



Concert Season
2025-2026



Welcome to our 2025-2026 season of concerts!

Dear Friends,

The Gallery Players of Niagara is leaping into our fourth decade with energy, creativity, and a renewed sense of purpose. As we look to the future, we're dreaming boldly and imagining performances and projects that will shape the next 30 years of inspired music-making and strong community building.

We're deeply grateful to you - our loyal and enthusiastic audience - for making our recent anniversary season such a resounding success. Your engagement and generosity fuels our momentum; *you* keep the music playing.

Sparked by the resurgent passion for this spectacular nation of ours, we are celebrating the undeniable creativity and originality of Canadian performers - and the remarkable wildlife that shares our land.

Chamber music offers an extraordinary 400-year, globe-spanning repertoire, full of richness, variety, and surprise. Each season, we strive to bring you a wide range of music - from beloved masterpieces to hidden gems - and we're confident the coming year continues this tradition.

Join us and subscribe!

A Gallery Players All Access subscription offers incredible value: enjoy 7 live concerts plus a 4-concert virtual series - all for just \$130. That's only \$18.57 per concert! Subscriptions are flexible, affordable, and a great way to stay connected to music you love.

I look forward to sharing our concerts with you.



Margaret Gay

Margaret Gay
Artistic & Administrative Director



Songs of Distant Shores

We open our season with the dynamic **Ladom Ensemble** - a genre-blending mini-orchestra whose unique instrumentation of piano, 'cello, accordion, and percussion promises a thrilling start to the year. With fiery passion and refined artistry, they weave together threads of Western classical, klezmer, rock, tango, jazz, East Coast folk, and classical Persian music - crafting a sound that is richly textured, globally inspired, and unmistakably Canadian.

PERFORMERS: Ladom Ensemble:

Michael Bridge, accordion; Beth Silver, 'cello;
Pouya Hamidi, piano; Adam Campbell, percussion.



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Sunday, November 9, 2025 3:00 pm 
Linwell Church
335 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines



Carols & Cinema with Glissandi & Guy!

Join us for a heartwarming afternoon of music and memories at our holiday concert: *Carols & Cinema*. Experience the timeless beauty of beloved traditional carols interwoven with the enchanting melodies of classic holiday films. From soaring choral harmonies to iconic movie soundtracks, this festive programme brings together the best of both worlds - celebrating the season through music and story.

PERFORMERS:

Deborah Braun, harp; Guy Bannerman, narrator;
Dave Braun, violin; Douglas Miller, flutes;
Nick Braun, percussion.



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Sunday, December 7, 2025 3:00 pm
Linwell Church
335 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines

Parisian Crossroads

As Europe's second largest city at the end of the 18th century, Paris was a vibrant intersection of political, cultural and musical ideas. Wolfgang Mozart, Joseph Bologne (aka Chevalier de Saint-Georges) and Hyacinthe Jadin all spent time or lived in the French capital between 1776 and 1800. The **Eybler Quartet** explores the musical interconnections of these three fascinating composers, offering one of Mozart's least-often performed quartets, a newly rediscovered work by Bologne and an extremely rare opportunity to hear the glorious and dramatic music of Jadin.

PERFORMERS: Eybler Quartet:

Margaret Gay, 'cello; Patricia Ahern, violin;
Patrick Jordan, viola; Julia Wedman, violin.



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Sunday, February 15, 2026 3:00 pm 
Silver Spire United Church
366 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines



Movie Night

A Chapter In Her Life

(Lois Weber, 1924) 65 mins.

A co-production with the
FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre

6:45 pm pre-screening talk | 7:00 pm screening



Discover the quiet power of compassion in this luminous silent drama by trailblazing filmmaker Lois Weber. A young girl's wit and optimism breathe new life into a troubled family. Your cinematic experience will be animated by a fully improvised live score, created by our inventive **Movie Night Trio** of musicians. The evening begins with an introduction to the film and its historical significance by local film critic **Joan Nicks**.

Kindness can change everything. Experience this beautifully crafted silent film from one of cinema's first great female directors.

PERFORMERS: Douglas Miller, flutes; Patricia Ahern, violin; Nick Braun, percussion & keyboard.
Joan Nicks, film critic.



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Saturday, March 7, 2026 6:45 pm
FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
Film House 250 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines

Playful Partners: Oboe & Violin

Tafelmusik chamber ensemble brings together oboe, violin, 'cello, and harpsichord in a luminous programme of works by two giants of the Baroque era - Handel and Telemann. Both composers delighted in pairing oboe and violin as equal melodic partners, crafting music rich with playful dialogue and moments of expressive, lyrical beauty.

PERFORMERS:

Daniel Ramirez, oboe; Geneviève Gilardeau, violin;
Keiran Campbell, 'cello; Charlotte Nediger, harpsichord.



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Sunday, March 22, 2026 3:00 pm
FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
Recital Hall 250 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines



Odin Quartet & Michele Jacot

Brahms' Clarinet Quintet

Discover why Brahms' Clarinet Quintet remains a favourite among musicians and audiences alike; a moving blend of melody, colour, and emotion will draw you in with its soulful and mesmerizing dialogue between clarinet and strings.

PERFORMERS: Michele Jacot, clarinet.

Odin Quartet: Tanya Charles, violin; Matthew Antal, viola; Samuel Bisson, 'cello; Alex Toskov, violin.



Agape: Unconditional Love

Jazz standards often focus on love's feelings - sometimes playfully, as in *The Best Thing For You*: "I only want what's the best thing for you, and the best thing for you would be me." But the highest form of love goes beyond feelings; it's selfless and sacrificial - what the Ancient Greeks called *agape*. We've found this love is also key to making meaningful music with others. Join us for a journey through some of our favourite chamber music and jazz standards!

PERFORMERS:

Jenny Armor, violin & voice; David Liam Roberts, 'cello.



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Sunday, April 26, 2026 3:00 pm 
Silver Spire United Church
 366 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines

7

Sunday, May 31, 2026 3:00 pm 
Silver Spire United Church
 366 St. Paul Street, St. Catharines

Your Gallery Players Experience



Adaptive Performances

Our Doors are Open



- Check your venue location - we get around!
- Tickets are held at the door
- Box office opens one hour before each concert
- All venues are accessible
- Digital concert programmes are distributed via email prior to each concert
- Pay-What-You-Choose tickets available at all concerts, thanks to our *Open Doors Partner* **DJB Human Resources Advisory**
- Children under 16 are always Free
- Four concerts (nos. 1, 3, 6, and 7) will be recorded and available for online viewing 
- We offer 3 Adaptive Performances
- Interested in learning more about our wildlife imagery? Join our email list by visiting our website!
- Performers welcome the chance to chat after concerts – please say hello!



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(905) 468-1525**

GalleryPlayers.ca/Shop/Tickets

Ticket revenue, government funding, and corporate sponsorship cover only a small percentage of our costs. Please consider a donation. We are truly grateful for your support.

The Gallery Players of Niagara is a Not-for-Profit charitable organization and provides tax receipts. Charitable # 88582 0019 RR000

Our free series of Adaptive Performances is presented in partnership with the **Thorold Public Library & the Thorold Centre 50+.**

What do we mean by Adaptive Performances? Family-friendly, accessible, and inclusive performing arts experiences for music lovers from the neurodiverse and disability communities, or anyone simply wanting a more relaxed concert experience.

ALL CONCERTS PERFORMED ON SATURDAYS AT:

Thorold Centre 50+

8 Carleton St. South, Thorold

■ **October 25, 2025 2:00 pm**

■ **February 14, 2026 2:00 pm**

■ **May 9, 2026 2:00 pm**



There is **no cost** to attend our Adaptive Performances but to be guaranteed a spot you must reserve a seat.

TO RESERVE SEATS: use the QR code below to register, or Email: info@galleryplayers.ca or Phone: (905) 468-1525



www.GalleryPlayers.ca

(905) 468-1525

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