



OTTAWA POPS ORCHESTRA
ORCHESTRE POP D'OTTAWA

PRESENTS



NEW WORKS PROJECT

39 DUFFERIN ROAD

MACKAY UNITED CHURCH

SATURDAY MAY 21 2022

Table of Contents

About the Orchestra	3
About the Production	4
Musicians	5
Message from the Board	6
Program	7
Program Notes	8 - 13
Donors	14 - 15
Corporate Supporter	15
Donate	15
Staff	16
Upcoming Shows	17 - 18
Check Out OPO Merch	19



About the Orchestra



The Ottawa Pops Orchestra is a community orchestra dedicated to programming orchestral pops repertoire in order to enrich and inspire the community through accessible, relevant, and passionate performances. Founded in the spring of 2017 by a collective of young musicians, Ottawa Pops Orchestra (OPO) strives to bridge the gap between classical orchestral repertoire with popular music, curating innovative concerts that redefine the orchestral experience for today's audience. Simply, OPO strives to inspire, engage, and educate the greater Ottawa/Gatineau area.

About the Production

We are thrilled to present the selected compositions of our New Works Project, an initiative created to provide young and emerging composers a platform to perform their music. After launching an open call for new works in February, OPO received fantastic compositions straddling multiple genres that are reflective of Ottawa and Canada's diverse, multicultural mosaic. This project has been made possible thanks to the Ottawa Arts Council.



Musicians

The Scandal

Matthew-John Knights

Piano..... Jean Desmarais
Violin Evan Runge
Cello Gabriela Ruiz

Preludes

Roydon Tse

Clarinet Éric Gauthier
Clarinet Felicia Persaud
Clarinet Laura McElroy
Bass Clarinet Larry Sargent



Horizons réfractés

Yanik Fillion-Murphy

Flute..... Pierre Foret
Oboe Kira Shiner
Clarinet Éric Gauthier
Horn..... Sophie Shah
Bassoon Max Ostic

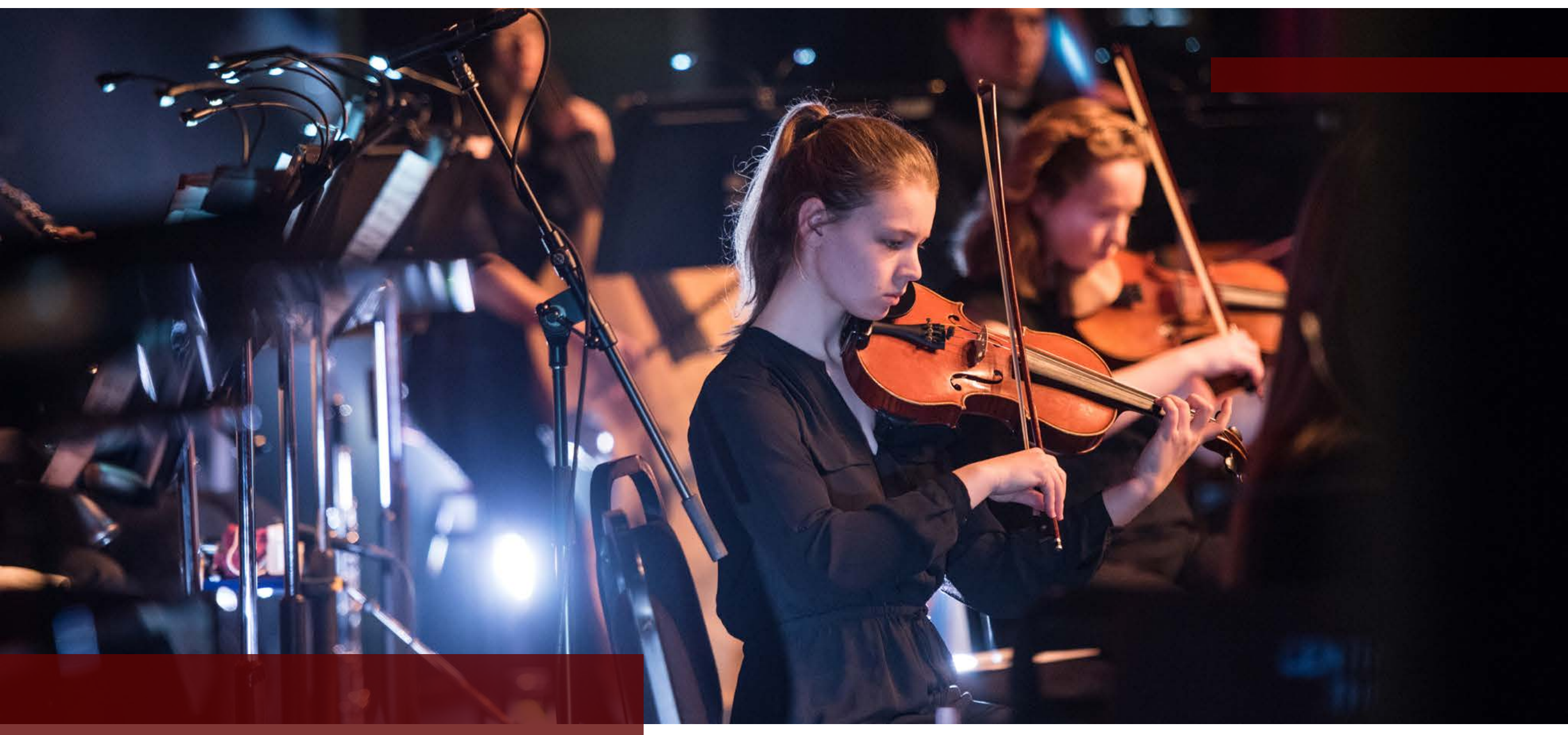
Dance of the Majnoon

Samin Shahi

Piano..... Jean Desmarais
Violin Evan Runge
Clarinet Felicia Persaud

Message from the Board

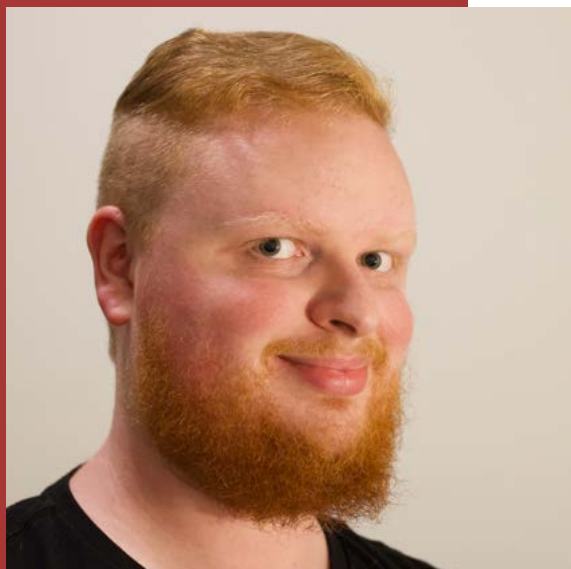
As an orchestra and organization that is still in its early years, we expect a lot of hard work and challenges to come our way, but who would have ever expected a pandemic? Humbling is a very sagacious way to describe the past two years; just plain hard may be the more candid way of putting it. We were confronted with some very hard realities and regularly held the tough debate of whether we should persevere amidst all the setbacks and uncertainties dealt to us by the pandemic.



Passion and enthusiasm aren't always enough to keep a vision alive but we have been so fortunate to have had the incredible support of our musicians, artists, volunteers, and community alike to keep us going. We are thrilled to be able to bring musicians back together to play together, audiences back to performance spaces to enjoy live music, and a community back together to share in things we all love.

It may be cliché to say but there is a certain feeling to get to say it again: Thank you for being here and we hope you enjoy the show.

Program



Matthew-John Knights

The Scandal

for Violin, Cello and Piano



Roydon Tse

Preludes

for Clarinet Quartet



Yanik Fillion-Murphy

Horizons réfractés

for Wind Quintet



Saman Shahi

Dance of the Majnoon

Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano

***THE FOLLOWING PIECES WILL BE
PRESENTED AT A LATER TIME***

Hsiu-Ping (Patrick) Wu

The End of the Beginning

for String Quartet



Sami Seif

Orientalism

for String Quartet



Program Notes

Matthew-John Knights

The Scandal
for Violin, Cello and Piano

The Scandal is a trio for violin, cello, and piano. It explores the emotions behind a political scandal, with the white hot intensity of those involved at the heart of the scandal, and also the (almost perverse) fascination of the public, who are onlookers to the situation. The Scandal begins in the middle of the mess, with percussive piano chords ringing out. The cello soon joins, as if trying to justify their part in the scandal. The violin joins, seemingly in cahoots with the cello, but it's not long before this relationship is fractured. Throughout most of the piece, the violin and cello seem to be telling similar stories, but from different perspectives, disagreeing on the finer details, while the piano is usually in opposition to this story entirely. As the piece goes on, and the scandal gets more intense, so does the music, but the three musicians seem to muddy their opinions as they hear the other sides of the scandal. In the end, they reach a tense compromise as the music cascades to a dramatic and sudden end.

Program Notes

Roydon Tse

Preludes

for Clarinet Quartet

Preludes (2014) are three short movements for clarinet quartet. The first movement, titled “Summer”, evokes the hot and hazy months through oscillating thirds. In the second movement, “Bounce”, the clarinets jump over and around each other in hocketing figures that create a lively and energetic scene. The set of Preludes end with “Laid Back”, a piece inspired by the sound of Jazz.



Program Notes

Yanik Fillion-Murphy

Horizons réfractés

for Wind Quintet

Horizons réfractés consists of 5 short movements, each of which captures a distinct character, from the whimsical to the enigmatic and even some groovy sections! My goal was to write as idiomatically as possible without taxing the difficulty, keeping a high degree of musical variety with an emphasis on phrasing, dynamics and articulations. This piece also uses a pitch system I developed called the refracted scale. An instrument moves higher in register the scale degrees are increasingly likely to be flattened, and likewise as the register drops the pitches veer in the sharpward direction. Essentially the pitches are refracted flatward and sharpward, and inspired the title of the piece. This gives the music a false sense of diatonic quality when the instruments are in a contained register while some wild dissonances can occur at more distant intervals. However I didn't want these theory elements to dominate the listeners experience and so an idiomatic and expressive style was injected to showcase versatility and wonderful sounds capable from a wind quintet.

Program Notes

Saman Shahi

Dance of the Majnoon

Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano

The term “Madjnoon” in farsi refers to a person who is fully consumed by the power of love or spiritual elevation to the extent that they appear to have lost themselves, and to the outside observer their minds. This piece depicts the frantic nature of a dance that depicts this spiritual awakening, where the movements are sharp and unpredictable, yet mesmerizing.

Program Notes

Hsiu-Ping (Patrick) Wu

The End of the Beginning
for String Quartet



The End of the Beginning was heavily influenced by the style of Romantic violin literature, as well as minimalism and improvisational works. The original idea was to create a neo-Romantic style string quartet; however, throughout the composition process, the piece evolved into a modern crossover with variations based on the Latin hymn, *Dies Irae*.

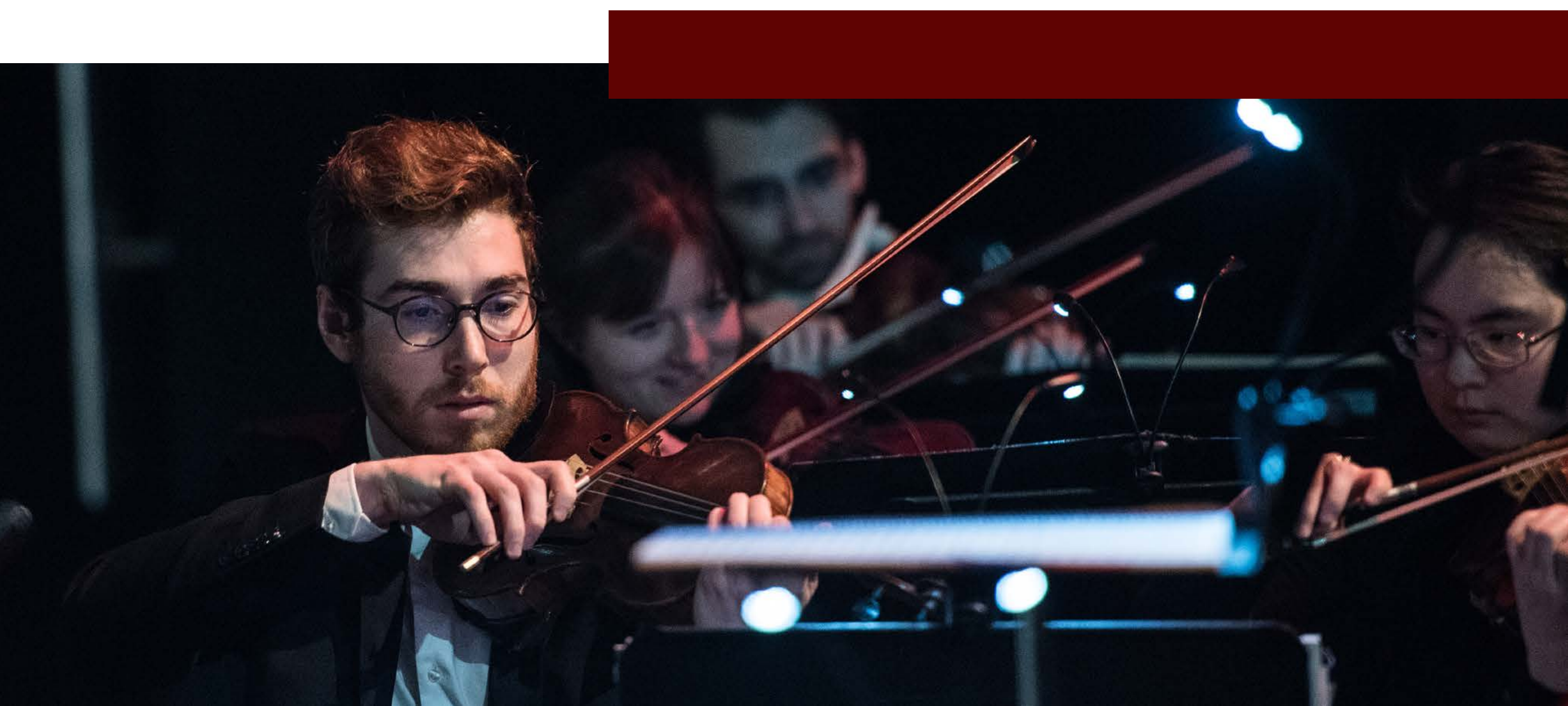
Program Notes

Sami Seif

Orientalism

for String Quartet

Orientalism derives its name from the eponymous book by the Palestinian-American intellectual Edward Said. My interest in orientalism started with the constant disparity I felt between my experience of being an Arab, and the representations of Arabs which I saw in art, media, and what even claimed to be scientific literature. Those representations of “the Orient” had very little to do with what I know about my own background, my lived experiences, and everything that I have read in Arabic. This piece is a result of my reflections, it is a commentary as well as an artistic response to that phenomenon. As each player takes control of measuring time for the whole ensemble, a natural shift in the perception of time will occur for interpreters and audience alike. The passage of time thus interacts with perspective and with focus. Every player will get the chance to manifest their experience of time, resulting in four different perspectives on the flow of time.



Donors

The Ottawa Pops Orchestra gratefully acknowledges the support of its many supporters. Below is the annual giving list which includes private donors and corporate sponsors.
List complete as of May 1, 2022.

Thank you!

Champion \$1,500-\$2,999

Larry Sargent

Sustainer \$250-\$499

Felicia Persaud

Mathieu Roy

Melissa Poon

Anonymous

Associate \$100-\$249

Abigail Vandzura

Anonymous



Donors

Friend \$1-\$99

Christopher James
Blackford
Claire Green
Cynthia King
Daria Koppel
David Rupar
Jennahfer LaFreniere

Kevin Anderson
Lindsay Jackson
Lyndon Kirkley
Morgan Hurtubise
Rafi Syed
Anonymous

Corporate Supporter



**E M B A S S Y
S U I T E S**

Jun 3 - 4, 2022 | 7:30 PM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO DONATE

Staff

Mathieu Roy

General Manager and Artistic Director

Felicia Persaud

President of the Board and Project Manager

Melissa Poon

Vice President of the Board and HR Manager

Olga Koppel

Member of the Board and Front of House Manger

Sebastian Lacey

Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Regan Aubrey

Social Media Coordinator

Heather Playford

Creative and Media Designer

Emily Hsueh

Graphic Designer

Rachel Ostic

Translator

Lindsay Gow-Kateb

Content Creator

Paige Bursey

Production Assistant

Upcoming Shows

VIDEO GAME SYMPHONY



We bring you the terrific themes and memorable medleys from the most popular entertainment platform – video games. Spanning a variety of consoles and genres, Video Game Symphony will strike a chord with your heartstrings. We hope to enchant your ears and make you want to dive back into your favorite games!

GET TICKETS!

Upcoming Shows

POPS *on* BROADWAY!



Nov 6 - 7, 2022 | 7:30 PM

Prepare for an evening of laughter, triumph, and soft-shoeing swing that's guaranteed to have you and your whole family smiling and dancing! You will love hearing your favourite music from shows like *Evita*, *Les Misérables*, *Wicked*, *West Side Story*, and much more in beautiful arrangements performed by a live symphony orchestra and fine vocal soloists!

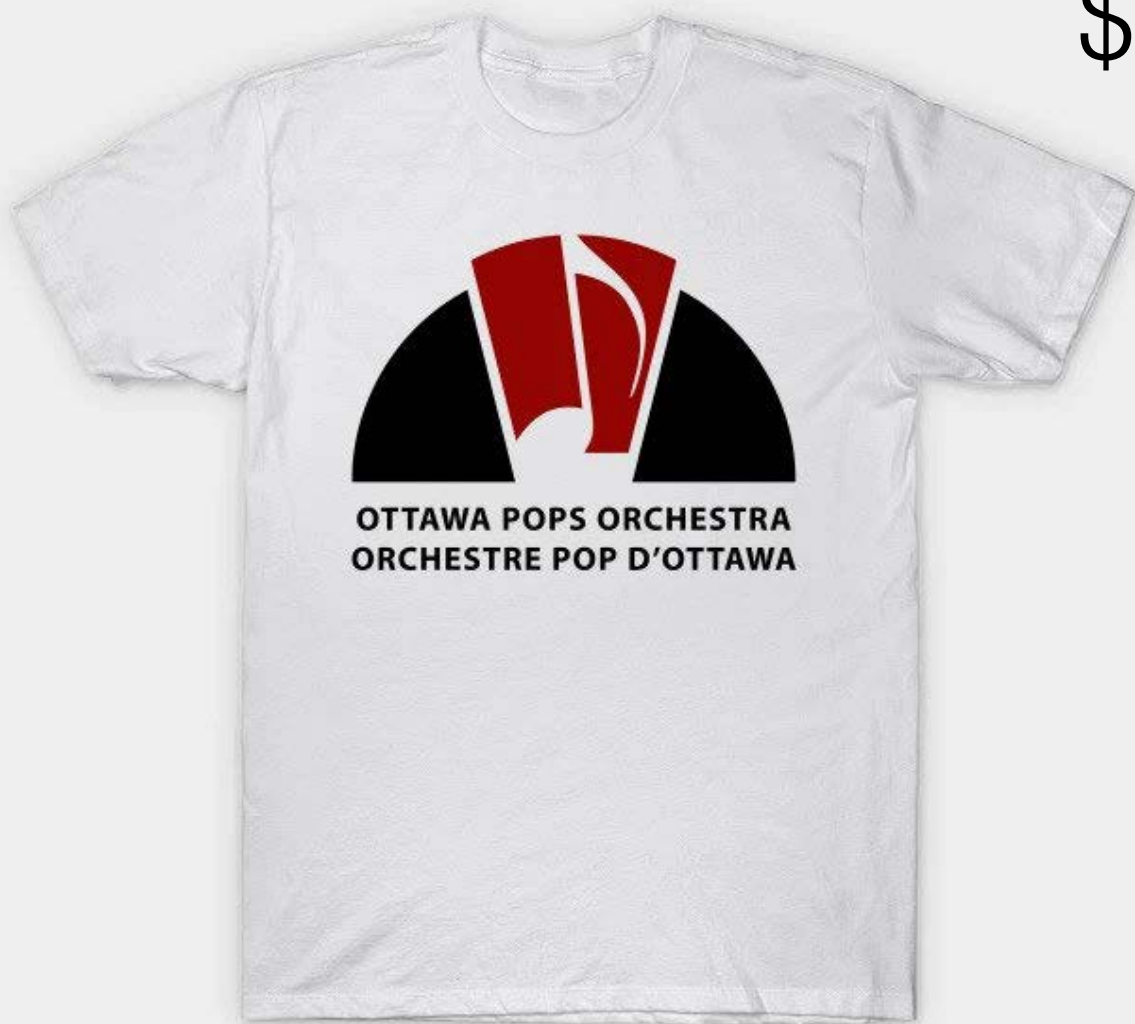
GET TICKETS!

MERCH



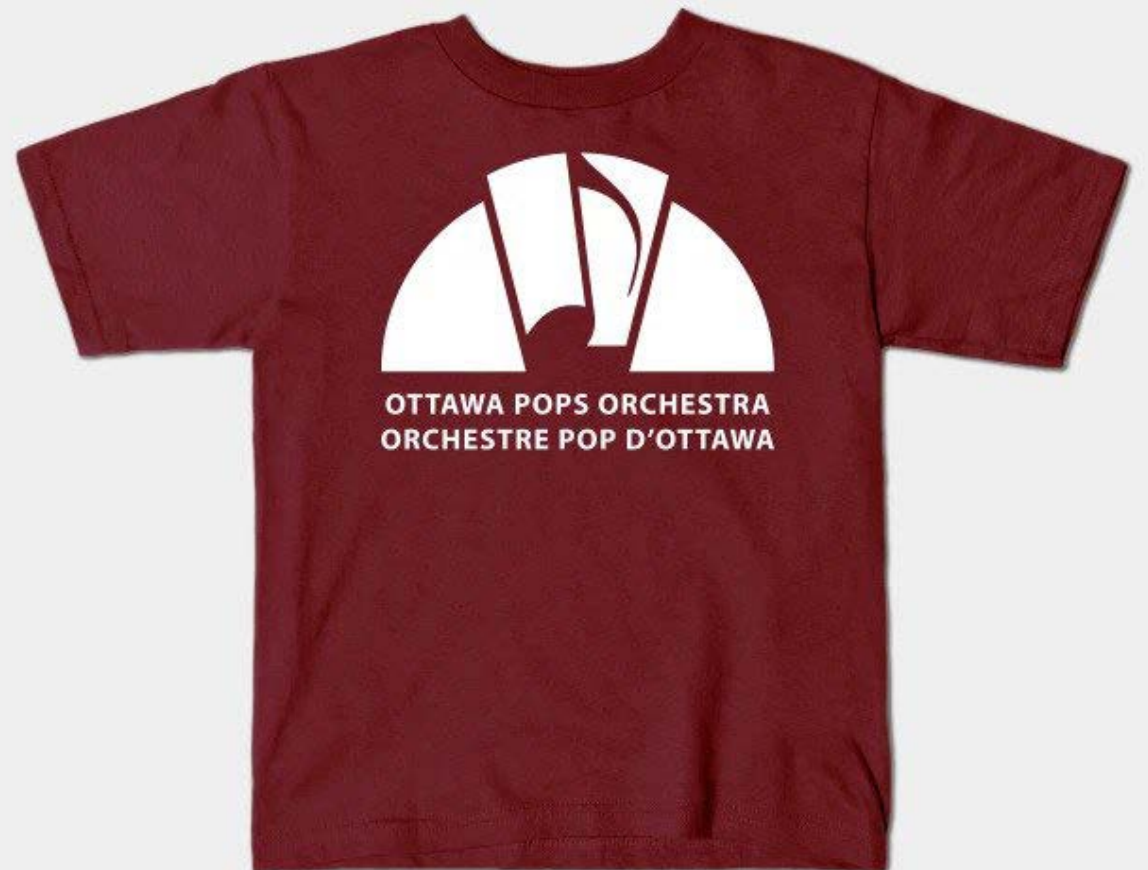
Adult Hoodie

\$60.³⁰



Adult T-Shirt

\$29.⁴⁸



Kid's T-Shirt

\$28.⁸⁰



Adult Mask

\$20.¹⁰



Stickers

\$3.³⁵



Phone Case

\$33.⁵⁰