

2023 - 2024



Symphonic Spotlight

May 26
3:00 P.M.

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Mission Statement

The Dundas Valley Orchestra provides amateur musicians with the opportunity and joy of performing orchestral music. Musicians of all ages improve their skills and share their talent by performing community concerts and free concerts at community institutions such as nursing and retirement homes.

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The Dundas Valley Orchestra could not function without donations to maintain the purchase of music and instruments, the engaging of soloists, and the rental of rehearsal and performance facilities. We are always appreciative of all your generosity and support, regardless of the level of donation. Tax receipts are issued for all donations of \$10 or more. Cheques may be mailed to the orchestra c/o St. Paul's United Church. You may also donate online at **www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/dundas-valley-orchestra** or by e-transfer to Dundas Valley Orchestra (please enter **dvorchestra.treasurer@gmail.com** as the DVO email address, and please note your name and address for a receipt).



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Laura Thomas, conductor



Laura Thomas is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. She is Music Director of the *Dundas Valley Orchestra*, as well as Artistic Director of the Hamilton/Niagara area *WomEnchant Chorus & Drummers* and conductor of Hamilton's *Singin' Women* chorus. Her past positions include over ten years as Music Director

of the *Niagara Youth Orchestra* and six years as Artistic Director of the Niagara based chamber choir, *Choralis Camerata*. She is also the Principal Percussionist of the *Niagara Symphony Orchestra* where she also served as Associate Conductor for thirteen years. Along with acclaimed flutist Douglas Miller, she developed the *Flutes en Route!* programs of orchestral, ensemble and educational concerts.

Her guest conducting appearances include *Symphony on the Bay* (Burlington), the *Huronian Symphony*, *Etobicoke Philharmonic*, the *North York Concert Orchestra*, and the *Bard Chamber Orchestra*. She was for many years, Director of the *Niagara College Jazz Band*. Ms. Thomas holds a masters 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.

In addition to her percussionist position with the *Niagara Symphony Orchestra*, she has performed with many ensembles throughout Southern Ontario and Western New York, including the *Buffalo Philharmonic*, the *Hamilton Philharmonic*, the *Te Deum Baroque Orchestra*, and the *Aradia Ensemble*. She is a member of Niagara's popular eclectic folk/blues band *BroadBand*, and performs regularly with her *Vintage Jazz* ensembles.

Ms. Thomas has written music for symphony orchestras, choirs, small ensembles, jazz groups, and solos. Her compositions and arrange-

ments can be heard in the orchestra and ensemble repertoire of *Flutes en Route!* featuring Douglas Miller and in the performances and recordings of *BroadBand*. In 2012 she composed and recorded the soundtrack for the play “*Bullying Hurts*” by Monica Dufault and produced by Mainstream Services in St. Catharines and, in March 2013, her *Concerto for Jazz Trio and Orchestra* was premiered by John Sherwood and the *Niagara Youth 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*”.

Ms. Thomas has been actively committed to music education in the Niagara area for over two decades. She served as the Artistic Director of the *Niagara Symphony*’s acclaimed Summer Music Camp for over twenty years, and she is the driving force behind the development of

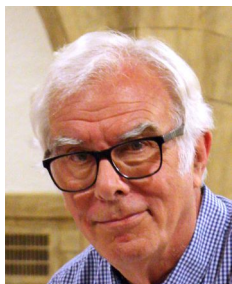
The Academy, an intensive music study programme for senior students, which runs concurrently with the Summer Music Camp. She teaches conducting and percussion at Mohawk College in Hamilton and maintains a private studio. She designed and presented the popular *Composer in the Classroom* program to thousands of students in the Niagara area and, in 2019 composed the *Kinder Concerto* for students and orchestra which was premiered by the Dundas Valley Orchestra and students from St. Augustine School in Dundas in November 2019.

Dr. Sarah Baker Psychologist

Wishes the
Dundas Valley Orchestra
an exciting concert and a
successful season!

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Larry Allen, associate conductor



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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Michael Westwood, clarinetist

Michael Westwood began his musical studies at the age of eight. He spent most of his student years studying with the late Canadian clarinetist Avrahm 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.

Christiaan VanZyl, composer



Christiaan VanZyl is currently in his second year at Queen's University studying Health Sciences. Introduced to violin lessons in childhood, his early years were steeped in musical exploration. As VanZyl continued with violin and music theory, his passion for composition grew. Hours were dedicated to composing and improvising, often at the expense of proper practice. Upon entering university, composition became an outlet for his creativity amidst predominantly science-focused studies. His audition and subsequent acceptance into the Queen's Symphony Orchestra as a violinist marked a significant milestone in his musical journey, a platform that fueled his inspiration to delve into symphonic composition. While his professional pursuits lean towards health sciences, his interactions with esteemed faculty members within Queen's University's music department have provided guidance and mentorship, enriching his musical endeavours. He hopes to continue working with the faculty at DAN School of Drama and Music throughout his university career.

Live!@WestPlains

2024 Season Concerts

At West Plains United Church, Burlington

Sunday, September 29, 3 P.M.

The Millgroove Quintet... more than just jazz!

Saturday, October 26, 2 P.M.

The Rising Hedons...

Folk, Gypsy & Traditional Acoustic Trio

Sunday, November 24, 2:30 P.M.

Tom Allen's J.S. Bach's Long Walk In the Snow

Bob and Cathie Simpson are proud and generous supporters of many Dundas philanthropic institutions and live, work, and play in Dundas.

We are delighted to welcome our newest patrons, **Jennifer and Andy Tafler**. Although they are new to Dundas, they have become regular DVO concert attendees and have admired the remarkable contributions that the DVO has made to the community.

With the generous assistance of our Patrons, the DVO will continue to expand its programmes and community outreach. *Thank you!*

D. Kanfer

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Student Composer Competition

The DVO Student Composer Competition is open to students currently enrolled in a Canadian educational institution (secondary or postsecondary, full or part-time). Congratulations to this season's winning composer, **Christiaan VanZyl**, whose composition, *Scenes from the Summit*, is premiered here today! For submission information, visit **dundasvalleyorchestra.ca**

Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science, and Art

We continue to thank HAALSA for sponsoring the DVO-HAALSA Young Musician Award under the auspices of the DVO. This award is given out annually to a young individual who shows excellence and promise as a musician. Students apply under the advice and support of their teachers, both private and those involved in the boards of education around the Hamilton-Burlington area. The winner of the award plays with the orchestra at a concert usually held in February of the following year. The DVO thanks all teachers who encourage their students to apply for this award and for their cooperation with the DVO in fostering young musicians who might wish to pursue music as part of their lives.

Audience Survey

Please take a moment to complete your audience survey form and return it to the box at the front desk. The DVO relies on your feedback when seeking funding and reporting to funders. We appreciate your valuable feedback!

Symphonic Spotlight

Michael Westwood, clarinet
DVO Student Composer Competition

Overture and Act II March for Turandot, op. 37 Carl Maria von Weber

Scenes from the Summit

Christiaan VanZyl

Premiere performance

DVO Student Composer Competition 2024 winner

Clarinet concerto no. 1, op. 26

Louis Spohr

Adagio — Allegro

Adagio

Rondo (Vivace)

Michael Westwood, clarinet

Intermission

Symphony no. 4 in d minor, op. 120

Robert Schumann

Andante con moto — Allegro di molto

Romanza: Andante

Scherzo: Presto

Largo — Finale: Allegro vivace

Violin I

Naomi Dore Brown, Concert Master

Erika Bellhouse

Mary Anne Peters

Ron Sealey

Deborah Kanfer

Margaret Jamieson

Nicole Morino

Brenda Hurlburt

Andrea Badow

Robert Brooks

Charlotte Price

Bruce Lawson

Violin II

Andrea Armstrong*

Suzanne Lindsay

Claire Morris

Darwin Allen

Jane Newman

Suzanne McNeill

Leanne Cherian

Amy Tadeson

Priscilla Harding

Claire Lechner

Rudin Knights

Margaret Sherman-Bell

Dorothy Haartman

Erica DeJong

Viola

Glenn Welbourn*

Jim Jones

Irene Walker

Barry Seligman

Daniel Sijuade

Amrita Akhand

Clement Ng

Cello

Baya Vertes*

Saskia van Arragon

Hannah Ince

Mary Ann Bastien

Kate Lynn Robles

Lianne Tan

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Brian Liberty

David Little

Suzanne Bell

Flute

Seiichi Ariga*

Tina Brook

Mika Takahashi

Sharon Millar

Oboe

Homer Seywerd*

Azriel Ashmore

Lindsay Chick

Debi Sproule

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Azriel Ashmore

Clarinet

Gary Fleming*

Stan Alama

Michael Westwood

Amanda Nelli+

Bassoon

Timothy Fox*
Cathi MacDonnell-Stephens+
Nicholas Mulchan

Horn

Ian Kivell*
Winston Munro
Linda Thomas
Steven Hewis

Trumpet

Jeff Reynolds*
Robyn Pitts
Dylan Wright

Trombone

Dan Grieve*
John Stockton
Joanne Romanow+
Steve Burditt

Tuba

Steven Butterworth+

Timpani

Simon Woodside*

Percussion

James Locke*
Patricia Ward
Steven Hewis
Kate Lynn Robles

Harp

Diana Hill

Composer in residence

Mark Thomas

*Principal
Absent for this concert
+Guest musician

Call for DVO board members!

Your DVO is planning another exciting new season starting in September, and we would love to have community members join our Board of Directors. If you are a community member who cares about our work and has an interest in serving on the DVO Board or its Committees, please send your expression of interest to DVOsecretary@hotmail.com. Join us to keep culture alive and thriving in Dundas!

Overture and Act II March for Turandot, op. 37

The story of Turandot originates in the middle ages in central Asia: a Persian prince hears of a beautiful and learned princess in the depths of Asia, and wins the right to wed her by solving four riddles, failure being punished by death. In 1762, Carlo Gozzi wrote a play based on the Turandot legend, in the commedia dell'arte style. Friedrich Schiller made a German language interpretation in 1801, transforming Gozzi's light comedic piece into a more romantic morality tale heavy with symbolism. Goethe undertook a production of Schiller's Turandot in 1802, and in 1805 Weber was approached to provide incidental music for this production. Weber based his Overture on a Chinese melody transcribed in Jean-Jacques Rousseau's "Dictionnaire de la musique", which is introduced at the beginning of the piece by a solo piccolo. The Turandot story has inspired several composers of opera, including Franz Danzi, Ferruccio Busoni, and (most famously) Giacomo Puccini.

Scenes from the Summit

Scenes from the Summit was born one day in first year university, after a biology exam. I was sitting in the foyer of the school of medicine building having spent the last few days absorbed in academics and I felt the sudden urge to create. I opened my laptop and wrote the opening fanfare theme of this piece which remains virtually untouched in this final version. The fanfare theme was inspired by a moving experience I had had the previous summer. During a morning hike in the mountains of Switzerland, a sudden serenade of alpine horns bloomed out of the peaks. We spent the next few hours listening and watching as the sun rose over the Alps. Words cannot describe everything I was feeling in that moment, but the music I present to you here gets close.

Scenes from the Summit notes by the composer

Concerto for Clarinet no. 1 in C minor, op. 26

Louis Spohr was a German violinist, conductor, and composer of the classical and early romantic period. He was a friend and collaborator of Beethoven. Spohr is credited with many innovations, including the violin chin rest, the use of the baton in conducting the orchestra, and the introduction of rehearsal marks in scores to more easily reference

parts of the piece. While most of his many symphonies and violin concerti were popular during his lifetime, they were less often performed after his death. He is best known for his four clarinet concerti, which he dedicated to the early virtuoso clarinetist Johann Simon Hernstedt. After composing the first concerto, Spohr realized that it was extremely technically challenging for the clarinets of his time, which only had five keys, and offered to simplify it. Hernstedt refused, and instead invented an improved instrument with thirteen keys. Modern clarinets have seventeen keys. In this way, Spohr also contributed to innovation in the development of the clarinet.

The concerto was first performed in 1809, and the response from the audience and critics was enthusiastic. The first movement begins with a slow passage, containing the principal theme, which repeats in the faster *Allegro* section. The second movement is at a slower *Adagio* tempo and features a lovely melody from the soloist, supported by only violins and cellos. The concluding Rondo is lively and animated by bright passages from the woodwind and brass sections.

Symphony no. 4 in D minor, op. 120

Schumann celebrated his 1840 marriage to Clara by composing 120 songs and his first symphony. In 1841 he penned a second symphony, whose debut performance met with mixed reception. The innovative nature of the composition, in which separate movements flow from one to another without a pause and which repeated earlier themes in different contexts, confused audiences used to more classical structure. His publisher declined to print it, fearing that it would compete with sales of the first, joyous symphony published the year before. In 1851, after composing and publishing two other symphonies, Schumann revisited the 1841 attempt, adding some recapitulation to make the structure easier to grasp, and orchestrating it for a large ensemble with more tonal color. Clara Schumann much preferred the published 1851 version, but the earlier, more transparent orchestration had its supporters, including Johannes Brahms, who published the 1841 composition well after Schumann's death in 1891.

Programme notes

The symphony has four movements, with traditional Italian tempo markings in the 1841 version but switched to the German in the published 1851 orchestration. However, you will need to listen carefully to distinguish them, as the piece transitions seamlessly from one to the other without a pause. The structure is inspired by Schubert's *Wanderer Fantasy* for piano, in which the main theme repeats in variations throughout the piece, in what Schumann called a 'Symphonic Fantasy'. A motif is introduced in the slow introduction, which repeats through the first movement, reappears in the second 'Romance' movement and in the Trio interlude of the third movement, and recurs in different tempos in the final segment.

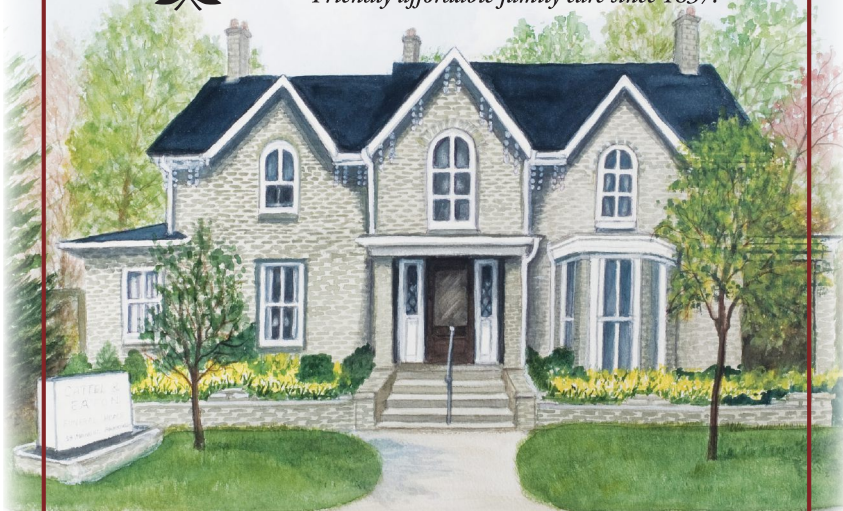
Program Notes by Stan Alama





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Acknowledgements

The Dundas Valley Orchestra is grateful for the vision and technical expertise of Wayne Irwin over the past three years. Wayne's knowledge and technical assistance brought the Dundas Valley Orchestra into the world of live-streaming. This enabled the orchestra to further its mission of making music accessible to more people, in particular, to people living in seniors' residences and those unable to attend the concert in person. The live-streaming also enabled the DVO to add to its library of recorded concerts. Many, many thanks Wayne!

The DVO expresses its gratitude to Lynne Calnek for her years of dedicated service as Volunteer Coordinator and Front of House Manager. We welcome and thank Izzy Ferguson for taking on these roles. Please say hello and welcome to Izzy!

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Sandee Ewasiuk, Guest Artist

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The DVO and the DVSA team up to present a performance for the eyes and the ears! Music by Copland, Beethoven, Mussorgsky and others will demonstrate the imaginative visual aspects of music. Sandee Ewasiuk will paint during the performance, accompanied by the orchestra. The audience will then be invited to do the same. This concert has been planned to be very accessible to young people and kids of all ages and is supported by the Dougher Community Fund.

Centuries of Dance February 16

Music and dance have always been performed together and the DVO is going to celebrate this artistic mixture—from polka to celtic, rock to tango! Hear *The Sleeping Beauty Waltz*, *Polovetsian Dances*, *Crocodile Rock* and *Sabre Dance*. Special guests: the DVO Celtic Ensemble, a chamber group from our Chamber Ensembles Program.

From The New World May 25

Dvořák's popular Symphony no. 9, "From the New World", is the inspiration for this concert focusing on music from the Americas. Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* will showcase the DVO Brass and Percussion sections. The DVO will also present *Kauyumari* by Mexican composer Gabriela Ortiz, as well as the winning composition from our 2025 Student Composer Competition. Talented young pianist, Victoria Zeng, our 2023 DVO-HAALSA Young Musician award winner, will perform the first movement of Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto no. 2*.