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**CONCERT PROGRAM**

**JUNE 22, 2025**

**Dundas Valley Orchestra  
and Chorus Hamilton**

**Laura Thomas, Music Director  
David Holler, Artistic 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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# About Chorus Hamilton

Chorus Hamilton is a Registered Charitable Arts Organization and is one of Hamilton's oldest choral ensembles. Founded in 1968, the choir has grown and changed, but remains a community of people who share a love of music. The ensemble performs a wide variety of music, from short and large-scale classical works, to jazz and contemporary pop music.

In the past, Chorus Hamilton has performed with several groups throughout Southern Ontario, and partners regularly with Fanshawe Chorus London. Chorus Hamilton makes appearances in the community; at Lime Ridge Mall to sing Christmas favourites and spread Christmas cheer, with Dundas Concert Band at Dundas Driving Park, and various locations in the city when invited.



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# Laura Thomas, Music Director



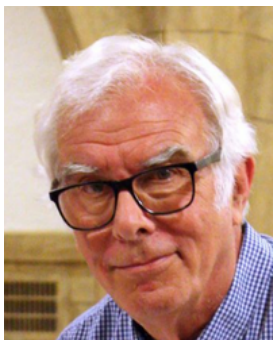
Laura Thomas is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. In addition to being the Music Director of the *Dundas Valley Orchestra*, she is also the Artistic Director of the Hamilton/Niagara area *WomEnchant Chorus & Drummers* and Conductor of Hamilton's *Hope & Harmony* choir. Her past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



Dr. David Holler is an accomplished conductor, tenor soloist, and music educator. He holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Toronto and has studied at the University of Western Ontario and Westminster Choir College.

Based in the Niagara region, he is the founding music director of the Mercredi Musique String Chamber Ensemble & Chorus, serves as music director at St. Julia's Church, and teaches private lessons. As a tenor soloist, he has performed with York University's Professional Opera

Training Workshop, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre, and in numerous oratorio and chamber concerts. He has led choirs at McMaster University and the University of Toronto and is currently the music director of Chorus Hamilton and Chorus London.

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## **Dr. Erika Reiman, accompanist**



Dr. Reiman studied piano at Mount Allison and McGill Universities and earned a PhD in Musicology from the University of Toronto. She is the author of Schumann's Piano Cycles and the Novels of Jean Paul, published by the University of Rochester Press in 2004. In addition to teaching piano at Brock University Erika is active as a soloist, accompanist, and chamber musician throughout Southern Ontario.

Erika is the regular accompanist for Chorus Hamilton and also performs regularly with the University Choir and Sora Singers at Brock University. She is the music director at St. Matthew-on-the-Plains Anglican Church in Burlington.

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

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

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# Cristina Pisani, soprano



Cristina Pisani is a vibrant soprano hailing from Mississauga. She is thrilled and honoured to make her Dundas Valley Orchestra and Chorus Hamilton debut as the soprano soloist in Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* at such a historical location. She looks forward to making her debut as Herodias in Strauss's *Salome* (Opera by Request) in the fall. Recently, Cristina was a featured soloist at Tallarico's *Video Games Live* (Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra); she also enjoyed a reprise of the title role in Beckett's *Ruth* with Arcady, with whom she was an Emerging Artist in 2017-2018.

Recent role debuts include Julie in Dvořák's *Jakobin* and Senta in Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer* (Opera by Request). Last season, Cristina made her oratorio debut with Mississauga Symphony Orchestra as the soprano soloist in Verdi's *Messa da Requiem*. Cristina's list of operatic roles is vast and varied; her most performed role to date is Violetta in Verdi's *La traviata* (Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre, Jeunesses Musicales Canada). Cristina began her musical training at the age of three with her mother and completed her MMus in Vocal Performance and Literature at Western University under the tutelage of Sophie Roland and Simone Luti. In her free time, Cristina loves to stream on Twitch (@TheNESpa) and spend time with her family, friends, and pets.

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# Michael Robert-Broder, baritone



Toronto based baritone, Michael Robert-Broder (He/Him) is an engaging performer who has crafted an enviable career balanced between recital, oratorio, and opera engagements.

Described as "smooth mellifluous baritone of a Gerald Finley or a Hermann Prey" (barczablog.com - Fidelio), he has specialized in the performance of German language opera and lieder above all else. As Faninal in *Der Rosenkavalier* he "sang an impressive "Ein ernster Tag, ein grosser Tag" (ludwig-van.com) and as Jochanaan he gave

"a stunningly lyrical reading of this role...singing a smoothly lyrical line throughout, putting out a fabulous wall of sound from time to time, always on pitch and never harsh sounding." (barczablog.com). In his portrayal of Nabucco he "sang solidly and with emotional range too." (operaramblings.blog), as Dr. Falke he was praised for his "warm baritone" (Opera Canada), and in his premiere of *The Ecstasy* of Rita Joe he "fashioned a

brilliantly conflicted Magistrate, stern and compassionate, cynical and resigned” (operagoto.com). As Marcello La Boheme he was a “vocally powerful Marcello. Whether playing the best friend, the jilted lover or the passionate artist, Robert-Broder seamlessly used his rich tones and solid dramatic skills to bring depth to his role...effectively bringing comedy and palpable sexual tension to the performance.” (Opera Canada). In Donizetti’s Lucia di Lammermoor he was a “powerful and understated portrayal of the chaplain Raimondo” (Opera Canada), sung with “a rich depth that befitted the role” (ludwig-van.com).

Upcoming engagements include Handel’s Messiah, Mozart’s Don Giovanni, Bartok’s Bluebeard’s Castle, and the premiere of two song cycles on texts by American poet Marie Howe.



Dundas Valley Orchestra, *Centuries of Dance* (2025)



# Peace

**Laura Thomas**, Music Director, DVO\*  
**Larry Allen**, Associate Conductor, DVO^  
**David Holler**, Artistic Director, Chorus Hamilton+  
**Erika Reiman**, accompanist, Chorus Hamilton  
**Cristina Pisani**, soprano  
**Michael Robert-Broder**, baritone

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**Music by Ray Mackeever\***  
**Text based on a prayer by Rabbi Nachman**  
**Choral arr. Diane Benjamin**  
**Orchestration by Laura Thomas**  
Let Peace Fill the Earth

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**Music by Ennio Morricone\***  
**Italian text by Chiara Ferrau**  
**Arr. by R. Longfield/Audrey Snyder**  
Gabriel's Oboe/Nella Fantasia

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**John Barnes Chance^**  
Elegy

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**Ralph Vaughan Williams\***  
Prelude to "The 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel"

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**Andy Beck\***  
Let There Be Peace on Earth

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## ***Intermission***

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**Ralph Vaughan Williams\***  
Dona Nobis Pacem

## ***Program***

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Sunday,  
June 22, 2025  
7 p.m.

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# About the Music

*Notes by Stan Alama*

Ennio Morricone (1928 – 2020) and Chiara Ferraù

## **Gabriel's Oboe/Nella Fantasia**

Ennio Morricone was a prolific composer of scores for film and television, who became known for his work on Sergio Leone's "Spaghetti Westerns" in the 1960s. His score for the 1986 film, "The Mission" included the popular theme, "Gabriel's Oboe" (which we have played previously at the DVO.)

In 1998 Chiara Ferraù composed Italian lyrics to this theme, and the song "Nella Fantasia" was recorded by soprano Sarah Brightman, who provided English lyrics.

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John Barnes Chance (1932 – 1972)

## **Elegy**

Chance was a composer and percussionist from Texas, who produced several works for student bands working as an educator in North Carolina and Kentucky. The Elegy was commissioned as a memorial for a student who died suddenly and tragically. It begins with a simple motif, which is repeated boldly, but then fragments and dies out. Sadly, Chance himself perished in a household accident only a few months after having composed his Elegy.

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Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

## **Prelude to "The 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel"**

"49th Parallel" was a British wartime suspense film, released in 1941, with Leslie Howard, Lawrence Olivier, and Raymond Massey. It is the story of six survivors from a German submarine, sunk in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and their clandestine and nefarious trek across Canada. The producers approached Vaughan Williams, the best-known composer in Britain, to write the score, and he did not disappoint them. The Prelude opens the film and introduces the musical themes which appear throughout the story. Richly orchestrated, it begins with stately chords in the brass and lower strings, then lifts to reveal the main pastoral melody through the violins.

---

Andy Beck

## **Let There Be Peace**

Andy Beck is an educator and composer, and Director of Choral Publications at Alfred Music. He has published over 400 works for chorus, for children and adults. This choral work begins as a soothing choral anthem in 3/4 time, but then segues into a spirited rollicking Gospel coda.

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

**Dona Nobis Pacem** | Source: *Edina Chorale*

At the age of 41, Ralph Vaughan Williams volunteered for the British Army in the first World War. Assigned to an ambulance company, he carried the dead and wounded back to the battle trenches. The experience of combat seared his memory. In 1936, *Dona nobis pacem*, his great masterpiece for chorus and orchestra, brought these memories to life.

When he went off to war, Vaughan Williams was one of England's leading composers. His long career yielded nine symphonies and several concertos, ballet and film music, and considerable music for solo voice and for chorus. Throughout his life he found inspiration in English folk song, and he supported community choruses throughout the British Isles.

"If we want to find the groundwork of our English culture we must look below the surface—not to the grand events chronicled in the newspapers but to the unobtrusive quartet parties which meet week after week to play or sing in their own houses, to the village choral societies whose members trudge miles through rain and snow to work steadily for a concert or competition in some ghastly parish room with a cracked piano and a smelly oil lamp." — RVW

*Full text*

I. (from the Latin Mass)

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.*

*(Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, grant us peace.)*

II. (Walt Whitman, from "Beat! Beat! Drums!" 1861)

*Beat! beat! drums! — blow! bugles! blow!*

*Through the windows — through the doors — burst like a ruthless force,*

*Into the solemn church, and scatter the congregation,*

*Into the school where the scholar is studying;*

*Leave not the bridegroom quiet — no happiness must he have now with his bride,*

*Nor the peaceful farmer any peace, ploughing his field, or gathering in his grain,*

*So fierce you whirr and pound you drums — so shrill you bugles blow.*

*Beat! beat! drums! — blow! bugles! blow!*

*Over the traffic of cities — over the rumble of wheels in the streets;*

*Are beds prepared for sleepers at night in the houses? No sleepers must sleep in those beds,*

*No bargainers' bargains by day — no brokers or speculators — would they continue?*

*Would the talkers be talking? Would the singer attempt to sing?  
Would the lawyer rise in the court to state his case before the judge?  
Then rattle quicker, heavier drums – you bugles wilder blow.*

*Beat! beat! drums! – blow! bugles! blow!  
Make no parley – stop for no expostulation,  
Mind not the timid – mind not the weeper or prayer,  
Mind not the old man beseeching the young man,  
Let not the child's voice be heard, nor the mother's entreaties,  
Make even the trestles to shake the dead where they lie awaiting the hearses,  
So strong you thump O terrible drums – so loud you bugles blow.*

### **III. Reconciliation (Walt Whitman, from Leaves of Grass, 1867)**

*Word over all, beautiful as the sky,  
Beautiful that war and all its deeds of carnage must in time be utterly lost,  
That the hands of the sisters Death and Night incessantly, softly, wash again and  
ever again this soiled world;  
For my enemy is dead, a man divine as myself is dead,  
I look where he lies white-faced and still in the coffin – I draw near,  
Bend down and touch lightly with my lips the white face in the coffin.*

### **IV. Dirge for Two Veterans (Walt Whitman, from Leaves of Grass, 1891)**

*The last sunbeam  
Lightly falls from the finished Sabbath,  
On the pavement here, and there beyond it is looking  
Down a new-made double grave.  
Lo, the moon ascending,  
Up from the east the silvery round moon,  
Beautiful over the house-tops, ghastly, phantom moon,  
Immense and silent moon.  
I see a sad procession,  
And I hear the sound of coming full-keyed bugles,  
All the channels of the city streets they're flooding  
As with voices and with tears.  
I hear the great drums pounding,  
And the small drums steady whirring,  
And every blow of the great convulsive drums  
Strikes me through and through.  
For the son is brought with the father,  
In the foremost ranks of the fierce assault they fell,  
Two veterans, son and father, dropped together,  
And the double grave awaits them.  
Now nearer blow the bugles,*



*And the drums strike more convulsive,  
And the daylight o'er the pavement quite has faded,  
And the strong dead-march enwraps me.  
In the eastern sky up-buoying,  
The sorrowful vast phantom moves illumined,  
'Tis some mother's large transparent face,  
In heaven brighter growing.  
O strong dead-march you please me!  
O moon immense with your silvery face you soothe me!  
O my soldiers twain! O my veterans passing to burial!  
What I have I also give you.  
The moon gives you light,  
And the bugles and the drums give you music,  
And my heart, O my soldiers, my veterans,  
My heart gives you love.*

**V.** (John Bright, from his speech in the House of Commons, February 23, 1855)

*The Angel of Death has been abroad throughout the land; you may almost hear the beating of his wings. There is no one as of old ... to sprinkle with blood the lintel and the two side-posts of our doors, that he may spare and pass on.  
(from the Latin Mass)*

*Dona nobis pacem.  
(Jeremiah 8:15-22)*

*We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble! The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan; the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land ... and those that dwell therein ... The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved ... Is there no balm in Gilead?; is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?*

**VI.** (a scriptural montage)

*(Daniel 10:19)*

*O man greatly beloved, fear not, peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong.*

*(Haggai 2:9)*

*The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former ... and in this place will I give peace.*

*(from Micah 4:3, Leviticus 26:6, Psalms 85:10 and 118:19, Isaiah 43:9 and 56:18-22, Luke 2:14)*

*Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

*And none shall make them afraid, neither shall the sword go through their land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

*Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.*

*Open to me the gates of righteousness, I will go into them.*

*Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled; and let them hear and say, it is the truth.*

*And it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues.*

*And they shall come and see my glory. And I will set a sign among them, and they shall declare my glory among the nations.*

*For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me,*

*so shall your seed and your name remain for ever.*

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good-will toward men.*

*(from the Latin Mass)*

*Dona nobis pacem.*



Dundas Valley Orchestra, *Centuries of Dance* (2025)

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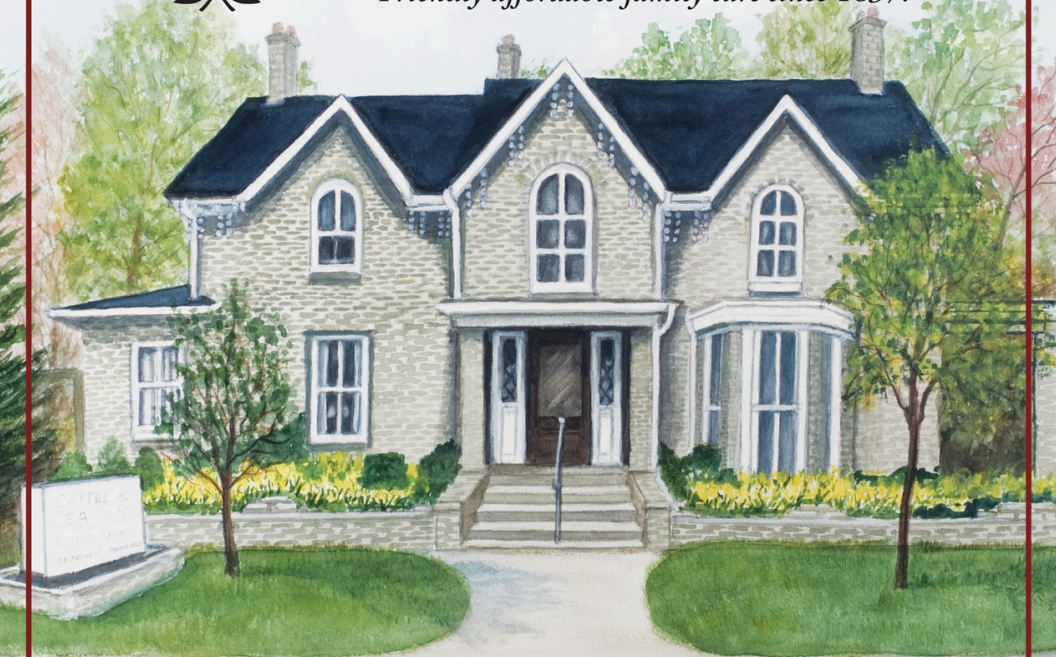
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# DVO 2025/26 Season

## **Our Space Odyssey**

Sunday, November 9, 2025 at 3 p.m. | St. Paul's United Church, Dundas

Join the DVO and our concert partner Hamilton Amateur Astronomers on a musical and visual journey to the stars! Guest performers include students from the Hamilton Suzuki School of Music and HAALSA Student Soloist Award winner, violinist Sohan Mukherjee.

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## **The DVO presents The Nancy Cassels Christmas Chamber Music Concert**

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3 p.m. | St. Paul's United Church, Dundas

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## **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 music that reflects a broad range of styles, genres and time periods by composers and songwriters of the African diaspora.

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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 next season.

**DUNDASVALLEYORCHESTRA.CA**