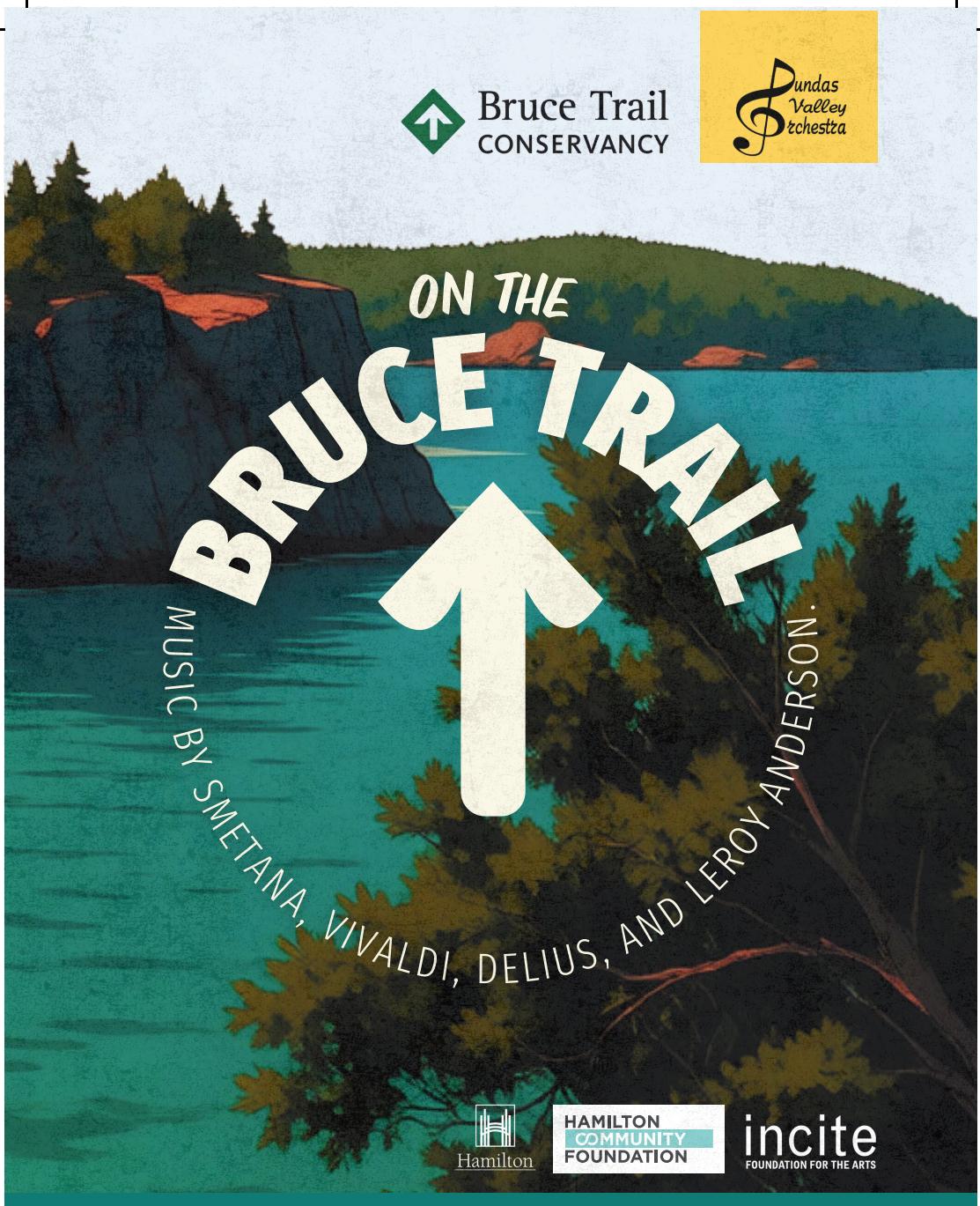
Bruce Trail CONSERVANCY

Dundas Valley Orchestra



Hamilton

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

incite FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

CONCERT PROGRAM

Dundas Valley Orchestra

NOVEMBER 8, 2026

Laura Thomas, Music Director

Mark Vivian Debruyn-Smith

Sales Representative B.A., Broker Hons.B.A.





Call us for a free no-obligation home evaluation, or just to discuss what is happening in today's market.

(905) 570-2500 | INFO@HAMILTONHOMES.CA

HAMILTONHOMES.CA

ROYAL LEPAGE

STATE REALTY

BROKERAGE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED

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 Mississauguas 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

@DundasValleyOrchestra
@DundasValleyOrchestra4839
@DundasValleyOrchestra

Best of
HAMILTON
READERS’ CHOICE AWARDS 2025

Platinum winner, Best Local Musician or Band
and Gold winner, Best Local Entertainment

Directors, Patrons & Partners

Laura Thomas
Music Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Jeff Reynolds,
President
Michael Westwood,
Vice-President
Claire Morris, Treasurer
Jim Jones, Secretary

Members-at-Large
Sharon Millar
Andrea Bandow
Brenda Hurlburt
Margaret Sherman-Bell
Glenn Welbourn
Baya Vertes
Kate Lynn Robles
Rudin Knights*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
Laura Thomas,
Music Director
Larry Allen,
Associate Music Director
Naomi Dore Brown,
Concertmaster
Homer Seyward, Librarian
Christina Brook, Archivist
Mark Thomas,
Composer-in-Residence

PATRONS & PARTNERS
The Dundas Valley Orchestra relies on donations to support the purchase of music and instruments, engage soloists and rent rehearsal and performance spaces.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and support of our patrons and partners.

PATRONS
Bob Simpson
Cathie Simpson
Andy Tafler
Jennifer Tafler

PARTNERS
Chorus Hamilton
The Hamilton Suzuki School of Music
Bruce Trail Conservancy
Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science, and Art (HAALSA)
St. Paul's United Church
West Plains United Church

**On leave*



Laura Thomas, Music Director

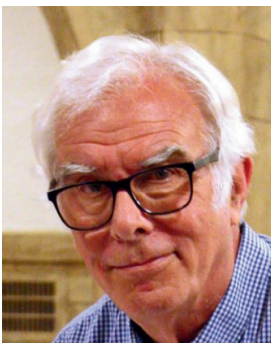


Laura Thomas is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. In addition to being the Music Director of the *Dundas Valley Orchestra*, she is also the Artistic Director of the Hamilton/Niagara area *WomEnchant Chorus & Drummers* and Conductor of Hamilton's *Hope & Harmony* choir. Her past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

Valerie Gordon, Violin



Oakville based violinist Valerie Gordon is an avid performer and teacher. As a performer, Valerie believes in the power of music to move audiences, and focus many of her musical endeavours on historical performance practice. Valerie partners with both her beloved 18th century Flemish violin, and early 20th century Dutch instrument, to explore repertoire from baroque to contemporary.

Recent activities include performances and recordings with Tafelmusik, Handel and Haydn Society (Boston), Opera Atelier, Trinity Bach Project, Holland Baroque Society (The Netherlands), Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, and concerts with Elixir Baroque Ensemble- of which she is a founding member. Valerie is also the curator of the summer concert series at Mount Pleasant, in Toronto, Ontario.

Valerie has her own private studio in Oakville, Ontario. As a teacher, Valerie strives to instil a sense of wonder in her students. She believes that learning is best done through a positive and nurturing environment, surrounded by tools and information to support the student's musical development. Valerie has adjudicated for the Toronto and St. John's Kiwanis festivals, and has been part of the adjudicating team for the Ontario Music Festival Association Provincial Finals.

Valerie has completed a Bachelor's Degree in music performance from McGill University in Montreal, an Artist's Diploma from The Glenn Gould School in Toronto, and a Master's Degree in Early Music from Indiana University.

Richard Cunningham, Countertenor



Richard Cunningham has had a career spanning more than half a century as a soloist, chorister and conductor. A Juno award winner with Les Violons du Roy, Richard also has sung all across Europe and North America. He has premiered song cycles as a singer and conducted first performances of a number of orchestral and choral works. Today, partly retired, Richard is making his debut with the Dundas Valley Orchestra, and is looking forward to re-acquainting with Laura Thomas with whom he collaborated for performances many years ago.

Musicians of the Dundas Valley Orchestra

VIOLIN I
Erika Bellhouse
ACTING CONCERT MASTER
Robert Brooks
Mary Anne Peters
Ron Sealey
Deborah Kanfer
Margaret Jamieson
Nicole Morino
Brenda Hurlburt
Dorota Borovsky
Jessica Ortlieb
Naomi Dore Brown*
Andrea Bandow*

VIOLIN II
Andrea Armstrong
Rory Fitz
Claire Morris
Margaret Sherman-Bell
Martin Levman
Suzanne McNeill
Aiyana Dalumpines
Claire Lechner
Priscilla Harding
Darwin Allen
Rudin Knights*

VIOLA
Glenn Welbourn
Jim Jones
Clement Ng
Irene Walker
Amrita Akhand*

CELLO
Baya Vertes
Gideon Bell
Mary Ann Bastien
Lianne Tan
Kate Lynn Robles
Scott Petrie
Lyndsay Cartwright
Saskia van Arragon*

DOUBLE BASS
David Little
Brian Liberty
Suzanne Bell

FLUTE
Mika Takahashi
Tina Brook
Brianna Hou

OBOE
Homer Seywerd
Azriel Ashmore

ENGLISH HORN
Scott Duffus

CLARINET
Michael Westwood
Stan Alama
Amanda Helli

BASS CLARINET
Amanda Helli

ALTO SAXOPHONE
Amanda Helli

BASSOON
Timothy Fox
Scott Duffus

HORN
Andrew Lappin
Keigan Macdonell
Linda Thomas
Erin Grant
Ian Kivell*

TRUMPET
Jeff Reynolds
Robyn Pitts
Barbara Gatt
Elizabeth Carbonneau

TROMBONE
Dan Grieve
Rick Harper
Emily Booth
John Stockton

TUBA
Cameron Passmore

TIMPANI
Simon Woodside

PERCUSSION
James Locke
Patricia Ward
Debi Sproule

HARP
Diana Hill

PIANO
Larry Allen
Clement Ng

ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR
Larry Allen

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE
Mark Thomas

**On leave*

On the Bruce Trail

In partnership with the Bruce Trail Conservancy

Laura Thomas, Music Director, DVO
Larry Allen, Associate Music Director, DVO[α]
Richard Cunningham, countertenor*
Valerie Gordon, violin[β]

Laura Thomas
On the Bruce Trail: *Queenston to Tobermory*

Frederick Delius
On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring

Robert McMullin
Prairie Sketches

Leroy Anderson
Summer Skies

George Frideric Handel*
Ombra Mai Fu

Peter DeRose
Autumn Serenade

Mindaugas Piečaitis
CATcerto

Antonio Vivaldi[β]
Winter, 1st movement (fromt *The Seasons*)

Bedřich Smetana
Die Moldau (from *Ma vlast*)

Program

Sunday,
November 8, 2026
3 p.m.

About the Music

Notes by Stan Alama

Laura Thomas

On the Bruce Trail: from Queenston to Tobermory

The Bruce Trail is an 890 km-long hiking path which follows the Niagara escarpment, from the Niagara River west and north to Tobermory on Lake Huron. The idea of creating a continuous walking path along the escarpment was first discussed in 1959 by Ray Lowes and Robert Bateman, of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. By 1963 regional clubs formed along the path to organize trail construction and obtain rights of passage. The trail was completed to Tobermory in time for the 1967 Centennial celebration. This composition imagines hikers cheerfully traversing the trail, with its many waterfalls, viewpoints, and diverse flora, beneath sunny skies.

Frederick Delius (1862 – 1934)

On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring

Delius was an English composer, from a musical family of German origins. His father wanted him to immerse himself in the family business, and sent him to France and to Florida to represent the firm, but he was too attracted to music to become a businessman. In 1886 his father allowed him to study music, and he enrolled in Leipzig, where Mahler served as opera director and Brahms and Tchaikovsky conducted at the Gewandhaus. He lived most of his life in Paris and a small village near Fontainebleau, France. *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring* was one of two *Pieces for Small Orchestra*, composed in 1912 and performed by the Gewandhaus orchestra in Leipzig. It was described as a "Stimmungsbilder", or mood-picture, and begins with the oboe's cuckoo call alternating with strings. The main theme is derived from a Norwegian folk song, In Ola Valley, also used by Edvard Grieg in his folk song suite.

Robert McMullin (1921 – 1995)

Prairie Sketches

McMullin was born in Utah, but his family moved to Raymond, Alberta, when he was a small child. A saxophonist, McMullin led an RCAF jazz band in Europe during the Second World War, but switched to clarinet and trumpet in CBC radio orchestras in the postwar years. He also conducted the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's pops concerts, directed orchestras and choral groups at the University of Manitoba, as well as for various CBC radio and television shows. His most typical compositions are rooted in his early life in the Rockies and Prairies, and feature western themes evoking open space, rodeos, and country-style dances. "Prairie Sketches" is such a piece; it was commissioned by the Ontario Music Educator's Association in 1958, and first performed by the CBC Symphony Orchestra in April 1959.

Leroy Anderson (1908 – 1975)
Summer Skies

Anderson was a composer of light orchestral pieces, including *Sleigh Ride, The Syncopated Clock,* and *The Typewriter*. Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he studied at the New England Conservatory and Harvard, and served as music director for Harvard student music ensembles and Boston-area dance bands. Arthur Fiedler, the long-time conductor of the Boston Pops, admired his arrangements and encouraged Anderson to compose original pieces for the orchestra. Summer Skies, written in 1953, is a calm, introspective yet sunny work.

George Friedric Handel (1685 – 1759)
Ombra Mai Fu (Largo from Xerxes)

In London in 1738, Handel conducted his opera *Serse*, based on the ancient Persian king Xerxes I. The production was not a financial success, perhaps because it mixed comic "buffo" scenes into a dramatic "opera seria". The opera opens with an aria, *Ombra Mai Fu*, sung by an appreciative Xerxes to a tree. This aria, originally scored for a countertenor or castrato, was rediscovered in the 19th century and has become one of Handel's most performed compositions.

Peter DeRose (1896 – 1953) and Sammy Gallop (1915 – 1971)
Autumn Serenade

Autumn Serenade was composed by New Yorker Peter DeRose in 1945, with lyrics by Gallop added afterwards. It was performed in the same year by Harry James and his orchestra, in a lush arrangement by Billy May featuring solos by James on trumpet, and saxophonist Corky Corcoran who also plays a haunting passage on English Horn. The mood suggests a misty autumn twilight, as the days grow shorter and the nights cooler.

Dr. Sarah Baker, Psychologist

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

DRSBAKER.CA

About the music

Mindaugas Piečaitis(b. 1969)
CATcerto

Nora the Piano Cat (2004-2024) was a stray cat, rescued from the streets of Camden, NJ, by piano teacher Betsy Alexander. After observing Betsy giving local children piano lessons for a year, Nora also took up piano. Youtube videos of Nora playing went viral in 2007, with over 40 million views. Nora would play duets with other piano students, preferring the higher notes on Betsy's Yamaha. In 2009, conductor Mindaugas Piecaitis, of the Klaipeda Chamber Orchestra in Lithuania, was inspired by Nora's videos and composed a short concerto for orchestra with Piano Cat solo, via video recording projected behind the orchestra on the stage.

Antonio Vivaldi (1678 – 1741)
Winter (L'inverno from *The Four Seasons*), Allegro non molto

Vivaldi was one of the most influential and prolific composers of the Baroque period. He developed the form of the concerto for one or more solo instruments, but also wrote at least 50 operas and many choral works as well. *The Four Seasons* was an innovative collection of violin concerti, each of which depicted seasonal scenes: bubbling streams, songbirds, hunting dogs, insects, and a thunderstorm are easy to identify. It was written sometime around 1718, when Vivaldi was court composer in Mantua, and published as part of a larger collection of concert, *Il cimento dell'armonia e dell'inventione* ("The trial of harmony and invention"). Each movement was accompanied by a sonnet, explicitly describing the scene depicted musically. For this first movement of Winter, it reads:

To tremble from cold in the icy snow,
In the harsh breath of a horrid wind;
To run, stamping one's feet every moment,
Our teeth chattering in the extreme cold

Bedřich Smetana (1824 – 1884)
Die Moldau

Smetana was a Czech composer, the first to import traditional Bohemian folk themes into classical music. Born in a village east of Prague, Smetana was brought up and educated in the dominant German language and culture of the Austrian Habsburg empire. Won over by the nationalist revolutionary movement of 1848, he became a Czech partisan, writing two marches and The Song to Freedom, and manning barricades to oppose Austrian forces.

In 1874 Smetana began work on a suite of six symphonic poems, *Má Vlast* (or, My Homeland). The second of these was *Die Moldau* (Vltava, in Czech,) follows the Moldau River from its source in the Bohemian forest on the Austrian border, through Prague, and north to the Elbe. It begins with cascades of mountain streams, starting in the flutes and building in the woodwinds. The lower strings take over the rippling waves as the flow builds, and the violins enter with the sunny main theme. The horns lead a transition to a forest hunt scene, which then fades away to a stately country wedding dance. This is

About the music

followed by the shimmering Moonlight Dance of the Nymphs, and a return to the main theme. Suddenly, the calm is broken by the lower brass as the river passes the Rapids of St. John. Trumpets herald the finale, the Vysehrad Castle, a melody borrowed from the first poem in the suite.

By the time of the first performance of Die Moldau in 1875, Smetana had become deaf as a result of syphilis, which would eventually lead to blindness, hallucinations, and death.



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

Live!@WestPlains presents

COZY CONCERTS *in a* COZY SPACE 2026

CONCERTS AT 2:30 P.M. | WATCH LIVE & VIA LIVESTREAM
WEST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH, BURLINGTON
LOCATED NEXT TO THE ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS



OCT 25

MILLWOOD TRIO
Chamber Scenes

COLAMICI & CIRCLE OF HARMONY
Sing, Choirs of Angels

NOV 22





DEC 19

SULTANS OF STRING
with **OAKVILLE CHOIR**
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
Christmas Caravan

WESTPLAINSCONCERTS@GMAIL.COM
WESTPLAINSUNITEDCHURCH
WESTPLAINS.CA/EVENTS | (905) 320-4989

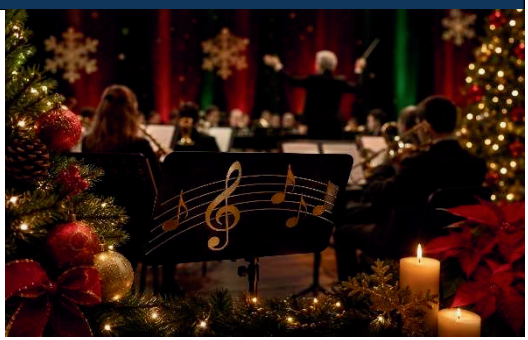
BURLINGTON CONCERT BAND

info@burlingtonconcertband.ca
www.burlingtonconcertband.ca
burlingtonconcertband
burlingtonconcertband

UPCOMING CONCERTS

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Sunday,
December 13, 2026
2:00 p.m.
HolidayInn
3063 South Service Road





MARCH MADNESS

Sunday, March 7,2027
4:00 p.m.
Grace United Church
2111 Walkers Line

WEATHER ... OR NOT

Sunday, May 16, 2027
4:00 p.m.
Grace United Church
2111 Walkers Line



Make Your Feet Sing



TEN TOE'N

STROLL | WALK | RUN SHOE SHOP

289.244.3245 | info@tentoenshoeshop.ca

16 McMurray St. - Unit 1, Dundas | tentoenshoeshop.ca

DISCOVER LOCAL TREASURES

Monthly Exhibitions | Unique Gifts | Free Admission







Visit Today : Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm | Sunday, 12pm - 4pm

www.carnegiegallery.org | 905 - 627 - 4265 | 10 King St. West, Dundas

Carnegie GALLERY

Turner Family FUNERAL HOME

Friendly affordable family care since 1837.



Your family deserves friendly, affordable care whether you choose a traditional funeral, simple cremation or a celebration of life.

Our family will provide you with affordable services customized to meet and exceed your family's needs.

- beautiful and convenient downtown location with ample parking
- on-site chapel and newly renovated reception centre
- family owned and operated funeral home since 1837
- affordable cremation and burial options
- customized funerals, memorials and celebrations of life
- long history of supporting your community

ASK US TODAY ABOUT OUR AFFORDABLE BURIAL AND CREMATION OPTIONS.

Turner Family funeral home is the friendly and affordable choice for you and your family.

turnerfamilyfuneralhome.ca

53 Main St. Dundas, Ontario | Call us at: 905-628-6412

Administration

ARTISTIC ADMINISTRATION

Homer Seyward
Librarian

Christina Brook
Archivist

Margaret Sherman-Bell
Ensembles Coordinator

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Andrea Bandow
Community Engagement

COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Stan Alama
Social Media & Program Notes

Ian Kivell
Social Media

Simon Woodside
Web Support

Kate Lynn Robles
Graphic Design

PATRON SERVICES

Izzy Ferguson
Front of House Manager & Volunteer Coordinator

Thank you to all of our concert-day volunteers! Your time and dedication are greatly appreciated.

Oakville
BLUEPRINTING

WE'RE MORE THAN JUST
BLUEPRINTS

- Business Cards
- Letterhead and Envelopes
- Postcards and Doorhangers
- Flyers and Brochures
- Presentations
- NCR Forms
- Manuals & Reports
- Presentation Folders
- Greeting Cards
- Note Pads
- Posters and Photo Printing
- Banners
- Retractable Banner Stands
- Mesh Banners
- Coroplast Signage
- Construction Signage
- Foamcore Printing
- A Frames
- Window Decals
- Labels and Stickers



136 Kerr Street, Oakville, Ontario L6K 3A7
905.842.2432 print@oakvilleblueprinting.ca
www.oakvilleblueprinting.ca

FREE ADMISSION
DONATIONS WELCOME

Hamilton

HAMILTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Dundas Valley Orchestra

MICHAEL WESTWOOD, ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR

Members of the
DUNDAS VALLEY ORCHESTRA
present

Nancy Cassels

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

NOVEMBER 22, 2026 | 2 P.M.
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, DUNDAS

DUNDASVALLEYORCHESTRA.CA

Become a Friend of the DVO



As a Friend of the DVO, you can support our percussion section.

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.

Your gift will also support:

- Free community concert programming on stage at St. Paul's United Church.
- Live streaming of concerts directly to retirement facilities and viewers at home.
- Ensemble performances at local long-term care and retirement residences in Dundas.
- Music education outreach at public schools and community groups in Dundas.
- Partnership and performance opportunities with other musicians and arts organizations.

Invest in the future of the DVO and support our programs by donating by December 31, 2026.

Symphony ($500+)
Suite ($350 – $499)
Overture ($200 – $349)
Rondo ($100 – $199)
Aria ($50 – $99)

All *Friends of the DVO* and ongoing donors will be recognized in our final concert program in June 2027. Memorial and anonymous donations are also appreciated.

Charitable receipts are issued for donations over $10.

To donate securely online, find us at CanadaHelps.org/en/charities/**dundas-valley-orchestra**

Contact **DVOcontact@gmail.com** for more information.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING OUR NEXT PROGRAM WITH YOU

The Nancy Cassels Chamber Music Concert

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

The DVO presents our Nancy Cassels Chamber Music Concert with an eclectic mix of music from the Celtic highlands, Parisian salons and the palaces of Vienna. Music by Mendelssohn, Mozart and others performed by DVO musicians, our Salon Orchestra and Celtic Cadence.

Celebrating Black History

February 28, 2027 | St. Augustine's Catholic Church, Dundas

The DVO and the Grand River Chorus combine forces to present a concert of music celebrating Black history and culture. The featured work will be John Rutter's Feel the Spirit, a cycle of seven spirituals for choir and orchestra. The program will also include music by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor and Nathaniel Dett.

Beethoven's Lasting Legacy

June 6, 2027 | St. Paul's United Church, Dundas

In honour of the 200th anniversary of Beethoven's death, the DVO will present a concert celebrating the legacy of one the most influential and pivotal composers in the history of Western music. The program will feature music inspired by Beethoven by Canadian composer Larysa Kuzmenko, the DVO trombone quartet performing music by Beethoven and the great "Eroica" Symphony No. 3.

Thank you for joining us!

DUNDASVALLEYORCHESTRA.CA