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*present*



# CONCERT PROGRAM

**DECEMBER 7, 2025**

Members of the  
Dundas Valley Orchestra

**Michael Westwood,**  
Ensemble Director

# Mark & Vivian DeBruyn-Smith

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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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and rent rehearsal and  
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*Applauding*  
another successful season of  
**exceptional performances**  
at the Dundas Valley Orchestra.



**Message from Michael Westwood, Ensemble Director**

## Honouring Nancy Cassels



Nancy Cassels performing Ludwig van Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 3, 1st mvt* with the DVO, May 24, 2015.

in Dundas. Thank you, Nancy!

The aim of this concert series is to honour the tradition begun by Nancy and to continue bringing beautiful music to the Dundas community in an intimate way over the holiday season. Chamber music, for those of you who are wondering, is music written to be performed by smaller groups which was originally intended, especially in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to be performed in smaller rooms rather than large concert halls. This music would often be used by amateurs for recreational performances at home as a form of entertainment. Much of the solo keyboard works, string quartets, and piano trios by Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, and many others were largely used this way. Of course, these pieces of music are also widely performed by professional musicians and in large concert halls, but this was not necessarily their original purpose.

This concert of chamber music almost exclusively features members of your Dundas Valley Orchestra. We look forward to making music for you as we continue this holiday tradition begun by Nancy all those years ago. Enjoy.

### **Michael Westwood**

Clarinetist and Ensemble Director of the DVO Nancy Cassels Christmas Chamber Music Concerts



Dundas Valley Orchestra, 2024

## **Michael Westwood, Ensemble Director**



Michael Westwood began his musical studies at the age of eight. He spent most of his student years studying with the late Canadian clarinetist Avraham Galper at the University of Toronto where he completed his undergraduate and Masters degrees in the late 1990s. Michael has also studied with and performed in masterclasses for international Canadian soloist James Campbell, and the former principal clarinetist of the Vienna Philharmonic, Alfred Prinz, among many others.

In 2016 Michael recorded his only complete album as part of the soprano-piano-clarinet trio, *Trio Dell'Aria*. The album, entitled *Memories of Places Past*, features Louis Spohr's Six German Songs, as well as pieces by Canadian composers Colin Eatock and Frank Horvat. Michael was favourably reviewed by *La Senza Musicale* for his work on the album. Additionally, two performances of Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time, and multiple collaborations with Michael's long time friend, violinist Jasper Wood including performances in Banff and Toronto of Bartok's Contrasts, Stravinsky's Trio arrangement of *l'Histoire du Soldat*, and Schubert's Octet are particular highlights for him.

Michael began teaching Music at secondary school in 2017. He is currently a secondary school teacher in the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board. He has performed with the Dundas Valley Orchestra since 2022 and also performs with the Greater Toronto Philharmonic Orchestra. He is very proud of his two sons Malcolm and Andrew who play violin and cello, and who have both recently started playing with the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. Michael lives in Dundas with his wonderful wife, Kathryn and two cats, Felix and Fanny, named after Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn.

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## **Laura Thomas, Music Director**



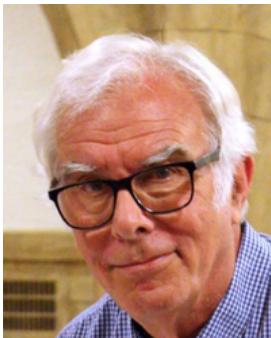
Laura Thomas is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. In addition to being the Music Director of the *Dundas Valley Orchestra*, she is also the Artistic Director of the Hamilton/Niagara area *WomEnchant Chorus & Drummers* and Conductor of Hamilton's *Hope & Harmony* choir. Her past 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.

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

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

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## ***Musicians***

### **PIANO QUINTET**

**PIANO**

Clement Ng

**VIOLIN**

Andrea Bandow

Andrea Armstrong

**VIOLA**

Glenn Welbourn

**CELLO**

Baya Vertes

### **FOUR VIOLIN ENSEMBLE**

Andrea Armstrong

Andrea Bandow

Erika Bellhouse

Naomi Dore Brown

### **CELTIC CADENCE**

Brenda Hurlburt

Laura Thomas

Ron Sealey

Lynne Ryall

Suzanne McNeill

Margaret Jamieson

Michael McAllister

Nicole Morino

### **SALON ORCHESTRA**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR & PIANO**

Larry Allen

**VIOLIN**

Brenda Hurlburt

Andrea Armstrong

Deborah Kanfer

Priscilla Harding

**OBOE**

Homer Seward

Scott Duffus

**FLUTE**

Christina Brook

**CLARINET**

Stan Alama

**CELLO**

Kate Lynn Robles

### **BRASS ENSEMBLE**

**TRUMPET**

Jeff Reynolds

Robyn Pitts

Elizabeth Carboneau

**FRENCH HORN**

Andrew Lappin

**TROMBONE**

Rick Harper

**TUBA**

Cameron Passmore

### **STRING ORCHESTRA**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR & PERCUSSION**

Laura Thomas

**VIOLIN I**

Naomi Dore Brown

Erika Bellhouse

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Mary Anne Peters

**VIOLIN II**

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Rory Fitz

Margaret Jamieson

Margaret Sherman-Bell

**VIOLA**

Glenn Welbourne

Irene Walker

**CELLO**

Baya Vertes

Mary Ann Bastien

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Brian Liberty

**HARP**

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**PIANO**

Clement Ng

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Christina Brook

**OBOE**

Homer Seward

Scott Duffus

**CLARINET**

Stan Alama

Michael Westwood

**BASSOON**

Tim Fox

Graham Martin

Lisa Ricciuti

**CONTRA-BASSOON**

Graham Martin

**FRENCH HORN**

Michelle Fawcett

Andrew Lappin

Peter Macdonald

Winston Munro

**CELLO**

Baya Vertes

**DOUBLE BASS**

Brian Liberty

Nancy Cassels  
**Christmas Chamber  
Music Concert**

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Piano Quintet<sup>a</sup>

Four Violin Ensemble<sup>b</sup>

DVO Salon Orchestra directed by Larry Allen<sup>y</sup>

DVO String Orchestra directed by Laura Thomas<sup>b</sup>

Dvořák & Strauss Serenades Ensemble<sup>e</sup>

**Robert Schumann<sup>a</sup>**

Quintet for Piano and Strings in E-flat major, Op. 44

I. Allegro brillante

---

**George Frederick Telemann<sup>b</sup>**

Concerto for four violins, No. 1 in G major, TWV 40:201

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**Celtic Cadence**

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**Dmitry Shostakovich arr. by David M.A.P. Palmquist<sup>y</sup>**

Tahiti Trot, Op. 16

---

**Albert William Ketèlbey<sup>y</sup>**

In a Persian Market

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INTERMISSION

*Featuring seasonal favourites from the Brass Ensemble*

---

**Ralph Vaughan Williams arr. by Ralph Greaves<sup>b</sup>**

Fantasia on Greensleeves

---

**Todd Parish<sup>b</sup>**

Winter Solstice

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**Richard Strauss<sup>c</sup>**

Serenade for Winds in E-flat major, Op. 7

---

**Antonin Dvořák<sup>e</sup>**

Serenade for Winds in D minor, Op. 44

I. Moderato quasi marcia

II. Minuetto

III. Andante con moto

IV. Finale. Allegro molto

**Program**

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Sunday,  
December 7, 2025  
3 p.m.

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## About the Music

Notes by Stan Alama

Robert Schumann (1810 – 1856)

### Quintet for Piano and Strings in E-flat major, Op. 44

1842 was Schumann's Year of Chamber Music: having produced few chamber works previously, he devoted himself entirely to chamber music that year, composing three string quartets, a piano quartet, and the Fantasiestücke piano trio. Clara Schumann was slated to perform the piano part in the debut performance, but due to illness she was replaced at the last minute by Felix Mendelssohn, who sight-read the fiendishly difficult part. The quintet is bright and exuberant, and the first movement begins with a strident fanfare, giving way to an expressive second theme.

---

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681– 1767)

### Concerto for four violins, No. 1 in G major, TWV 40:201

Telemann was one of the most prolific composers, whose music covered all genres in the baroque era. Telemann composed four concerti for four violins in 1720, without a continuo or other orchestral accompaniment, a form of quartet which is not often heard. These were probably written by special request for a private occasion when a keyboard instrument would not be available. The mood is cheerful, and the piece concludes with a spirited rustic dance.

---

### Celtic Cadence

The Celtic Ensemble presents Scottish and Irish folk dance music based on fiddling, violin playing with energetic bowing and rhythmic accents. As Irish writer Richard Head wrote in the 17th century, 'On Sundays: In every field a fiddle, and the girls footing until they foam up'. The Scots introduced the reel (or reill), together with jigs, strathspeys, and waltzes, which also appeared in Ireland and then carried on to North America in Cape Breton, Acadia, and Metis traditions. Its influence is also seen in Cajun and Zydeco music of Louisiana, and square dancing throughout the continent.

---

Dmitry Shostakovich (1909 – 1975) arr. by David M.A.P. Palmquist

### Tahiti Trot, Op. 16

This whimsical piece is based on the song "Tea for Two", written by Vincent Youmans for the 1927 musical *No No Nanette*. Shostakovich enjoyed the popular and jazz music of the 1920s, and would entertain friends by improvising the tunes on the piano. After hearing the musical together, conductor Nikolai Malko challenged Shostakovich to write an orchestration of the song in less than an hour, and this piece was the result of that bet. It was premiered in November 1928, to popular acclaim. However, with the Great Break of 1929 and Stalin's cultural revolution, Shostakovich was forced to renounce the piece, and it was lost until 1984.

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

Albert William Ketèlbey (1875 – 1959)

#### **In a Persian Market**

Ketèlbey was an English pianist and composer of light classical pieces. His suites highlighting what were then considered exotic themes were very popular, and he became the first millionaire composer in Britain. “In a Persian Market” was composed in 1920, originally as a piano piece, but the next year a version for orchestra with optional chorus appeared. The piece presents a panorama of images which evoke the Middle East: a caravan arrives; beggars pass; a princess is paraded through the square by servants, where she is entertained by jugglers and a snake-charmer; a caliph makes an appearance; the caravan departs and leaves the village in silence.

---

Todd Parrish (b. 1971)

#### **Winter Solstice**

Parrish is a contemporary composer who has directed student music groups in public schools in Illinois, Virginia, and Florida. Winter Solstice is a lively piece which celebrates the beauty and adventure of the season.

---

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

#### **Fantasia on Greensleeves**

Vaughan Williams’ “Fantasia on Greensleeves” was part of his 1929 opera, Sir John in Love, based on Shakespeare’s Merry Wives of Windsor. The score includes many traditional English folk tunes, and this short composition melds the familiar 16th century song Greensleeves with “Lovely Joan”, a folk song common in Suffolk.

---

Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)

#### **Serenade in E-flat, Op. 7**

The serenade, written by the seventeen year old prodigy and performed in November 1882, showcases his lyric abilities already in evidence, and strong influences of Mozart and Mendelssohn. It is a short piece, in a single movement, and unlike the serenades of Mozart and Dvorak it includes a pair of flutes in the score. The piece is exuberant and highly expressive, a fusion of classical structure with late romantic passion. The recapitulation of the main theme, played by the first French horn, exudes warmth and lyricism, perhaps a tribute to Strauss’ father, principal horn in the Munich Court Orchestra.

## ***About the music***

**Antonin Dvořák (1841 – 1904)**

### **Serenade for wind instruments, cello and double bass in D minor, Op. 44**

In 1877 Dvorak attended a concert performed by the Vienna Philharmonic which featured Mozart's Serenade for wind instruments, the "Gran Partita" serenade which we played in last year's Nancy Cassels concert. Inspired, within two weeks of his return to Prague Dvořák had composed his own wind serenade. In addition to ten wind instruments (oboes, clarinets, bassoons, contrabassoon, and French horn,) the score includes a single cello and string bass.

The piece respects the classical era structuring of the four movements, but Dvorak adds his own fingerprints in the main themes, including Czech melodies which he would develop further in his later "Slavonic Dances". The first movement is a spirited march, while the second follows the traditional Minuet and Trio form, although the dance forms evoke the Czech-Bohemian slower 'sousedská' at the start and finish, and triple-time 'furiant' in the central trio section. The melodic third movement echos Mozart's Andante of the "Gran Partita", while the finale reprises themes from the first movement in an energetic polka. The serenade was first performed in Prague's Žofín Palace in November, 1878.



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#### **Andrea Bandow**

Community Engagement

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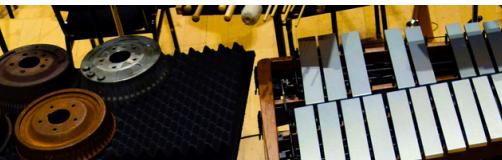
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As our orchestra continues to grow in size and musical scope, so do the needs of our musicians. In particular, our percussion section - the very heartbeat of our orchestra - is in urgent need of new and replacement instruments. These instruments are essential for both the richness and precision of our performances, allowing us to fully realize the emotional and dynamic range of the music we perform.

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## **Candlelight Noel**

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The Dundas Valley Orchestra is a group of over 75 talented amateur musicians that brings extraordinary musical experiences to the community through free live and virtual concerts. As a Registered Charity, the DVO is supported by our patrons, grant funders, donors, sponsors, and through voluntary donations from our audience and musicians of the orchestra. This community support enables us to continue presenting high-quality performances while fostering musical growth and education.

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# DVO 2025–26 SEASON

## Celebration of Black History

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 3 p.m. | St. Paul's United Church, Dundas

The DVO welcomes vocalist and theatre performer Alexandra Kane to celebrate the inspirations and influences of Black music in Canadian culture. The performance will feature a wide range of musical styles and eras by composers and songwriters of the African diaspora, including Scott Joplin, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and Wynton Marsalis.

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## 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.

Thank you for joining us! See you at the next concert.

**DUNDASVALLEYORCHESTRA.CA**