WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

IN TUNE

• ISSUE 2 • 2026-2027 SEASON •



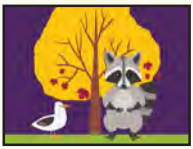
WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A SEASON OF BECOMING

2026-2027 SEASON



80s Rock:
Springsteen, Queen, Bon Jovi, U2 & more
Jan. 8



Family Concert:
The Gull, the Raccoon, & the Last Maple
Jan. 9



Son of a BACH!
Jan. 14 & 15



Mozart: Cosi fan Tutte
Jan. 23 & 24



Family Concert:
Peter & the Wolf
Feb. 6



A Night in Vienna
Feb. 13 & 14



Classical Prodigies
Feb. 18 & 19



Hungarian Soul
Mar. 6 & 7



Global Dances
Mar. 11 & 12



Family Concert:
The Nightingale
Mar. 13



Family Concert:
Spirit Horse Returns
Apr. 3



The Music of Harry Potter
Apr. 17 & 18



From Dawn to Dusk
Apr. 22 & 23



Symphonie Fantastique
May 8 & 9

BE PART OF THE DISCOVERY

WINDSORSYMPHONY.COM

CONCERTS

WINDSOR SYMPHONY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA
18 WINTER'S OVERTURE

TOLDO POPS SERIES
21 THE MUSIC OF JAMES BOND

WINDSOR SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA
26 HAYDN IN PLAIN SIGHT

A WSO TRADITION
28 HANDEL'S MESSIAH

TOLDO POPS SERIES
37 HOLIDAY POPS

IN THIS ISSUE

4. A Message from Board President Kyle Kootstra
6. Board & Administration
7. WSO Musicians
8. Conductor Profiles: James Sommerville, Artistic Advisor
   Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, Chorus Master
10. Music Director Search: The Final Four
12. WSO In Your Community: *The Power of Giving Back*
14. WSO In Your Community: *Playing Music Isn't Hard, When You've Got a Library Card!*
16. Your WSO Musicians: Phil Seguin, Trumpet
42. Coming Up at the Capitol
44. Salute to Our Donors & Gifts in Tribute

PHOTOGRAPHY & RECORDING NOTICE



When attending a WSO event or program, you enter an area where authorized filming, photography, and audio or video recording may take place. By entering, you consent to recording and release the WSO from liability. Please inform theatre staff if you have concerns. Recording performances by video or photography is prohibited. Mobile phones should be silenced.

A SCENT-SENSITIVE SPACE



The theatre organization requests that all guests refrain from wearing scented products (like perfumes, colognes, and heavily scented lotions) for the comfort and safety of others. While a 100% scent-free environment cannot be guaranteed, attendees with severe allergies can speak to a House Manager to request to be moved from their original seating location if triggered.

A Message from Board President
Kyle Kootstra

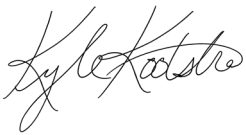


Whether you're reading this issue of *In Tune* in print or online, I hope you share our excitement about upcoming Windsor Symphony Orchestra performances! This holiday season, the WSO brings the beautiful sounds of Handel's *Messiah* to locations across Windsor-Essex, along with our beloved annual *Holiday Pops* concerts at the Capitol Theatre.

First, we'll fill the Capitol with *The Music of James Bond*, featuring talented local performers The Broadway Bunch singing unforgettable songs from the famous film series.

The holidays are a time for music, memories, and giving. Please consider supporting the WSO on Giving Tuesday (Dec. 1) or through our annual holiday appeal, which will soon arrive in mailboxes. Your donation supports our Masterworks and Pops concerts, as well as Education and Community Outreach programs. From Music for Health and the Social Prescription Program, to school concerts and student performances at the Capitol, these initiatives depend on charitable gifts.

As winter approaches, I hope you'll warm up with a WSO concert. On behalf of the WSO board, musicians, and staff, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and look forward to seeing you at the Capitol!



Kyle Kootstra
Board President
Windsor Symphony Orchestra

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that our concert is taking place on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe. Many nations have cared for this land since its earliest days: the Wendat, the Haudanousaunee Nations and through the Three Fires Confederacy — the Ojibwa, the Odawa and the Potawatomi Nations. We are honoured to be hosted on Wawiiatanong, what is now known as the Windsor-Essex region along the straits of Detroit, and acknowledge their enduring presence on this land. The Windsor Symphony Orchestra is committed to honouring Indigenous history and culture while moving forward towards mutual respect, reciprocity and responsibility. We know that reconciliation is not a single act or a moment in time — it is a journey that begins with listening, acknowledging, and honoring the truth.


WSO
Midwinter
Musical Feast
Monday, February 8, 2027
Nico Walkerville
(325 Devonshire Road)
Save the Date!
The WSO's coziest tradition is back!
Warm up with the WSO and come for a delicious meal, music and friendship.
Your ticket supports the WSO's Education and Community Outreach programs.
WINDSORSYMPHONY.COM

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The late Arthur and Madelyn Weingarden

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Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich CHORUS MASTER

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Windsor Symphony Orchestra

James Sommerville, *Artistic Advisor*
Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, *Chorus Master*

VIOLIN
Lillian Scheirich
CONCERTMASTER*
Chair endowed by the Morris & Beverly Baker Foundation
Konstantin Popović
ASSISTANT CONCERTMASTER*
Émilie Paré
PRINCIPAL SECOND VIOLIN*
Michèle Dumoulin
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SECOND VIOLIN*
Ewa Uziel*
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Weihong Wang*
Andrew Bensler
Natasha Penny
Vera Sherwood

VIOLA
Roman Kosarev
PRINCIPAL VIOLA*
Chair endowed by the Kuker Family
Nicholas Penny
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL VIOLA*
Pola Luboniecka*
Martina Smazal

CELLO
Andrew McIntosh
PRINCIPAL CELLO*
Chair endowed in memory of Alessandro P. Toldo
Sonya Nanos Hodgson
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL CELLO*
Peter Wiebe*

DOUBLE BASS
Gregory Sheldon
PRINCIPAL BASS*
Marilyn Fung
Reuven Rothman

FLUTE
Jean-François Rompré
PRINCIPAL FLUTE*
Liesel Deppe

OBOE
Faith Scholfield

CLARINET
Graham Lord
PRINCIPAL CLARINET*
Margaret Gillie

BASSOON
Thomas Roy-Rochette
PRINCIPAL BASSOON*
Julie Shier

HORN
Iris Krizmanic
PRINCIPAL HORN*
Tamara Kosinski
Timothy Lockwood
Nicole Alexander

TRUMPET
Ross Turner
PRINCIPAL TRUMPET
Philip Séguin

TROMBONE
Benjamin Storm
PRINCIPAL TROMBONE
Corey Fitzpatrick
Michael Stone

PERCUSSION
Julian Jeun
PRINCIPAL PERCUSSION
Timothy Francom

TIMPANI
Jacob Mannion

*Education & Community Outreach Musician (ECO)

JAMES SOMMERVILLE

ARTISTIC ADVISOR



James Sommerville has enjoyed a distinguished international career as a conductor and horn player for over 40 years. He served seven seasons as Music Director of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and has conducted ensembles across North America and abroad, including the US National Brass Ensemble. He regularly commissions works by Canadian and international composers.

Principal Horn of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for 25 years, Sommerville previously performed with several leading Canadian orchestras. A prizewinner at the Munich, Toulon, and CBC solo competitions, he has appeared as a soloist worldwide and won a JUNO Award for his recording of Mozart's *Horn Concertos*. He is heard regularly on the CBC network and has recorded all the standard solo horn repertoire for broadcast.

DR. BRUCE J.G. KOTOWICH

CHORUS MASTER



Dr. Bruce J. G. Kotowich is Interim Director of the School of Creative Arts and Associate Professor of Music–Director of Choral Activities at the University of Windsor, where he directs the Chamber Choir and University Singers. He also serves as Chorus Master of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Artistic Director of the Windsor Classic Chorale. He holds degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Royal Conservatory of Music. His choirs have performed across North America, Europe, and China.

WSO Family Concerts

PRESENTED BY Delta Chi EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRES

TICKETS: Kids $5 Adults $10

The WSO's Family Concerts are a great way to introduce children to a lifelong love of music. These concerts are 45 minutes and ideal for ages 4 to 12, as well as those who enjoy a more casual concert setting.

Saturdays at the Capitol Theatre: 10am & 11:30am



THE GULL, THE RACCOON, & THE LAST MAPLE • JANUARY 9

PETER & THE WOLF • FEBRUARY 6

THE NIGHTINGALE • MARCH 13

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: UNIFOR Local 2458 · UNIFOR Local 444 | Canada

THE SPIRIT HORSE RETURNS*

APRIL 3 (1 performance only at 11:30am)

*TICKETS: Regular $45 • Seniors $40 • Kids $15

FREE THEMED CRAFT

Join us before the concert! Crafts are provided by Renée's Music Studio & Music for Young Children.

ATTEND. COLLECT. WIN!

Attend all Family Concerts and collect a special sticker for a chance to WIN a Family Fun Prize Pack!

MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH



ANDREW CRUST

An award-winning conductor across Canada and the United States, Andrew Crust couples an expansive musical flexibility with an approachable stage style that makes symphonic music immediate and inclusive. In Canada, his guest conducting includes the National Arts Centre Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic, l'Orchestre Métropolitain, and the symphony orchestras of Vancouver, Nova Scotia, Winnipeg, Laval, Vancouver Island, and Saskatoon.

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3
November 14 & 15, 2026

Classical Prodigies
February 18 & 19, 2027



BENOIT GAUTHIER

Canadian conductor Benoit Gauthier is recognized for the intensity, depth, and communicative power of his interpretations. In 2024, he received the prestigious Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestral Conducting from the Canada Council for the Arts, and in 2025 he was named one of CBC's "30 Classical Musicians Under 30 to Watch." He recently made his New York debut at David Geffen Hall at Lincoln Center with the Curtis Institute Symphony Orchestra.

A Night in Vienna
February 13 & 14, 2027

Symphonie Fantastique
May 8 & 9, 2027

The Windsor Symphony Orchestra is in a ***Season of Becoming***. As the WSO enters its 79th year, it will also introduce the Windsor-Essex audience to the four finalists for the role of Music Director.

Throughout the 2026-2027 season, final candidates in the Music Director search will be conducting concerts, interacting with the community and meeting the WSO family.

THE FINAL FOUR



COSETTE JUSTO VALDÉS

Cuban-born conductor Cosette Justo Valdés is a rising international star who most recently served as the Artistic and Music Director of the Vancouver Island Symphony (British Columbia). Through her innovative programming with Vancouver, she ignites new passion in her audiences, inspiring them to engage personally not only with living, contemporary music but also with rarely heard historical works.

Opening Weekend: From Paris to Madrid
September 26 & 27, 2026

From Dawn to Dusk
April 22 & 23, 2027



CAROLYN WATSON

Carolyn Watson is Principal Guest Conductor of the Kansas City Chamber Orchestra and Music Director of the La Porte County Symphony Orchestra in Indiana. Originally from Australia, she has been based in the United States since 2013. She was a Fellow of the American Academy of Conducting at the Aspen Music Festival and holds a PhD in Performance (Conducting).

Global Dances
March 11 & 12, 2027

The Music of Harry Potter
April 17 & 18, 2027

Hiring a new Music Director is a major step in the WSO realizing its artistic vision. We invite the entire community to join us this season and to be a part of the exciting transformation upon which the WSO is embarking.

For full biographies of the conductors, visit windsorsymphony.com

THE POWER OF GIVING BACK

PHILANTHROPIST RICHARD PEDDIE SHARES WHY INVESTING IN THE ARTS MEANS INVESTING IN A STRONGER COMMUNITY



Richard Peddie.

You don't have to be a philanthropist to support the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and the arts in your community. Take it from a philanthropist! Richard Peddie and his wife Colleen have been sponsoring the WSO's Amherstburg Summer Concert in King's Navy Yard Park for fifteen years.

His career in the Toronto sports and entertainment scene was already the stuff of Canadian business legend when in 1998 he was named the president and CEO of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE), overseeing the operation of the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Toronto FC, and Toronto Marlies, as well as their arena facilities, and their broadcast TV stations. Simply put, Peddie is a success, but the spirit of giving is what helps motivate him today and, in his words, "giving can start really young."

Peddie retired from MLSE in 2011 and now makes his home on Boblo Island in Amherstburg, where he owns several businesses, including the River Bookshop. A chance encounter in an Amherstburg restaurant with musicians from the WSO's brass quintet who had just played an outdoor concert is where his philanthropy with the WSO began. He picked up the musicians' tab, anonymously. He laughs recalling how it took then WSO executive director Sheila Wisdom a week to track him down as the anonymous benefactor.

His involvement grew from there.

Looking out for his community and looking for ways to give back were values that were passed on to him at a young age. He says instilling in young people the idea that giving to your community can be as simple as buying tickets and attending a WSO concert, can lead to a lifetime of giving.

Does it pay off? Peddie does his research and the answer is an unqualified "yes." Everything from small businesses, regional economies, and basic mental health get a boost from charitable support.

"I look for best practices," he explained. "I want to see what the research says. You read about the benefits of music to individuals... it's very, very powerful."

Not only do communities like Amherstburg and Peddie's hometown of Windsor benefit from the spin-off economic effects and health benefits the arts and culture bring, but at a time of great economic upheaval and uncertainty, when discretionary spending can be at a premium, charitable giving means even more.

"People are being stretched financially and things like giving suffer," he said. "But giving is probably more important right now than at any time in the past. And you get a real return on the investment with the WSO."

Peddie cites WSO performances at the Nazrey African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Windsor Symphony Community Orchestra (comprised of adult musicians who love sharing their talents through live music), the Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra (with musicians aged 13 to 22), and the WSO's annual series of affordable children's concerts as great ways to maximize your charitable dollars.



Richard and Colleen Peddie with the WSO Brass Quintet at the annual summer concert in King's Navy Yard Park, Amherstburg.

The publication of this issue of the In Tune *concert program coincides with Giving Tuesday in Canada, a nationwide movement of generosity falling on the Tuesday following Black Friday and Cyber Monday. If you are inclined to give during this period, or at any time throughout the year, please consider the WSO and its many musical, educational, and outreach programs.*







GIVING TUESDAY

DEC 1st

This Giving Tuesday, help the WSO bring live music to thousands of children and seniors in our community.

PLAYING MUSIC ISN'T HARD, WHEN YOU'VE GOT A LIBRARY CARD!

ROBERT FRANZ PLAY IT FORWARD INSTRUMENT LIBRARY LETS YOU 'CHECK-OUT'

The origin story of many a writer begins with a trip to the library. Now, musicians of all ages can discover their own origin story by checking out an instrument through the WSO.

The Robert Franz Play It Forward Instrument Library is now accepting donations of musical instruments that members of the public will be able to access and explore through their Windsor Public Library card. Want to grind out a couple of polkas on an accordion? See if you have what it takes to play the cello? Spend a couple of weeks with a flute? The library collection includes guitars, clarinets, and violins of varying sizes, with more instruments to come. There's even a bagpipe chanter if someone wants to get their highland fling on!

Named after the late WSO music director, Maestro Robert Franz, the Play It Forward library relies on partnerships with the Rotary Club of Canada South, the Windsor Public Library (WPL), and the City of Windsor.

LENDING LIBRARY PARTNERS

WSO Education and Outreach Manager, Becky Ng, said the instrument lending library concept brings



Representatives of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, the Rotary Club of Canada South, the Windsor Public Library, and the City of Windsor with some of the instruments available for check-out.

together three organizations and highlights what each does best.

"The Windsor Symphony Orchestra brings expertise in music, instruments, and the importance of music education. Rotary brings its incredible ability to mobilize community members around a shared goal of making a difference. And the Windsor Public Library brings its expertise in lending, connecting people with resources, and making those resources accessible to everyone," Ng said. "It's a program that is more than the sum of its parts."

Donated instruments will be checked over by a WSO musician for suitability, cleaning, and any necessary repairs will be made through a grant from the Rotary Club of Canada South. Once an instrument is ready to play, it will be catalogued into the Windsor Public Library system, where community members can borrow it using their library card. Just like borrowing a book, you can request an instrument and have it delivered to the library branch that's most convenient for you.

Each instrument will come with some basic instruction and Ng said WSO musicians will film some basic videos detailing how to set up your chosen instrument. The videos will be accessible through a QR code. Other instructional videos will be available on YouTube.

EVERY DONATION BECOMES AN OPPORTUNITY

"Someone who has always wanted to learn an instrument but couldn't justify the cost of purchasing one will now have the opportunity," Ng said. "An adult who has always wanted to return to music can give it another try."



Brandon Atkins, husband of the late Maestro Robert Franz.



Becky Ng, WSO Education and Outreach Manager.

If you have an instrument you would like to donate, it can be dropped off at the WSO offices at the Capitol Theatre during regular business hours, or before any WSO concert. If you can't bring the instrument out yourself, you can arrange pick-up through the Rotary Club of Canada South by emailing canadasouthrotary@gmail.com.

THIS IS YOUR WSO



PHIL SEGUIN

Trumpet

What city do you live in?
Stratford, Ontario.

What instrument(s) do you play?
Trumpet.

What did you want to be growing up?
A baseball player.

How old were you when you first started playing an instrument?
10 years old.

What do you do when you're not making music with the WSO?
I keep busy performing at the Stratford Festival, various other Symphony Orchestras, and other music/arts organizations. I also teach Classical Trumpet at York University.

What advice would you give someone who wants to learn an instrument?
I would advise anyone wishing to learn an instrument to choose the one they really like—or, love—because that will be the easiest one to learn.

If you could play your instrument in any movie, TV show, or video game, which would you choose?
I'd have to choose anything for which John Williams wrote the musical score.

What's something people might not know about your instrument?
It's one of the oldest of all instruments: Two trumpets—one silver, one of bronze/copper—were found in the tomb of Tutankhamen.

What's your favourite WSO moment?
My favourite moment with the WSO was playing *Bugler's Holiday*, programmed after the dress rehearsal by and with Howard Cable conducting. He was so excited about our trumpet section (Ross Turner, me, and my brother Mike) that he convinced the orchestra to do it unrehearsed as an Encore. It went so well that he came back to the trumpet section, grabbing Ross by the arm, bringing us to the front of the stage for a final bow.

What do you listen to when you're not listening to classical music?
If I am listening to anything, I tend to listen to jazz and pop music whether or not I am preparing for a classical music concert.

What's your pre-concert and/or post-concert routine?
My pre-concert routine includes an early dinner and a nap.

If you could play one piece of music with any musician, living or dead, who would it be?
Leonard Cohen

What's your favourite Windsor pizza?
It's changed so much over the years. I can tell you if one can find something like the old Sam's Pizzeria or the old Riverside Tavern, then count me in.

What's your favourite hidden gem in Windsor?
I used to love spending time at the Windsor Public Library downtown.

What are you currently reading?
I am currently reading *Down and Out in Paris and London* by George Orwell.

Tell us something about yourself that might surprise our readers!
I batted a thousand two years in a row in Little League baseball, with my only home run coming in an All-Star game: first batter, first pitch, lined down the third base line, on many errors.



WINDSOR SYMPHONY COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA

Winter's Overture

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | 7:30PM
THE CAPITOL THEATRE, WINDSOR, ON

Dr. Bernadette Berthelotte, conductor
Windsor Symphony Community Orchestra
Dan MacDonald, narrator
Faith Scholfield, oboe/english horn
Nicholas Papador, percussion
Brian Zanier, trumpet

ALAN SILVESTRI/GLEN BALLARD ARR. JERRY BRUBAKER	Concert Suite from *The Polar Express*
JEAN COULTHARD (1974)	Introduction and Three Folk Songs (From *Canada Mosaic*) I. Introduction: Lullaby for a Snowy Night II. Mam'zelle Quebecoise III. The Contented House IV. Billowing Fields of Golden Wheat
BILL HOLCOMBE	*Twas the Night Before Christmas*
GEORGES BIZET	L'Arlessienne Suite No. 2 I. Pastorale II.Intermezzo III. Minuet IV. Farandole

WSO RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Show your WSO ticket stub at select restaurants & receive special offers!



WSCO Windsor Symphony Community Orchestra

Dr. Bernadette Berthelotte, *conductor*

VIOLIN I
Charlie Bennett
CONCERTMASTER
Amy Liu
Tyron Kornelsen Hildebrandt
Maia Sciamé Jimenez
Thomas Hunyh

VIOLIN II
Tristhal Parasram
PRINCIPAL 2ND VIOLIN
Kira Pocedic
Amelia Ng
Charlotte Higgins
Diana Ren
Cathy Zagaglioni

VIOLA
Chris Leung
PRINCIPAL VIOLA
Miriam Elsawi
Allan Williams
Avery Ng

CELLO
Abigail Roberts
PRINCIPAL CELLO
Brigitte Ala
Nancy Loeffler Caro

BASS
Kevin Mann
Summer Elsawi

FLUTE
Michael Milner
PRINCIPAL FLUTE
Denise McGuire
Alexandra Meloche
Scott Cowan
Natasha Gruenwald

CLARINET
Jeff Cole
PRINCIPAL CLARINET
Francesca Incitti

BASS CLARINET
Amanda Sands

BASSOON
Haiden Couvillon

FRENCH HORN
Carlos Orpana
Linda Savenye
Florie Matthews

TRUMPET
Robert Kiborn
Ross Cole

TROMBONE
Neil Johnstone
Jamal Sghaier

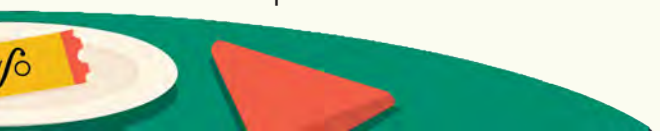
TUBA
Dave Gignac

TIMPANI
Will Chandler

PERCUSSION
Jacob Renaud

HARP
Suzanne Guttman

- AutoCity Hamburgers
- Cucina 360
- ekō
- Maiden Lane
- Punjaabi Indian Cuisine
- River Room Restaurant
- Royal Paan
- Sundried Tomato Bistro
- Sushi California
- WindsorEats Food Hall



WINTER WEEKENDS

In the Core

NOV 27-29
DEC 4-6
DEC 11-13

SCAN QR FOR MORE DETAILS

FRIDAYS

Temporary Art

Cultural Histories

SATURDAYS

Holiday Markets

Skate with Santa

SUNDAYS

Wine Tasting

Winter Workshops

DOWNTOWN WINDSOR

WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

TOLDO POPS SERIES

The Music of James Bond

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026 | 7:30PM
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026 | 2:30PM
THE CAPITOL THEATRE, WINDSOR, ON

Lucas Waldin,conductor | The Broadway Bunch
Sara Fontaine, Kaitlyn DiPietro, Sam Bourque, Jordan Fantauzzo

MONTY NORMAN	Main Theme
DAVID ARNOLD	Casino Royale Medley
BONO & THE EDGE / TINA TUNER	GoldenEye
JOHN BARRY, DON BLACK / SHIRLEY BASSEY	Diamonds Are Forever
VARIOUS / SHERYL CROW	Tomorrow Never Dies
JOHN BARRY / LOUIS ARMSTRONG	We Have All the Time in the World
VARIOUS /GLADYS KNIGHT	License to Kill Theme Song
VARIOUS / SAM SMITH	Spectre — Writing's on the Wall
JOHN BARRY, TIM RICE / RITA COOLIDGE	Octopussy — All Time High
DAVID ARNOLD / GARBAGE	The World is Not Enough Theme Song
	INTERMISSION
VARIOUS / A-HA	The Living Daylights Suite
VARIOUS	Song Medley:
	The Man With the Golden Gun
	The Spy Who Loved Me
	Live and Let Die
BILLIE EILISH, FINNEAS O'CONNELL	No Time To Die Theme Song
JOHN BARRY / TOM JONES	Thunderball Theme
JOHN BARRY, LESLIE BRICUSSE / NANCY SINATRA	You Only Live Twice Theme Song
JOHN BARRY	On Her Majesty's Secret Service Medley
VARIOUS / SHIRLEY BASSEY	Goldfinger Theme Song
ADELE ADKINS & PAUL EPWORTH / ADELE	Skyfall Theme Song
DAVID ARNOLD	Casino Royale Medley

Series Sponsor:
THE TOLDO FOUNDATION

Concert Sponsor:
DON AND GAIL RODZIK

LUCAS WALDIN
GUEST CONDUCTOR



Lucas Waldin is a dynamic and versatile conductor whose performances have delighted audiences across North America. He has collaborated with some of today's most exciting artists including Carly Rae Jepsen, Ben Folds, The Canadian Brass and the Crash Test Dummies, in addition to conducting presentations such as Disney in Concert, Blue Planet Live, Cirque de la Symphony, and Red Bull Symphonic. Waldin frequently conducts "film-in-concert" presentations and has 13 films in his repertoire.

Waldin has been a guest conductor for numerous orchestras in the U.S. and Canada, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Grant Park Festival Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Philly Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, the Vancouver Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic and the Toronto Symphony.

Having joined the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra as Resident Conductor in 2009, Waldin was subsequently appointed Artist-in-Residence and Community Ambassador—the first position of its kind in North America. He appeared with the ESO over 150 times and conducted in Carnegie Hall during the orchestra's participation in the 2012 Spring for Music festival. In recognition of his accomplishments he was awarded the Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestral Conducting and received a Citation Award from the City of Edmonton for outstanding achievements in arts and culture.

A native of Toronto, Canada, Waldin holds degrees in flute and conducting from the Cleveland Institute of Music.

SARA FONTAINE
VOCALIST, THE BROADWAY BUNCH



With a licence to thrill, Sara Fontaine is honoured to shake and stir the stage alongside the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and her fellow agents from The Broadway Bunch

As co-producer with Kaitlyn DiPietro, Sara brings together Windsor-based professional vocalists and musicians for musical theatre cabarets and specialty concerts. She also sings and plays guitar in her folk duo, The Fontaines, and leads the jazz quartet The New Standard.

Her other mission? Sara owns Fontaine Music Education and teaches voice at Walkerville Centre for the Creative Arts and St. Clair College's Musical Theatre Performance program.

Sara expresses heartfelt gratitude to the late Robert Franz for his mentorship, artistic challenges, and trust in her with this opportunity. His influence has left an enduring mark on her life and work, and she will always carry his memory.

To Ava and Juliet: you are, and always will be, my greatest adventure.

KAITLYN DIPIETRO
VOCALIST, THE BROADWAY BUNCH



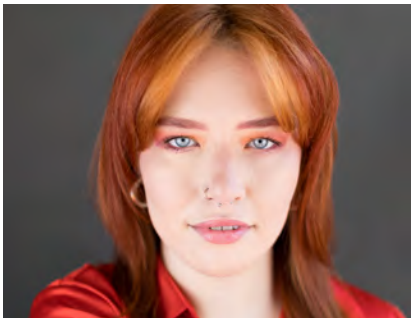
Kaitlyn DiPietro (née Karns) is a Windsor-based vocalist, arts and culture professional, researcher, and community leader. A founder and co-producer of The Broadway Bunch, she is thrilled to return as a WSO soloist for *The Music of James Bond*.

Kaitlyn has performed throughout Windsor-Essex and Ontario for over 15 years. Her work has received support from the Ontario Arts Council and Windsor's Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund. In 2022, she received the Mayor's Arts Award.

Beyond the stage, Kaitlyn supports citybuilding, placemaking, housing, and community development projects at the University of Windsor's Centre for Cities.

Kaitlyn thanks her fellow vocalists, collaborators, and husband for their love and support on and off the stage.

SAM BOURQUE
VOCALIST, THE BROADWAY BUNCH



Sam Bourque is a Windsor-based musician and educator who loves connecting with her community through music. After performing internationally, pursuing professional theatre in Toronto, and earning a Music Theatre Performance degree from Sheridan College, Sam returned to Windsor as a full-time musician.

She performs locally, music directs theatre productions, runs a private voice studio, and teaches at Sonata Piano Studio.

Sam co-authored the *Mini and Little Sonatinas* preschool piano books with Alyssa Layfield and produces and co-writes music for Sonata Music Adventures, a children's music education YouTube channel with over half a million subscribers, including its albums and *Storytime Podcast.*

JORDAN FANTAUZZO
VOCALIST, THE BROADWAY BUNCH



Tenor Jordan Fantauzzo's eclectic musical personality bridges opera and musical theatre, shaped by an early introduction to Sondheim and Stravinsky, Bock and Bach. His credits include Michigan Opera Theatre's *Werther*, featuring Andrea Bocelli, *Carmen*, and *Der Rosenkavalier*, and the title role in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with the Windsor Symphony and Detroit orchestras.

Jordan holds a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from Western University and a Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from the Boston Conservatory. His portrayal of Judas in *Jesus Christ Superstar* earned him a New England Emerging Artist Award. He has also worked with theatrical luminaries Andrew Lippa, Susan Stroman, Marin Mazzie, and Jason Danieley.

Jordan currently teaches voice in St. Clair College's Music Theatre program and maintains a private music studio, bringing his experience across genres to his teaching.

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Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra
Windsor Symphony Junior Youth Orchestra
The Haydn Toy soloists:
Mercy, cuckoo | Nova, triangle | Becky, güiro
Nathaniel, drum | Kimberly, nightingale

Windsor Symphony Junior Youth Orchestra

JOSEPH HAYDN	"Toy" Symphony I. Allegro
MICHAEL PRAETORIUS	Lo, How a Rose
KARL JENKINS	Palladio Allegretto

Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestra

JOHANNES BRAHMS	Hungarian Dance #6
JOSEPH HAYDN	"London" Symphony in D, 1st movement
EDVARD GRIEG	Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 Åses Tod Hall of the Mountain King
LEROY ANDERSON	Christmas Festival

Windsor Symphony Youth Orchestras

Nicholas Penny, *conductor*

WINDSOR SYMPHONY JUNIOR YOUTH ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I
Gray Panella
CONCERTMASTER
Gwenyth Letts
Evelyn Montgomery
Griffin Love
Jessica Noble
Claire Liao

VIOLIN II
Eva Serra
Minseok Kim
Sophie Lin
Owen Uffard
Rhys Vogler
Davis Love
Sophie Krisztics
Amara Islam
Arin Ko

VIOLA
Klaairesse Grosse

CELLO
Jack Jin
Millie Zhang
Lukas Liem
Yena Lee

WINDSOR SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA

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Ayano Inaba
CO-CONCERTMASTER
Ruby Tullio
CO-CONCERTMASTER
Xander Barbut
Angela Jiang
Zane Bassam
Caydon Wang

VIOLIN II
Jasper Liem
PRINCIPAL
SECOND VIOLIN
Leonardo Martinez
Madison Hanlan
Elise Grosse
Ariela Swancott
Selah Swancott
Mary Lee
Jesse Zhou
Yaretzy Ramirez Bautista

VIOLA
Duff Hawkins
PRINCIPAL VIOLA
Stella Loucks
Jachin Liem
Joshua Liem
William MacLean
Bridget Leung

CELLO
Caleb Liem
PRINCIPAL CELLO
Seth Swancott
Victor Barbut

BASS
Maximus Davis
PRINCIPAL BASS

FLUTE
Charlotte Riha
PRINCIPAL FLUTE
Calla Miehl-Marentette
Sreeram Natarajan

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PRINCIPAL CLARINET
Adriana Litwin

FRENCH HORN
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Haroop Singh

TIMPANI
Neel Kadikar
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PERCUSSION
William MacLean

WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Handel's Messiah

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2026 | ASSUMPTION CHURCH, WINDSOR
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026 | LEAMINGTON UNITED, LEAMINGTON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2026 | SAINT MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WINDSOR
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026 | STE. ANNE'S PARISH, TECUMSEH

James Sommerville, conductor
Irina Medvedeva, soprano | Clarence Frazer, bass
WSO Chorus | Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, chorus master

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

PART I
Overture
And the glory of the Lord
Thus saith the Lord
And He shall purify
for Behold darkness shall cover the earth
The people that walked in darkness
For unto us a Child is born
Pifa
There were shepherds and lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them
And the angel said unto them and suddenly there was with the angel
Glory to God in the highest
Rejoice greatly o daughter of Sion

PART II
Behold the Lamb of God
How beautiful are the feet of them
Why do the nations so furiously rage together
Let us break Their Bonds asunder
Hallelujah

PART III
I know that my Redeemer liveth
Since by man came death
Behold, I tell you a mystery
The trumpet shall sound and the dead shall be rais'd
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain; Amen

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IRINA MEDVEDEVA
SOPRANO



Soprano Irina Medvedeva is described as being a "flexible, supple, yet powerful soprano" (*The Globe and Mail*), and has been praised for having "a large voice with an astonishing range" (*Opera Canada*).

Operatic highlights include the title role in *Cunning Little Vixen, Musetta, Norina, Morgana, Zerlina, La Fée, Le Feu and Le Rossignol, Florestine* and covering the roles of Violetta Valery and Rosina at the Vancouver Opera. Oratorio engagements include the soprano soloist in Handel's *Messiah*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Mozart's *Requiem* and *Vespers*, Kuzmenko's *Golden Harvest* and Rorem's *Requiem*.

Irina was a resident artist with the Vancouver Opera and has also performed with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, New Opera Lyra, the Multicultural Arts for Schools and Communities (MASC), the Ewashko Singers, Ottawa Pops Orchestra, CAMMAC Ottawa-Gatineau, Music and Beyond, SongFest in Los Angeles, Institut Canadien d'Art Vocal in Montreal, Halifax Summer Opera Festival and is a member of the modular new music ensemble called Ensemble Allure.

Recording projects include "Murmurations" with Ensemble Allure, "Songs from the Heavens" by Joanna Estelle with the Ewashko Singers and three recordings of Victor Herbert with the Michigan Comic Opera Guild and orchestra.

Irina was one of the 2022 winners of the University of Ottawa Concerto Competition and winner of the Comic Opera Guild's Harold Hugh Opera Competition. She holds an Artist Diploma from the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and a Masters of Music degree from the University of Ottawa.

CLARENCE FRAZER
BASS



Canadian Korean baritone Clarence Frazer, a "singer actor at the top of his game" (*Opera Going Toronto*), has been praised for his "full and powerful" baritone (*Schmopera*) and "unique musical performative power" (*Ludwig Van Toronto*).

This season, Clarence returns to Vancouver Opera to star as Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, and joins Windsor Symphony for *Messiah* and Thunder Bay Symphony for John Estacio's *The Houses Stand Not Far Apart*. Recent credits include Schaunard in *La bohème* with Manitoba Opera and Wolf's Italienisches *Liederbuch* with soprano Tracy Dahl at Flipside Opera. In 2027, they tour the program with pianist Lisa Rumpel to Smithers, BC.

Last season's highlights include Figaro in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Opera Kelowna, Bassett in *The Rocking Horse Winner* with Ammolite Opera, and Morales in *Carmen* at the Macao International Music Festival.

His contemporary opera roles include Eadric in the 2025 world premiere of Uyeda's *Silence* and William Cormack in Burry's *Shanawdithit*. Other credits include *Eugene Onegin, Don Giovanni, Werther, The Magic Flute, Pagliacci, A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *La bohème*.

An alumnus of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio and Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program, Clarence has performed with the Canadian Opera Company, Pacific Opera Victoria, Calgary Opera, and Opéra de Québec.

His oratorio repertoire includes Mozart's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah*, Estacio's *The Houses Stand Not Far Apart*, and Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*. He has appeared with Symphony Nova Scotia, Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Chorus Niagara, Grand Philharmonic Choir, Ottawa Choral Society, Windsor Symphony, and Vancouver Bach Choir.

Windsor Symphony Orchestra Chorus
Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, Chorus Master

Dr. Bruce J.G. Kotowich, *chorus master*
Mr. Alde Calongcagong, *collaborative pianist*

SOPRANOS
Olena Albawareid
Beverly Beaudoin
Nataliia Bakhovska
Jennifer Cincurak
Pamela Cole
Grace H. Chung
Angelika Guenther Correa
Janet DeThomasis
Natalie Dorion
Linda Gibson
Narda Graham
Beli Gratias
Kari Lynn Hewett
Miriam Horne
Maria Kelly
Amelia Li
Maddalena Liburdi
Diana Lo Mascolo
Geneviève Marchand
Connie Morse
Jody Ness
Ryoko Onuki
Dora Overton
Sandra Pardy
Biljana Popovic
Dagmar Raulin

ALTOS
Lynn Atkinson
Regina Cenica
Hailey Chase
Hanna Danylchenko
Stephanie DeVries
Marcela Diaz
Tetiana Dmytrak
Lynda Fleury
Janice Forsyth
Vicki Frederick
Shirley Freeman
Rita Haase
Heather Inksetter
Rejoice Jacob
Anna Jurak
Susan McKee
Maria Piche
Ezra Poku-Christian
Sharlene Procknow
Danielle Richer
Serena Robinson
Anneliese Vernon
Hannah Witherbee

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Carlos Correa
Brad Holbrough
Fedir Holets
Denis Lauzon
A.W. McCrindle
Nori Ripley
David Hughes
Caesar Tiburcio
Neil Travis
Jeff Wilkinson
Lesley Wilkinson

BASSES
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William Benedict
Norm Diffey
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MESSIAH

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

Handel's *Messiah* stands not only as one of history's greatest achievements in music written for chorus and orchestra, but also a conundrum of sorts. It is an English-language oratorio, premiered in Dublin, written by a German-born composer who became a British citizen and was famous for his operas in Italian. A normal oratorio is a narrative work for the concert stage, scored for chorus and orchestra, where vocal soloists commonly depict different characters in the telling of a (usually sacred) story. *Messiah* does not have a narrative through-line; instead, the piece offers a meditation on different aspects of Jesus Christ and his life, told from the point of view of humanity. The titular character is never present; indeed, the soloists do not portray any specific characters at all. However, the passion and drama of human emotion is present in every measure of Handel's masterpiece, from torturous pain and anger to the greatest joy and exaltation. Its first performances in 1743 found great success, and though London elites were scandalized by the use of opera singers in a theatre instead of a cantor in a church for such a sacred subject, it overcame accusations of blasphemy to become one of the most beloved and influential works of all time. When Beethoven called Handel "the greatest composer who ever lived," he cited *Messiah*; Mozart declared himself "to be humble in the face of Handel's genius."

Handel's librettist, Charles Jennens, adapted words from both the Old and New Testaments to create the text of the oratorio, which has three parts. Each part is composed of scenes with choruses, solo arias, and quasi-spoken recitatives that provide further descriptive commentary. A somber overture and a pastoral symphonic interlude "Pifa" provide instrumental foreshadowing. Today's performance of an abbreviated *Messiah* includes material from each of the three parts, focusing on Handel's iconic choruses and arias for soprano and bass.

In Part I, the *Messiah*'s coming and the virgin birth are predicted by the words of Old Testament prophets. The annunciation to the shepherds of the birth of Christ (Chorus "For unto us a child is born") is taken from the Gospel of Luke. Part II covers Christ's passion and his death, resurrection, and ascension. It portrays the first spreading of the gospel throughout the world, and a definitive statement of God's glory is summarized in the famous "Hallelujah Chorus." (A tradition of standing during the "Hallelujah Chorus" is said to date from a performance attended by King George II, who leaped to his feet and inspired the rest of the audience to follow suit.) Part III begins with the promise of redemption (Aria "I know that my redeemer liveth"), followed by a prediction of the day of judgment and the "general resurrection" (Aria "The trumpet shall sound"), ending with a final victory over sin and death and the acclamation of Christ.


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JOHN WILLIAMS	"Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas" from *Home Alone*
LEROY ANDERSON	Sleigh Ride
LEOPOLD MOZART	Musikalische Schlittenfahrt (Musical Sleigh-Ride)
JOHNNY MARKS / VICTOR VANACORE	Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
ALAN & BALLARD, GLEN SILVESTRI / ANTHONY BRISBANO	"Believe" from *The Polar Express*
REBECCA PELLETT	Dashing Through the Snow
MARVIN HAMLISCH / ANTHONY BRISBANO, ROBERT PAGE	Chanukah Lights
GARY FRY	A World of Joy

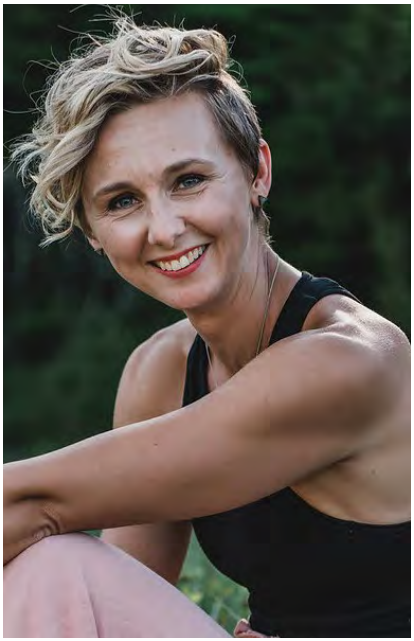
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TRAD / VANACORE	It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year
VICTOR HERBERT / OTTO LANGEY	"March of the Toys" from *Babes in Toyland*
JULE STYNE / HAYES	Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow
KRISTEN & LOPEZ, ROBERT ANDERSON-LOPEZ / CHRIS RINAMAN	"Let it Go" from *Frozen*
REGNEY-SHANE / DRAGON	Do You Hear What I Hear?
ADOLPH-CHARLES ADAM / D.S. DWIGHT / GARY FRY	O Holy Night
RANDOL BASS	The Night Before Christmas
TRADITIONAL / PELLETT	We Wish You A Merry Christmas
VARIOUS / LEE NORRIS	Christmas Pop Sing-Along

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CHARLOTTE KNIGHT
VOCALIST



Raised in downtown Toronto, Charlotte began studying voice at eight and earned her Bachelor of Music at the Western University. After several years working in opera, she relocated to London, UK, to pursue a postgraduate diploma in Musical Theatre at the Associated Studios—and never looked back!

In July 2022, Charlotte debuted at Feinstein's *54 Below* in the 10th Anniversary Concert of Ryan Scott Oliver's award-winning *35MM: A Musical Exhibition*. In March 2020, she was performing as Elsa in *Frozen, The Musical* with Disney Cruise Line before the worldwide shutdown. She returned to theatre mid-pandemic as Sarah in the Canadian premiere of *C-O-N-T-A-C-T* in Toronto.

During lockdown, Charlotte wrote her first play, *LEMONS*, which received a workshop performance with Thousand Faced Theatre Company at New York's Soho Playhouse in summer 2021.

Charlotte splits her time between Toronto and London, and made her UK debut as Cinderella in *Into The Woods* at The Chelsea Theatre, followed by the title role in the UK premiere of Strauss' *The Queen's Lace Handkerchief* with Opera Della Luna. She won first place in the Stephen Sondheim Competition at the Associated Studios and appeared as a featured soloist and vocal captain with Singers Achoired for the UK premiere and promotional tour of *Good Omens* with Amazon Prime.



Happy Holidays!

From our WSO family to yours, we wish you all the best this season.

The Box Office will be closed from December 22, 2026 to January 4, 2027. Tickets can be purchased online at anytime.

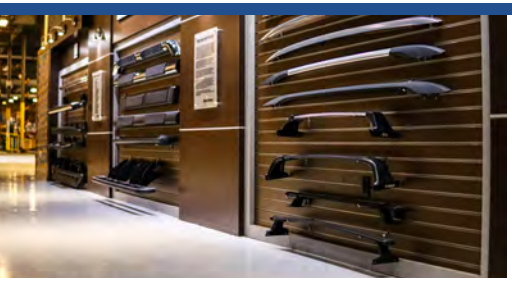
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Amelia Dick
Lydia Quiring
Oakley Stomp

Ava D'Aversa
Iverly Versnel
Zaya Marie Tanada
Abaigael Burke
Ella Burke
Grace Burke
Maeve Burke
Chloe Bui
Iris Gori
Teagan Bergen
Jocelyn Dyck

Mya Youssef
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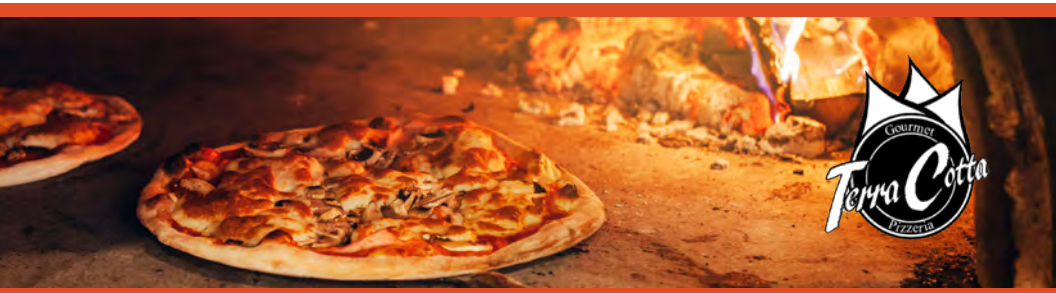
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December 19-20	WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA **Holiday Pops**
January 9	WSO FAMILY CONCERT **The Gull, the Raccoon, and the Last Maple**
January 16	**Canadian Arabic Orchestra**
January 23-24	WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA **Mozart: Cosi fan Tutte - A Comedic Opera**
February 6	WSO FAMILY CONCERT **Peter and the Wolf**
February 7	**Rivertown Dance Academy**
February 18-19	WINDSOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA **A Night in Vienna**
February 20	GRACE, 2 **Celebrating The Tragically Hip**



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