


OVERTURE



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Orchestra

*Home for the Holidays*

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# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation, the Niagara Symphony Orchestra acknowledges that we are on the shared traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Attiwonderonk (Neutral) Peoples, and many other Indigenous Peoples from across Turtle Island. We offer our gratitude and respect to the original and continued stewards of this land.

The territory we work and perform within is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties Act and is within the land protected by the "Dish With One Spoon" Wampum Agreement. This land has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years and is the traditional shared hunting and gathering grounds of many nations and continues to serve as a meeting place and crossroads for Peoples of many Nations to this day.

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# THE MUSICIANS NIAGARA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## FLUTE

Doug Miller P  
Patricia Dydnansky

## OBOE

Graham Mackenzie P  
Karen Ages

## CLARINET

Zoltan Kalman P  
Zach (Zihao) Yang

## BASSOON

Kevin Harris P  
Cathi MacDonnell  
*Supported by Anonymous*

## FRENCH HORN

Austin Hitchcock P  
Janice Fralick  
Iris Krizmanic  
Curtis Vander Hyden

## TRUMPET

Ira Zingraff P  
Brian Roberts

## TROMBONE

Steve Fralick P  
*Supported by Ruth Aspinall,  
in memory of Glen Dodson*  
Dave Sisler

## BASS TROMBONE

James Zimmerman

## TUBA

Brent Adams P

## HARP

Deborah Braun P

## PERCUSSION

Laura Thomas P  
*Supported by  
B.J. Armstrong & Michael Robertson*  
Mike Phelan  
*Supported by Karlie Boyle*  
Julian Jeun

## VIOLIN 1

Valerie Sylvester P  
*Concertmaster*  
Xiaoling Li  
*Associate Concertmaster*  
Gail Poulsen  
Michael van Dongen  
Natalie Wong

## VIOLIN 2

Charlene Nagel P  
David Braun  
Mary Beth Doherty  
Erika Janzen  
Vera Sherwood  
Orsolya Szalados

## VIOLA

Marlene Dankiw-Bath P  
Caitlin Boyle  
Sarah de Niverville  
Pierre Gagnon  
Andrée Simard

## CELLO

Gordon Cleland P  
*Supported by Charlotte Cleland*  
Sonya Nanos-Hodgson  
Mark Russom  
Peter Ryan

## BASS

Brian Baty P  
*Supported by Anonymous*  
Neal Evans  
*Supported by Anonymous*  
Fil Stasiak  
*Supported by Anonymous*

**P = Principal**





A photograph of conductor Bradley Thachuk in a dark suit, holding a baton and gesturing with his left hand, standing in front of a blurred orchestra in a concert hall.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR **BRADLEY THACHUK**

Canadian conductor, Bradley Thachuk, is the Music Director of the Niagara Symphony Orchestra (NSO), entering his 15th season as artistic leader and conductor in the 2024-2025 season.

Previously, Thachuk held the positions of Interim Music Director of the Prince George Symphony Orchestra and Music Director of the Brampton Symphony Orchestra (Canada); Music Director of the Erie Chamber Orchestra, Associate Conductor of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Conducting Assistant of the Cincinnati Symphony and Pops Orchestras (US); and Staff Conductor of the Opera Theatre of Lucca (Italy).

As an in-demand guest conductor in North America and Europe, Thachuk's recent guest engagements include: English Symphony Orchestra (UK); Genesis Revisited with legendary guitarist Steve Hackett (UK tour); Thirteen Strings Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra (Canada); Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra, Ocean City Pops, Reading Symphony Orchestra, Fort Wayne Philharmonic, Tuscon Symphony Orchestra, Cincinnati Pops, Richmond Symphony, Hartford Symphony Orchestra (US); Sinfonieorchester Wuppertal (Germany); and the Hradec Kralove Philharmonic (Czech Republic).

A versatile and diverse musician, Thachuk has also established himself globally as one of the handful of conductors who moves easily between the classical and rock worlds. He is a highly sought-after symphonic arranger, with numerous collaborations. Recent projects include work with Steve Hackett of Genesis, the music of Leonard Cohen, a tribute to the Tragically Hip, Dave Mason of Fleetwood Mac and Traffic, ABC's Dancing with the Stars franchise, Tony award-winning Heather Headley, Sarah Slean, Chantal Kreviazuk, The Beach Boys, and Air Supply.

A supporter of the next generation of orchestral musicians, Thachuk is also a lecturer in Orchestral Literature at the world-renowned Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, sharing his knowledge and passion for orchestral music with post-graduate students from around the world.



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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 | 2:30PM



# Home for the Holidays

**Bradley Thachuk**, *conductor*  
**Jennifer Rider-Shaw**, *soprano*  
**Robert Markus**, *tenor*

**Laura Secord Secondary School Choir**  
Katryna Sacco, Music Director

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# Home for the Holidays

**Stillman & Styne**

Arr. Thachuk

***Home for the Holidays***

Laura Secord Secondary School Choir  
Jennifer Rider-Shaw  
Robert Markus

**Williams**

***"Merry Christmas" from Home Alone***

Laura Secord Secondary School Choir

Arr. Krogstad

***The Bells of Christmas***

Arr. Thachuk

***We Three Kings***

Jennifer Rider-Shaw

Arr. Thachuk

***Mary Did You Know***

Robert Markus  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir

Eric Whitacre

***Glow***

Laura Secord Secondary School Choir

**Silvestri**

Arr. Thachuk

***"When Christmas Comes to Town,"  
from Polar Express***

Laura Secord Secondary School Choir  
Jennifer Rider-Shaw  
Hannah Otto (Saturday)  
Zahra Barnett (Sunday)

***"Believe," from Polar Express***

Robert Markus  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir

**Davis**

Arr. Thachuk

***The Little Drummer Girl***

Jennifer Rider-Shaw

Arr. Thachuk

***O Come All Ye Faithful***

Robert Markus  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir

**INTERMISSION**





Arr. Tyzik

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Robert Markus

**Kent**  
Arr. Bolks

*I'll Be Home for Christmas*  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir  
Jennifer Rider-Shaw

**Anderson**

*Sleigh Ride*

**Rogers and Hammerstein**

*My Favourite Things*  
Jennifer Rider-Shaw  
Robert Markus

Arr. Tyzik

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*  
Robert Markus  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir

**Mitchell**  
Arr. Thachuk

*River*  
Jennifer Rider-Shaw

Arr. Mark Brymer

*That's Christmas to Me*  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir  
Zoë Taraba-Blaze, Isaac Barnes,  
Carly Greavette

**Schubert**  
Arr. Tyzik

*Ave Maria*  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir  
Jennifer Rider-Shaw

**Adam**  
Arr. Thachuk

*O Holy Night*  
Robert Markus

Arr. Thachuk

*Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*  
Laura Secord Secondary School Choir  
Jennifer Rider-Shaw  
Robert Markus

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE NSO!**



## **Jennifer Rider-Shaw** (she/her)

Jennifer is a Stratford based Actor, Singer and Dancer. Previous credits include: 14 seasons at The Stratford Festival (including Lady of the Lake in Monty Python's Spamalot, Velma Kelly in Chicago, Janet in The Rocky Horror Show, Maggie in A Chorus Line, Sally Simpson in Tommy, Peggy Sawyer in 42nd Street). In 2019 Jennifer revived the role of Sally Simpson in The Who's Tommy: In Concert, performing alongside Pete Townshend at The La Jolla Playhouse. She has also performed on stages across Canada: The Shaw Festival, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Rainbow Stage, Charlottetown Festival, Grand Theatre, Theatre Aquarius, Drayton Entertainment, Ross Petty Productions and YES Theatre. Sending all her love to Robert, Josephine, Mom and Dad. Thanks as always to Bruce and TH. Happy Holidays!



## **Robert Markus** (he/him)

Robert is thrilled to be returning to the NSO after playing Tony in Pops! West Side Story: In Concert in 2019. Robert is a Stratford based Actor and Singer. He is most widely known to audiences for performing the titular role in Dear Evan Hansen presented by Mirvish Productions with Stacey Mindich. Robert received a Toronto Theatre Critics Award and a Dora Award nomination for his portrayal of Evan. Other credits include: Six seasons at the Stratford Festival (Mark Cohen in Rent, Tommy in Tommy, Riff Raff in The Rocky Horror Show, Mary Sunshine in Chicago, and appeared in A Wrinkle in Time, Fiddler on the Roof, and The Music Man). He has also performed on stages across Canada, including: The Shaw Festival, Theatre Aquarius, Drayton Entertainment, The Grand Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Ross Petty Productions, Theatre Calgary, The Citadel Theatre, The Vancouver Playhouse, and The Musical Stage Company. Robert's work has been nominated for Dora Mavor Moore, BroadwayWorld, My Entertainment World, Sterling, Betty Mitchell, and Calgary Critic's Awards. Special thanks to Jen, Baby Jo, Mom, Dad and the TH team.  
Online: [robertmarkus.com](http://robertmarkus.com)



## Laura Secord Concert Choir

under the direction of Ms. Katryna Sacco

Laura Secord Secondary School is located in St. Catharines, Ontario. The school is home to the dedicated DNA Arts Program in the DSBN and fosters an amazing artistic community with 10 extra-curricular choral, band and string ensembles for students to choose from. Our 90 member Concert Choir is open to all students. We perform frequently at community events, regional and national festivals, school functions and concerts throughout the Niagara region, Ontario, Canada, and North America. For the last 5 years, we have been shortlisted for the National top 10 of CBC's "Canadian Music Class Challenge" and scored a gold standing at MusicFest Nationals in May 2022 and 2023. We love singing a wide variety of music ranging from classical to contemporary.



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\* denotes Group of 75

**Donations received between  
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## The Niagara Symphony Orchestra

enriches lives across the Niagara Region through meaningful music performance and by removing barriers to music education in our community. With your support, we are enabled and empowered to continue this mission.

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The NSO regularly features world-class soloists and is home to some of the most talented musicians in the country. Because of your support we are able to present these extraordinary artists to the Niagara Region.

#### Share

The power of music transcends all boundaries. Because of your support the NSO can continue to offer affordable ticketing and accessible outreach programs.

#### Inspire

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Benefits include your invitation into the pre-concert "Music Director's Circle," a pre-concert cocktail hour bringing together like-minded philanthropists and community supporters throughout the season.





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**The Legacy Circle** recognizes those who have made a planned gift to the NSO during their lifetime or through a bequest.

By making a planned gift to the NSO, you can ensure that the Symphony continues to grow sustainably and provide orchestral music and educational programs to the community, while recognizing your personal connection to the power of music.

### Let's Talk

By letting us know of your intention to include the NSO in your estate plans you will become a lifetime member of the NSO's Legacy Circle and can be recognized immediately for your contribution.

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*If you are considering leaving a bequest or deferred gift of any kind, we encourage you to speak with your professional financial and/or legal advisor in addition to meeting with our staff to discuss recognition opportunities.*

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Syme Jago  
Adrian Goldberg

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Liliana Valencic  
Serena Yang

## **Co-op Student**

Bee Beecroft-Penner  
Laura Secord Secondary School

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