LONDON SYMPHONIA 2024-25 SEASON



THE LIFE AND TROUBLED TIMES OF SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR

FEBRUARY 22, 2025 | 7:30 pm | Metropolitan United

Concert Sponsor: canada life

Guest Artist

Roy Lewis, narrator
 with the London Symphonia Chamber Players





MAYOR

October 5, 2024

Dear Friends.

On behalf of London City Council, let me welcome you to London Symphonia's 2024-25 Season. We are honored to have such a distinguished ensemble in our community, and we eagerly anticipate the musical experiences you will bring to our residents.

London Symphonia has long been a shining star in our artistic constellation, and their dedication to excellence in music enriches the lives of residents across all ages. Each performance you deliver resonates deeply, creating cherished memories and fostering a love for the arts.

This season, London Symphonia is excited to present a diverse array of performances that will captivate your senses and enrich your spirit. From timeless classics to contemporary works, there is something for everyone to enjoy. I encourage you to explore the full program and immerse yourself in the magic that only live orchestral music can bring.

As we gather to appreciate the extraordinary talent of our musicians and guest artists, let us also celebrate the power of music to inspire, heal, and unite. I invite you to share in this season's festivities, whether you are a lifelong supporter or a newcomer to the concert hall.

Thank you for your dedication to enriching our lives through the power of music. Here's to a wonderful season ahead!

Kind regards,

Josh Morgan Mayor, City of London

City of London
Office of Mayor Josh Morgan
300 Dufferin Avenue
P.O. Box 5035
London, ON N6A 4L9



WELCOME to THE LIFE AND TROUBLED TIMES OF SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate Black History Month with this extraordinary concert. We are thrilled to present **The Life and Troubled Times of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor**, a concert experience that is part theatrical, part musical rediscovery. We hope you enjoy this showcase of Coleridge-Taylor's brilliant music and ingenuity performed against the backdrop of the story of his triumphs, tragedies and astounding life.

On April 5, prepare to be swept away when virtuoso violinist **Kerson Leong** performs Beethoven's towering violin concerto. Rounding out the program is Sibelius' epic Symphony No. 2. We think **Beethoven and Sibelius with Kerson Leong** is a concert you will definitely want to attend. Tickets are going quickly. Please mark your calendars and buy your tickets soon.

To all our donors thank you for your continuing belief in our creativity and commitment to bringing the joy and transformative power of music to people of all ages across the community. Your support is vital to London Symphonia's success, not just in bringing performances like the one tonight to life but through our comprehensive education and outreach programs. On behalf of the musicians, staff, and Board of Directors, our heartfelt thanks.

Glorious music and great artistry await you throughout the season. We hope you will enjoy tonight's concert and spread the word to family and friends.

We look forward to seeing you often.

Sincerely,

April Voth

Executive Director

Andrew Chung

THE LIFE AND TROUBLED TIMES OF SAMUEL COLERIDGE-TAYLOR

FEBRUARY 22, 2025 at 7:30 pm Metropolitan United

Guest Artist

 Roy Lewis, narrator with the London Symphonia Chamber Players

Between each piece and movement, Roy Lewis will present poetry that he has created in the form of historically informed but fictional diary entries and letters by Coleridge-Taylor, his musical colleagues, and famous people he met or may have met along the way.

Franz Schubert

From Octet in F major, D. 803

III. Allegro vivace

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

From Nonet in F minor, Op. 2

- I. Allegro moderato
- III. Scherzo
- II. Andante con moto

INTERMISSION

Kris Bowers

Bridgerton Medley ar. Scott Good

Antonín Dvořák

From Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major

III. Scherzo

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

From Clarinet Quintet, Op. 10

II. Larghetto affetuoso

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

From 24 Negro Melodies 'Deep River'

Florence Price

Adoration ar. Scott Good

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

From 24 Negro Melodies 'They Will Not Lend Me A Child' (excerpt)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

From Nonet in F minor, Op. 2

IV. Finale

Supported by Continental Cork

The program runs approximately 2 hours and will be performed with a 20-minute intermission.



MEET ROY LEWIS AND THE LONDON SYMPHONIA CHAMBER PLAYERS AFTER THE CONCERT

Join us in the Great Room behind the stage and speak with the performers.

Photography and video/audio recording of any kind is not permitted during the performance.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

London Symphonia wishes to acknowledge and honour the land on which we are meeting as the traditional territory of the First Nations peoples: the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation (part of the Anishinaabe), the Oneida Nation of the Thames (part of the Haudenosaunee) and the Munsee-Delaware Nation (part of the Leni-Lunaape). Let us reflect on how we as individuals and as a community can carry this spirit of gratitude into everything we do to honour the work that all the First Nations peoples of the Turtle Island have done, and continue to do, for the land that supports us all.



TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS

Violin

Joe Lanza Andew Chung

Viola

Marie-Eve Lessard

Cello

Ben Bolt-Martin

Bass

Fil Stasiak

Oboe

Graham Mackenzie

Clarinet

Graham Lord

Bassoon

Spencer Phillips

Horn

Ron George

Piano

Angela Park

BIOS



Roy Lewis

Roy Lewis, is a poet, playwright, director and actor. He is a Founding Member of the Obsidian Theatre Company and a 16-season veteran of the Stratford Festival Company acting company. On stage he has played Morocco in *The Merchant of Venice*, Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Cyclops in *The Odyssey*, Claudius in *Hamlet*, The Stage Manager in *Our Town*, Abel Magwitch in *Great Expectations*, Prospero in the *Tempest*, Mr. Potter in *It's A Wonderful Life*, Charley in *Death of a Salesman* and Camilo in *The Winter's Tale*. Roy has directed 10 plays. His plays *Moments With You* and *I See the Crimson Wave: The Nat Love Story* had their premieres at the Here For Now Theatre and Talk Is Free Theatre.



Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor was an English composer, conductor and political activist who fought against race prejudice with his incredible compositions. Born in Holborn in 1875 to an English mother and a father originally from Sierra Leone, he liked to be identified as Anglo-African – and was later referred to by white New York musicians as 'Black Mahler', owing to his musical success. Coleridge-Taylor's classical compositions were heavily influenced by traditional African music, making him one of the most progressive writers of his time. He also became well known for his use of poetry – particularly in his cantata trilogy, *The Song of Hiawatha*, based on the poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. His work across music and politics was so well received that in 1904, he was invited by President Theodore Roosevelt to visit the White House – a bold statement and a positive step forward in support of African Americans. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor died of pneumonia on 1 September 1912 in Croydon, at the age of 37. Throughout his short life, he faced financial struggles and personal tragedy, which are both often linked to his early demise.

BRAVO TO OUR PARTNERS

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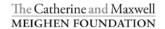
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With the exception of the Legacy Giving list, the listing below includes those whose support we received from November 1, 2023 to December 18, 2024. If we have inadvertently omitted your gift, please contact giving@londonsymphonia.ca and we will make it right!

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anniversary

In honour of Ron Wexler's birthday

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The staff and volunteers of Metropolitan United Church, especially Rev. Dr. David McMaster, for welcoming us into this beautiful concert venue.

Our Accommodation Partner, Delta London Armouries.

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Rare Opportunity For You Coming in April!

BEETHOVEN AND SIBELIUS WITH KERSON LEONG

APRIL 5, 2025

Presenting Partner: Serenata Music

Don't miss new international star Kerson Leong, perform Beethoven's Violin Concerto, a timeless masterpiece that has captivated audiences since its debut more than 200 years ago. Beethoven demands virtuoso playing and Kerson Leong delivers!

Sibelius Symphony No. 2 is filled with power, freshness and truly epic grandeur from its pastoral beginnings to a soul-stirring finish.

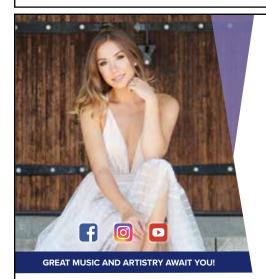
Join us on this great musical adventure and prepare to be swept away!



- I londonsymphonia.ca
- 226-270-0910
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GENEVIEVE FISHER: THANK YOU MUSIC!

MAY 3, 2025

London born and raised, singer/songwriter Genevieve Fisher, is well recognized within the Canadian Country Music scene, charting nine top 50 hits on Canadian Country radio and earning seven Female Artist of the Year and numerous Single and Songwriter of the Year nominations at the Country Music Association of Ontario Music Awards. Her Indigenous roots have allowed her to record three #1 hits on the Indigenous Music Countdown chart and perform on national televised broadcasts of Indigenous Day Live and the Indspire Awards.



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We are pleased to continue our successful association with London Symphonia this season. Please join us:

Saturday, April 5

Beethoven and Sibelius with Kerson Leong

with London Symphonia at Metropolitan United

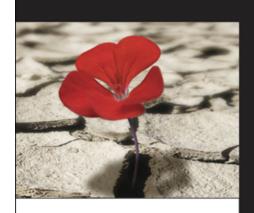
Information on concerts in the London area is available at **serenatamusic.com**, **serenatamusic@gmail.com** and 519-852-8332.



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Saints & Sinners

7:30 pm, Saturday, March 1 Wesley-Knox United Church, 91 Askin Street, London

Here, good and bad take centre stage. Drawing from the world of Broadway, opera and more, music by Schönberg, Sondheim, Lloyd Webber, Kurt Weil, "Fats" Waller, Paul Simon, Puccini and others, choir and soloists explore the heights and depths of human experience. Lots of juicy stories that you can sink your teeth into!

Tickets \$25, students \$10, children with adult free, at Tuckey Home Hardware and www.kssingers.com





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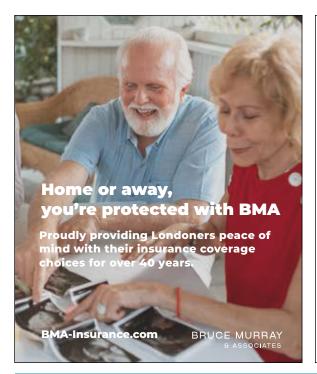
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- · Photography and video/audio recording of any kind is not permitted during the performance.
- Photos are permitted before and after the performance and during Intermission.
- Mask wearing is not currently required. Not everyone may have the same degree of comfort
 with the lifting of restrictions, and we ask that you please respect the personal space and
 comfort level of those around you.
- Please put your cell phone on silent.
- Please do not remove cushions from the Reserved seating areas.

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BEETHOVEN AND SIBELIUS WITH KERSON LEONG

April 5, 2025

Serenata Music

Don't miss the new International star, Kerson Leong, performing Beethoven's towering Violin Concerto.

Visit **londonsymphonia.ca** to buy tickets and Video On Demand.



GENEVIEVE FISHER: THANK YOU MUSIC! May 3, 2025

Join Genevieve Fisher and London Symphonia in this ultimate Country concert!

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