

25 | WHERE MUSIC
26 | COMES ALIVE!



THE BRAHMS EFFECT WITH TOM ALLEN

APRIL 18, 2026 | 7:30 pm | Metropolitan United

Presenting Partner: *Serenata Music*

Performers:

Tom Allen, *narrator*

Graham Lord, *clarinet*

London Symphonia String Quartet

Joe Lanza, *violin*

Sarah Wiebe, *violin*

Kelvin Enns, *viola*

Sonya Nanos Hodgson, *cello*

London
Symphonia



London
CANADA

JOSH MORGAN MAYOR

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 THE BRAHMS EFFECT WITH TOM ALLEN!

Tonight's concert is truly special! Not only are we welcoming back **Tom Allen**, one of Canada's most captivating storytellers to our stage in this concert dedicated to the genius of Johannes Brahms but we are showcasing our own musicians. Performed by **Graham Lord**, principal clarinet with the **London Symphonia String Quartet**, the program explores the creative passion behind Brahms' Clarinet Quintet and its profound influence on generations of composers.

We hope you will join us on **May 2** for our **Season Finale, Beethoven Shostakovich, and Marsh**, a thrilling end to a brilliant season. We are excited that this concert will present the **World Premiere** of a flute concerto written specifically for **Laura Chambers**, our principal flute, and commissioned by London Symphonia, in addition to powerful music by Beethoven and Shostakovich. Led by **Tania Miller**, a favourite of London Symphonia musicians and audiences, this concert is the perfect climax to a great year!

If you haven't already, please explore our new **Watch and Listen** video on demand channel. You can subscribe or rent every concert in the 2025-26 Season plus access a treasure trove of outstanding concerts from the past three seasons along with companion materials. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.

To all our patrons and donors **thank you for your friendship, encouragement and support**. Your continued belief in our creativity and commitment to bringing the joy and transformative power of music to people of all ages across the community is vital to London Symphonia's 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 for your support.

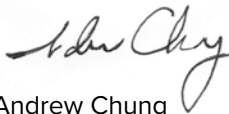
We hope you will enjoy today's concert and spread the word to family and friends.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,



April Voth
Executive Director



Andrew Chung
Artistic Producer

London
Symphonia 

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Sarah Wiebe, *violin*

Kelvin Enns, *viola*

Sonya Nanos Hodgson, *cello*

Gerald Finzi

From *Five Bagatelles*

I. Prelude. Allegro deciso

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

From Clarinet Quintet Op. 10

IV. Finale. Allegro agitato

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

From Clarinet Concerto in A Major

II. Larghetto

Steve Reich

New York Counterpoint

INTERMISSION

Johannes Brahms

Quintet for Clarinet and Strings in B Minor

Op. 115

I. Allegro

II. Adagio

III. Andantino

IV. Con moto

This program runs approximately 2 hours, including a 20-minute intermission.



**MEET TOM ALLEN, GRAHAM LORD AND THE MEMBERS OF
THE LONDON SYMPHONIA STRING QUARTET AFTER THE CONCERT**

Join us in the Great Room immediately behind the stage.

BIOS



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.



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.

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.

Graham's primary teachers were Wes Foster at UBC (BMus) and Robert Crowley at McGill University (MMus). During his final year of studies, he was a first-prize winner of the CBC/McGill competition and performed the Copland concerto with the MGSO to critical acclaim. He toured Canada twice as a member of the National Youth Orchestra, and was also an apprentice for two summers with the Brott Music Festival's National Academy Orchestra. Graham regularly returns to the NAO in a mentoring capacity. He has worked in coaching and masterclasses with artists such as David Shifrin, Richard Stoltzman, Alain Desgagné, the Berlin Philharmonic Wind Quintet, and members of the Tokyo String Quartet.



Joe Lanza

Joe Lanza has been the concertmaster of London Symphonia and its forerunner, Orchestra London since 1987. He has been a regular soloist with the ensemble in every

musical genre, and has also directed programs with his colleagues on numerous occasions.

Joe has appeared several times as the lead violinist of the Westben Festival Orchestra, and has been a concertmaster/mentor for many years at The National Academy Orchestra, a training program for young professionals which 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 quite active in music education. He has

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

Joe is married to London Symphonia oboist Jennifer Short and they are the proud parents of a multi-talented daughter. The family is ably herded by a Laika, a fine Shetland sheepdog.



Sarah Wiebe

Sarah Wiebe has been a core member of London Symphonia's violin section since 2019. As an active freelance violinist, she has also played with the Windsor

Symphony Orchestra, the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, the Hamilton Philharmonic and the Victoria Symphony. Sarah has performed as a guest soloist with the London Community Orchestra, the International Symphony Orchestra, the Windsor Symphony and also joined the Ontario Festival Symphony Orchestra on their China tour. Much of her orchestral training took place when she was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada and then an apprentice with the National Academy Orchestra. She has recorded on Juno-nominated CDs with both the National Youth Orchestra and the children's group, Splash'N Boots.

When not performing she is an active teacher, instructing both piano and violin at all levels. She holds a Bachelor of Music in violin performance from the University of Western Ontario where she received the gold medal for orchestral performance.



Kevin Enns

Kelvin Enns is principal viola of London Symphonia. He has performed with many of Canada's finest musicians. As a soloist, he has played

concertos with the Toronto Philharmonia, Orchestra Da Camera and Orchestra London as well as recitals across Canada. Kelvin was principal viola with Orchestra London and has performed as an extra musician with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and Symphony Nova Scotia. He has also performed as a jazz guitarist in many venues, from small jazz clubs to concert hall stages. Kelvin began studying the violin at the age of four and changed his focus to the viola as a teenager. Over the years, his musical endeavours have included teaching, jazz guitar, music composition arranging and recording.

Kelvin studied under some of the finest teachers in North America, including William Preucil Sr. (University of Iowa), Dr. Francis Chaplin (Brandon University), Karen Tuttle and Lorand Fenyves (Banff School of Fine Arts), Rennie Regehr (Royal Conservatory) and Andre Roy (McGill University). He taught violin and viola for two years at the University of Western Ontario.

Always looking for a positive way to share music with those around him, Kelvin started a not-for-profit arts school in Halifax which provided music instruction at no cost to low income families.



Sonya Nanos Hodgson

Canadian cellist Sonya Nanos Hodgson charms audiences with her impassioned, imaginative playing. She is Assistant Principal of the Windsor

Symphony Orchestra, as well as section cellist of London Symphonia and the Niagara Symphony Orchestra. Previously, she was section cellist with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra.

Her diverse career has included performances with orchestras such as the Orlando Philharmonic, as well as with artists like Michael Bubl  and Andrea Bocelli. Sonya has been featured in The Walleye Magazine and has been broadcast nationally on CBC Radio. Her recording highlights include the JUNO-nominated album of Canadian works with the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra and an album of chamber orchestra works by American composer Paul Reale, where she can be heard as a soloist.

As a chamber musician and recitalist, Sonya is a member of the Charis Collective. She has been featured on the Lumina series, Symphony in the Barn and as a guest on Western University's faculty chamber series. She has also premiered several chamber works by composers such as Greg Sandow (in Suk Hall, Prague), and Scott Wheeler (Florida, USA). Sonya is committed to inspiring students of any age or background to find joy and community through music. She taught at El Sistema Aeolian and Lakehead University and has adjudicated local and provincial festivals and the Festival Internacional de M sica in Loja, Ecuador.

Sonya holds a Master of Music from Lynn University, an Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School, and a Bachelor of Music from McGill University.

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

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SEASON FINALE >

25 | WHERE MUSIC
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BEETHOVEN, SHOSTAKOVICH, AND MARSH

MAY 2, 2026 | 7:30 pm

Tania Miller returns to conduct our Season Finale performance of monumental music. With Beethoven's vibrant Symphony No. 7, Shostakovich's colourful Chamber Symphony and the World Premiere of Alexis Marsh's flute concerto composed for our own Laura Chambers, principal flute, this concert will end the season on many high notes!

- londonsymphonia.ca
- 226-270-0910
- contact@londonsymphonia.ca

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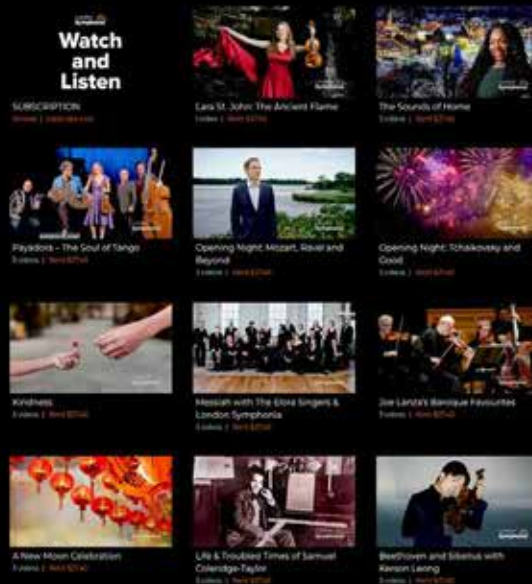
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is proud to continue our sponsorships with London Symphonia for the 2025-26 season by supporting the following concerts:

October 4, 2025 **Opening Night: Mozart, Ravel and Beyond**
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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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February 15, 2026:	Rossini, <i>The Barber of Seville</i>
May 10, 2026:	Bartok, <i>Bluebeard's Castle</i>
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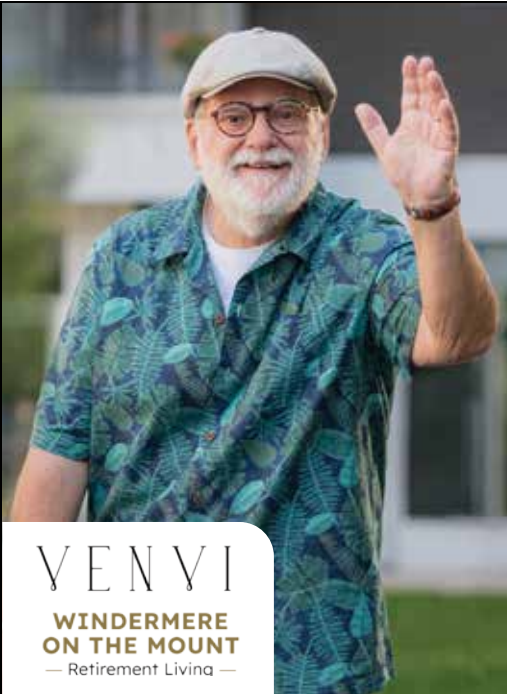
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- Speakers:** September 10, 2026 - Emma Donoghue - "Shaping Stories for Stage, Page and Screen"
October 8, 2026 - Deputy Chief MacSween - "Grit and Grace: Respectful Disruption and the Path to Authentic Leadership"
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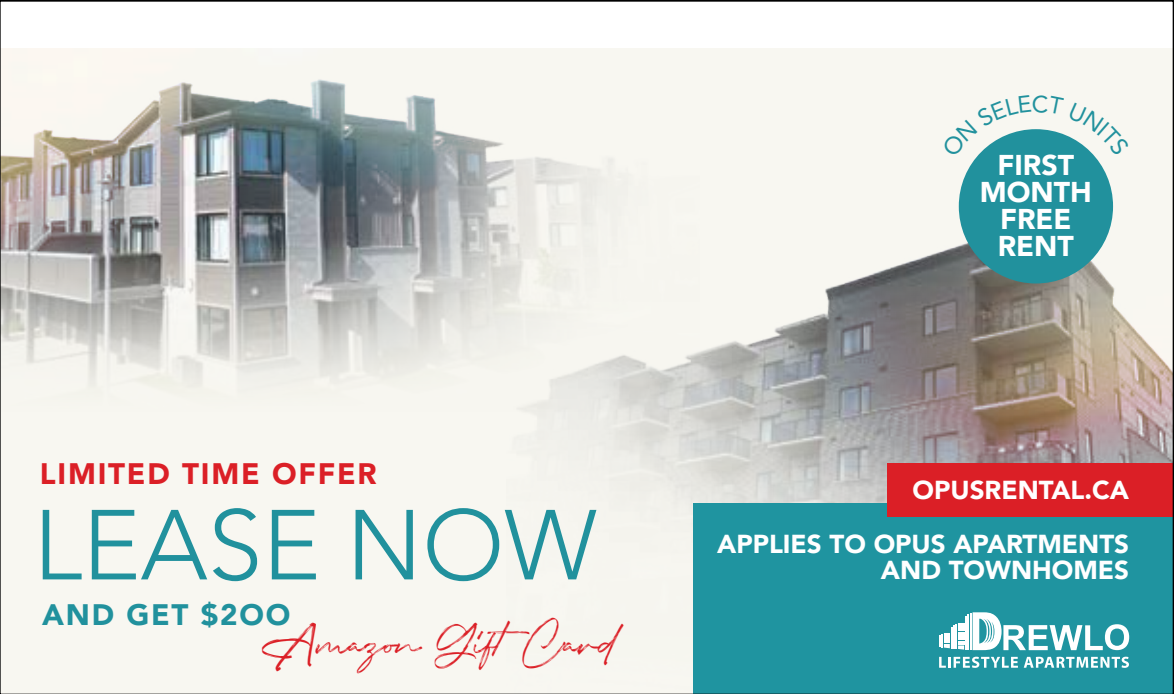
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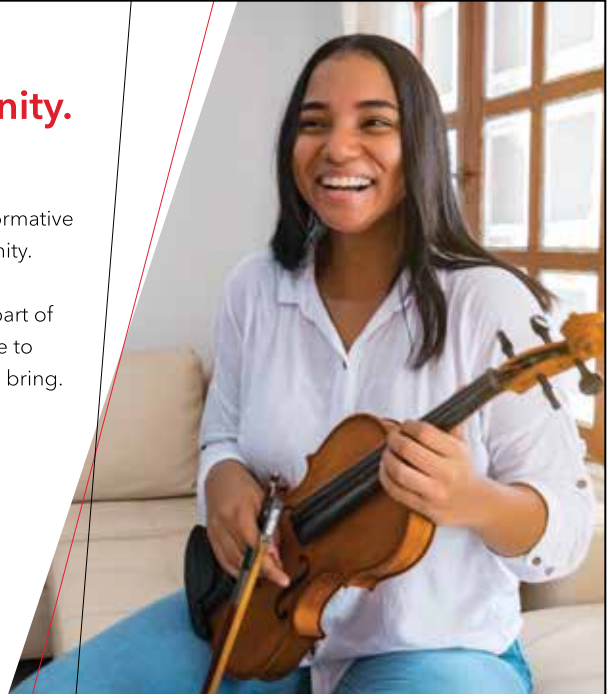
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Supporting music in London isn't just an initiative—it's part of our commitment to creating opportunities for everyone to experience the joy and enrichment that only music can bring.

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- Photos are permitted before and after the performance and during Intermission.
- Mask wearing is not currently required. Not everyone may have the same degree of comfort with the lifting of restrictions, and we ask that you please respect the personal space and comfort level of those around you.
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