



HAMILTON  
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FOUNDATION



# Celebration of **BLACK HISTORY**

Featuring the music of Scott Joplin, Florence Price, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Wynton Marsalis



With guests Alexandra Kane,  
vocalist, and Patrick Wilson,  
saxophone, 2026 HAALSA  
soloist.

## CONCERT PROGRAM

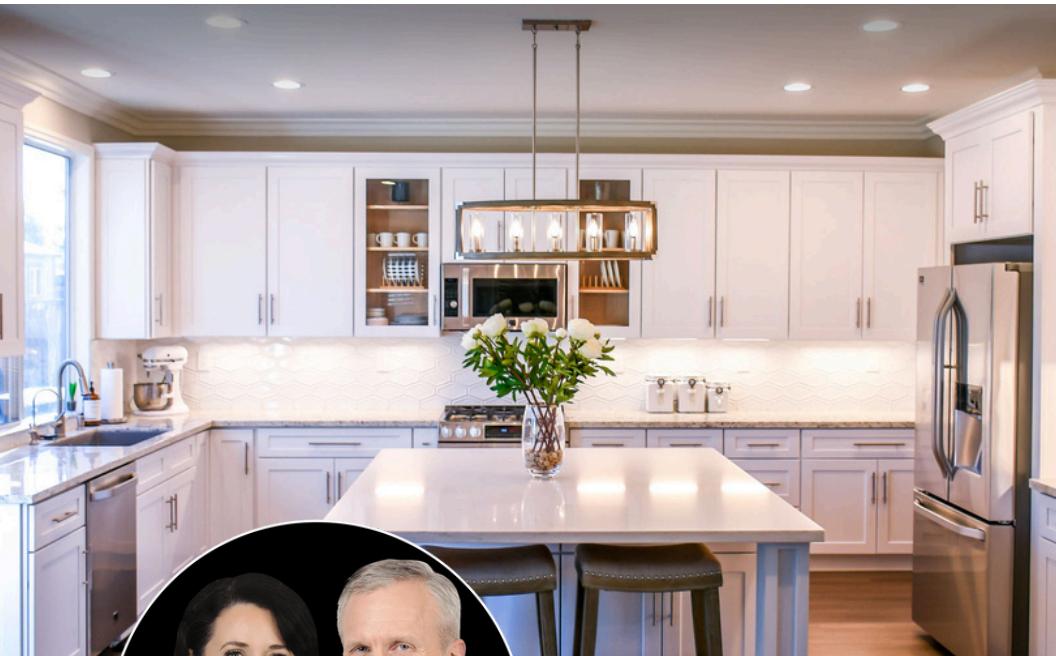
Dundas Valley Orchestra

# FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Laura Thomas, Music Director



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# Land Acknowledgement

The Dundas Valley Orchestra recognizes that we rehearse, perform, and gather on the traditional territory of the Chonnonton People, also known as the Neutral People. This region later became the shared territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We recognize that the town of Dundas, Ontario, lies within the bounds of the Between the Lakes Purchase, Treaty 3, signed in 1792, and we express gratitude to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as stewards of these lands. This area also lies protected within the "Dish with One Spoon" Wampum, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This agreement provides an example of how Indigenous and Settler peoples can peacefully coexist, as we work towards reconciliation for the actions of our past and present. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to live and make music on this land.

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## About the Dundas Valley Orchestra

The Dundas Valley Orchestra offers amateur musicians the opportunity to experience the joy of performing orchestral music. Musicians of all ages develop their skills and share their talents through community concerts and free performances at local institutions, including retirement residences and long-term care homes.

Dundas Valley Orchestra  
at St. Paul's United Church  
29 Park St. W, Dundas, ON L9H 1X3

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*The Dundas Valley Orchestra  
relies on donations to support  
the purchase of music and  
instruments, engage soloists  
and rent rehearsal and  
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*Applauding*  
another successful season of  
**exceptional performances**  
at the Dundas Valley Orchestra.



## Laura Thomas, Music Director



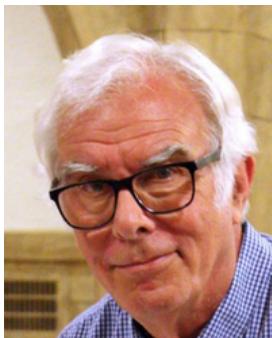
Laura Thomas is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. In addition to being the Music Director of the *Dundas Valley Orchestra*, she is also the Artistic Director of the Hamilton/Niagara area *WomEnchant Chorus & Drummers* and Conductor of Hamilton's *Hope & Harmony* choir. Her past positions include Music Director of the *Niagara Youth Orchestra*, Artistic Director of the Niagara-based chamber choir, *Choralis Camerata*, and Director of the *Niagara College Jazz Band*. She is the Principal Percussionist of the *Niagara Symphony Orchestra* where she also served as Associate Conductor for thirteen years.

Ms. Thomas holds a master's degree in conducting from New York's prestigious Bard College, where she studied with Harold Farberman. She is also a graduate of Hamilton's Mohawk College and McMaster University, where she studied percussion and composition. She has performed with and conducted many orchestras and ensembles around the Golden Horseshoe and Southern Ontario.

A member of Niagara's popular eclectic folk/blues band, BroadBand, she also performs regularly with her Vintage Jazz ensembles. Her compositions and arrangements can be heard in the music of Flutes en Route! featuring Douglas Miller and the recordings and performances of BroadBand, WomEnchant and other ensembles. She has written for stage, orchestra, choral and jazz ensembles including a Concerto for Jazz Trio and Orchestra and A Kinder Concerto for students and orchestra. Her recording credits include the Aradia Ensemble CD for Naxos Records, "Ballet Music for the Sun King," the Niagara College Jazz Band's "On the Move," Rich Blend's self-titled CD, sisterLune's "Wonder," and BroadBand's "LIVE at the Black Sea Hall" and "BroadBand."

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## Larry Allen, Associate Music Director



Associate conductor Larry Allen (B. Mus., B. Ed.) has been a member of the Dundas Valley Orchestra brass section under Dr. Glenn Mallory and Ms. Laura Thomas, and is pleased to assist Ms. Thomas in conducting the orchestra.

A graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Mr. Allen taught music for the Peel Board of Education, where he conducted concert bands, jazz bands and choirs. During his career, a love of musical theatre inspired him to compose and direct the music for several original student productions.

After retiring from teaching, Mr. Allen played trumpet, keyboard and blues guitar in amateur bands, and has continued to pursue a life-long interest in songwriting. With his wife Sharon, he has written and performed sacred pieces for their church.

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## Alexandra Kane, Vocalist



Alexandra Kane is a performing artist, music director, producer, equity transformation coach and activist. Alex holds a B.MusA from Western University, a graduate certificate in Corporate Communications and Public Relations from Fanshawe and a graduate certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University. Mom to 7 year old Kenneth, 2 year old Zahra, and wife to Ryan, Alex has transitioned from small business owner to professional performing artist with several fantastic projects on the go. As a community change maker, she leads Black Lives Matter London is a founding member of

Black London Network, and is the executive director of the London Gospel Collective.

Credits include *Frozen the Musical*, *The Sound of Music*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Controlled Damage*, *Elf the Musical*, *Finding Black Joy* (Music Director, Grand Theatre), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Sheridan College and YES! Theatre), YES! Theatre's *Ride the Cyclone*, *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (AK Arts Academy), *One Song Glory* (Musical Stage Company), music instructor for *ROOM* (Mirvish). Event production works include executive producer for the Forrest City London Music Awards. Television production and composition includes *Fracture*, *Nova: Prime and Shelter* (AK Arts Academy) and *Listen and Engage* (Black London Network).



## **Patrick Wilson, Saxophone**



*2025 DVO and Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art (HAALSA) Young Musician Award Winner*

Patrick Wilson is a Saxophone player and senior at Westdale Secondary School.

Since discovering his passion for Jazz at age 14, he has worked diligently to develop his performance skills. He is greatly influenced by players like Stan Getz, Charlie Parker, Patrick Bartley, and many more.

Patrick has studied jazz saxophone locally with Scott Neilson for the past two years.

This past summer he took part in the 5-Week Aspire program at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. There he studied jazz with some of the best students from across the globe under the tutelage of professors like Jonathan Suazo, Jeff Herrington, Greg Hopkins, and Ilona Kudina.

Patrick is a member of the Hamilton Allstar Jazz Band, a big band based in Ancaster that performs regularly in Southern Ontario. He also leads a volunteer jazz trio that performs monthly at Extendicare Assisted Living.

Beyond his passion for jazz, Patrick also enjoys the local rock scene, playing regularly as a member of local indie band In The Same Bed. He has recently guested on a record by Hamilton band Smit, and in a live performance by local favourites Superstar Crush.

## **Dr. Sarah Baker, Psychologist**

Wishing the Dundas Valley Orchestra an exciting concert and successful season!

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***Musicians of the Dundas Valley Orchestra***

**VIOLIN I**

Andrea Bandow  
CONCERT MASTER  
Erika Bellhouse  
Mary Anne Peters  
Ron Sealey  
Nicole Morino  
Margaret Jamieson  
Brenda Hurlburt  
Dorota Borovsky\*  
Naomi Dore Brown\*  
Deborah Kanfer\*

**VIOLIN II**

Andrea Armstrong  
PRINCIPAL  
Rory Fitz  
Claire Morris  
Suzanne McNeill  
Margaret Sherman-Bell  
Claire Lechner  
Jennifer Walker  
Jessica Ortlieb  
Darwin Allen\*  
Jennifer Holmes\*  
Rudin Knights\*  
Joelle Laroche\*

**VIOLA**

Glenn Welbourn  
PRINCIPAL  
Jim Jones  
Irene Walker  
Clement Ng  
Priscilla Harding  
Amrita Akhand

**CELLO**

Baya Vertes  
PRINCIPAL  
Gideon Bell  
Saskia Van Arragon  
Mary Ann Bastien  
Lianne Tan  
Kate Lynn Robles  
Lyndsay Cartwright

**DOUBLE BASS**

David Little  
Brian Liberty  
Suzanne Bell\*

**FLUTE**

Seiichi Ariga  
PRINCIPAL  
Mika Takahashi  
Tina Brook  
Sharon Millar\*

**OBOE**

Homer Seywerd  
PRINCIPAL  
Scott Duffus

**ENGLISH HORN**

Scott Duffus

**CLARINET**

Stan Alama  
Michael Westwood  
Amanda Hellj\*

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PRINCIPAL

**HORN**

Ian Kivell  
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Winston Munro  
Linda Thomas  
Erin Grant  
Steve Hewis\*

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Barbara Gatt\*

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Debi Sproule

**HARP**

Diana Hill  
PRINCIPAL

**PIANO**

Larry Allen

**ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Larry Allen

**COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE**

Mark Thomas

\*On leave

# A Celebration of Black History

**Laura Thomas**, Music Director, DVO

**Larry Allen**, Associate Music Director, DVO<sup>a</sup>

**Patrick Wilson**, HAALSA Young Musician Award Winner<sup>b</sup>

**Alexandra Kane**, vocalist<sup>c</sup>

**Scott Joplin**

Treemonisha: Overture

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**Samuel Coleridge-Taylor<sup>d</sup>**

Petite Suite de Concert, Op. 77

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**David Raskin & Johnny Mercer/arr. Jimmy Carroll<sup>e</sup>**

Laura

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**John Klenner & Sam M. Lewis/arr. Joe Lippman<sup>f</sup>**

Just Friends

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**Wynton Marsalis/arr. Dionne Hendricks**

Spring Yaoundé

---

**Arthur Marshall/orch. L. Thomas<sup>g</sup>**

The Pippin

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## INTERMISSION

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**Oscar Peterson/arr. David Boag**

Hymn to Freedom

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**Lionel Richie/arr. Steven Rosenhaus**

Lionel Richie in Concert

*Stuck On You*

*Hello*

*All Night Long*

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**Duke Ellington & Juan Tizol/arr. James Ployhar**

Caravan

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**Duke Ellington<sup>h</sup>**

Come Sunday

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**Una Mae Carlisle & Bernard Young/arr. L. Thomas<sup>i</sup>**

Without You Baby

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**Florence Price**

Colonial Dance

*Program*

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Sunday,  
February 1, 2026  
3 p.m.

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## About the Music

Notes by Stan Alama

Scott Joplin (1868 – 1917)

### Treemonisha - Overture

Scott Joplin was primarily known as a composer of piano pieces, but also penned two operas. Treemonisha, published in 1911, is set in post-Civil War Arkansas, the story of a young woman who is elected to lead her community in support of education and family values against superstition and malice. Despite a glowing review of the published score, the only performance of the opera during Joplin's lifetime was a 1915 reading, with Joplin at piano, in Harlem, New York. Like most of Joplin's other compositions, the opera was forgotten until 1970 when musicologist Joshua Rifkin promoted Joplin's revival, boosted by the use of Joplin's piano rags in the movie "The Sting". The first full production of Treemonisha, by the Atlanta Symphony, came in 1972. The Overture features segments with exuberant melodies based on syncopated dance themes, coupled with slower, bluesy songs in the brass.

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Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875 – 1912)

### Petite Suite de Concert, Op. 77

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was born in London, UK. His father was a medical student from Sierra Leone, and his mother English. He studied at the Royal College of Music at the age of 15, and was recognized for his compositional talent by Elgar, although his musical hero was Dvorak. Coleridge-Taylor was well known and admired during his lifetime, on both sides of the Atlantic. His Petite Suite, from 1911, is extracted from a composition written during his student days, "The Clown and Columbine", based on Hans-Christian Anderson's adaptation of the Commedia dell'Arte. There are four movements: first, the energetic "Caprice de Nonnette" displays Coleridge-Taylor's admiration for the style of Schumann. "Demande et reponse" was separately a huge hit, and a piano transcription found its way into many homes. The romantic "Un sonnet d'amour" is Pulchinella's flirtation with Columbine, and the piece concludes with the whirling "Tarantelle frétilante", in which Pulchinella must still act the clown despite his dispair at the death of Columbine.

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David Raskin (1912 – 2004) & Johnny Mercer (1909 – 1976) /arr. Jimmy Carroll,  
**Laura**

John Klenner (1899 – 1955) & Sam M. Lewis (1885 – 1959)/arr. Joe Lipman,  
**Just Friends**

These two songs are from the 1955 album, "Charlie Parker with Strings", featuring the jazz saxophonist playing with a string orchestra and jazz rhythm section, rather than his typical bebop quintet. "Laura" was composed in 1944, for the film noir of the same name. Director Otto Preminger wanted to use Ellington's "Sophisticated Lady", but found it didn't fit. Raskin was inspired to write the melody upon receiving a Dear John letter from his wife. "Just Friends" was a popular song from 1931 which became a jazz standard, recorded by Sarah Vaughan, Coltrane, Sinatra, Getz, Tony Bennett, and others.

### ***About the music***

#### **Wynton Marsalis (b. 1961) /arr. Dionne Hendricks Spring Yaoundé**

Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis was born into a musical family in New Orleans in 1961. Wynton's father Ellis was a pianist and teacher, and three of his brothers are also jazz musicians. When he was six years old, Marsalis received a trumpet from jazzman Al Hirt and at age 14 he performed Haydn's Trumpet Concerto with the New Orleans Philharmonic. He attended Juilliard for two years, but left to tour with the Jazz Messengers in Europe. He became the founder and artistic director of Jazz at Lincoln Center in 1996, and leads the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, devoted to celebrating the tradition of the great Jazz bands, especially those of Ellington and Count Basie. "Spring Yaounde" is an emotional song from his 1993 album, "Citi Movement".

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#### **Arthur Marshall (1881 – 1968) /arr. L. Thomas The Pippin**

When Arthur Marshall was 15, Scott Joplin moved into a rented room in Marshall's family home in Sedalia, Missouri. Marshall had taken piano lessons for several years and became Joplin's protégé, eventually collaborating with him on two rags, "Swipesey Cake Walk" and "The Lily Queen". Marshall haggled with his publisher for his 1908 ragtime "The Pippin", which he sold for ten dollars and 200 copies of the resulting sheet music, but no royalties.

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#### **Oscar Peterson (1925 – 2007) /arr. David Boag Hymn to Freedom**

One of the greatest and most virtuosic jazz pianists, Oscar Peterson (1925-2007) was born in Montréal. After winning a national music competition in 1940, he dropped out of school to join Maynard Ferguson's band. Jazz producer Norman Granz recognized and promoted Peterson, giving him a solo as part of a 1949 Jazz at the Philharmonic show at Carnegie Hall. Peterson was especially known for his performances in jazz trios, notably with Herb Ellis and Ray Brown. The "Hymn to Freedom" was composed in 1962, based on spirituals Peterson recalled from his youth, and became an anthem for the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

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#### **Lionel Richie (b. 1949) /arr. Steven Rosenhaus Lionel Richie in Concert**

Richie was born in Tuskegee, Alabama in 1949. He attended Tuskegee Institute, a traditional Black college, on a tennis scholarship. There he played in R&B student bands, and in 1968 formed the Commodores, playing saxophone and singing. After performing as an opening act for the Jackson 5 in 1972, the Commodores signed a recording contract with Motown. In 1982 Richie left the Commodores and recorded his first solo album, containing mostly ballads in the style of his writing for the Commodores. This medley contains three songs, each from his 1983 album, "Can't Slow Down": "Stuck on You", "Hello", and the Jamaican-tinged "All Night Long".

## **About the music**

Duke Ellington (1899 – 1974) & Juan Tizol (1900 – 1984) /arr. James Ployhar  
**Caravan**

Edward Kennedy “Duke” Ellington was an American pianist and composer, and the leader of the most popular and influential jazz bands of the swing era. “Caravan” has an exotic, African-Latin flavor, and is the most-covered song in history with over 500 artists having recorded it. The first recording of “Caravan” was by Barney Bigard and his Jazzopaters, a spin-off from Ellington’s full band, with both Tizol (trombone) and Ellington (piano) playing under the direction of clarinetist Barney Bigard.

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Duke Ellington (1899 – 1974)

**Come Sunday**

Ellington was booked to perform at Carnegie Hall in January, 1943, and he wanted to rise to the occasion and give a performance which would place jazz as an artistic equal of classical music. He composed a suite, “Black, Brown, and Beige” which narrates Black people’s history in the Americas. “Come Sunday” is extracted from this suite. The original orchestration intends its hauntingly beautiful melody as a showpiece for alto saxophonist Johnny Hodges. In 1958 Ellington revised the score, and wrote lyrics for “Come Sunday” for gospel singer Mahalia Jackson.

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Una Mae Carlisle (1915 – 1956) & Bernard Young /arr. L. Thomas

**Without You Baby**

Born in Zanesville, Ohio, Una Mae Carlisle was a jazz pianist, singer, and songwriter. Una Mae played piano in theaters and on a Cincinnati radio station while still in her teens, and it was through her radio broadcasts that she attracted the attention of jazz pianist Fats Waller. Like Waller, she mastered the Stride Piano style, and toured Europe and recorded with Waller in the 1930s. She also recorded with jazz soloists Lester Young, Benny Carter, and John Kirby. With her 1941 song “Walkin’ By the River” she became the first Black woman to hit the Billboard chart. “Without You Baby” was recorded in 1944, with a small ensemble including trumpeter Ray Nance, longtime lead trumpet in Ellington’s band.

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Florence Price (1887 – 1953)

**Colonial Dance**

Florence Price (1887-1953) was an American composer, pianist, organist, and teacher. Price was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, and educated at the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she posed as a Mexican. She moved to Chicago in 1927, where she became part of the Chicago Black Renaissance, and played organ for a silent theater and sold songs to radio shows to make ends meet. She won a Wanamaker Foundation prize for her first symphony, which was performed by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in 1933, the first Black woman to have a composition performed by a major orchestra. Colonial Dance was written during her years in Chicago, but the score was only discovered in 2009 during renovation of her summer home. It is a vibrant and dynamic piece which draws from traditional African-American folklore and dance.

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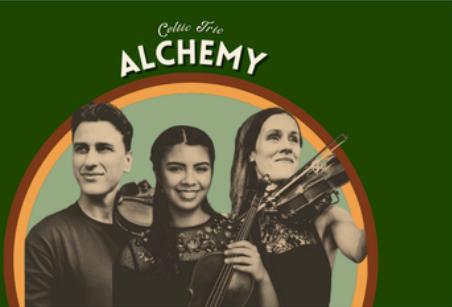
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# **WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING OUR NEXT PROGRAM WITH YOU**

## **The DVO plays Mahler!**

Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 3 p.m. | St. Paul's United Church, Dundas

For the first time, the DVO is going to perform music by one of the titans of the symphonic repertoire – Symphony No. 4 by Gustav Mahler. A not-to-be missed DVO first! The concert will also feature our 2026 Student Composer Competition winning piece and a performance of Launy Grøndahl's Concerto for Trombone by our own Principal Trombonist, Dan Grieve.

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## **The Nancy Cassels Chamber Music Concert**

Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 2 p.m. | St. Paul's United Church, Dundas

Join us for our very special third annual Nancy Cassels chamber music concert. This is a chance to hear members of the Dundas Valley Orchestra performing music in much smaller groups which has proven to be very popular, exciting, and a fun event for everyone.

Nancy Cassels, a resident of Dundas, organized, hosted, and performed in an annual Christmas chamber music concert in Dundas for forty years. Since her retirement from this endeavor, the DVO is proud to continue this wonderful tradition in her name.

Thank you for joining us!

**DUNDASVALLEYORCHESTRA.CA**