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*Brahms' German  
Requiem* brings the  
Orchestra and  
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2023-2024 • ISSUE 4



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# CONCERTS

BILL & ROCHELLE TEPPERMAN MASTERWORKS SERIES

## 19 BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM

Robert Franz, conductor  
 Amelia Daigle, soprano | Micah Schroeder, baritone  
 Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, chorusmaster  
 Dr. Jennifer Swanson, diction coach  
 Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus  
 Windsor Classic Chorale | University of Windsor Singers

TOLDO POPS

## 25 BROADWAY'S BEN DAVIS

Robert Franz, conductor  
 Ben Davis, vocalist  
 Kristyn Wiklanski, chorus director  
 St. Clair College Music Theatre Students

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### PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING NOTICE



When you attend a WSO event or program, you enter an area where filming, photography, audio, and video recording may take place by authorized personnel. With this notice you have been informed of your consent, waiver of liability, and release before entering this event. Please inform theatre staff if you have a concern. Please note that any recording of performances, either through video or photography, is prohibited. A reminder that mobile phones should be silenced.

# Robert Franz

## WSO MUSIC DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the Ides of March together, we bring you two very special programs. We begin with one of the most profound expressions of grief, love and living that a composer could imagine. Brahms' *German Requiem* provides us with a human perspective of death. This 19th century masterpiece gives us a way to channel our feelings and allows us to celebrate together this very human phenomenon. The work has become a cornerstone of the choral and orchestral repertoire.

At the end of March, Broadway star Ben Davis joins us for music from the Great White Way celebrating some of the big standards. *My Fair Lady*, *Sound of Music*, *Carousel* and Hammerstein's *Oklahoma!* all get their due when we are joined by the talented students from the Music Theatre Department at St. Clair College.

Finally, this month we open our doors and host 8 talented conductors from around the world. They take part in the International Conductor's Guild Workshop designed to develop their skills at creating and presenting education concerts in the schools. For over 30 years I have committed to making music a part of the educational process for young people. Now the WSO is part of training the next generation of conductors to continue that tradition.

See you at the Capitol!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Robt Franz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert Franz, WSO Music Director





# Deborah Severs

PRESIDENT

WSO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am delighted to welcome you into the second half of the 2023-2024 season. Time is surely flying by!

A little update from within, the WSO's new Executive Director Patti Lauzon has seamlessly integrated into her role, bringing a fresh perspective and innovative ideas to the organization. Her leadership style has fostered a collaborative atmosphere within the orchestra, earning the respect and admiration of the board, musicians, and staff.

As the season reaches its culmination, the orchestra is gearing up for a series of performances that promise to be nothing short of extraordinary. The carefully crafted programming showcases the orchestra's versatility and virtuosity, which will leave you captivated and eager for more.

We continue to celebrate our beloved Maestro Robert Franz's 10th year with the WSO and, as usual, he has crafted a

repertoire that showcases the exceptional talents within our ensemble. There is something for everyone this season.

Next season, Robert has curated a series of extraordinary performances, ranging from classical masterpieces to contemporary compositions. We'll announce the new season April 9th on stage at the Capitol Theatre.

Until then, let's enjoy the music, the memories and the magic that lies ahead.

With heartfelt appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Severs', written in a cursive style.

**Deborah Severs**  
President, WSO Board of Directors

## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Welcome to the Capitol Theatre in downtown Windsor, Ontario. The Capitol Theatre is both an Ontario Heritage Site and home of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. Windsor is one of the most culturally diverse cities in Canada and it is a great privilege to share music with our community on this beautiful territory. We acknowledge we are on land originally inhabited by Indigenous Peoples. We acknowledge and honour the presence of the Three Fires Confederacy, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Pottawatomie. We respect the longstanding relationships with the First Nations people in this place in the Windsor Essex peninsula and the straits of Detroit.

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MUSIC DIRECTOR

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ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR,  
CONDUCTOR OF WSYO & WSCO

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CHORUSMASTER

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**WSO** Windsor **Symphony** Orchestra

Robert Franz, *Music Director*  
Francisco Hernández Bolaños, *Assistant Conductor*  
Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, *Chorusmaster*  
John Morris Russell, *Conductor Laureate*

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Lillian Scheirich  
CONCERTMASTER\*  
*Chair endowed by the Morris &  
Beverly Baker Foundation*

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ASSISTANT  
CONCERTMASTER\*

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PRINCIPAL SECOND VIOLIN\*

Michèle Dumoulin  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
SECOND VIOLIN\*

Ewa Uziel\*

Min Xie\*

Weihong Wang\*

Suhashini Arulanandam

Andrew Bensler

Natasha Penny

Vera Sherwood

**VIOLA**

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PRINCIPAL VIOLA\*

Nicholas Penny  
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Pola Luboniecka\*

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Andrew McIntosh  
PRINCIPAL CELLO\*

*Chair endowed in memory of  
Alessandro P. Toldo*

Sonya Nanos Hodgson  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CELLO\*

Peter Wiebe\*

Jacob MacDonald

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Marilyn Fung  
Reuven Rothman

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Liesel Deppe

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Graham Mackenzie  
PRINCIPAL OBOE\*  
Faith Scholfield

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PRINCIPAL CLARINET\*  
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Samuel Fraser  
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Julie Shier

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PRINCIPAL HORN\*  
Tamara Kosinski  
Timothy Lockwood  
Nicole Alexander

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PRINCIPAL TRUMPET  
Philip Séguin

**TROMBONE**

Corey Fitzpatrick  
Michael Stone

**PERCUSSION**

Julian Jeun  
PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION  
Timothy Francom

**TIMPANI**

Jacob Mannion

\*Education & Community  
Outreach Musician (ECO)

*The WSO Music Director's role is generously supported by  
Bill and Rochelle Tepperman.*

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# Robert Franz

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Robert Franz, Music Director of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra since 2013, sees music as a way to connect people and to transform lives.

A recipient of the Arts Leadership Award for the Windsor Endowment for the Arts, Franz is committed to programming that engages, challenges, and entertains. Over the past decade, programming has included 5 world premieres and a roster of guest artists ranging from an internationally acclaimed astronaut to world class musicians to local aspiring performers. Collaborations have included the Windsor International Film Festival, Art Windsor Essex, Canadian Historical Aviation Association, Windsor Public Library, St. Clair College, and the University of Windsor. Through Franz' work, the WSO has become a catalyst for a wide variety of artists in multiple genres and disciplines.

Robert is an enthusiastic advocate for music education. This season marks the second annual Conductor's Guild Workshop with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra to train conductors in the art of creating and presenting effective student concerts. This is the only workshop of this kind in North America.

Robert is co-founder and Conductor of the Idaho Orchestra Institute. Now in its seventh year, Franz takes young musicians on an exploration of major



orchestral repertoire that explores the complete musician. In addition to his current posts as Artistic Director of the Boise Baroque Orchestra and Music Director of the UNCSA Symphony Orchestra, Franz served as Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony (2008-2022), Music Director of the Boise Philharmonic (2008-2016), and the Mansfield Symphony in Ohio (2003-2010). When not on the podium, he can be found on the slopes, skiing slowly and carefully, stretching in a yoga class, and non-competitively trying his hardest to win at a game of cards with his family.

***The WSO Music Director's role is generously supported by Bill and Rochelle Tepperman.***



# Francisco Hernández Bolaños

## ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Assistant Conductor of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Francisco Hernández Bolaños leads the Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestras and the Windsor Symphony Community Orchestra. He is also the musical lead for the WSO's Education and Outreach programs, which bring music education programming into schools.

Hailing from Mexico, Francisco was the Music Director of the State of Veracruz Youth Symphony Orchestra (OSJEV) and was the Assistant Conductor of the Arizona State University Orchestra, the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras, and the School of Music at the University of Veracruz Symphony Orchestra.

With a rapidly ascending career, Francisco appeared frequently as a guest conductor for orchestras all across Mexico, including the Aguascalientes Symphony Orchestra, the Philharmonic Orchestra of the State of Querétaro, the University of Hidalgo Symphony Orchestra, the University of Guanajuato Symphony Orchestra, and the Cancún Symphony Orchestra. Francisco is pas-



sionate about sharing music with new audiences, and offered community outreach concerts with OSJEV and music appreciation workshops to help create a new generation of concert goers, in various states of Mexico.

Francisco graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in piano performance and a Master of Music in conducting from the School of Music at the University of Veracruz, and recently earned his Doctorate in Musical Arts in Orchestra and Opera Conducting from Arizona State University.

In addition to conducting, Francisco enjoys reading a great book and good coffee in the company of wonderful people. Francisco enjoys food from different cultures, which keeps him on the lookout for new culinary experiences!

# Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich

## CHORUSMASTER

Bruce J. G. Kotowich, DMA, is the Acting Director of SoCA (School of Creative Arts) and an Associate Professor of Music-Director of Choral Activities at the University of Windsor where he directs the University of Windsor Chamber Choir and USingers and teaches courses in Choral Techniques. In the Windsor Essex community, Dr. Kotowich is the Chorusmaster for the Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus and the Artistic Director of the Windsor Classic Chorale.

Dr. Kotowich completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting and Masters of Music in Conducting at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He received his Associateship of Music in Vocal Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, and a Bachelor of Music and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba. He is a recipient of numerous awards and honours including awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, University of Cincinnati, the Archdiocese of St. Boniface Heritage Award, and the Mayor's Award for Excellence in the Arts for the City of Windsor.

His choirs have performed throughout North America, Europe, and China. Dr. Kotowich has conducted the Manitoba Provincial Senior High Honor Choir, Manitoba Provincial Jazz Choir, the South Dakota North Region All-State Choir, the Illinois Music Educators'



Association District Honor Choir and numerous other festival and conference choirs. He conducted Ola Gjielo's *Sunrise Mass* at Carnegie Hall, New York, with choristers from the Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus, Windsor Classic Chorale, University of Windsor, and choirs from Windsor Essex and London, Ontario., and will return to conduct Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* in May 2024.

Dr. Kotowich is a sought after clinician. He has presented at the Symposium for Singing and Song, Podium-Choral Canada, the National Convention of the American Choral Directors' Association, and presented at the World Choral EXPO in Lisbon, Portugal in September 2022.

Dr. Kotowich is published in the *Choral Research Memorandum Series* through Chorus America and edits a choral publication series with Alliance Music Publications. In addition to his responsibilities at the University of Windsor, he is the former Editor-In-Chief of the *Anacrusis*.

# WSO Guild

## YOU CAN BE PART OF THIS DYNAMIC GROUP!

For over 60 years, the WSO Guild has been a valuable member of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra family, dedicated to supporting the orchestra by donating its time at concerts and organizing fundraising events. The Windsor Symphony Orchestra Guild is composed of hard-working volunteers of various professional backgrounds who, through a variety of activities, raise funds for Education and Outreach programs run by the WSO. The Guild welcomes new members who enjoy supporting music, education and young musicians in the Windsor Essex community.

### Join the WSO Guild!

Send an email to:

windsorsymphonyguild@gmail.com



MUSEUM  
WINDSOR



MUSÉE DE  
WINDSOR

Visit us online at  
[MuseumWindsor.ca](http://MuseumWindsor.ca)

#### **CHIMCZUK MUSEUM • 401 Riverside Dr. W.**

Permanent, travelling & temporary exhibitions, children's learning centre & a gift shop.

#### **FRANÇOIS BABY HOUSE • 254 Pitt St. W.**

National Historic Site of Canada. Windsor's French Roots, War of 1812, Battle of Windsor & historic firearms collection.

#### **DUFF-BABY HOUSE • 221 Mill St.**

This 1798-built home is among the most significant late 18th-century landmarks of Upper Canada.



Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023 thru Winter 2024

## **ROSALIE TROMBLEY**

**Commemorative Exhibition**

**CHIMCZUK MUSEUM**

This new temporary exhibition explores the life and work of radio pioneer Rosalie Trombley. The exhibition includes biographical information, stories of Rosalie's life, musician features, records, audio recordings, fashion, vintage items and artifacts from the Big 8, awards, tributes and much more.

[HonouringRosalieTrombley.com](http://HonouringRosalieTrombley.com)

# Celebrating 10 years with

## Maestro Robert Franz

This season we celebrate 10 years with Maestro Robert Franz!  
Each issue of *In Tune* will highlight Robert's musical journey.

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### How do you try to explain the music for new people coming to the symphony?

"I grew up in a non-classical music household. I have always approached music from the outside in and I have always wanted to present music to people that way. I want to open their worlds to something they have never experienced before."

### What is your favourite non-classical music genre?

"Probably Broadway. It's my guilty pleasure. I've conducted Broadway musicals and it's so fun!"



Robert Franz, age 10, with his music teacher Willa Loescher.



Robert Franz conducts Broadway hits with vocalist Charlotte Knight, 2023.



## Proud and Grateful Moments...

Robert looks back just a couple years ago when two events almost stopped him in his tracks.

He says, "One of the great moments and most unexpected times I've had with the WSO could very well be the moment we heard the world was shutting down, and how quickly we, as an organization adapted to and worked through what we had to do to stay relevant and continue with our mission of connecting people through music!"

The WSO had installed new digital equipment prior to the global pandemic, not knowing this installation would be the most important renovation that could take place. This allowed for video recording and editing capabilities to be able to send concerts and content digitally across North America and over seas.

"The second unexpected event that slowed me down but did not stop me from doing what I love is when I heard the words... *you have cancer.*"

Robert shared his cancer journey with WSO patrons and the community very openly. He didn't miss a beat — continuing to conduct all while receiving treatment.

Robert says, "I'm so grateful for this community and the support I received during my journey. The compassion shown by the doctors and nurses at the Windsor Regional Cancer Centre is top-notch and I'm forever grateful to them."



Robert Franz conducts the WSO annual Holiday concert, December 2021.



Robert Franz watches the WSO's Digital Concert Series "The Music. The Story. The Food" while enjoying a special dish specifically paired with the concert's music, January 2022.

WSO CHORUS

# Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus

## REFLECTIONS ON PERFORMING BRAHMS' GERMAN REQUIEM

The chorus is referred to as the “fifth section” of the orchestra, the others being strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. To see the group dressed in black, singing with passion and precision, you might wonder — *How much fun are they having?*

“That two and a half hours once a week is a mini vacation with music and friends,” says soprano Connie Morse, referring to weekly rehearsals.

“Singing in the chorus is a joy, a special community and a commitment to one another,” says Susan McKee, chorus president. “During our warmup we focus on our breathing, I usually yawn, and my body relaxes.”

It’s a time when everyone focuses on the choral exercise at hand, learning your part, and truly becoming comfortable singing your part. No distractions. Phones are silent.

For the Brahms’ German Requiem performances, March 9th and 10th, there are approximately 120 singers from three choirs – the WSO Chorus, Windsor Classic Chorale, and University Singers – performing this masterwork with the orchestra. These groups have one person in common – Dr. Bruce J. G. Kotowich the director or chorusmaster for these groups.

Live performance is exciting and there are so many elements to coordinate in this performance! When the opportunity



Dr. Bruce J. G. Kotowich

arises to stage a masterwork, our senses, especially our musical senses are on high alert. The Brahms German Requiem is a landmark masterwork, often calling on multiple forces.

“When Robert Franz approached me in 2021 and our planning began, we agreed that this needs to be a major choral statement to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the founding of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus,” says Kotowich. “What better way to celebrate but to celebrate with friends. For this performance, the Symphony Chorus welcomes many of their choral friends from the Windsor Classic Chorale, the University of Windsor University Singers and Chamber Choir, and other choristers from ensembles like County Classic Chorale and Soli Deo Chorus.

Preparing the three ensembles is a wonderful gift.”

Kotowich and Dr. Jennifer Swanson, who is coaching the singers on German pronunciation, are working with seasoned choristers who have previously sung the Brahms, while at other rehearsals they are introducing newer choristers to this work.

“The air is electric for everyone; a new musical landscape is created by this work,” he says. “Everyone brings their talents and gifts to the rehearsal process and eagerly await to join the orchestra to hear Brahms’ complete statement and his personal journey through his grief.”

The symphonic/choral tradition is a rich one, and making music with a mass choir is a tremendously rewarding experience for WSO Music Director, Robert Franz.

“That experience is multiplied exponentially when working with our choruses here in Windsor Essex,” says Franz. “Their success rides on the talents and skills of Bruce Kotowich. He is a

profound musician with the capability of drawing out extraordinary performances from his singers. The choral singing tradition is alive and well in Windsor Essex with his stewardship.”

From a singer’s perspective it’s quite thrilling to stand on stage in such a crowd and bring an oratorio to life. It’s emotionally powerful to stand behind the orchestra hearing the full orchestration after months of rehearsing with piano or digital “practice tracks”. Everyone is focused on Maestro Robert Franz and taking the audience on a musical journey. It is a transformative experience.

These performances mark at least the third time (1999, 2009, 2024) the WSO Chorus has performed the Brahms’ German Requiem with the orchestra during the past 35 years.

*Written by Susan McKee, WSO Chorus President, January 2024.*



The WSO Chorus performs Brahms’ *German Requiem* under the baton of Maestro John Morris Russell, 2005.

## THE CAPITOL LEGACY CONTINUES: HIGH TECH HERITAGE THEATRE

What changes have you noticed around the Capitol Theatre lately? Since 2021, the City of Windsor and Capitol Theatre Team have made many visible and behind-the-scenes improvements to the one hundred year old building.

### Improvements Included:

Upgrades for ten 25-year-old HVAC units; Renovations adding 2,000 square feet of useable space; Replacement of 7,300 square feet of ornate carpet throughout the theatre; Enhancements to audio, video, and lighting equipment;

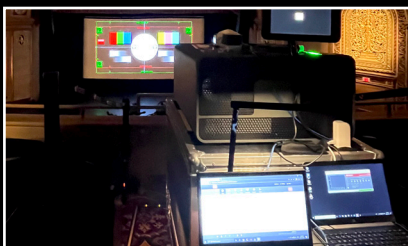
Enhancements to the Capitol Theatre were made possible, in part, by the Government of Canada's 2021 grant of \$500,000 through the Legacy Fund stream of the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage Program from the department of Canadian Heritage, which provides funding for community-initiated capital projects, intended for community use.

The City of Windsor added \$1.8-million to bring the total investment to \$2.3-million in the historic theatre in downtown Windsor.



### DIGITAL DISPLAYS

**Four LED digital screens** are available for promotional displays and livestreaming.



### LASER PROJECTORS

**Two new laser projectors** enhance viewing for films, presentations, meetings and more.



# AUDIO

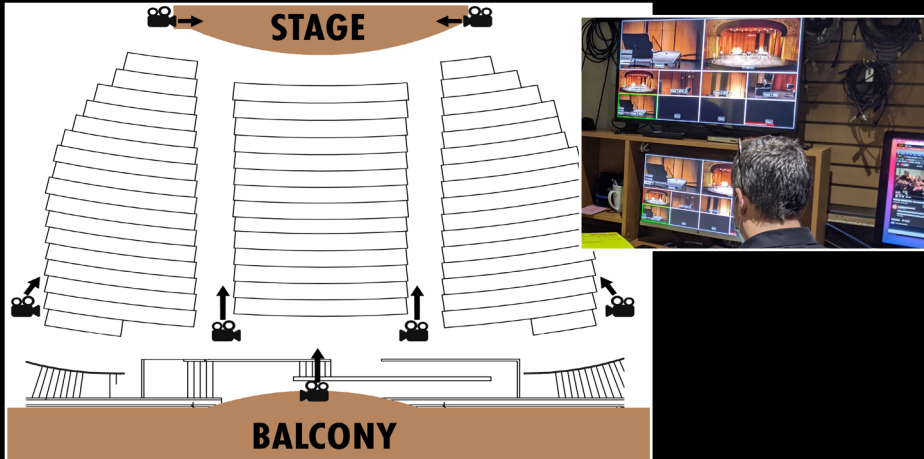
## State-of-the-art speakers



Audio is upgraded to the latest digital audio console with exacting control and digital precision. Computer balanced for even, clear sound throughout the theatre.

# VIDEO

**Full video production** is available in the Pentastar, Joy, and Kelly Theatres. The Pentastar Theatre has seven remote controlled cameras installed.



This project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada.  
Ce projet a été rendu possible en partie grâce au gouvernement du Canada.



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CULTURELLES DE L'ONTARIO





# 2024-2025 SEASON LAUNCH

**April 9, 2024  
11:00am  
Capitol Theatre**

Get a sneak peak  
into our upcoming  
season

All patrons  
welcome

Concert packages  
on sale

**WINDSORSYMPHONY.COM**



**BILL & ROCHELLE TEPPERMAN MASTERWORKS SERIES**

# **Brahms'** **German Requiem**

**March 9 & 10, 2024**  
**The Capitol Theatre, Windsor, ON**

**Robert Franz, conductor**  
**Amelia Daigle, soprano | Micah Schroeder, baritone**  
**Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, chorumaster**  
**Dr. Jennifer Swanson, diction coach**  
**Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus**  
**Windsor Classic Chorale | University of Windsor Singers**

Andrew Balfour    *Mamachimowin (Conducted by Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich)*

Johannes Brahms    *Ein deutsches Requiem, op.45 (A German Requiem)*  
I. *Selig sind, die da Leid tragen.* (Blessed are they that mourn)  
II. *Denn alles Fleisch, es ist wie Gras.* (Behold, all flesh is as the grass)  
III. *Herr, lehre doch mich.* (Lord, make me to know)  
IV. *Wie lieblich sind deine Wohnungen.* (How lovely is thy dwelling place)  
V. *Ihr habt nun Traurigkeit.* (Ye now are sorrowful)  
VI. *Denn wir haben hie kleine bleibende Statt.* (Here on earth have we no continuing place)  
VII. *Selig sind die Toten.* (Blessed are the dead)

**Curtain Call Conversations:** Join Maestro Franz after the concert for an on-stage talk with Amelia Daigle, soprano, Micah Schroeder, baritone, and Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, chorumaster.

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Series Sponsor  
**Bill & Rochelle Tepperman**

Concert Sponsor

    
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# AMELIA DAIGLE

## SOPRANO



Winner of the 2015 National Opera Competition of Canada, Amelia has had the pleasure of performing on stages across Europe and North America. Notable performances include the title role in Massenet's, *Cendrillon* with the WSO (March 2019), *Liu* in Puccini's,

*Turandot* with Opera by Request (March 2020), soprano soloist in *Requiem* for the Living and *Annelies* under the baton of, Bruce Kotowich (May 2023 & November 2023) and *Cinderella* in Cardinal Music's *Into the Woods* (February & March 2024).

Upcoming engagements include singing the role of Queen Monarch in the Canadian Opera *Flutter* with the WSO (April 6, 2024) and returning to Europe to perform a concert of Spanish Art Song & Zarzuela with her guitar/voice duo *Alma* (Fall 2024).

Ms. Daigle holds a MMus in Vocal Performance and Literature from Western University and has received training at various workshops such as Operavision Academy (Busseto, Italy, July 2018), Académie de la Roche D'Hys (Massingy-lès-Vitteaux, France, July 2019 & 2023), and Camino de Las Artes Music Festival (Carrion de Los Condes, Spain, August 2023).

© Amelia Daigle

# Flutter

Saturday, April 6

10am & 11:30am

The Capitol Theatre

Flutter is a fantastical opera tale of the Monarch Butterfly's migration. Filled with breathtaking music, mesmerizing dance, and pure joy, this opera promises an unforgettable experience for the whole family! **All Tickets \$5!**



[windsorsymphony.com](http://windsorsymphony.com)



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# MICAH SCHROEDER

BARITONE



The Canadian baritone's extensive repertoire covers a variety of roles: At Vancouver Opera he appeared in the role of Belcore and in the title role of Eugene Onegin, each as a cover. There he also sang David (A Hand of Bridge), The Man who killed her (Requiem for a Lost Girl), and as David/Osiris/Scorpions (The Scorpion Sting). For Opera Idaho he covered Don Giovanni and sang A-RAB (West Side Story) and Bumble (The Enchanted Forest). His engagements at Summer Festivals include: Schaubard (La Bohème) and Harlekin (Ariadne auf Naxos) at the Highlands Opera Studio, Pangloss (Candide), and

Baryton-martin (Kopernikus) at the Banff Center and Schaubard (La Bohème) as well as Tonic/Don Giovanni/Participant (The Classical Style) at the Aspen Opera Center. Schroeder has also appeared at Against the Grain Theatre as Schaubard and with Saskatoon Opera as Figaro in Barber of Seville.

A passionate concert singer, Micah made his debut with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in their annual Traditional Christmas series in 2012 being re-engaged several times. He has also performed with the Victoria Newcombe Orchestra and made his debut with the Kamloops Symphony in 2020. On the concert podium he has also performed Finzi's Let us garlands bring, Glick's South of North: Images of Canada, Songs of Travel and Five Mystical Songs by Vaughan-Williams, Poulenc's La fraîcheur et le feu and Tel jour, telle nuit, Mahler's Songs of a the Wayfarer, the Harfnerlieder by Schumann and Wolf and Vier ernste Gesänge and ein Deutsches Requiem of Brahms.

Schroeder has received various awards and honours from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Banff Centre for The Performing Arts, the Aspen Opera Centre, the Vancouver Women's Musical Society, the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia.

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PROGRAM NOTES

# Ein deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)

JOHANNES BRAHMS

The premiere of Johannes Brahms' A German Requiem took place in 1869, almost exactly five years before that of Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem. In a way, the two works defined the German-Italian split that had festered in the music world for decades, if not centuries. In Verdi's work, one could hear (indeed, couldn't avoid) the influence of opera — at the time, the center of Italian cultural life. Brahms' work, by contrast, sprang from the tradition of German symphonic music. Verdi's Requiem is grand and dramatic; Brahms' is subdued and tautly structured. Verdi's is extroverted, while Brahms' is intensely introspective.

Overall, the message of Brahms' German Requiem is fundamentally different from that of more traditional works; and so is the musical language. As in so much of Brahms' compositions, this is densely harmonized music, in which the linear melody is often appointed in such rich harmonies that it can, on first listen, occasionally be obscured. In those moments, it's worth savoring the richness of Brahms' harmonies, his sense of balance, and appropriate heft. And then, like a razor slicing through velvet, the melody will re-emerge, pointing the way toward the next idea — which, in this case, is ever toward comfort and redemption.

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Sunday, March 24, 2024 | 2:30pm

The Capitol Theatre, Windsor, ON

**Robert Franz, conductor**

**Ben Davis, vocalist**

**Kristyn Wiklanski, chorus director | St. Clair College Music Theatre Students**

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On The Street Where You Live from *My Fair Lady*  
I Could Have Danced All Night from *My Fair Lady*  
The Impossible Dream from *Man of La Mancha*  
Edelweiss from *The Sound of Music*  
Do-Re-Mi from *The Sound of Music*  
Climb Ev'ry Mountain from *The Sound of Music*  
So Long, Farewell from *The Sound of Music*  
Anthem from *Chess*

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Go The Distance from "Suite from Disney's *Hercules*"

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# BEN DAVIS

## VOCALIST



A versatile singing actor, Ben Davis was most recently seen on Broadway in the Tony Award Winning musical *Dear Evan Hansen*. His extensive Broadway career includes Mr. Lindquist in *A Little Night Music* with Elaine Stritch and Bernadette Peters, Javert and Enjolras in *Les Misérables*, as Trevor Graydon in *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and "The Preacher" in *Violet*. He received a Tony Honor and

Ovation Award for his work as Marcello in Baz Luhrmann's production of *La Bohème*. This fall, he starred in the off-Broadway production of *On A Clear Day You Can See Forever* at the Irish Repertory Theatre. Ben recently toured the country as Captain Von Trapp in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*. He starred as Fred/Petruccio in *Kiss Me Kate* at London's Royal Albert Hall as part of the BBC Proms and performed opposite Kelli O'Hara and Victor Garber in Kurt Weill's, *Knickerbocker Holiday* at Lincoln Center.

An active concert artist, Ben performed as a guest soloist at Tanglewood with the Boston Pops, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Caramoor Festival, the RTE Orchestra in Dublin, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Phoenix Symphony, Westchester Philharmonic w/Kelli O'Hara, and West Virginia Symphony. He also performed at The Hollywood Bowl as Patrick in *Mame* and in Bernstein's *Mass*.

His TV and Film credits include a film version of Samuel Barber's *A Hand of Bridge*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* directed by Kenneth Branagh, *Blue Bloods*, *30 Rock*, and *Numb3rs*.

© Ben Davis



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Some people might say that a school gym is no place for a concert, but the WSO believes music can be experienced anywhere. When students are not distracted by their surroundings, they are more actively engaged with the music. The WSO also offers the Capitol Theatre venue for school concerts for grades 4-6, and grades 7-12. With the Board of Education partnerships, tickets for these concerts are FREE for students.

The WSO is grateful to both the GECDSB and the WECDSB for the opportunity to deliver music education in such a meaningful way!



Maestro Franz works with the band at Tecumseh Vista Academy.



Students at Gore Hill Public School experience the WSO.



Maestro Hernández Bolaños talks to a student at D. M. Eagle Public School.

March 9 & 10	WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA <b>Brahms' German Requiem</b>
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Street address

City

Postal code

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge me in the donor list as:

I wish to remain anonymous

I want to make a gift of:  \$50  \$100  \$200  \$500  \$1000

One-time gift  Every month for one year  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Direct Donation To: \_\_\_\_\_  Where it is Most Needed

I have attached a cheque

My credit card details are below

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

CCV Code

VISA  MASTERCARD

**You can give online at [www.windsorsymphony.com/give](http://www.windsorsymphony.com/give)**

For more information, or to make other giving arrangements, call Jeremy Klaver, Development Manager, at 519-973-1238 ext. 28.

Your information is confidential. Tax receipts are issued bi-annually.

Charitable Registration No.119300218 RR 0001

