



MEDIA RELEASE

April 28, 2022

Community Building Fund helps Gallery Players of Niagara keep the music playing!

St. Catharines, ON – In 2021, the Gallery Players of Niagara received a \$26,500 grant from the Government of Ontario’s Community Building Fund – Operating stream. This support, delivered by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, is supporting operating costs and allowing the group to continue offering live and videoed concerts through the pandemic.

“The performing arts community has been hit throughout the pandemic, which makes this support for the Gallery Players of Niagara even more impactful,” says St. Catharines MPP Jennie Stevens. “Investments like this one ensure that some of the hardest hit organizations get a hand-up to make it through to recovery and beyond.”

The Gallery Players’ artistic director Margaret Gay says, “the impact of this grant is huge. It’s the difference between keeping our audience engaged and with us for the long term or losing them. We’ve been able to offer virtual content when restrictions prevented us from performing live concerts (which we’ve gifted to nine seniors’ residences), and at times we’ve been able to offer live concerts for 50 per cent capacity. Not having to worry about selling large numbers of tickets has been a life saver and meant we could keep creating.”

On Sunday May 8th, with the support of this grant, the Gallery Players present “Southern Exposure - A Tale of Two Cities: from Buenos Aires to Rio de Janeiro and back again,” a concert curated by local guitarist Timothy Phelan. Classical Guitar meets Flute, Clarinet, Cello & Percussion for a vibrant South American tour, featuring Astor Piazzolla’s “The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires”, Maximo Diego Pujol’s “Suite Buenos Aires”, and toe tapping Bossa Nova tunes by Antonio Carlos Jobim and Luiz Bonfá. **Performers:** Douglas Miller-flutes, Michele Jacot-clarinets/saxophones, Margaret Gay- ‘cello, Timothy Phelan-guitars, Mike Phelan – percussion.

Programme notes writer Keith Horner says, “Inventive tango composer, charismatic band leader and virtuoso bandoneón player Astor Piazzolla is the most popular Latin American *classical* composer of our times..... Piazzolla contributed mightily to the development of the tango as it evolved from the bars, cafés and bordellos in the *arrabal* of Buenos Aires to the concert halls of the world.”

Tickets for the May 8 concert can be purchased at <https://galleryplayers.ca/shop/tickets>. For more information, contact the Gallery Players of Niagara Box Office at (905) 468-1525 or visit www.galleryplayers.ca.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario’s non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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