violin, vocals*
- Drew Jurecka, *bandoneon, violin*
- Joe Phillips, *double bass, guitar*
- Mark Camilleri, *piano*
- Elbio Fernandez, *vocals*

Scott Good, *conductor*

London
Symphonia 



London
CANADA

JOSH MORGAN MAYOR

October 4, 2025

Dear Friends,

On behalf of London City Council, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to London Symphonia's 2025–2026 Season. We are honored to have such a distinguished ensemble in our community, and we eagerly anticipate the musical experiences you will bring to our residents.

London Symphonia has long been a shining star in our city's artistic constellation, and your unwavering dedication to musical excellence continues to enrich the lives of residents across all ages. Each performance you deliver resonates deeply, creating treasured memories and nurturing a lasting love for the arts in our community.

As you enter your ninth season, we celebrate not only the enduring legacy of the Symphonia but also the exciting diversity of this year's program. From timeless classics to innovative contemporary works, the season promises something to captivate every listener. We are especially proud that many concerts will feature guest artists from London and the surrounding region - highlighting the incredible talent that thrives right here at home.

The beautiful Metropolitan United Church offers an inspiring setting where the power of live orchestral music can truly come alive, bringing people together to share in moments of joy, reflection, and unity. As we gather to enjoy this season's offerings, let us remember the unique ability of music to inspire, heal, and connect us all. Whether you are a longtime supporter or experiencing London Symphonia for the first time, I invite you to immerse yourself fully in the magic of this remarkable ensemble.

Thank you for your commitment to enriching our community through the power of music. Here's to a season filled with unforgettable performances and shared inspiration.

Kind regards,

Josh Morgan
Mayor, City of London

City of London
Office of Mayor Josh Morgan
300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON N6A 4L9

WELCOME TO PAYADORA – THE SOUL OF TANGO!

Thank you so much for joining us as the award-winning Payadora Tango Ensemble and London Symphonia light up the stage with a concert that will entertain and delight you. **Payadora – The Soul of Tango** 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. ENJOY!

We hope you'll return to celebrate the festive season with us in **The Sounds of Home**, a London-proud concert filled with the music and stories of the holiday season. Led by Alexandra Kane, frequent musical director at Grand Theatre and well-known musical theatre performer and activist, with the London Gospel Collective, stars of the Canadian Stage whose roots are right here in the London region and London Symphonia, this concert will delight everyone in the family.

If you haven't already, we hope you'll visit **London Symphonia's new Watch and Listen video on demand channel**. You can subscribe and enjoy every concert in the 2025-26 Season plus access a treasure trove of outstanding concerts from the past three seasons, plus companion materials. You can also rent individual concerts. [Click HERE](#) to find out more.

To all our patrons and donors thank you for your friendship, encouragement and support. Your support is vital to London Symphonia's continuing success, not just in bringing performances like the one tonight to life but through our comprehensive education and outreach programs. On behalf of the musicians, staff, and Board of Directors, our heartfelt thanks.

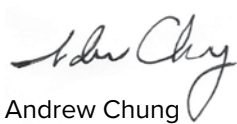
We hope you will enjoy tonight's concert and spread the word to family and friends.

Looking forward to seeing you often in the Season ahead.

Sincerely,



April Voth
Executive Director



Andrew Chung
Artistic Producer



PAYADORA

– THE SOUL OF TANGO

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- Scott Good, *conductor*

Mariano Mores

Tanguera, 1955

Arranged and orchestrated by Rebekah Wolkstein

Cacho Castaña

Garganta con arena, 1995

Arranged and orchestrated by Joe Phillips

Rebekah Wolkstein

Perpetual Motion, 2020

Orchestrated by Rebekah Wolkstein

Drew Jurecka

Ondas, 2023

Orchestrated by Mark Camilleri

Julio Bocazzi, Florindo Sassone

Baldosa floja, 1957

Lyrics by Dante Gilardone

Drew Jurecka

Tachero, 2019

Julián Plaza

Nostálgico, 1962

Rebekah Wolkstein

Locura, 2025

Orchestrated by Mark Camilleri

Astor Piazzolla

Libertango, 1974

Arranged and orchestrated by Drew Jurecka

Francisco Canaro / Enrique Cadícamo

Yo no sé qué me han hecho tus ojos, 1933

Arranged by Rebekah Wolkstein,
orchestrated by Drew Jurecka

INTERMISSION

Carlos Gardel

Por Una Cabeza, 1935

Arranged by Drew Jurecka, orchestrated by Rebekah Wolkstein
Lyrics by Alfredo Le Pera

Esteban Tobías Velárdez

Zamba del silencio, 1950s

Orchestrated by Joe Phillips

Rebekah Wolkstein

Gaucha de las pampas, 2023

Carlos Gardel, Marcel Lattes

Cuando tú no estás, 1933

Lyrics by Alfredo Le Pera and Mario Battistella

Rebekah Wolkstein

Silk and Lace, 2023

Drew Jurecka

Niebla oscura, 2017

Orchestrated by Drew Jurecka

Oswaldo Ruggiero

Bordoneo y novecientos, 1963

Arranged and orchestrated by Rebekah Wolkstein

Johannes Brahms

Hungarian Dance No. 1, 1879

Arranged by Robert Horvath, orchestrated by Drew Jurecka



The program runs approximately 1 hours and 45 minutes, including a 20-minute intermission.

MEET THE PAYADORA ENSEMBLE AND LONDON SYMPHONIA MUSICIANS AFTER THE CONCERT

Join us in the Great Room behind the stage and speak with the musicians.



TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS

Violin 1

Joe Lanza
Sarah Wiebe
Calvin Tsang

Violin 2

Mikela Witjes
Andrew Chung
Sheilanne Lindsay

Viola

Kelvin Enns
Marie-Eve Lessard

Cello

Ben Bolt-Martin
Patrick Theriault

Bass

Joe Phillips

Flute

Laura Chambers

Oboe

Jennifer Short

Clarinet

Timothy Tse

Bassoon

Zsófia Stefán

Horn

Ron George

Trumpet

Shawn Spicer

Trombone

Rob Stone

Percussion

Tim Francom

Harp

Lori Gemmell

Latecomers and those seeking to re-enter the concert hall will be asked to wait until a suitable break in the music. Timing and initial seating location is at the discretion of the ushers and Front of House staff.

Photography and video/audio recording of any kind is not permitted during the performance.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

London Symphonia wishes to acknowledge and honour the land on which we are meeting as the traditional territory of the First Nations peoples; the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation (part of the Anishinaabe), the Oneida Nation of the Thames (part of the Haudenosaunee) and the Munsee-Delaware Nation (part of the Leni-Lunaape). Let us reflect on how we as individuals and as a community can carry this spirit of gratitude into everything we do to honour the work that all the First Nations peoples of the Turtle Island have done, and continue to do, for the land that supports us all.



Payadora Ensemble

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. 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, the World Accordion & Tango Festival in Victoria, Music in the Morning in Vancouver, and Vancouver Island Music Festival. Payadora has also collaborated with 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.

*Individual bios of Payadora Ensemble players can be found at www.londonsymphonia.ca/concerts

Rebekah Wolkstein



Rebekah is a passionate chamber musician and a multi-award winning creative force in the Canadian music scene. She is the founder and leader of Payadora, as well as the co-leader

of a new “global sensation” Schmaltz & Pepper, a star studded klezmer/ Yiddish swing ensemble. Rebekah is the first violinist of the Venuti String Quartet. Rebekah is celebrated for her stunning virtuosity, nuance and broad musical versatility. Her creative output has led to multiple composing and recording grants through Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council. She directs multi-disciplinary projects such as The Legend of Carau, a feature for Payadora. She has performed and toured extensively with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, The National Ballet of Canada, The Canadian Opera Company.

An active studio musician, Rebekah is also at home playing in the styles of Folk, Klezmer, Pop, Latin, and Jazz and can be heard on numerous recordings including new releases by Donovan Woods, Laila Biali, Royal Wood and Justin Gray.

Aside from her active performing career, Rebekah holds a Doctorate in Violin Performance from the University of Toronto as well as degrees in violin from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

Drew Jurecka



Drew Jurecka began his relationship with Payadora as record producer for both of their albums. He is an accomplished jazz and session violinist but also as an arranger, producer,

composer and multi-instrumentalist. Trained classically, he studied with Lorand Fenyves and has a degree from the prestigious Cleveland Institute of Music. Drew has spent the last 12 years playing jazz, pop, rock and other contemporary styles in Toronto. Though violin is his primary instrument, he also works frequently as a performer and recording sideman on viola, saxophone, clarinet and mandolin. For five years, Drew played with Jeff Healey as part of his Jazz Wizards band, which toured extensively across Canada. Drew can be heard on three of Jeff Healey's CDs, including the Juno Nominated "Last Call". Drew has also toured nationally and internationally with The Polyjesters, Jesse Cook, Stuart McLean and the Vinyl Cafe, Alex Pangman, the Bebop Cowboys and Jill Barber.

Drew's arrangements have been used on countless records for artists across Canada, the United States and Europe. Drew has written original scores for eight stage plays, including seven for Vancouver-based 'Monster Theatre' and one for Tracey Erin Smith's play "the Burning Bush", which has been performed extensively in Toronto and New York City. He has also written and produced music for film, including the award winning documentary "Cuba Libre" and the recent shorts "An Insignificant Man" and "Sidestep Goosestep".

Drew currently teaches violin at Humber College, where he has helped to create the only specialized jazz strings post-secondary program in Canada. In seven years, the program has quadrupled in size and now includes ensembles, technique and master classes in addition to private lessons. His students have gone on to win international jazz awards and to perform and record in Canada, the US and France. From 2002 - 2011, Drew was the director of the Jazz series at the Northern Lights Music Festival in Guadalajara, Mexico. During that time, he sold out nearly every show, performing with renowned Canadian artists such as Richard Underhill, Daniel Barnes, Terra Hazelton, Sophia Perlman and Jill Barber. He is also a member of the Venuti String Quartet, a crossover quartet with violinist Rebekah Wolkstein.

Joe Phillips



Born and raised in Toronto close to the rolling green hills of Christie Pits, Joe Phillips started studying classical guitar at age 9, at the University Settlement House Music School. He

attended Oakwood Collegiate, and after some time playing the clarinet, he discovered the double bass. Time spent playing in various blues bars, Irish pubs and booze cans and four years studying with renowned classical virtuoso Joel Quarrington have led to a busy and diverse career. When not playing principal bass in London Symphonia, Joe can be found making music with artists as varied as The Art of Time Ensemble, Via Salzburg Chamber Orchestra, Group of 27 Chamber Orchestra, cabaret siren Patricia O'Callaghan, songwriters

Jenny Whiteley, Sarah Slean, Ruth Moody, the Wailin' Jennys, Corin Raymond and Rita Chiarelli, jazz bassist/cellist/composer Andrew Downing, banjoist Jayme Stone, Canadian fiddlers Pierre Schryer and Shane Cook and Irish flute and whistle virtuoso Nuala Kennedy. Joe has performed with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Les Violons du Roy, I Musici de Montréal, Tafelmusik and the Festival of the Sound and is an annual participant in the Sweetwater Music weekend in Owen Sound, Ontario. He lives in London, Ontario with his partner and their two children.

Mark Camilleri



There are so many people in the world who have been quoted as saying "music is a part of life". However, for Mark Camilleri, music is life. Mark's entire professional life embraces music and he has

had a wonderfully varied career for over 35 years. As Marvin Hamlisch put it, *"Mark Camilleri, or 'Mr. Canada' as I call him, is a one man does it all musical powerhouse, whether he's conducting, or playing keyboards, or arranging."*

As a Theatre Music Director, Mark has conducted dozens of productions including "Funny Girl", "Beauty and the Beast", "Nine", "Secret Garden", "West Side Story" and "Mamma Mia". Also, World Premieres of "Pollyanna the Musical", "Juke Box Hero" and "Prom Queen". He has also contracted countless shows for Mirvish Productions. Orchestrating credits include film scores for Directors Atom Egoyan and Érik Canuel, along with commissioned works for The Toronto Symphony and other orchestras and theatre companies across North

America. Mark's concert credits include performing in such venues as The Vatican, The Greek Theatre in Taormina, Notre Dame Church and the Oprah Winfrey Show as well as music directing "The Canadian Songwriters Hall of Fame Gala", the "Canadian Screen Actor Awards", "Canada eh" with Steve Patterson (CBC) and several PBS specials with the Canadian Tenors. Mark was also a featured pianist at the Pan Am opening celebrations and has been honored to have shared the stage with Il Divo, Celine Dion, Sting, Eric Clapton, Seth MacFarland, Andrea Bocelli, Paul Anka, Wayne Newton, Sheryl Crow, Sarah McLachlan, David Foster, Annie Lennox, Audra McDonald, Herbie Hancock, The Priests, Dee Snider, Johnny Reid and Jim Cuddy. When he's not behind a piano or podium, you'll find Mark engineering music sessions for TV, Film and radio at his commercial recording studio IMAGINE Sound Studios.

Elbio Fernandez



Elbio Fernandez, known as "El pequeño gigante del tango" (the little giant of tango), was born in Uruguay. It was in Uruguay where he learned to love music and tango. In 1989 he moved to Canada, and in the decades since, he has been performing concerts across North and South America. He has recorded two albums, his own "Elbio Fernandez Tangos" and another one with the Toronto Tango Orchestra. Since 2017, Elbio has been collaborating with superstar group Payadora Tango Ensemble, joining them in different performances and lending his vocals for their latest album "Volando".

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. With a belief in the power of

art to enable cathartic events, he has worked with a rich community of musicians, orchestras, ensembles, choreographers, actors, and artists to create intense, meaningful live performance experiences. His music has been described as "a kind of majestic bestial reality" (Globe and Mail), "gloriously cacophonous" (Ottawa Citizen), "sumptuously orchestrated" (Montreal Gazette), and "dynamic, vivid" (Winnipeg Free Press).

He has composed numerous orchestral works and orchestral arrangement since 2015 in his role of Composer-In-Residence with London Symphonia and previously as Composer-in-Residence with the Vancouver Symphony (2008-2011). His dynamic song cycle, *Lasker-Schüler Songs* for rising star soprano Midori Marsh and London Symphonia was premiered in 2024. Most recently his orchestral score for the 1926 silent film *The Hands of Orlac* was performed at the screening at the 2024 Forest City Film Festival. Upcoming projects for orchestra include two silent film scores: *The Passion of Joan of Arc* for a mixture of voices and period instruments to be premiered by Ensemble Caprice in Montreal in 2026, and a two-and-a-half hour score for large orchestra and chorus celebrating the 100th anniversary of *Metropolis* with the Kingston Symphony (2027).

He has been commissioned by orchestras across Canada, including Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, Winnipeg Symphony, Orchestre de

la francophonie, and the Esprit Orchestra. Major works include his multimedia family concert *The Caboose Who Got Loose* with solo cello, narration, and projections (Calgary Philharmonic 2022), and his acclaimed trumpet concerto, *Between the Rooms* “a riotous, percussive bacchanal” (For the Record) with Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony in 2007 and London Symphonia in 2024.

Inspired by the themes of the universal human condition, his lush oratorio *The Sleepers* contemplates the unity and equality of all humanity, whereas *Babbitt*, a raucous saxophone concerto, hailed by *The Vancouver Observer* as “luminous, virtuosic, gleaming music”, is inspired by a mid-life crisis. From global extinction cataclysm in his Kurt Vonnegut-inspired jazz orchestra work *Galapagos*, to a boiling stew in his overture *What the Chickpea Said to the Cook*, Scott finds inspiration to create compelling works from all walks and perspectives.

Good’s role has evolved over time to include artistic direction. These inclusive programs focus on modern compositions and hybrid genre music. *Belonging* is a concert of Arabic songs and classical Western compositions with poet/activist Najwa Zebian and songwriter Maryem Toller; *In Remembrance*, combines classical music with contemporary and traditional songs to reflect the deep, conflicted emotions around the topic of war and sacrifice; and *Tapestry*, a collaboration with The Light of East Ensemble explores the music of the East Mediterranean. His aim with these diverse programs is to create bridges and connections revealing our common humanity through music.

Good has an extensive catalog of chamber music compositions and has created works for ensembles such as I Furiosi, and the Madawaska String Quartet, organizations such as InnerChamber and the World Harp Congress,

and soloists including trombonist Alain Trudel, and electric guitarist Tim Brady. He has composed test pieces for the Montreal International Music Competition, the Canadian Music Competition, and written for education institutions such as the Glenn Gould School and NACO Young Artists program. He has composed several pieces for children as part of Chamber Factory’s *Listen Up!* program and served as a mentor in Esprit Orchestra’s *Creative Sparks* high school program. Current chamber projects include music direction and arranging for the *Lonely Child Project*, a contemporary music/contemporary circus hybrid theatrical work in collaboration with multi-hyphenate artist Stacie Dunlop and contemporary circus artists Angola Murdoch and Holly Treddenick, with the music of Claude Vivier (2017-present).

Scott Good’s passion for jazz and improvised music can be heard throughout his compositions, especially in hybrid projects with jazz artists and musicians from a variety of cultural backgrounds. Highlights include two major works for the Hard Rubber Jazz Orchestra, *Concerto for Cello* composed for Jeffrey Zeigler, and *Concerto for Improvisor* featuring Scott as composer, conductor, and soloist, the concert length crossover project *Conjunction*, revered as “one of the most fascinating concerts I’ve heard this year” by the *Ottawa Jazz Scene*, with the Gryphon Trio, jazz bassist Roberto Occhipinti and American-Cuban drummer Dafnis Prieto, including arrangements and original composition *Wu Xing* (2018), and his 10-part tribute to author Kurt Vonnegut *Vonnegut and the Slaughterhouse Orchestra* co-written with singer-songwriter Dwight Schenk for rock band and chamber orchestra.

Scott lives in London Ontario with his wife Jennifer Schofield and two children.

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Our fantastic dedicated volunteers who help to bring live orchestral music to our community.

The staff and volunteers of Metropolitan United Church, especially Rev. Dr. David McMaster, for welcoming us into this beautiful concert venue.

Our Accommodation Partner, Delta London Armouries.

NEXT CONCERT >



London
Symphonia

■ londonsymphonia.ca
■ 226-270-0910
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**25 | WHERE MUSIC
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THE SOUNDS OF HOME

December 6, 2025

A heartwarming festive celebration to delight everyone in the family!

Join Alexandra Kane, stars of the Canadian stage whose roots are right here in London, and London Symphonia, for an unforgettable experience filled with the sounds and stories of the holiday season.

Don't miss this London-proud celebration!

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Serenata Music

is proud to continue our sponsorships with London Symphonia
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October 4, 2025

Opening Night: Mozart, Ravel and Beyond
David Jalbert, *piano*.

January 17, 2026

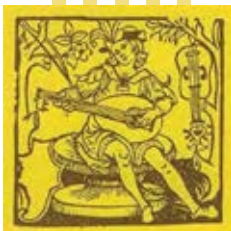
The Ancient Flame, Lara St. John, *violin*.

April 18, 2026

The Brahms Effect with Tom Allen, *narrator*,
Graham Lord, *clarinet*, and London Symphonia
String Quartet.

In addition, we sponsor a free concert at the Don Wright Faculty of
Music on Friday, November 14, 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. von Kuster
Hall, Western University. With the Musicians from Marlboro.

For further information and a listing of music in the
London area see serenatamusic.com or contact us at
serenatamusic@gmail.com or 519-852-8332.



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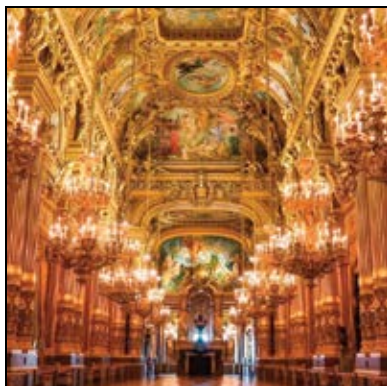
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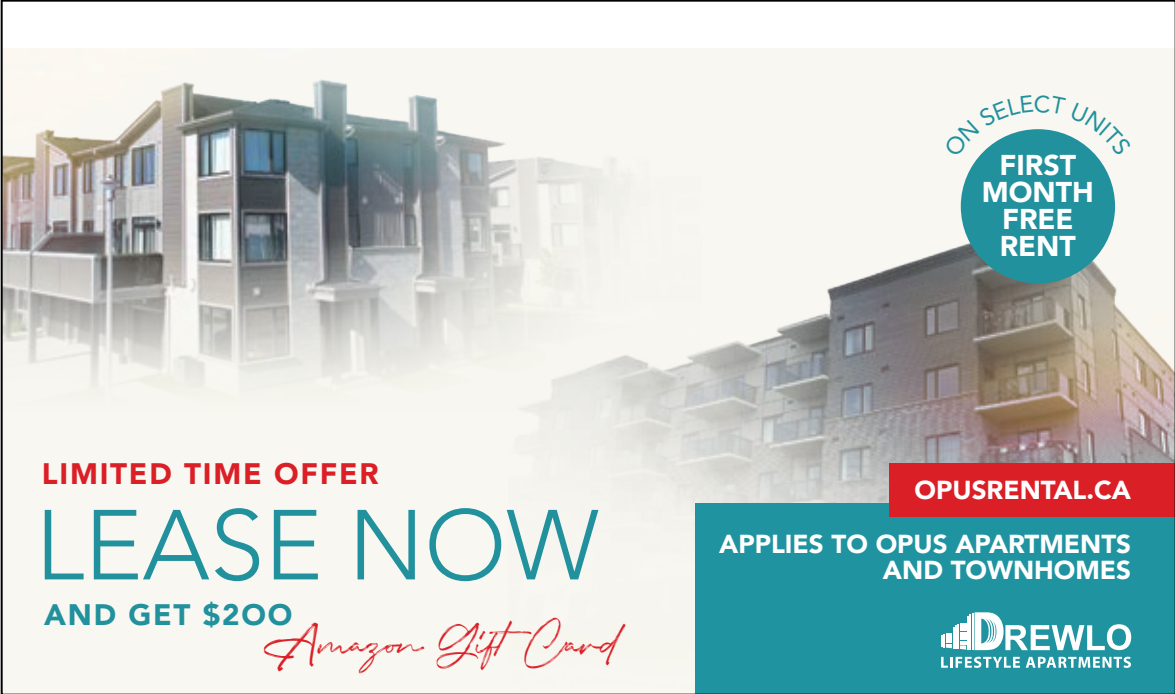
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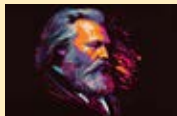
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