

Cathedral Bluffs
symphony orchestra

Martin MacDonald
Music Director



CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS

Saturday Dec 14, 2024

PC Ho Theatre - Chinese Cultural Centre

CONCERT PROGRAM

Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra
Martin MacDonald, conductor

2024 North York Music Festival Concerto Competition Winners:

Karen Kobayashi, flute
Ophir Strumpf, violin
Alice Yang, piano

Coleridge-Taylor, Samuel

Christmas Overture, Op.74, No. 1

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus

Piano Concerto No. 9 in E-flat major, K. 271

Jeunehomme
I. Allegro

Alice Yang, piano

Violin Concerto in D major, Op. 35

Tchaikovsky, Piotr Ilyich

II. Canzonetta: Andante

Ophir Strumpf, violin

Flute Concerto No. 2 in D major, K. 314

Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus

I. Allegro aperto

Karen Kobayashi, flute

INTERMISSION

Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai

The Snow Maiden: Suite

IV. Dance of the Buffoons

Prokofiev

Lieutenant Kijé: Suite symphonique, op. 60

I. The Birth of Kijé

II. Romance

III. Kijé's Wedding

IV. Troika

V. The Burial of Kijé

Tchaikovsky, Piotr Ilyich

The Nutcracker: Suite No. 1, Op. 71a

II. Danses caractéristiques:

(a) Marche

(c) Danse russe trepak

III. Valse des fleurs

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 conductors, awarded both the Heinz Unger Award and the Jean-Marie Beaudet Award for orchestral conducting. Since January 2022, Martin has served as Music Director of the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra. Most recently, Martin was named Artistic Partner of the Brott Music Festival based in Hamilton, Ontario. He has guest conducted extensively across Canada having worked with the orchestras of Toronto, National Arts Centre, Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina, Saskatoon, 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, several commercial recordings, and has led live orchestra to film programs. Most notably, Martin has served as Resident Conductor, Associate Conductor, and a regular guest conductor of Symphony Nova Scotia since 2008 with over 250 performances. 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 degree in Orchestral Conducting from McGill University, and a Bachelor's degree in Cello from Memorial University. Martin 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.

GUEST ARTISTS

KAREN KOBAYASHI

Karen Kobayashi, aged 16, studies flute in the studio of Susan Hoepfner at the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists. She is a current member of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Japanese-born Karen started flute at the age of 8 at her school in Thailand, and began taking private lessons when her family moved to Chicago. Her previous teachers include Hideko Amano and Louis Papachristos. Most recently, Karen was awarded at the 2024 CanAmerican Flute Symposium Solo Artist Competition, The Oakville Chamber Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition, the Taylor Academy Concerto Competition, the 2023 North York Concert Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition, the MOYSE International Flute Competition, the 2022 Walgreens National Concerto Competition, the Society of American Musicians Competition, and the Chicago Flute Club Student Competition.

She is a former member of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra. Karen has performed in masterclasses with Denis Bluteau, Joanna G'froerer, Kayla Burggraf, Demarre McGill, Jonathan Keeble, and Nancy Stagnitta. In 2023, Karen performed at Carnegie Hall as a winner of the American Protégé International Music Talent Competition and played on the "Introduction" of WMFT, Chicago's classical music radio station.

Outside of music, Karen enjoys reading, cooking new recipes, and gazing at constellations.



OPHIR STRUMPF

Ophir Strumpf is an alumna of the Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, where she studied in the studio of esteemed artist Atis Bankas. She has received top awards and scholarships both on the provincial and national level for her achievements. She was the long-term recipient of the Frank Vidlak Memorial Scholarship, and the Al and Bob Whitworth Memorial Scholarship/Bursary, as well as the first place winner of both the Ontario Music Festivals Association Open Recital class and the Canadian Music Competition Chamber music category. Ophir Strumpf has performed along internationally recognized artists including the Kronos Quartet, and she has performed in masterclasses for many artists including Ida Kavafian and Stefan Jackiw. Ophir is currently pursuing her Bachelor's in Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto, where she remains involved in chamber, orchestral, and solo violin opportunities.



ALICE YANG

Alice Yang is a 10 years old young musician. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts and started her music journey at age of five, she learned piano with Ms. Yoojin and Ms. Jia Shi in Steinway Boston.

After moving to Toronto, Canada in September 2021, Alice was thrilled to be studying with Dr. Michael Berkovsky and Coral Solomon. Her passion in music grew as she learned and attended more competitions. She has achieved numerous awards and achievements in local and international competitions, such as North York Music Festival, CCC Music Festival, Kiwanis music festival, Music Lights the Way, Chopin Avenue Piano Competition, and The International Music Competition "Grand Prize Virtuoso" in Salzburg. She also completed the RCM Level 8 piano exam and got an official mark of 95 when she was 8 years old. Recently, she won the first place in the audition of The New Divas Concert and was invited to perform the Mozart Piano Concerto No.9 at the Detroit Music Hall with the Michigan Philharmonic, which is her orchestra debut. She also won the first place of North York Music Festival concerto competition and invited to perform with Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra.

She showed great passion in not only piano, but also in violin. She is currently learning violin with Dr. Conrad Chow, who is a faculty member at The Taylor Academy at The Royal Conservatory of Music. Besides music, she loves reading, and also enjoys sports such as skiing, tennis and swimming.

For Alice, music is a life-long journey and she is ready to grow and thrive together with it and enjoy the beauty and peace brought to her life.

NORTH YORK MUSIC FESTIVAL

The North York Music & Performing Arts Festival (NYMF) is proud to celebrate its 16th year as a premier annual competition dedicated to nurturing amateur musicians and speech artists of all ages. Our mission is to inspire participants to pursue their artistic aspirations and to foster an appreciation for classical music and the performing arts within the broader community.

Over the years, NYMF has been a launching pad for many talented young artists, some of whom have gone on to achieve professional success in their musical careers. Central to our festival is the prestigious Concerto Competition, along with solo performance opportunities across a variety of instruments.

We are honored by our long-standing partnership with the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), whose exceptional artistry and commitment to excellence continue to inspire our participants. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Maestro Martin MacDonald, the CBSO staff, and the board of directors for their unwavering support in showcasing and nurturing the talents of the next generation.

For more information on participating, volunteering, or supporting the festival, please visit www.northyorkmusicfestival.com.



PROGRAMME NOTES

COLERIDGE-TAYLOR, SAMUEL – CHRISTMAS OVERTURE, OP. 74, NO. 1

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's Christmas Overture is a festive celebration that masterfully weaves beloved Christmas carols into a radiant orchestral tapestry. You'll hear familiar tunes like "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" merged together in a sparkling and festive arrangement. Written as part of his larger orchestral output, this overture encapsulates Coleridge-Taylor's gift for melody and orchestration, bringing warmth and joy to the concert hall.

MOZART, WOLFGANG AMADEUS – PIANO CONCERTO NO. 9 IN E-FLAT MAJOR, K. 271 "JEUNEHOMME"

The Jeunehomme Concerto, composed when Mozart was just 21, is a groundbreaking work that redefined the piano concerto. The first movement, Allegro, brims with energy and innovation, featuring a lively dialogue between piano and orchestra. Unlike traditional concertos, Mozart gives the piano an immediate and integral role, creating a bold and dynamic interplay. This seamless blend of virtuosity and emotional depth established a new standard for the genre and remains one of Mozart's most inventive early masterpieces.

TCHAIKOVSKY, PIOTR ILYICH – VIOLIN CONCERTO IN D MAJOR, OP. 35: II. CANZONETTA: ANDANTE

The Canzonetta from Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto is a moment of tender introspection, offering a lyrical contrast to the surrounding movements. Its melancholy yet graceful melodies flow effortlessly between violin and orchestra, evoking a sense of longing and intimacy. This "little song" highlights Tchaikovsky's gift for expressive simplicity, creating a hauntingly beautiful melody that lingers long after the final note.

MOZART, WOLFGANG AMADEUS – FLUTE CONCERTO NO. 2 IN D MAJOR, K. 314: ALLEGRO APERTO

Mozart's Flute Concerto No. 2 opens with the sparkling Allegro aperto, a bright and lively movement that showcases the flute's agility and charm. The orchestral introduction sets a regal tone, which the flute answers with a graceful and playful melody. With its dazzling runs and lyrical warmth, the movement perfectly captures Mozart's knack for blending elegance with virtuosic brilliance. It remains a quintessential example of Classical style and beauty.

RIMSKY-KORSAKOV, NIKOLAI – THE SNOW MAIDEN: SUITE, IV. DANCE OF THE BUFFOONS

Rimsky-Korsakov's Dance of the Buffoons is a boisterous, high-energy conclusion to The Snow Maiden Suite. This lively piece, filled with energetic rhythms and vibrant orchestral colours, captures the joyful spirit of a traditional Russian celebration. The swirling melodies and brisk pace highlight Rimsky-Korsakov's exceptional gift for orchestration, ensuring this dance is as vivid as it is entertaining.

PROKOFIEV – LIEUTENANT KIJÉ SUITE, OP. 60

Prokofiev's Lieutenant Kijé Suite is a satirical musical depiction of an imaginary officer invented to cover up a bureaucratic error in Tsarist Russia. The Birth of Kijé begins with a soft, mysterious theme that grows in grandeur. Romance offers a wistful, lyrical melody, while Kijé's Wedding brims with lively dance rhythms. The famous Troika paints a vivid picture of a sleigh ride through the snow, complete with jingling bells, fitting for the holiday season! Finally, The Burial of Kijé closes the suite with a touch of irony, blending mournful tones with a sense of absurdity. Together, these movements showcase Prokofiev's characteristic wit, charm, and ability to write music with a narrative arc.

TCHAIKOVSKY, PIOTR ILYICH – THE NUTCRACKER: SUITE NO. 1, OP. 71A

Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite captures the whimsy and wonder of his beloved ballet. The Marche features crisp rhythms and a stately melody, evoking a festive parade. The Danse russe (Trepak) dazzles with its exuberant energy and quick tempo, inspired by Russian folk dance. Finally, the Waltz of the Flowers offers an elegant and sweeping conclusion, with its lush harmonies and graceful melodies providing a perfect example of Tchaikovsky's mastery of ballet music. It's no wonder this suite has brought to life the magic and joy of the holiday season for many years!



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

Ivan Samozvantsev**
Rod Gonzaga
Natali Jamal
Susan Ross
Takako Suzuki
Cathy Tubb
Nicole Yoshimura

VIOLA

Valentina Ceaicovscaia*
Carol Burton
Kunihiro Ito
Leise Warner
Eve Wyatt
CELO
Oleg Volkov*
Ivan Chu
Shonagh McVean
Michael Remenyi
David Rodrigo
Katharine Sepp
Mary Kay Winter

BASS

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

FLUTE

Christine Fong*
Rana Mireskandari
Carolyn Ricketts

OBOE

Christopher Vishy**

Andre Manivong

CLARINET

Elizabeth Day*
Danielle Waxer

BASS CLARINET

Steve Fox

SAXOPHONE

Steve Fox

BASSOON

Marybeth Garofalo*
Tom Kelimbet

HORN

Samir Abd-Elmessih*
Robert Henderson
Theresa Harding
Joan Weir

TRUMPET

Tim Hendrickson*
Margaret Wolf

TROMBONE

David King*
Tony Ellis

BASS TROMBONE

Robert Ketchen

TUBA

Joel Gorlick

TIMPANI

Yang Chen

PERCUSSION

Mary Thomson*
Scott McBride

* Principal

** Acting principal

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If you have made a donation to the orchestra in our 24-25 Season and do not see your name listed above, please notify Orchestra Manager Joel Toews at: joel_toews@cathedralbluffs.com

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

Charity #89036 4573 RR0001

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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.

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Shaun Chen

Member of Parliament / Député
Scarborough North / Scarborough-Nord



December 14, 2024

A Personal Message from MP Shaun Chen

As the Member of Parliament for Scarborough North, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the organizers and attendees of the Festive Evening of Holiday Classics, hosted by the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra.

Today's gathering is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this festive time of year by coming together with friends and family to embrace the bonds that unite us all. As we express gratitude to those in our lives, we also build bridges for a stronger, more connected community.

I congratulate the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra for your commitment to making today's event possible. Gatherings like this play a key role in building a welcoming and inclusive community, and I commend the orchestra for providing the perfect soundtrack to this holiday season.

Please accept my best wishes for a joyful holiday season ahead.

Sincerely,

Shaun Chen
Member of Parliament
Scarborough North



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Hon. John McKay P.C., M.P.

December 5, 2024

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra:

I am honoured to offer my support for the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra's Classical Christmas Concert this year. This concert is a wonderful celebration of music and community, and I wish to acknowledge the talented musicians who will be performing, particularly the gifted young soloists who add such vibrancy and promise to our community.

I recognize the vital role that cultural events like this play in inspiring the next generation of artists. The Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra continues to provide a platform for young talent, and I am pleased to witness the ongoing growth and dedication of our community's musicians.

It is a privilege to celebrate this Christmas season together and to support an organization that uplifts the artistic spirit of Toronto. I encourage you to enjoy this evening of beautiful music, and I look forward to the continued success of the orchestra and its commitment to enriching the cultural life in our communities.

Sincerely,

Hon. John McKay P.C., M.P.
Scarborough-Guildwood

Parliamentary Office

Contact Us

: [Click Here](#)



Andrea Hazell
Member of Provincial Parliament
Scarborough-Guildwood



December 14, 2024

Greetings from MPP Andrea Hazell

As a Member of Provincial Parliament, I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra on their Annual Classical Christmas Concert.

I have the greatest appreciation for events that bring the community together to celebrate the beauty and magic of the festive Christmas season. This concert featuring the talented 2024 NYMF Concerto Competition winners will bring an evening of sparkle, inspiration and uplifting experiences for all to enjoy. It will be night of timeless music that celebrates the joy, excitement and cheer of the holiday season.

Congratulations to the Cathedral Symphony Orchestra on hosting your Annual Classical Christmas Concert. Your dedication in bringing the magic of the holiday season to life through music is truly commendable and will continue to create lasting memories for all who attend.

Wishing you many more successful years to come!

Sincerely,

Andrea Hazell
Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough – Guildwood.

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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GRAND NEWS!

Restoration of the Mona Bates/Clifford Poole Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra Concert Grand Piano will begin in January 2025!

A very generous donation from a private foundation enables us to restore this unique community asset to support the next generations of young Canadian artists.

The Clifford Poole Cathedral Bluffs Piano Advisory Board will advise on the restoration project and programming ideas to make the restored piano available to young and emerging local artists for decades to come.

Clifford Poole (pictured), legendary pianist, composer, music educator and founding conductor of Cathedral Bluffs Symphony Orchestra (1985-1998), left this incredible concert grand piano to the orchestra as a legacy gift. The piano had previously belonged to Mona Bates, one of Canada's first internationally known concert pianists and one of Clifford Poole's music teachers. We are excited to see this excellent instrument restored to its full glory in time for its second century of service to our community.



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Cathedral Bluffs SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Martin MacDonald, Music Director
2024-2025 SEASON

SPANISH NIGHTS

Saturday, February 8, 2025
8 PM

Program:
Chabrier
Espana

Rimsky-Korsakov
Capriccio Espagnol
de Falla

Selections from *The Three-Cornered Hat*

Elizabeth Raum
Flamenco Dance (2009)
Bizet

Selections from *Carmen*

Marquez
Danzon No. 2

SCAN ME



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