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presents

OUR
**SPACE
ODYSSEY**

CONCERT PROGRAM

Dundas Valley Orchestra

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

Laura Thomas, Music 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.

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

SCAN TO VIEW THIS PROGRAM ONLINE AT DUNDASVALLEYORCHESTRA.CA



Donations gratefully accepted.
The Dundas Valley Orchestra is a CRA registered
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Today's concert is dedicated to the memory of **Steven Burditt**



The Dundas Valley Orchestra is dedicating today's performance to one of our trombone players, Steve Burditt. Steve passed away in August, at the age of 41.

Steve was our bass trombone player and also performed with us as a euphonium soloist. He was an exceptional musician and a valued member of our brass section. For those who heard him play, Steve had an amazing sound on both instruments. He was a powerful bass trombone player who could also play lovely lyrical melodies, especially on euphonium.

As talented a musician as Steve was, he was an even better father and husband to his wife Kristen Kerr and children Freddy and Sabrina. Kristen, a violist, was also a member of the DVO. They stopped playing in the DVO to raise their young family. Steve was incredibly happy to be a father and very proud of his kids. They brought Freddy to a couple of concerts and it was easy to see how much Steve loved being his dad. We were looking forward to the day when they could return to the DVO.

A fan of sci-fi and fantasy, Steve would have loved this concert. We miss him on stage and in the audience. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Kristen, Freddy, Sabrina and all of Steve's family and friends.



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Music Director

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Laura Thomas, Music Director

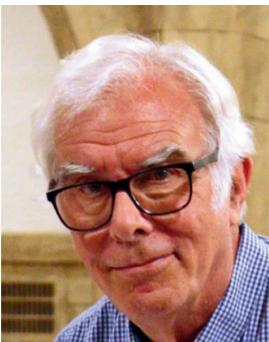


Laura Thomas is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. In addition to being the Music Director of the *Dundas Valley Orchestra*, she is also the Artistic Director of the Hamilton/Niagara area *WomEnchant Chorus & Drummers* and Conductor of Hamilton's *Hope & Harmony* choir. Her past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

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.

Sarena Paton, soprano



Sarena Paton grew up in Dundas, Ontario. While she appeared on Mr. Dress-Up and Road to Avonlea, it was her singing that, in those early years, truly started to define her. At the age of five, she started singing for residents in nursing homes to connect with people. She trained in classical music and learned songs of the big bands and the World War era from her grandmother, a WWII veteran.

Her angelic crossover sound has taken Sarena to stages in Europe, South America and Canada. She has performed with notable musicians including John McDermott, the late Rita MacNeil and Phantom of the Opera star Peter Karrie.

Her devotion to WWII veterans and current military and peacekeepers throughout the country is something Sarena treasures. It has taken her to performances on Parliament Hill, Queen's Park, the Canadian Military Tattoo and ceremonies for fallen RCMP officers throughout the province. She was also honoured to perform the songs of Vera Lynn on Juno Beach, France.

One of Sarena's goals with her music is to give back through charitable work. She has worked with Canadian Food for Children, Canadian Food Banks, MS Society, Canadian Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Association, the Lung Association and St. Joseph's Villa.

Her independent recordings include: La Carissima, recorded with the Moscow Studio Symphony Orchestra; Remember, honouring veterans and peacekeepers; and, Almost Like Love, showcasing her love of jazz standards.



Sohan Mukherjee, violinist



2024 DVO and Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art (HAALSA) Young Musician Award Winner

Sohan Mukherjee is a Grade 5 student attending Greensville Elementary School in Dundas, Ontario. He is an aspiring young musician with a passion for playing classical music on the violin since the age of 7 and piano since the age of 3. Sohan is an active member of the senior Cricket Chamber Orchestra in Dundas, Ontario and has had experience playing as a soloist in the orchestra since 2022. He has completed the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) grade two certification in violin and grade two RCM certification in piano with First Class Honours with Distinction. At the 2024 Guelph Kiwanis Festival, Sohan was selected as a provincial nominee for the Ontario Kiwanis Festival Competition in piano and awarded a music scholarship. He also received a platinum award in violin at the 2023 Toronto Kiwanis Festival. His love of music outside of violin and piano extends to the ukulele, recorder and singing in the Greensville Elementary School choir. In his free time, Sohan enjoys playing ball hockey, swimming and skiing.

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Dr. Sarah Baker, Psychologist

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

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Hamilton Amateur Astronomers



The Hamilton Amateur Astronomers is a non-profit organization dedicated to the enjoyment and advancement of astronomy. We are the largest independent astronomy club in Canada.

Each month we host public meetings featuring presentations by professional and amateur astronomers, release a monthly newsletter and hold public stargazing events in Hamilton and surrounding area. Our local dark sky site is available to members for observing.

The club also offers new members an introduction to astronomy program and a loaner telescope program. If members do not have their own telescope, they can borrow one from the club. Other club activities may include the telescope making group, astronomy book club, astrophotography group and the cosmology discussion group.

Learn more by visiting amateurastronomy.org.

The Dougher Community Fund

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The Dundas Valley Orchestra is especially grateful to the Dougher Community Fund for its financial support of today's concert. The Dougher Community Fund is administered by the Hamilton Community Foundation.



Photo by Rick Kelsch

Musicians of the Dundas Valley Orchestra

VIOLIN I

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

VIOLIN II

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

VIOLA

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

CELLO

Baya Vertes
PRINCIPAL
Mary Ann Bastien
Lianne Tan
Kate Lynn Robles
Lyndsay Cartwright
Saskia Van Arragon*
Gideon Bell*
Hannah Ince*
Oliver Wesley-James**

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
Amanda Helli
Michael Westwood

BASSOON

Timothy Fox
PRINCIPAL

HORN

Andrew Lappin
PRINCIPAL
Winston Munro
Linda Thomas
Erin Grant
Ian Kivell*

TRUMPET

Jeff Reynolds
PRINCIPAL
Robyn Pitts
Barbara Gatt
Ashley Grieve
Elizabeth Carbonneau*

TROMBONE

Dan Grieve
PRINCIPAL
Rick Harper
John Stockton

TUBA

David Pearson

TIMPANI

Simon Woodside
PRINCIPAL

PERCUSSION

James Locke
PRINCIPAL
Patricia Ward
Debi Sproule

HARP

Diana Hill
PRINCIPAL

ORGAN

Fredric Devries

PIANO

Larry Allen
Clement Ng

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR

Larry Allen

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Mark Thomas

**On leave*

**Founding member*

Our Space Odyssey

In partnership with the **Hamilton Amateur Astronomers**

Laura Thomas, Music Director, DVO

Larry Allen, Associate Music Director, DVO[^]

Sarena Paton, Soprano^ε

Sohan Mukherjee, HAALSA Young Musician Award Winner^β

Students of the Hamilton Suzuki School of Music^φ

Richard Strauss

Also Sprach Zarathustra, Op. 30

I. Introduction "Sunrise"

Joseph Haydn

Overture to *Il Mondo della Luna*

John Estacio

Wondrous Light

Music by Harry Warren, lyrics by Leo Robin^ε

A Journey to a Star

John Williams[^]

Theme from *E.T. (the Extraterrestrial)*

Arr. by Calvin Custer

Star Trek Through the Years

Shinichi Suzuki^φ

Twinkle Variations

Gustav Holst arr. by L. Thomas^φ

Theme from *Jupiter* (from *The Planets*)

Friedrich Seitz^β

Student's Concerto #2 in G Major

Leigh Harline and Ned Washington^ε

arr. by **Mark Hayes**

When You Wish Upon a Star

Program

Sunday,
November 9, 2025

3 p.m.

*Dedicated to the memory
of Steven Burditt*

About the Music

Notes by Stan Alama

Richard Strauss (1864 – 1949)

Also Sprach Zarathustra, Op. 30, I. Introduction "Sunrise"

The life of Richard Strauss spanned a wide range of musical styles. His compositions, which featured many operas and tone poems, extend the German romanticism of Wagner and Liszt but also moved into more modern, dissonant styles, influencing Schoenberg, Berg, and Britten. He composed the tone poem *Thus Spake Zarathustra* in 1896, a suite of nine movements based on Nietzsche's novel with the same title. The prelude is dramatic and familiar, having been used in the film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. It evokes the dawn, as the first soft glimmer of light opens to reveal the brilliant sunrise in a rising crescendo.

Franz Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)

Overture to *Il Mondo della Luna*

Haydn composed the opera buffa *The World on the Moon* in 1777, for performance at the wedding of his patron's son, Count Nikolas Esterhazy. The libretto was written in 1750 by Carlo Goldoni, a popular librettist of the time, and in fact Haydn's was the seventh adaptation of the same Goldoni book. Goldoni wrote comic scenarios, inspired by Molière, and *The World on the Moon* includes such frivolities as a magical elixir which transports a character to the moon, where he will meet with the Lunar Emperor. Haydn evokes life on the moon with the key of E-flat, which at the time was associated with darker and more mysterious moods. Haydn reused the main themes of the overture in the first movement of his 63rd Symphony.

John Estacio (b. 1966)

Scherzo: Wondrous Light

John Estacio is a Canadian composer, born in 1966 in Newmarket, Ontario. Estacio was composer-in-residence with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in 1997, when he composed the three-part orchestral suite *Borealis*, which is inspired by the dancing lights of the Aurora Borealis. Wondrous Light is the second movement of the suite. A melody introduced by the oboe is repeated, twisted rhythmically, with dramatic swells and glissandi to symbolize the frayed energy and soaring color spirals of the Northern Lights.

Harry Warren (1893 – 1981) and Leo Robin (1895 – 1984)

A Journey to a Star

This song premiered in the 1943 movie musical, *The Gang's All Here*, starring Carmen Miranda and with elaborate numbers choreographed by Busby Berkeley, featuring extravagant hats piled with fruits. The scantily clad dancers (carrying oversize bananas) were deemed quite racy for the time, and the film could not be shown in Brazil, and raised concerns with Hollywood censors as well. Alice Faye sang *A Journey to a Star* in the film, but it became a big hit when Judy Garland released her version the next year.

About the music

John Williams (b. 1932)

Theme from *E.T. (the Extraterrestrial)*

John Williams has written scores for well over 100 films, and his themes are among the most recognizable orchestral compositions of the last decades. He has also composed many concerti for diverse instruments, and was conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra from 1980 to 1993. Williams won both the Academy and Grammy Awards for his score to the 1982 blockbuster film *E.T.*

Various arr. by Calvin Custer (1939 – 1998)

Star Trek through the years

With several television series and movies, *Star Trek* has contributed many familiar musical moments. The theme to the 1966 original program, written by Alexander Courage, features a wordless soprano vocal in unison with a flute and organ. This was followed in 1979 by Jerry Goldsmith's overture to the first *Trek* motion picture, very much in the bold romantic style John Williams introduced for adventure movie scores. The series *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (1987) uses a combination of Courage's and Goldsmith's melodies in the title sequence. Dennis McCarthy composed the themes for the 1993 series *Deep Space Nine* and the 1994 film *Star Trek Generations*. Jerry Goldsmith returned to the franchise for the lush title music to the 1995 series, *Voyager*.

Shinichi Suzuki (1898 – 1998)

Twinkle Variations

The Suzuki method is a theory of music education, based on the idea that children have a natural ability to learn an instrument in the same way they learn language. The *Twinkle Variations* approach the children's song, "*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*", with different rhythmic patterns, to illustrate and practice various basic bowing styles. The original melody comes from the 1761 French song, "*Ah! vous dirais-je, maman*"; English lyrics were added by Jane Taylor in 1806. Mozart composed a remarkable suite of twelve variations on this tune in 1781.

Gustav Holst (1874 – 1934) arr. by L. Thomas

Theme from *Jupiter (from The Planets)*

Holst composed his seven-part orchestral suite *The Planets* between 1914 and 1916, with movements representing Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. The suite is not motivated by astronomy (or even Greek mythology), but rather astrology. *Jupiter* is subtitled "Bringer of Jollity", and it is the most jovial and melodious of the set. A carnival atmosphere reigns, as the music jumps busily from one tempo to another between lyric passages.

About the music

Friedrich Seitz (1848 – 1918)

Student's Concerto #2 in G major

Friedrich Seitz was a German violinist and composer who was a popular and successful teacher at several musical academies. To better train his students he composed eight violin concerti and three piano trios intended for student use. These are designed to help the young soloist develop technique and tonal quality, without the virtuosic difficulties in show pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, or Mendelssohn.

Leigh Harline (1907 – 1969) and Ned Washington (1901 – 1976) arr. M. Hayes
When You Wish Upon a Star

This song was written for the 1940 Disney feature film *Pinocchio*, and is heard during the opening credits. It was sung by Cliff Edwards (known as "Ukulele Ike") as his character Jiminy Cricket in the story. It won the Academy Award for Best Original Song, the first time a song from a Disney film was so honored.



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

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Invest in the future of the DVO and support our programs by donating by
December 31, 2025.

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.

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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MUSIC CONCERT

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 3 P.M.
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DVO 2025/26 SEASON

The DVO presents The Nancy Cassels Christmas Chamber Music Concert

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

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.

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.

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