

Cathedral Bluffs SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Martin MacDonald
Music Director



Friday February 2, 2024

PC Ho Theatre - Chinese Cultural Centre

CONCERT PROGRAM

Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra
Martin MacDonald, conductor

Sultans of String

Chris McKhool, violin, vocals

Drew Birston, bass, vocals

Kevin Laliberté, guitar, vocals

Indigenous Artists

Marc Meriläinen (Nadjiwan), Ojibwe Guitarist, singer

Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk, (Métis Fiddler Quartet), Métis Violist, singer

Shannon Thunderbird, Ts'msyen Singer, drummer

The North Sound, (w/ Forrest Eaglespeaker – Blackfoot singer, and Nevada Eaglespeaker, singer)

Virtual guests

Dr. Duke Redbird, Chippewa/Anishinaabe Elder

Northern Cree, Pow-Wow group

Kendra Tagoona & Tracy Sarazin, Inuit singers

Leela Gilday & Leanne Taneton, Dene vocals & spoken word

A Beautiful Darkness Marc Meriläinen

By Marc Meriläinen, arr with Sultans of String

Chanson de Riel / Tkaronto Reel Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk

Chanson de Riel - Music Traditional, Words by Louis Riel

Tkaronto Reel by Nicholas Delbaere-Sawchuck, arr. by Métis Fiddler Quartet and Sultans of String

The Power of the Land

Words by Duke Redbird, Music by Sultans of String

Highway of Tears

Music by Don Ross and Sultans of String

Humma Kendra Tagoona and Tracy Sarazin

Traditional Inuit, arr. with Kendra Tagoona, Tracy Sarazin and Sultans of String

Sweet Alberta The North Sound

Words by Duke Redbird, Music by Chris McKhool, arr. with Sultans of String

Kó Leela Gilday and Leanne Taneton

Words & Melody by Leela Gilday and Leanne Taneton, Music by Sultans of String

Luna Sultans of String, Shannon Thunderbird spoken intro

Music by Chris McKhool / Kevin Laliberté

INTERMISSION

Lost and Found Shannon Thunderbird

Words and Melody by Shannon Thunderbird, arr. with Sultans of String

Our Mother the Earth Dr. Duke Redbird

Words by Duke Redbird, Music by Sultans of String

Quviasuliqpunga Kendra Tagoona and Tracy Sarazin

Traditional Inuit, arr. with Kendra Tagoona, Tracy Sarazin and Sultans of String

Take Off the Crown Marc Meriläinen

Words by Raven Kanatakta and ShoShona Kish, Music by Sultans of String

Nimihito (Dance) Northern Cree

Lyrics by Leroy Whitstone, Music by Leroy Whitstone and Sultans of String

The Rez Marc Meriläinen

Music by Crystal Shawanda

We Met in Tkaronto Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk

Music by Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk

Rainflower/Kitchen Party Sultans of String

Music by Chris McKhool / Kevin Laliberté

Auyuittuq Sunrise Sultans of String

Music by Chris McKhool / Kevin Laliberté

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

MARTIN MACDONALD

Martin MacDonald is one of Canada's most dynamic and outstanding young conductors and has been awarded both the Heinz Unger Award and the Jean-Marie Beaudet Award for orchestral conducting. Martin has guest conducted extensively across Canada having worked with the orchestras of Toronto, National Arts Centre, Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Kingston, Kitchener-Waterloo, London, Niagara, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, Windsor, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland. He has served as a Cover and Guest Conductor for the National Ballet of Canada for several productions, and has worked with the Minnesota Ballet, Atlantic Ballet, and Halifax Dance. Martin has recorded extensively for the CBC and for several commercial recordings. Most notably, Martin has served as Resident Conductor, Associate Conductor, and a regular guest conductor of Symphony Nova Scotia since 2008 with over 200 performances in a diverse range of programs and artists. Previously, Martin served as Associate Conductor of the National Academy Orchestra of Canada, and has participated in several international conducting workshops and competitions.



Martin has a Master's in Orchestral Conducting from McGill, a Bachelor's in Cello from Memorial, and has studied conducting with Alexis Hauser, Bernhard Gueller, Boris Brott, Michael Jinbo, Kenneth Kiesler, Gustav Meier, Jorma Panula, and Johannes Schlaefli. Martin's conducting activities have been generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts. Cape Breton born, Martin is the youngest of twelve children and has a diverse musical background with a strong Celtic music tradition including extensive touring and performing with members of his family throughout Europe and North America.

Martin resides in Toronto, Ontario with his wife, Kristen and their daughter, Frances.

SULTANS OF STRING

3x JUNO Award nominees and New York Times feature pick Sultans of String creates "Energetic and exciting music from a band with talent to burn!" (UK's Maverick Magazine). Thrilling their audiences with their genre - hopping passport of flamenco, Celtic reels, roots and Cuban rhythms, the group celebrates musical fusion and human creativity with warmth and virtuosity. Fiery violin dances with rumba - flamenco guitar, while bass lays down unstoppable grooves. Acoustic strings meet with electronic wizardry to create layers and depth of sound, while world rhythms excite audiences to their feet with the irresistible need to dance.



Sultans of String has recorded and performed with several jazz, world, folk and pop artists including Béla Fleck, the Chieftains, Pavlo, Amanda Martinez, Richard Bona, Ruben Blades, Yasmin Levy, and Nikki Yanofsky. Equally at home in a concert hall or festival setting, the Sultans have gigged at the legendary club Birdland NYC, the renowned U.K.'s Celtic Connections Festival, and the San Jose Jazz Festival. They have performed with symphonies across North America, and played live on BBC TV, Irish National Radio, World Cafe and SiriusXM in Washington. They just released their feature length film *Refuge - Visual Album* at a dozen film festivals worldwide.

GUEST ARTISTS

ALYSSA DELBAERE-SAWCHUK

Born in Winnipeg, **Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk** has completed a doctorate in classical and fiddle music traditions on the viola at the Université de Montréal. Upon learning about her Red River Métis roots, she discovered the old native and Métis style of fiddling traditions. Alyssa's mentorship with Ojibwe elder fiddler Lawrence "Teddy Boy" Houle led her to collaborate with his brother, James Flett, in creating *Oméigwessi, Reel Métis: A Tribute to Walter Flett*, which won Best Fiddle and Best Instrumental Album at the 2008 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards. She is also a member of the Métis Fiddler Quartet. Their release, *North West Voyage*, received the Best Traditional Album award at the 2012 Canadian Folk Music Awards. Alyssa's passion for access to arts education has led her to develop innovative Indigenous inspired methodologies that integrate teachings of Métis history, music and culture with movement and dance. She has led her workshops at the Art Gallery of Ontario and Royal Ontario Museum. Most recently, Alyssa was selected as the Indigenous representative and artistic producer of *Kuné: Canada's Global Orchestra*, a project incubated by the Royal Conservatory of Music in 2017.



MARC MERILÄINEN

Born in Lynn Lake, Manitoba and raised in Thunder Bay, **Marc Meriläinen's** heritage can be traced to the Chippewas of Nawash, Cape Croker. Transforming the sound and image of Indigenous music has been one of Marc Meriläinen's goals from the very beginning, and his prodigious output has been recognized in many corners, including the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards, the Native American Music Awards, the Indigenous Music Awards, and Toronto's Dora Mavor Moore Awards for the Performing Arts, along with invitations to perform at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics and the 2015 Pan-Am Games in Toronto. From his early days as creator and performer of the multi-award nominated contemporary indigenous rock project NADJIWAN to currently producing the next wave of Indigenous musical



artists, Marc has worked with numerous artists to help launch and further their career development. In addition to writing and producing acts Marc has also promoted and produced various live shows and events including Planet IndigenUs at Harbourfront Centre and the Original People, Original Songs concert series.

SHANNON THUNDERBIRD

Shannon Thunderbird, M.A., B.A. (Hons.), is a Ts'msyen Elder originally from the Pacific northwest coast of British Columbia: Gilut'sau Band of the Royal House of Niis'gumiik, Gispudwada (Orca) Clan. She is an international speaker, singer-songwriter, recording artist, painter, and writer. Her fireside chats, lectures, and original music open the minds and hearts of audiences to the rich culture and history of Canada's Indigenous people. She is the founder and artistic director of Teya Peya Productions, and lead vocalist with her trio, Amgan Łiklgaawks (Red Cedar Sisters). She performs with Sultans of String, and choirs across the country.



THE NORTH SOUND

The North Sound is cold like a Saskatchewan winter, humid like a summer day in the streets of Montreal, and is unpredictable like the weather on a singular day in Calgary. The North Sound is ever-changing with lyrics spanning across haunting metaphors and a sound balanced between today's modern production and the era of Gram Parsons and Emmylou Harris blazing the highways. Formed in 2014 by Forrest Eaglespeaker supported by his partner Nevada Freistadt, The North Sound was created as a way to share stories in keeping true to Forrest's Blackfoot identity and traditions from Treaty 7 Territory. The North Sound has had four singles reach number one on the Indigenous Music Countdown as well as Saskatchewan's MBC Radio, has won Sask Music's Indigenous Artist of the Year award, and has received three nominations from the SCMA; Group of the Year, Roots Album of the Year, and their song "Heavy Heart" up for Producer of the Year with Jesse Wieman. Sharing the stage with the likes of Blue Rodeo, Kathleen Edwards, Eagle and Hawk, Derek Miller, Susan Aglukark, Celeigh Cardinal, Logan Staats, and many more, The North Sound has performed at multiple venues and festivals across Canada and the United States.



CHRIS MCKHOOL

Bandleader **Chris McKhool** is a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal recipient for his work creating community through music. He produces, composes and plays violin with Billboard charting Sultans of String, who's CDs have earned 3 JUNO Award Nominations for Instrumental and World Album of the Year, the SiriusXM World Music Award and six Canadian Folk Music Awards out of eleven nominations. His passion for exploring rhythms and melodies has led him far and wide, learning about instruments and styles from around the world. As producer he received a nomination for Producer of the Year for the 2018 CFMAs, and won Producer of the Year for the 2020 Independent Music Awards and 2023 CFMAs. He won the inaugural PIVOT AWARD from CIMA for creating the Sultans Zoom Room series, as well as the Cannes World Film Festival Award, producing a documentary called Sultans of String: The Refuge Project, based on their albums Refuge and Sanctuary.



KEVIN LALIBERTE

Kevin Laliberté's original compositions from his hit CDs One, Sundance, Siesta and Elation have been featured on many TV shows. They can also be heard nation-wide on radio and satellite music services. They represent a meeting of many aspects of Kevin's experience as a guitarist melding flamenco rhythms, a jazz improvisational approach, and a pop melodic sensibility. Kevin grew up in an environment filled with music. Many family members played an instrument or two, and family gatherings often included some kind of impromptu jam session. His mother played accordion and taught at the Ontario Conservatory. Like many Canadian teenagers in the 1980's, Kevin played guitar in various high school rock bands, and continued his musical studies. A chance purchase of a Pat Metheny record opened his ears to the sound of jazz, and set a new direction for Kevin's musical pursuits. In addition to performing his own works, Kevin has toured around the globe with international artists Jesse Cook, the Chieftains, Sultans of String, performed on the Tonight Show with Charlotte Church, and in Beijing with Chinese recording artist Dadawa.



DREW BIRSTON

Drew Birston is a versatile bassist and singer/songwriter living in Toronto, Canada. He is a one-of-a-kind player, with a rare gift for groove, swing, lines and melody. He has been active on the Jazz and Pop scene recording, performing and touring with a wide variety of artists for 20 years on well over a hundred sessions with a wide variety of artists in folk, jazz, songwriter and pop genres. After completing jazz studies in Antigonish, NS and Montréal, QC, the Toronto music scene was calling and he started performing with Lava Hay, The Leslie Spit Treeo, The Wild Strawberries, Melanie Doane, Chantal Kreviazuk, Justin Hines, Tomi Swick, Lily Frost and Moon V Sun. He has also had the great fortune to work with producers such as Brent Bodrug, Justin Abedin, Ron Lopata, Danny Leblanc, George Seara and Stephan Moccio and has appeared on over a hundred recordings including nine with Sultans of String.



WALKING THROUGH THE FIRE SPONSORS

Sultans of String would like to acknowledge funding support from non-Indigenous funding streams of the Ontario Arts Council, an agency of the Government of Ontario, and Canada Council for the Arts.



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THE ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN 1

Alexander Gangurean,
Concertmaster
Laura Brownell
Dana Bultje
David Colpitts
Clive Davis
Andrea Dickinson
Pamella Fell
Wendy Frey
Kirsten Hambleton
Lois Robinson

VIOLIN 2

Emily Misura**
Rod Gonzaga
Natali Jamal
Susan Ross
Wendy Seravalle-Smith
Cathy Tubb
Nicole Yoshimura

VIOLA

Valentina Ceaicovscaia*
Carol Burton
Anna Heath
Kunihiro Ito
Leise Warner
Eve Wyatt

CELLO

Oleg Volkov*
Ivan Chu
Barbara Dickson
Shonagh McVean
Michael Remenyi
David Rodrigo
Mary Kay Winter

BASS

Stephen Haynes*
Maximos Farmakidis
David Harvey
Kerry Johnston
Ernie Mee
Michael Penafiel

Flute

Christine Fong*
Rana Mireskandari

OBOE

Helen Graham**
Andre Manivong

CLARINET

Elizabeth Day*
Kathy Liddle

BASSOON

Dorothy Ward**
Tom Kelimbet

HORN

Samir Abd-Elmessih*
Robert Henderson
Theresa Harding
Joan Weir

TRUMPET

Tim Hendrickson*
Tim Birtch

TROMBONE

David King*
Tony Ellis

BASS TROMBONE

Brian Maltman

TUBA

Alex Smith

TIMPANI

Yang Chen

PERCUSSION

Mary Thomson*
Scott McBride

* Principal

** Acting principal

Join us at our next concert



SCHEHERAZADE

Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 8 pm
Martin MacDonald, conductor
Jennifer Stephen, tuba

“ Prior to joining the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony as Principal Tubist, Jennifer was and remains an active freelance tubist in Ontario and across the country, performing with ensembles such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company Orchestra and the National Ballet Orchestra of Canada ”

Cathedral Bluffs
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Martin MacDonald, Music Director

OPEN HOUSE & FREE CONCERT



Open House & FREE Concert Saturday, March 9, 2024

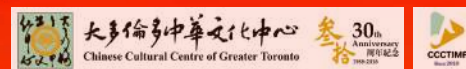
Open House - 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Free Concert - 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Featuring Max Tian, piano

Winner of the 2023 CCCTIMF Concerto Competition

P.C. Ho Theatre - Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto
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more info: www.cathedralbluffs.com

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We would also like to thank all donors who wish to remain anonymous.

Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra is a registered charitable organization and gratefully accepts donations of any amount.

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YOUR SUPPORT COUNTS!

The Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra is sustained by its patrons and generous contributions and grants. The quality and scale of the orchestra's performances, as well as our collaborations with other arts organizations, involve significant costs. Ticket sales are an important and growing source of revenue, but they cover only a portion of our annual expenses. The orchestra is a registered non-profit charitable organization and provides tax receipts for donations of any amount.

(Charity # 89036 4573 RR0001) To donate today, please visit our website at: www.cathedralbluffs.com/support-us/



CATHEDRAL BLUFFS TEAM

Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra has a long history of presenting the power of live orchestral music to the local community in Scarborough and Greater Toronto. Founded in 1985, Cathedral Bluffs has brought to life some of the greatest musical masterpieces, presented internationally acclaimed performers and helped to introduce some of Canada's rising stars in their debut performances with a symphony orchestra.

The Board of Directors, Music Director, and members of the orchestra are committed to continually improving diversity and inclusion in artistic programming, audience outreach and membership development.

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Non-discrimination Policy: In accordance with the City of Toronto's policies, the CBSO has adopted and upholds its commitment to a policy of non-discrimination and right to be free of hate activity based on race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, disability, citizenship, creed, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, marital status, family status, receipt of public assistance, political affiliation, religious affiliation, record of offenses, level of literacy or any other personal characteristics.

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On behalf of Imperial Graphics, we would like to commend the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra for your positive engagement with the community. We are thrilled to hear about their inspiring concerts in the Scarborough community, and we are proud to support and partner with this non-profit Arts Organization.
BRAVO to all involved!

We would like to thank
Remenyi House of Music
for your unwavering support
of our orchestra.

*When you own the perfect piano,
other possessions fade in importance.
Visit Remenyi House of Music today.*



Cathedral Bluffs
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Thanks for joining us.
We look forward to seeing you at our
Open House and Free Concert
Saturday, March 9, 2024

Open House - 1:30 - 3:00 PM

Free Concert - 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Featuring Max Tian, piano
Winner of the 2023 CCCTIMF Concerto Competition

