

NEW THIS YEAR - The Gallery Players **TICKET PLEDGE:** Anyone who pledges a minimum of \$50 can attend all concerts that we're able to offer and will receive links to any virtual broadcasts as well. For 2020/2021, there are no subscriptions; limited single tickets are offered one day before each concert. For more information see the letter at the end of this document.

THE GALLERY PLAYERS OF NIAGARA 2020-2021 SEASON

#1. Sunday November 22, 2pm, 2020, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, Partridge Hall

Tafelmusik chamber players with, "Close Encounters: Re-tuned"

The sound of string players tuning their instruments often signals the beginning of a concert. What happens when you change up this familiar tuning? Many baroque composers experimented with re-pitching some of the strings to draw different sounds and possibilities from the violin, a technique called scordatura. We explore one of the most popular of these re-tunings (AEAE), which offers a very open, resonant sound — evoking trumpets and vielles (medieval string instruments). We also say a quick hello to our fiddler cousins, who still turn to this tuning for some of their traditional tunes. **Performers:** Geneviève Gilardeau & Cristina Zacharias violins, Felix Deak viola da gamba, Lucas Harris lute

#2. Sunday December 20, 2:00pm, 2020, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, Partridge Hall

Glissandi & Guy Bannerman with "Celtic Gems and Carols of Christmas Past". A mix of Christmas Traditionals (Huron Carol, The Angel Gabriel, & Greensleeves) with some of our Celtic Favourites (Cape Breton Medley, Wexford Carol, Bells of Dublin) **Performers:** Guy Bannerman –narrator, Deborah Braun-harp, David Braun-violin, Douglas Miller-flute

(please note, only one performance of our holiday concert this year)

#3. Sunday February 21, 2pm, 2021, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, exact hall TBA

Join the **Eybler Quartet** for string quartet selections from Joseph Haydn's Op. 54, Cris Derksen's "White Man's Cattle", and Pedro Ximénez Abril Tirado's Op. 68 - a newly rediscovered work from the little-known 19th century Peruvian composer!

Performers: Aisslinn Nosky- violin, Julia Wedman-violin, Patrick Jordan-violin, Margaret Gay- 'cello

#4. Sunday March 28th, 2pm, 2021, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, Partridge Hall

Transformations - Award winning Canadian baritone Brett Polegato joins the Gallery Players for a unique programme of new transcriptions written by Canadian Trevor Wagler. It's extremely exciting to be able to offer works of Ravel, Mahler and Brahms in a new intimate format. **Performers:** Brett Polegato-baritone, Julie Baumgartel-violin, James Mason-oboe, Peter Shackleton-clarinet, Margaret Gay-cello, Anna Ronai-piano.

#5. Saturday April 17, 1:45 & 6:45pm, 2021, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, Film House, 250 St. Paul Street

Movie Night- A Co-production with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre

1:45 & 6:45 pre-screening talks. 2pm & 7:00pm screening

We continue our fascinating journey with improvised music accompanying silent films.

The General (Buster Keaton 1926, 78 min)

All music will be improvised by the three musicians below.

Performers: Douglas Miller-flute, Eric Mahar-guitar, Penner Mackay –percussion, Joan Nicks-film historian

#6. Sunday May 2nd, 2pm, 2021, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, exact hall TBA, 250 St. Paul Street

Songs of Life Year 3- Bach on Turtle's Back- Rebirth

Birth, death and rebirth resonate as universal topics of human expression. Using the violin Sonatas and Partitas of J. S. Bach, performed by Julia Wedman, the solo choreography of Brian Solomon, and selected Bach cantatas, *Songs of Life* explores and reconciles these profoundly human concerns within a uniquely Canadian context.

#7. Sunday June 6, 2pm, 2021, FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, exact hall TBA, 250 St. Paul Street

Southern Exposure!

A concert curated by Timothy Phelan- Classical Guitar meets Flute, Clarinet, Cello & Percussion for a vibrant South American tour from Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro! Featuring Astor Piazzolla's "The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires", Maximo Diego Pujol's "Buenos Aires Color Pastel", and toe-tapping Bossa Nova tunes by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Luiz Bonfá. **Performers:** Timothy Phelan-guitars, Douglas Miller-flutes, Michele Jacot-clarinet, Margaret Gay- 'cello, Mike Phelan – percussion.

***Programming and performers subject to change.**

wellbeing and has the profound ability to speak directly to the soul. Experiencing live music together will help all of us feel better, more connected to our community.

Now that we've entered phase 3 of the government's re-opening plan, organizations like ours are permitted to offer concerts for a maximum of 50 people at a time, with proper physical distancing and mandatory masks. Although this is now possible, and 50 is a workable number, the government's plan could change at any moment. We're in constant communication with the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, as well as our other venues and are keeping close tabs on the recommendations of the local public health authorities. When our venues are ready a decision will be made in consultation with our performers. Frankly, at no time this season will we be in a position to guarantee a performance, live or virtual.

Our Pledge for the Future: As it seems impossible to know what the future will hold, we've decided for the 2020-21 season to suspend selling subscriptions and in-advance single tickets. We're instead offering a **Ticket Pledge**. Anyone who pledges a minimum of \$50 can come to all concerts that we're able to offer and will receive links to any virtual broadcasts as well. Clearly, if all seven concerts are presented this will be an incredible bargain! If individual concerts have to be cancelled, it may be possible for us to reschedule them, pending performer schedules and venue availability. In the event all concerts are cancelled, the pledge will automatically become a donation and you receive a tax receipt. Any amount given above the minimum pledge of \$50 will of course be eligible for a tax receipt. On concert days (if space remains after ticket pledges are purchased) we will sell single tickets, but these will definitely not be as discounted as the **Ticket Pledge**! We will also offer complimentary rush tickets (if space is available) to all students and young children who have not bought a pledge.

We plan to open our season November 22nd with a chamber ensemble from the world renowned Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra. If presented live, the concert will take place in Partridge Hall (the largest space) at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. The PAC has first-rate recording/broadcasting capabilities; at minimum, we expect to offer you a virtual concert. To ensure maximum safety at live concerts this season, performances will begin at 2:00 p.m. and run 45-55 minutes long with no intermission. The current plan is to present our concerts in Partridge Hall when available. Once we reach maximum audience size (50), a second performance will be added at 4:00 p.m., allowing a thorough cleaning of the venue.

Circumstances make publishing a brochure somewhat chancy this year! Therefore, this letter includes a list of all the concerts we hope to present this season, with dates and concert description, and a pledge form. Remember, your ticket pledge gives you access to all live and virtual performances.

In this time of unprecedented uncertainty, nothing will be set in stone; anything could change right up until the day of a performance. We look forward to welcoming you to concerts as a **Ticket Pledge** patron for 2020/2021. But if we're unable to present any of the concerts live or virtually, we hope you feel comforted knowing that your pledge will strengthen our organization and give us the ability to dream and plan for a better future!

Our 2020-2021 season will require flexibility, nimbleness, trust and goodwill. That is our commitment to you as we make our very best effort to bring live music back into all our lives.

We deeply appreciate your faith in us and your ongoing support.
Yours,

Margaret Gay, Artistic Director

P.S. Thank you for reading this entire letter, I know it's a lot to digest! If you have any questions, please call 905-468-1525 or email info@galleryplayers.ca