



Anniversary Season
2024/2025

Welcome to our 30th Anniversary Season!



Dear Friends,

Incredibly, Gallery Players is celebrating 30 years! Thinking back on our past concerts, which have featured hundreds of stellar performers and over 1,000 chamber works, I am awestruck by our achievements and the immense contributions from our wonderful audience, generous donors and volunteers, and dedicated board members. Together, we have built an extraordinary musical family.

The pandemic presented significant challenges for most performing arts organizations, including the Gallery Players. However, it also provided an opportunity for profound reflection. It compelled us to reimagine our mission and create a fresh vision for the future. With new priorities, we launched "Open Doors," an initiative designed to share the power of music with all. We firmly believe that access to art is a human right and, that experiencing live music enriches lives and strengthens communities.

Last season, we expanded our community concerts to include Adaptive Performances. In these concerts, we work with the neurodiverse and disability communities to present excellent musical performances for children, their families, and others who may face barriers to inclusion in our regular season offerings. The overwhelmingly positive response to our Adaptive Performances last season has encouraged us to offer three more for 2024-25.

I am confident this season's captivating Gallery Players concerts will inspire you to join us – Subscribe and Save to celebrate our 30th anniversary. Whether you have been with us from the beginning or discovered us more recently, thank you for your support and commitment. Delighting in wonderful performances, we enrich and strengthen our community through music.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Gay". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Margaret Gay
Artistic & Administrative Director



1

20 for 20 Eybler Quartet

The Eybler Quartet is turning 20 - what better way to celebrate than to present Joseph Haydn's iconic *Op. 20 Quartets*! Among the works that earned Haydn one of his "Father of" nicknames, this masterful collection is a milestone in compositional development. By turns dramatic, thoughtful, and downright hilarious, the quartets are definitive of what we now call the Classical style. Join us to hear three of these incredible pieces, nos. 1-3, and to commemorate the launch of Gallery Players of Niagara's 30th season with a birthday bash for the Eybler Quartet – we love a party!



Eybler
QUARTET

PERFORMERS:

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

Sunday, November 17, 2024 3:00pm 

St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
335 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines



2

Celebrate the Season

Glissandi & Guy Bannerman

As the year draws to a close, we gather with our friends - and yours! - **Guy Bannerman** and the musicians of **Glissandi** to share the joys of the season with our community. Glissandi's much-anticipated annual concert offers an evocative programme of festive carols combined with classics, both musical and written, from the rich Celtic bardic tradition. Featuring a new composition from Niagara composer Gail Poulsen, and intriguing combinations of harp, violin, multiple flutes, and percussion, as well as charming anecdotes, this is an ideal time to unite with family and friends and celebrate. Why not join us and kick off the holidays!



PERFORMERS:

Deborah Braun, harp
David Braun, violin
Douglas Miller, flute
Guy Bannerman, narrator
Nick Braun, percussion

Sunday, December 8, 2024 3:00pm

St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
335 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines



3

Virtue and Vice: Roman oratorio and Venetian extravagance!

A co-production with Capella Intima

CAPELLA
INTIMA


Marking our fourth co-production with Capella Intima we present *Giuseppe*, an oratorio from 1650, discovered in the Vatican Library and attributed to Luigi Rossi. Based on the biblical story of the coat of many colours, this 40-minute, energetic work is scored for five voices, strings, theorbo, and organ. In the second half we feature secular Venetian vocal and instrumental works by Monteverdi, Sances, and their contemporaries - lots more 17th century fireworks incorporating the same themes encountered in *Giuseppe*: Envy, Injustice, Faith and Charity.

Directed by Bud Roach.

PERFORMERS: Capella Intima: Sheila Dietrich & Ellen Torrie, sopranos; Rocky Duval, alto; Bud Roach, tenor



& Artistic Director; David Roth, baritone. **Gallery Players:** Patricia Ahern & Michelle Odorico, baroque violins; Margaret Gay, baroque cello; Lucas Harris, theorbo; Jonathan Oldengarm, portative organ & harpsichord.

Sunday, February 9, 2025 3:00pm 

St. Catharines United Mennonite Church
335 Linwell Rd., St. Catharines



4

Bach on Turtle's Back Year 3 - Rebirth

Birth, death and rebirth resonate as universal topics of human expression. Combining the *C major Violin Sonata* and *E major Partita* of J. S. Bach, the choreography of Brian Solomon, and selected Bach arias, "Rebirth" explores and reconciles these profoundly human concerns within a uniquely Canadian context. In this, the third and final concert of our Bach on Turtle's Back project, we are proud to premiere a new commission from Cree composer Andrew Balfour, scored for period string quartet and baritone (performed by Jonathon Adams & the Eybler Quartet). Join us for the culmination of this multi-layered, multi-discipline project, a true feast for the senses.

Directed & Choreographed by Brian Solomon.

PERFORMERS: Brian Solomon; Jonathon Adams, baritone; Julia Wedman, solo violin; Mariana Medellín, dancer. **Eybler Quartet:** Julia Wedman & Patricia Ahern, violins; Patrick Jordan, viola; Margaret Gay, 'cello.



Sunday, March 16, 2025, 3:00pm

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
Robertson Theatre 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines



5

Joy, Sorrow, and the Spaces in Between

Dior Quartet

Joy and Sorrow are polar opposite emotions, inescapable elements of our existence, both profoundly felt. In a nod to Charlie Chaplin's films, Canadian composer Dinuk Wijeratne's *The Disappearance of Lisa Gherardini* takes us through the hilarious stages of an infamous heist of the Mona Lisa. How often are we encouraged to laugh in a concert hall? By stark contrast *String Quartet No. 2: The Gathering* by another leading Canadian, Christos Hatzis, invites us to look at our human history beleaguered by war. The composer draws us in to explore the sounds of ordinary life in contrast to the shadows of conflict. Maurice Ravel's incredible *String Quartet in F Major*, itself a microcosm of disparate emotions, draws together the divergent strands of the two newer works.



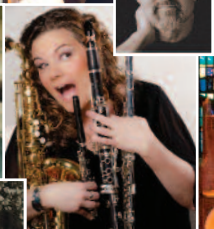
PERFORMERS:

Dior Quartet:

Joanne Yesol Choi, 'cello
Tobias Elser, second violin
Caleb Georges, viola
Noa Sarid, first violin

Sunday, April 13, 2025, 3:00pm 

Silver Spire United Church
366 St. Paul St., St. Catharines





30 Years of Great Performances



6

MOVIE NIGHT

The Cameraman

starring Buster Keaton

(Edward Sedgwick, 1928, 69 mins.)

A co-production with the
FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre



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

This hilarious silent film features beloved comic master Buster Keaton! Your cinematic experience will be animated by a fully improvised live score created by our Movie Night trio of inventive musicians. The evening begins with an introduction to the film and its historical significance by local film critic Joan Nicks. Then, enjoy the antics of an extraordinary comedian as Buster tries to master the intricacies of a movie camera to impress his lady love, all unfolding to an engaging soundtrack created just for you.

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



Saturday, April 26, 2025, 6:45pm

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre
Film House, 250 St. Paul St., St. Catharines



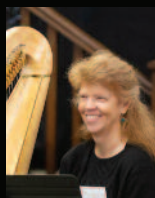
7

Music from Earth and Beyond!

Tom Allen & Friends

Tom Allen, CBC host and storyteller, brings us an otherworldly cycle of music both earthbound and celestial, exploring the rhythm of the seasons, the nature of time, and the mysteries of the skies. Fans of Tom Allen's "About Time" radio show will expect equal parts scholarship and anecdotes as he puts thoughtfully chosen music in context, and brings it to life. This concert explores music by the visionary Quebec composer Caroline Lizotte, Astor Piazzolla, Arvo Pärt, and others!

PERFORMERS: Tom Allen, narrator; Sheila Jafée, violin; Lori Gemmell, harp.



Sunday, May 11, 2025, 3:00pm 

Silver Spire United Church
366 St. Paul St., St. Catharines



Adaptive Performances

Family-friendly,
Accessible, and
Inclusive

A new series of Adaptive Performances presented in partnership with the **Thorold Public Library** & the **Thorold Senior Citizen's Centre** to celebrate our 30th anniversary season!

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.

November 9, 2024 2:00pm

March 1, 2025 2:00pm

May 31, 2025 2:00pm

Thorold Senior Citizen's Centre

8 Carleton St. South, Thorold



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

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



Patricia Ahern shares her bow;
a young girl feels how sound
is produced.

TICKET ORDER FORM

Your best deal is "All Access"

All 7 concerts + all virtual concerts for the same price as 3 single tickets!

Three easy ways to order your tickets!

ONLINE: www.galleryplayers.ca • **PHONE:** (905) 468-1525
or **MAIL:** by filling out the form below.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

All Access: \$120 each subscription

57% OFF All 7 Live concerts
plus all 4 Virtual concerts

Total # of All Access	\$ _____
X \$120 =	SUB TOTAL

Pick 4: \$85 each subscription

4 Live concerts (*your choice*)
plus all 4 Virtual concerts

Total # of Pick 4	\$ _____
X \$85 =	SUB TOTAL

Pick 4 concerts: Subscription 1

#1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____ #6 _____ #7 _____

Pick 4 concerts: Subscription 2

#1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____ #6 _____ #7 _____



Virtual Only: \$40 each subscription

4 Virtual concerts: #1, #3, #5, #7

Access to online performances available
48 hours after the live performance.

Total # of Virtual	\$ _____
X \$40 =	SUB TOTAL

Subscription TOTAL: \$

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SINGLE TICKETS:

Live Single Ticket: \$40 each

Concerts:

#1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____ #6 _____ #7 _____

Children under 16 free; reserve ahead of time by calling: (905) 468-1525
or emailing: info@galleryplayers.ca



Virtual Single Ticket: \$15 each

Concerts:

#1 _____ #3 _____ #5 _____ #7 _____

Access to online performances of concerts #1, #3, #5 and #7
will be available 48 hours after the live presentation.

Total # of Virtual Single	\$ _____
X \$15 =	SUB TOTAL

Single tickets TOTAL: \$

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I would also like to make a donation

(Tax receipt issued for all donations over \$10)

Any amount gratefully received.

Thank you!

\$

**Please total the 3 shaded boxes and continue on
the other side for payment details.**

TICKET PAYMENT FORM

Visit our website at www.galleryplayers.ca
or call us with a credit card at (905) 468-1525.

Please fill out both sides of this form

**TOTAL amount from
previous side including
your donation if applicable.**

\$

To pay by mail using cheque or credit card, please complete this form and mail it (with your cheque) to:

The Gallery Players of Niagara, P.O. Box 4055 St. Catharines Stn Main, ON L2R 7S3

with the following required information:

Name: _____ ☐ Cheque payable to: "The Gallery Players of Niagara"

Address: _____ Charge my: Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX ☐

Card #

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Postal Code

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Phone number: () _____
(required)

E-mail: _____
(required to receive links to virtual concerts and digital programmes)


FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre (FOPAC) will no longer allow General Seating.

If your subscription or single ticket includes a concert at FOPAC (concerts #4and/ or #6), you will need to let us know approximately where you'd like to sit in the Film House or Robertson Theatre. Please provide your email and we will be in touch.

TICKETS FOR EACH CONCERT ARE HELD AT THE DOOR.

Please Cut Along Dotted Line

Your Gallery Players Experience

- Check times & venues – we get around!
- Tickets held at the door
- Box office opens one hour before each concert
- All venues are accessible
- We now offer 3 Adaptive Performances
These concerts start @ 2:00 p.m.
- Pay-What-You-Choose tickets available at the door on all concert days
- Children under 16 always Free
- Digital concert programmes are distributed via email prior to each concert.
- 4 concerts (#s 1, 3, 5, and 7) will be available for online viewing 
- Discover more at our website www.galleryplayers.ca
- Performers welcome the chance to chat after concerts – please say hello!

FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre no longer allows General Seating.

To arrange seating for the Bach Project (#4) or the Movie Night (#6), be sure to provide your email on the ticket order form and we'll be in touch.

Ticket revenue, government funding, and corporate sponsorship cover only a small percentage of our costs, please consider a donation in honour of our 30th anniversary. 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 RR0001



www.GalleryPlayers.ca **(905) 468-1525**



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
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Celebrating
30 years
of intimate
and informal
performances
for music
lovers!



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