

2025-2026 SEASON THE MAGIC OF MUSIC

Bradley Thachuk Music Director
niagarasymphony.com/concerts

A photograph of a symphony orchestra conductor, Bradley Thachuk, in a dark suit, gesturing with his arms while conducting. He is in the foreground, looking upwards. Behind him, several musicians are visible, including a violinist in the foreground and a drummer in the background. The setting is a concert hall with warm lighting and large brass instruments hanging in the background.

nso

Niagara Symphony
Orchestra

25
26

PRESENTED AT THE



FirstOntario
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE



The Niagara Symphony Orchestra

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

WHY GIVE?

Experience

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

Music has significant and proven benefits for our mental wellbeing, including emotional and cognitive function and development, decreased anxiety, and improved overall sleep and mood. Active music making truly engages the whole brain. The NSO offers music education programs and performing platforms for all ages, opening doors and creating opportunities for members of our youth and community.



**Let's chat at your
earliest convenience!**

Renata Di Filippo (she/her)
Director of Development
renata@niagarasymphony.com
905.687.4993 Ext 224



Bradley Thachuk, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Welcome to the NSO's 25/26 Season!!

After an historic season with record attendance, we are excited to present to you the next chapter in your journey with your Niagara Symphony Orchestra. Legendary masterpieces, exciting and innovative new works, dazzling soloists and pulsating rock and pops shows have been hallmarks of recent NSO seasons, and 25/26 continues along the same path, with some fresh innovations. In October, what I have called Symphony Month, we are not only presenting two varied programs at our home in the FirstOntario PAC, but we are reaching out to the wider Niagara region in Niagara-on-the-Lake and Welland.

Back by popular demand is our Classic Rock Radio concert, one of the single most successful concerts in the history of the orchestra; this time back for two performances. World-renowned clarinetist Anthony McGill, award-winning pianist Eric Guo and opera sensation Claire de Sévigné all are making triumphant returns to the NSO stage. Canadian talent abounds throughout the season with the debuts of trumpet star William Leathers and conductor Evan Mitchell, and Canadian Composers will astound you with fresh new works including Erica Procnier's stunning, multi-media "Great Lakes Untamed" and the return of Kevin Lau with the "Kimiko's Pearl: Symphonic Suite". Towards the end of the season experience Niagara history with our world premiere celebration of the legendary Pink Floyd album "The Wall: Symphonic" featuring an all-star band and your very own Laura Secord Secondary School Choir.

*There is something for everyone, and prices to meet every budget, in what will prove to be another groundbreaking season for your NSO. **See you at the Symphony!***

PAC Box Office **905.688.0722** Toll Free **1.855.515.0722**

To learn more about our 2025/2026 Season or give your support visit niagarasymphony.com

Creating Musical Magic

in Niagara for over 75 years!



NSO PHOTOGRAPHY by ROBERT NOWELL

P = Principal

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
Iris Krizmanic
Curtis Vander Hyden

HARP

Deborah Braun P

TRUMPET

Ira Zingraff P
Brian Roberts

TROMBONE

Principal Vacant
Dave Sisler

BASS TROMBONE

James Zimmerman

TUBA

Brent Adams P

PERCUSSION

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

VIOLIN 1

Concertmaster Vacant
Norris & Marilyn Walker
Concertmaster Chair
Valerie Sylvester
Concertmaster Laureate
Xiaoling Li
Associate Concertmaster Laureate
Gail Poulsen
Michael van Dongen
Natalie Wong

VIOLIN 2

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

VIOLA

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

CELLO

Gordon Cleland P
Sonya Nanos-Hodgson
Mark Russom
Peter Ryan

BASS

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





Join us for a special
Concert & Garden Party event
in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake!

MOZART & MORE! NSO ON TOUR

Fri. October 3, 2025 at 5:30pm

A Special NSO Celebration Event!

The NSO will present its Mozart & More program at the beautiful St. Mark's Church at 41 Byron Street, in Niagara-on-the-Lake. (See page 7 for concert details)

Following the concert, enjoy more music, hors d'oeuvres, wine, and other refreshments as you mingle with our Music Director Bradley Thachuk plus other NSO musicians in the St. Mark's courtyard (tent covered).

Please note that this is a special event and not part of the subscription season.

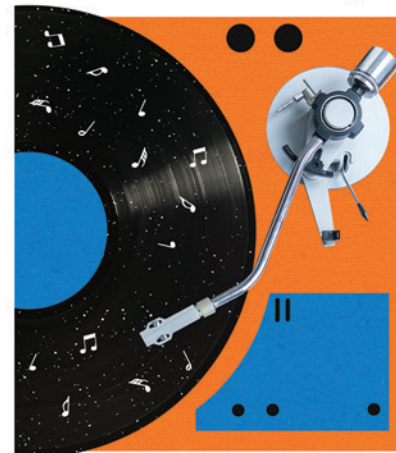
Tickets are **\$120**
and available at
niagarasymphony.com



CLASSIC ROCK UNPLUGGED

Acoustic Set and Gravel Museum Band Meet & Greet Special Event - Part of the NSO Tour

Fri. October 24, 2025 at 7:30pm



Please note that this is a special event and not part of the subscription season.

Up Close and Personal

Get ready for an unforgettable night of stripped-down classics, raw energy, and pure rock soul and your NSO!!

Join us for an intimate unplugged concert with Gravel Museum and the NSO, where legendary tunes are reimagined in an acoustic setting-up close, personal, and powerful. This one time even will be held at: **The Bank - 22 King Street, Welland, ON.**

Enjoy complimentary food and beverages at the bar!

\$75 Includes special guest artist meet and greet, special VIP lounge seating, complimentary food, beer/wine, and other refreshments.

\$25 Concert Seating Only

Tickets available at niagarasymphony.com



MOZART & MORE

**Sun. October 5, 2025
at 2:30pm
Recital Hall**

Jordan Nobles

Mozart

Mozart

Coriolis

Flute Concerto No. 1
Gillian Derer, flute

Symphony No. 38, "Prague"

Experience an Afternoon of Sonic Wonder!

Step into a world where time bends, melodies soar, and the past meets the future in an electrifying evening of music!

The concert opens with Jordan Nobles' Coriolis - a mesmerizing, atmospheric soundscape that blurs the boundaries of space and motion, immersing you in a shimmering whirl of tone and texture.

Next, journey back to the elegance of the Classical era with Mozart's Flute Concerto No. 1 - a dazzling display of virtuosity and charm, featuring graceful melodies that dance effortlessly through the air.

The afternoon comes to its height with the majestic Symphony No. 38 "Prague", one of Mozart's most dramatic and thrilling symphonic works, brimming with bold contrasts and an emotional intensity that still stuns audiences today.

Modern sound. Classical brilliance. One unforgettable afternoon. Don't miss this extraordinary musical voyage!

Gillian Derer, flute

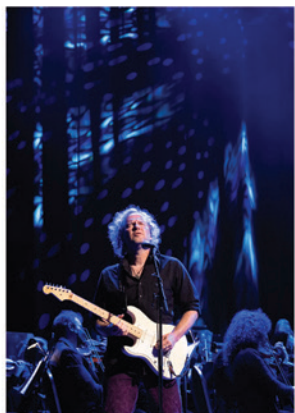


CLASSIC ROCK RADIO 2

Sat. October 25, 2025 Gravel Museum featuring **Joe Retta, vocals**
at 7:30pm and **Steven Thachuk, guitar**

Sun. October 26, 2025
at 2:30pm
Partridge Hall

The rock music of the 70's and 80's reimagined with full orchestra. Rock out to the greatest classic rock songs of all time! The music of Queen, Led Zeppelin, The Who, and many more, performed by an all-star band, backed by the full power of the symphony orchestra.



Steven Thachuk, guitar



Joe Retta, vocals

FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT MAHLER 5

Sun. November 23, 2025
at 2:30pm
Partridge Hall

Gabriel Kahane

If love will not swing wide the gates

Anthony McGill, clarinet
CANADIAN PREMIERE

Mahler

Symphony No. 5

A Journey of Love and Longing: Kahane & Mahler

Step into an afternoon of deep emotion and breathtaking beauty as two powerful musical voices - past and present - collide.

The concert opens with Gabriel Kahane's "If love will not swing wide the gates", a hauntingly poetic meditation on isolation, resilience, and the quiet ache of longing. Intimate, poignant, and profoundly human, Kahane's work sets the tone for an unforgettable experience.

Then, brace yourself for the sweeping emotional arc of Mahler's Symphony No. 5 - from the darkness of its funeral march to the radiant light of the iconic Adagietto and the triumphant finale. It's a symphony of love, loss, and redemption on a truly epic scale.

Two masterpieces. One emotional journey. Prepare to be moved.

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To learn more about our 2025/2026 season
or give your support visit niagarasymphony.com



Anthony McGill, clarinet



Gabriel Kahane, composer

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Sat. December 13, 2025 Holiday Magic: A Festive Celebration!

at 7:30pm

Sun. December 14, 2025

at 2:30pm

Partridge Hall

Join us for a heartwarming holiday concert filled with all your favourite carols, performed by a full orchestra and choir in a sparkling seasonal spectacular!

Sing along to timeless classics, feel the joy of live music, and don't miss a special visit from Santa Claus himself - perfect for the whole family!

*Music, magic, and holiday cheer -
come make memories that will last all year!*



Stephanie Park, soprano



Chris Blem, tenor



Bradley Thachuk, conductor

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POSTCARDS FROM VIENNA

**STRAUSS
& MOZART**

Sun. January 25, 2026

at 2:30pm

Partridge Hall

Strauss, Johann, Jr.

Mozart

Die Fledermaus: Overture

Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major,
K. 488

Eric Guo, piano

Strauss, Johann, Sr.

Strauss, Johann, Jr.

Radetzky March

Emperor Waltzes
Thunder and Lightning Polka
Wine, Women and Song
On the Beautiful Blue Danube



Eric Guo, piano

Vienna in Bloom: A Night of Waltzes, Whimsy & Wonder

Celebrate the elegance, charm, and exuberance of the Viennese musical tradition in a sparkling afternoon of beloved classics!

The concert opens with the effervescent Overture to Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss, Jr., setting the stage for an afternoon of irresistible rhythm and flair. Then, experience the graceful brilliance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23, performed by the exceptional Eric Guo - a masterpiece of lyrical beauty and refinement.

The second half bursts into full celebration with the rousing Radetzky March by Johann Strauss, Sr., followed by a cascade of iconic Strauss waltzes and polkas, including the regal Emperor Waltzes, the exuberant Thunder and Lightning Polka, the romantic Wine, Women and Song, and the timeless splendor of On the Beautiful Blue Danube.

*Waltz through Vienna's golden age -
one unforgettable melody at a time!*



WAGNER | ESTACIO | BEETHOVEN **EROICA**

Sun. February 22, 2026
at 2:30pm
Partridge Hall

Wagner	Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg: Prelude
Estacio	Trumpet Concerto <i>William Leathers, trumpet</i>
Beethoven	Symphony No. 3, "Eroica"



**Heroic Sounds:
Triumph, Brilliance & Power**

Get ready for a concert that radiates boldness, brilliance, and pure musical fire!

The afternoon opens with Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*: Prelude - a grand, triumphant burst of orchestral colour that sets the stage for a night of epic scale.

Then, rising star William Leathers takes the spotlight for John Estacio's electrifying Trumpet Concerto - a dazzling showcase of virtuosity, energy, and emotional depth that pushes the instrument to its expressive limits.

To close, Beethoven's revolutionary Symphony No. 3, "Eroica" storms the stage - a powerful tribute to heroism and the human spirit, bursting with drama, passion, and defiance.

*Three bold voices. One unforgettable afternoon.
This is music that dares to be great.*

William Leathers, trumpet



WAVES OF SOUND

Sun. March 29, 2026
at 2:30pm
Partridge Hall

Erica Procunier	The Great Lakes Untamed
Brahms	Symphony No. 3



Erica Procunier, composer

Nature, Innovation & Romantic Depth

Immerse yourself in an unforgettable afternoon where stunning visuals, bold creativity, and timeless beauty collide.

The concert begins with Erica Procunier's *The Great Lakes Untamed* - a breathtaking fusion of live orchestra and cinematic video, capturing the raw power and haunting majesty of North America's inland seas. It's a spellbinding journey through sound and image.

Finally, settle into the lush emotional landscape of Brahms' Symphony No. 3 - a masterpiece of rich harmonies and introspective beauty that speaks straight to the soul.

*From wild waters to musical frontiers,
this is an afternoon of bold vision and deep feeling.*

PINK FLOYD

THE WALL

Sat. April 17, 2026
at 7:30pm
Sun. April 18, 2026
at 2:30pm
Partridge Hall

Symphonic Pink Floyd: The Wall

Get ready for an electrifying fusion of rock and symphony as Pink Floyd's iconic masterpiece *The Wall* comes to life like never before - with a full live band and powerhouse symphony orchestra sharing the stage.

Experience every legendary riff, searing lyric, and cinematic sweep of this rock opera epic, reimagined with the grandeur and emotional depth only a full orchestra can deliver. From "Another Brick in the Wall" to "Comfortably Numb", it's the music you love - bigger, bolder, and more immersive than ever.

This will be the world premiere of this production featuring arrangements by Music Director Bradley Thachuk and guitarist Steven Thachuk.

One stage. Two worlds. Total sonic impact.
This is The Wall as you've never heard it before.



Jeremy Saje, vocals and the Gravel Museum Band

SONGS OF HOPE AND SORROW



Sun. May 17, 2026
at 2:30pm
Partridge Hall

Bernstein
Kevin Lau
Górecki

Candide: Overture
Kimiko's Pearl: Symphonic Suite
Symphony No. 3:
"Symphony of Sorrowful Songs"
Claire de Sévigné, soprano



Claire de Sévigné, soprano



Kevin Lau, composer

A Journey Through Joy, Beauty, and Deep Emotion

Prepare for a concert that spans the spectrum of human experience, from exuberant celebration to profound reflection.

The afternoon begins with Leonard Bernstein's *Candide Overture* - a lively, spirited opening that bursts with energy and optimism, setting the stage for an afternoon of musical contrasts.

Next, experience the world of Kevin Lau's *Kimiko's Pearl Symphonic Suite*, a captivating 15-minute work that weaves together lush orchestral textures and delicate storytelling, based on the powerful score from the ballet produced by Bravo Niagara.

The second half features Henryk Górecki's *Symphony No. 3: "Symphony of Sorrowful Songs"*, a deeply-moving meditation on grief, love, and hope. With the haunting voice of Claire de Sévigné soaring above the orchestra, this powerful work will leave you spellbound as it unfolds its emotional depth.

From joy to sorrow, this concert is an unforgettable emotional odyssey.

A JOHN WILLIAMS FINALE

Sat. June 20, 2026 Step into a world of cinematic magic!

at 7:30pm

Sun. June 21, 2026

at 2:30pm

Partridge Hall

The music of John Williams takes centre stage, brought to life by a full symphony orchestra with guest conductor Evan Mitchell! From the pulse-pounding adventure of Star Wars to the heartwarming triumph of E.T., Williams' iconic scores have defined generations of film lovers.

Join us for an exhilarating concert as we journey through the unforgettable melodies of Indiana Jones, Jurassic Park, Harry Potter, and more. The symphony will transport you to epic worlds of adventure, wonder, and emotion, capturing the grandeur and excitement of these timeless films. We are excited to announce that Music Director Bradley Thachuk will feature on these concerts as a special guest soloist.

Two performances, one maestro, and a symphonic celebration of music that has shaped the movies we love. Don't miss this extraordinary tribute to a living legend!



Evan Mitchell, guest conductor



For over 60 years, the Niagara Symphony Orchestra's Summer Music Camp (SMC) has been a beloved tradition, bringing the joy of music to families across the Niagara Region and beyond. It's more than just a camp; it's a vibrant community where kids of all ages, abilities, and musical levels come together to explore, learn, and create.

Ignite a passion for music: At SMC, campers will experience the thrill of making music firsthand. Under the guidance of professional musicians and educators, they can delve into a variety of instruments and classes, discovering new talents and unlocking their musical potential.

Forge friendships that last a lifetime: SMC is a place where kids connect, share their love of music, and build friendships that extend far beyond the summer. It's a chance to be part of something special, surrounded by a supportive and encouraging community.

Nurture growth through music: More than just fun and friendship, SMC fosters essential life skills. Through collaborative music-making, children develop cooperation, teamwork, and a deeper understanding of themselves and others. It's an experience that enriches their lives in countless ways, supporting intellectual and social development.



The NSO is excited to introduce its newest education initiative, Next Level Symphony.

This innovative program offers students in grade 4 and up an immersive opportunity to engage directly in the compositional process. Aligned with the Ontario Arts Curriculum - which emphasizes Form, Function, Creativity and Meaning - Next Level Symphony invites young minds to explore music at every level, from its foundational elements to its finished expression.

In Next Level Symphony, students embark on a creative journey where they discover that every musical work is the culmination of a series of thoughtful decisions. As they learn compositional techniques and notation skills, they will work with the in-school composer to transform their initial ideas into structured musical concepts. Along the way, students will delve into the meaning behind music by recognizing how ideas are communicated and by providing personal, critical responses to their work. This hands-on process not only enhances their technical abilities but also nurtures a deep appreciation for both the creative journey and the finished composition.



This program invites youth performers from across the region to perform in the First Ontario Performing Arts Centre main lobby for NSO patrons for 30 minutes prior to our concerts as well as during our intermissions.

Please contact Director of Education & Administration, Karlie Boyle, at karlie.boyle@niagarasymphony.com to apply to perform this season!

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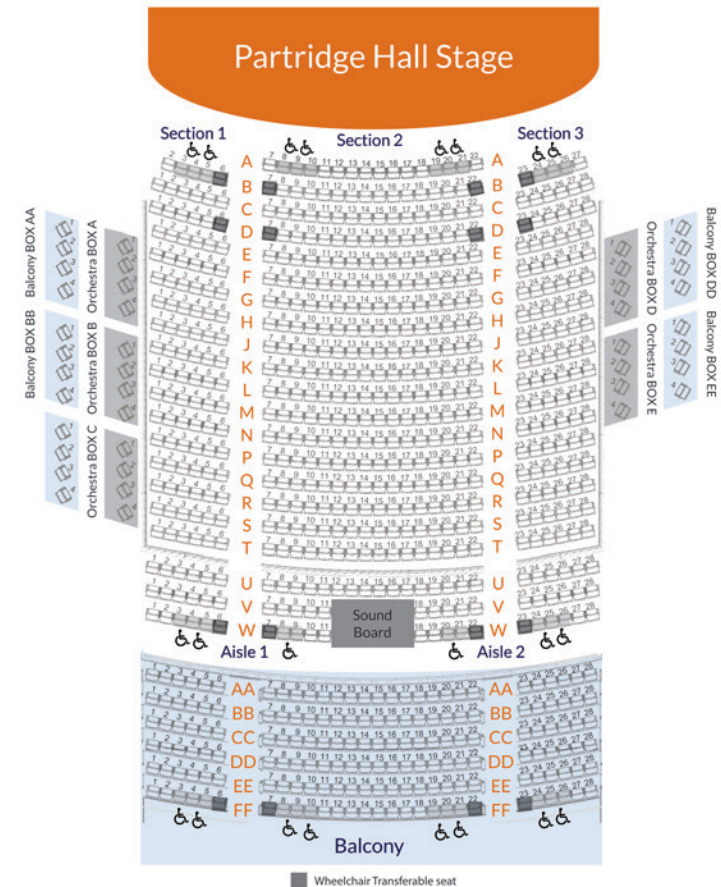
Guarantee tickets and seat selection for the concerts of your choice.

Single Ticket Prices - Zone 1 **\$90** | Zone 2 **\$68** | Zone 3 **\$59** | Zone 4 **\$52** | Zone 5 **\$36**
(Single tickets on sale Aug. 1, 2025 - does not include taxes and FirstOntario PAC fees)

All subscription concerts take place at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
For subscription and ticketing information you can visit niagarasymphonyorchestra.com
Or call our box office at PAC Box Office information: 1-855-515-0722 (toll-free) 905-688-0722

YOUR SEAT AWAITS

The First Ontario Performing Arts Centre is located conveniently in downtown St Catharines at 250 St. Paul Street. **Partridge Hall seats 770 people** and has an instant wow factor with natural acoustics and is one of the best equipped professional performance spaces in Niagara.



FirstOntario
PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

PARKING & VENUE ACCESS

There are more than 1,000 spots in nearby downtown parking garages, surface lots, and on city streets within a five-minute walk to the PAC. We recommend the multi-level covered garage on Garden Park (the address is 71 Carlisle St. but the entrance is off of Garden Park) with 595 spaces and 26 accessible spaces. For pickup and drop-off only, please use the the accessible drop-off point located on Carlisle Street.

City of St. Catharines metered street parking is generally free after 6pm. Parking charges apply at most city parking lots. Special Event parking fees are in effect when events are happening. Payment is by cash only and is paid on entry.

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To learn more about our 2025/2026 season or give your support visit niagarasymphony.com
Renata Di Filippo (she/her) Director of Development renata@niagarasymphony.com 905.687.4993 Ext 224