

**BE HERE.**  
**BE MOVED.**



**HAMILTON  
PHILHARMONIC  
ORCHESTRA**

**26**

**27**

**SEASON**

"Everything was so wonderful about the concert on Saturday. The soloist was phenomenal and the conductor was entertaining while the orchestra was amazing, as always."

– Patron



"I continue to enjoy every aspect of the HPO experience. Thank you so much, to the entire HPO team! Already looking forward to the next event."

– Patron

# SUBSCRIBE FOR THE BEST EXPERIENCE

Be transported by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra's inspiring orchestral energy this 26–27 season. Subscribers get the best seats, best prices, and the most music!

Purchase your subscription before June 1 to have the choicest seats for this exciting season of innovative, exceptional live symphonic music. If you're renewing your previous subscription, reserve the same seats you already know and love.



## Why purchase a subscription package?



Save up to **24% off** concert tickets.



Get exclusive **discount codes** to save on any additional tickets you purchase.



Receive **personalized service** to ensure you have the ultimate experience, all season long.



If your plans change, simply **exchange your tickets** for another concert—with no service charge.

# THE SPIRIT OF HAMILTON



Over the course of its history, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra has championed some of the most extraordinary classical music. True to its Hamiltonian spirit, the Orchestra has added vigour and diversity to the local art scene, inspiring and connecting people at a deeply human level—while also managing to become one of the most respected regional orchestras in Canada.

This has been made possible by the dedication of the musicians, staff, and of course, you, our incredible community.

As a major player in the national music scene, we now have access to new opportunities, open doors, and unprecedented heights of ambition for artistic and organizational development. Our 26–27 season draws from this expanded landscape, and is meticulously curated through a distinctly Hamiltonian lens.

The season reflects the immense ambitions of the Orchestra, inspired by the elements of our natural world. We invite you to a whirlwind of fiery emotions, and earthly and heavenly feelings, with some of the most acclaimed artists that the Orchestra has had the honour to bring to Hamilton. Through the season, we will be joined by world-famous Canadian pianist Marc-André Hamelin for a particularly joyous and virtuosic program, alongside a plethora of renowned international guest stars. Most notably, we will be welcoming the Opera Studio from the legendary Bayerische Staatsoper (Bavarian State Opera), one of the largest and most prestigious opera houses in the world, for a concert production of Bizet's beloved opera *Carmen*.

We are also furthering our commitment to fostering the next generation of musical talents in Canada by significantly expanding our newly established Centre for Musical Leadership. Through the Centre, we will welcome early-career Composer, Conductor, and Musician Fellows, who will be highlighted over the course of the season.

As Music Director of the HPO, I could not be more thrilled to invite you to join us for our 26–27 season and be part of this extraordinary journey of growth and musical ambitions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. Kahane'.

James S. Kahane  
HPO Music Director

# 26 AN ELEMENTAL 27 SEASON SEASON

Come together to hear live music performed by the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. Tune into a shared heartbeat while being transported to your own intensely personal realms. Enjoy our 26–27 season—and discover what an orchestra can be!



## ON THE MAINSTAGE AT FIRST ONTARIO CONCERT HALL

Include any of these concerts in your 26–27 subscription package!



### OPENING NIGHT! BEETHOVEN'S SIXTH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3  
7:30PM | **PAGE 6**

### SYMPHONY IN SPACE: THE ULTIMATE SCI-FI CONCERT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24  
7:30PM | **PAGE 8**



### SCHUBERT & TCHAIKOVSKY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14  
7:30PM | **PAGE 9**



### NATALIE MACMASTER WITH THE HAMILTON PHIL

SATURDAY, MARCH 6,  
7:30PM **PAGE 14**



### MURDOCH MYSTERIES: SUGAR PLUM MURDOCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12  
7:30PM | **PAGE 10**



### MENDELSSOHN & SCHUMANN

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16  
3PM | **PAGE 12**



### BIZET'S CARMEN IN CONCERT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
7:30PM | **PAGE 13**



### SIBELIUS & SAINT-SAËNS

SATURDAY, APRIL 17  
7:30PM | **PAGE 16**



### PROKOFIEV & DVOŘÁK

SATURDAY, MAY 15  
7:30PM | **PAGE 17**

## OFF THE MAINSTAGE IN THE COMMUNITY



### HANDEL'S MESSIAH

FRIDAY, DEC. 4 | 7:30PM  
SUNDAY, DEC. 6 | 3PM  
ST CATHERINE OF SIENA  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
**PAGE 11**



### INTIMATE & IMMERSIVE

THURSDAY, APR. 1 | 7:30PM  
THE COTTON FACTORY  
**PAGE 15**

OPENING NIGHT

# BEETHOVEN'S SIXTH

MAINSTAGE 1

Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 7:30PM

26–27 Opening Night shines with warmth, brilliance and renewal. Join us for an inspiring launch to a season of unforgettable music with your Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra.

**James S. Kahane**, Conductor  
**Jessica Linnebach**, Violin

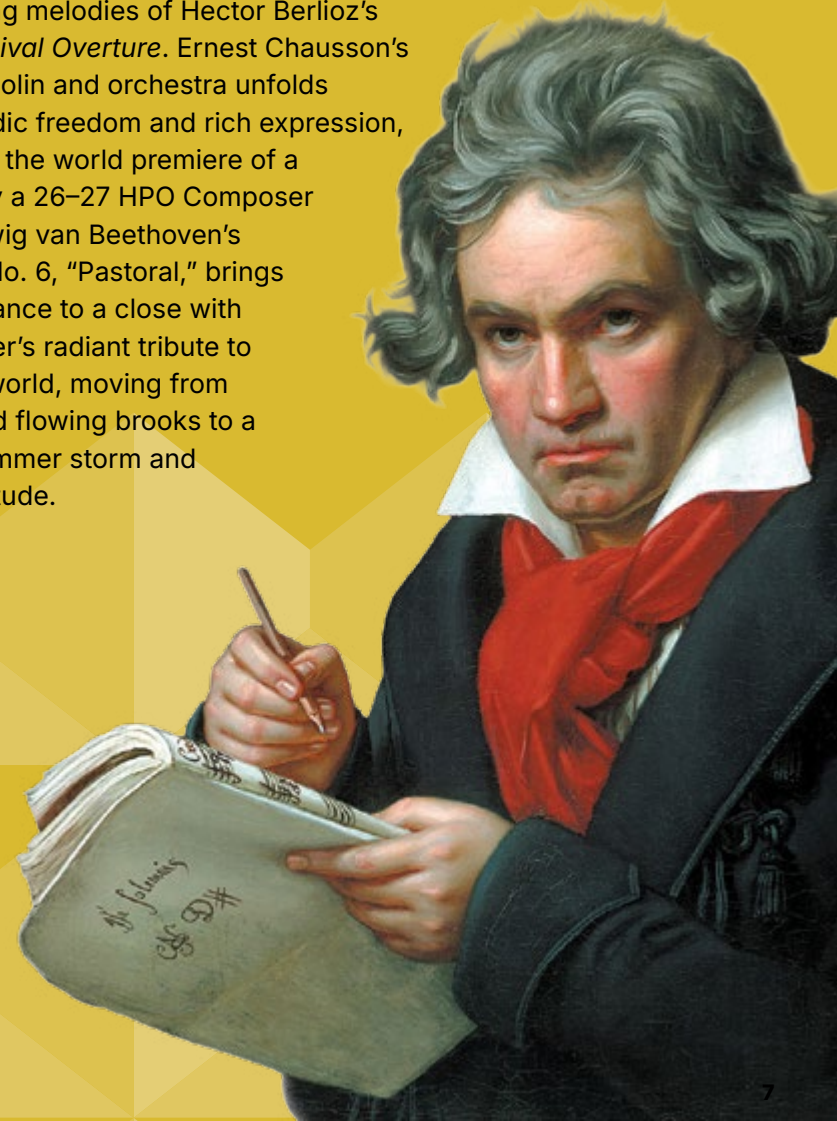
**Berlioz**, *Roman Carnival Overture*  
**Chausson**, *Poème for Violin and Orchestra*  
**26-27 Composer Fellow**, *New Work*  
**Beethoven**, *Symphony No. 6*



"Please keep on keeping on. Your efforts bringing joy, entertainment, pleasure, and excitement are very much appreciated. HPO is a local gem we are all so proud of having in our community."  
– Patron

# brilliance

Music Director James Kahane leads the Orchestra in a vibrant opening to the 26–27 season, beginning with the dazzling energy and sweeping melodies of Hector Berlioz's *Roman Carnival Overture*. Ernest Chausson's *Poème* for violin and orchestra unfolds with rhapsodic freedom and rich expression, and we hear the world premiere of a new work by a 26–27 HPO Composer Fellow. Ludwig van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6, "Pastoral,"* brings the performance to a close with the composer's radiant tribute to the natural world, moving from birdsong and flowing brooks to a dramatic summer storm and serene gratitude.



# SYMPHONY IN SPACE

## The Ultimate Sci-Fi Concert

Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 7:30PM

MAINSTAGE 2

Evan Mitchell, Conductor 🍁

Blast off with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra for an out-of-this-world symphonic adventure led by conductor Evan Mitchell. From distant galaxies to dystopian futures, this electrifying program celebrates the music that has defined sci-fi on-screen and in our imaginations for generations. Audiences will be immersed in the bold heroism, haunting mystery, and heart-pounding intensity of music from *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *E.T.*, *Alien*, *Interstellar*, *Tron*, *Dune*, *Back to the Future* and more.



heart-pounding

# SCHUBERT & TCHAIKOVSKY

Saturday, November 14, 2026 at 7:30PM

MAINSTAGE 3

James S. Kahane, Conductor

Rachel Mercer, Cello 🍁

Schubert, Symphony No. 8 "Unfinished"

Bruch, *Kol Nidrei*

Tchaikovsky, *Souvenir de Florence* (Strings)

An evening of passion, lyricism and emotional depth awaits as Music Director James Kahane leads the Orchestra and welcomes acclaimed Canadian cellist Rachel Mercer. Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, "Unfinished," opens the concert with haunting beauty and intensity, its mystery lingering long after the final note. Rachel Mercer brings warmth and expressive depth to Max Bruch's *Kol Nidrei*, a deeply moving work shaped by a noble, songful cello line and rich orchestral colours. The concert concludes with Tchaikovsky's *Souvenir de Florence* for strings, a vibrant showcase brimming with lush melodies, virtuosic interplay and radiant energy.



+CBC  
MURDOCH  
MYSTERIES  
IN CONCERT



MAINSTAGE 4

# MURDOCH MYSTERIES: SUGAR PLUM MURDOCH

Saturday, December 12, 2026 at 7:30PM

Lucas Waldin, Conductor

For the first time in Hamilton, experience *Murdoch Mysteries: In Concert* with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra and conductor Lucas Waldin! Hosted by a star of the hit CBC series, this holiday-themed whodunnit pulls back the curtain on the music of *Murdoch Mysteries*, featuring behind-the-scenes insights from composer Robert Carli, festive sing-alongs, and a live orchestral performance of "Sugar Plum Murdoch" on the big screen.

# HANDEL'S MESSIAH

Friday, December 4, 2026 at 7:30PM  
Sunday, December 6, 2026 at 3PM  
St Catherine of Siena Roman Catholic Church



# uplift

James S. Kahane, Conductor  
Co-presentation with Bach Elgar Choir

The HPO and the Bach Elgar Choir come together for Handel's monumental work, *Messiah*. From the soft beauty of the opening notes to the resounding joy of the Hallelujah Chorus, this performance promises to uplift and delight audiences during the festive season.

# MENDELSSOHN & SCHUMANN

Saturday, January 16, 2027  
at 3PM

MAINSTAGE 5

drama

**James S. Kahane**, Conductor  
**Marc-André Hamelin**, Piano 🍁

**Mendelssohn**, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* "Overture"

**Abigail Richardson-Schulte**,  
*New Work* 🍁

**Beethoven**, Piano Concerto No. 2

**Schumann**, Symphony No. 1, "Spring"

The New Year starts with shimmering delight as Felix Mendelssohn's Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* transports us to an enchanted world through dreamy soundscapes. We hear the world premiere of a brand new work by Composer-in-Residence Abigail Richardson-Schulte, and Canadian virtuoso Marc-André Hamelin is soloist on Beethoven's sparkling second Piano Concerto. The concert culminates with Robert Schumann's First Symphony, bursting with youthful energy and radiant optimism, evoking the fresh awakening and emotional renewal of springtime.

# BIZET'S CARMEN IN CONCERT

Saturday, February 13, 2027 at 7:30PM

MAINSTAGE 6

**James S. Kahane**, Conductor  
**Bayerische Staatsoper Opera Studio**

**Bizet**, *Carmen* (Concert Version)

Bizet's iconic opera *Carmen* comes to life on stage in this vivid semi-staged production, with Music Director James Kahane. From the sultry allure of the "Habanera" to the swagger of the "Toreador Song," every scene pulses with rhythmic vitality and cinematic intensity. Rising stars from the Bayerische Staatsoper Opera Studio, one of Europe's most prestigious opera training programs, lend their voices and artistry to this gripping tale of freedom, obsession and jealousy.



# NATALIE MACMASTER WITH THE HAMILTON PHIL

Saturday, March 6, 2027 at 7:30PM

MAINSTAGE 7

**Natalie MacMaster**, Fiddle 🍁

Canada's Celtic music icon Natalie MacMaster joins forces with your Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra for an unforgettable evening of music and celebration. Renowned for her electrifying fiddle playing and vibrant stage presence, MacMaster brings the spirit of Cape Breton to the concert hall in a joyful program filled with energy, rhythm and dazzling musicianship.



# INTIMATE & IMMERSIVE

Thursday, April 1, 2027 at 7:30PM  
The Cotton Factory

**James S. Kahane**, Conductor

The Intimate & Immersive series draws audiences into an atmospheric journey that blurs the lines between performer and spectator in one of Hamilton's most inspiring and historic venues, the Cotton Factory. Hear the music unfold all around you while the space is visually transformed with a multimedia artistic installation designed to respond to and elevate the sonic experience. HPO Intimate & Immersive is not just a concert—it's a deep sensory encounter. Whether you're a lover of contemporary art, classical music, or unforgettable spaces, this concert promises a night of bold creativity and connection.

"The performance of the orchestra was superb. Both conductor and soloist were fantastic."  
— Patron



# SIBELIUS & SAINT-SAËNS

Saturday, April 17, 2027 at 7:30PM

MAINSTAGE 8

**Simon Proust**, *Conductor*

**Sibelius**, *The Wood Nymph*

**Mozart**, *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*

**Saint-Saëns**, *Carnival of the Animals*

Stories, characters and musical imagination come to life in this colourful concert. Sibelius's atmospheric *The Wood Nymph* opens the evening, followed by the elegance of Mozart's iconic *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*. The concert concludes with the wit and charm of Saint-Saëns's beloved *Carnival of the Animals*, a playful showcase of orchestral storytelling and character.



"I am always enriched by the beauty of the HPO. I am even enjoying the challenges you present to me, and make me open my heart and mind to grow with many of your presentations."

– Patron

# enchanting

# PROKOFIEV & DVOŘÁK

Saturday, May 15, 2027  
at 7:30PM

MAINSTAGE 9



**James S. Kahane**,  
Conductor

🍁 **Jean Phillippe Sylvestre**,  
Piano

**Borodin**, *In the Steppes of  
Central Asia*

**Pépin**, *Un Monde Nouveau*

**Prokofiev**, Piano Concerto No. 3

**Dvořák**, Symphony No. 9 "New World"

Music Director James Kahane leads the Orchestra in a dynamic season finale of striking contrasts and vivid orchestral colour. Borodin's *In the Steppes of Central Asia* and Stéphane Pépin's *Un Monde Nouveau* set an atmospheric stage. Pianist Jean-Philippe Sylvestre brings brilliance to Prokofiev's electrifying Piano Concerto No. 3. The evening culminates in the sweeping power of Dvořák's Symphony No. 9, "New World," bringing the 26–27 season to a thrilling and resonant close.

# SUBSCRIPTION PACKAGES

Flexible subscription options let you choose any mainstage concerts in a **3, 5, 7** or **9** package!

| PACKAGES |                        | A-Level | B-Level | C-Level | D-Level | Suite |
|----------|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| <b>3</b> | Concerts <b>ADULT</b>  | \$231   | \$199   | \$132   | \$100   | \$270 |
|          | Concerts <b>SENIOR</b> | \$215   | \$181   | \$115   | \$84    | \$255 |
| <b>5</b> | Concerts <b>ADULT</b>  | \$386   | \$330   | \$220   | \$165   | \$450 |
|          | Concerts <b>SENIOR</b> | \$357   | \$303   | \$193   | \$138   | \$425 |
| <b>7</b> | Concerts <b>ADULT</b>  | \$502   | \$424   | \$294   | \$216   | \$630 |
|          | Concerts <b>SENIOR</b> | \$462   | \$386   | \$262   | \$185   | \$595 |
| <b>9</b> | Concerts <b>ADULT</b>  | \$645   | \$546   | \$378   | \$278   | \$810 |
|          | Concerts <b>SENIOR</b> | \$595   | \$495   | \$318   | \$218   | \$765 |

Prices do not include taxes or applicable fees.  
 FirstOntario Concert Hall applies a Capital Improvement Fee of \$3.50 per ticket in addition to the listed package price.  
 Senior discount for age 65+.

## Are you age 35 & under?

Check out our exclusive subscription options!

| PACKAGES          | Solo  | Duet                              |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>3 Concerts</b> | \$117 | \$108<br>(price per subscription) |
| <b>6 Concerts</b> | \$210 | \$205<br>(price per subscription) |

Are you a student? Get **\$10 tickets\*** to all mainstage concerts!

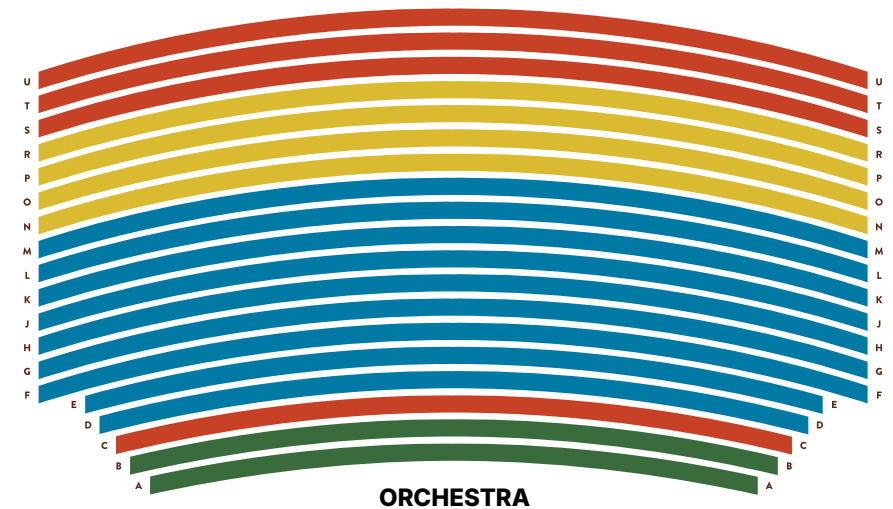
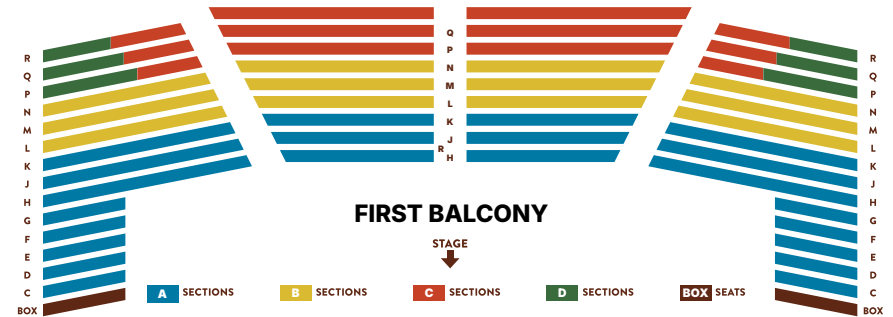
\*Pricing is available to current students ages 25 and under, including elementary, secondary and post-secondary.

## Single Tickets

Not ready to commit to a subscription package? Single tickets for all mainstage concerts are on sale as of July 1!

| SINGLE TICKET PRICES* | A-Level | B-Level | C-Level | D-Level | Suite |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| ADULT                 | \$89    | \$73    | \$53    | \$43    | \$105 |
| SENIOR                | \$84    | \$68    | \$47    | \$37    | \$100 |

Single tickets on sale for all concerts starting July 1, 2026.  
 \*Prices subject to change without notice.



**ORDER AT HPO.ORG OR BY CALLING THE BOX OFFICE AT 905-526-7756**



## CENTRE FOR MUSICAL LEADERSHIP

At the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, we are committed to supporting the next generation of musicians, composers, conductors, and audiences. Building a vibrant future for classical music depends on creating meaningful opportunities for emerging artists to develop their voices, gain professional experience, and connect with the communities they serve.

Through artistic fellowships as part of the Centre for Musical Leadership, we support early-career artists as they navigate, grow, and thrive in the Canadian music industry. These fellowships provide mentorship, creative collaboration, and valuable on-stage experience, helping artists build the skills and networks that sustain long-term careers.

Audiences will see the impact of this work throughout the 26–27 season, with the world premieres of newly commissioned pieces by our Composer Fellows appearing across multiple concerts. These performances not only showcase exciting new voices in Canadian music but also reflect the HPO's commitment to ensuring that orchestral music continues to evolve, inspire, and speak to contemporary audiences.

Learn more at: [hpo.org/artistic-fellowships](https://hpo.org/artistic-fellowships)



## KEEP THE MAGIC GOING

Music is a shared experience, from a composer's mind to a musician's fingertips to a listener's ear. Music brings people together and unites us in intangible, wonderful ways, allowing us to transcend the everyday stresses and strains of life. The magic behind every Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra concert—whether on the mainstage, in schools or in the community—is made possible only through your support.



**GIVE NOW!**

Help us continue to make meaningful connections by donating today.

With your support, our mainstage performances, community events and school programs will continue to thrive for years to come.

### Land Acknowledgement

As artists and collaborators, we recognize and respect that music has been performed on this land for generations before this time. These are the traditional lands of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Mississaugas, and within the lands protected by the "Dish with One Spoon" wampum agreement. Hamilton is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We honour this land and share it in a spirit of peace, friendship and respect.

## FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 26-27 SEASON:

Visit [hpo.org](http://hpo.org) or call the box office at 905-526-7756



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