

**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 below.

## Our Pledge for the Future!

Dear Friend of Gallery Players;

We sincerely hope this finds you, your family and dear friends in good health.

It's been a very unsettling five months since we last performed for you, and as we all learn to live with Covid 19 it's likely we'll feel this way for a while.

I would like to thank everyone who donated their unused tickets from last season due to our unavoidable cancellations. Your thoughtful support at that bewildering and uncertain time has been a very welcome vote of confidence.

The Gallery Players of Niagara is planning a season of concerts for 2020-2021, but exactly what form they'll take is unclear; performances may be live or virtual or a mix of both. I want to assure you that above all else we're completely committed to your safety as well as the safety of our performers.

Nothing compares to the power of live music, and the collective experience of sharing it together is something we're dearly hoping to offer you this season; we remain cautiously optimistic! Music is enormously important to our 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.

