

Music at Mount Pleasant

Presented by:

**Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Cremation
and Funeral Centres**



2024 Concert
Series Programme



Mount Pleasant
Cemetery, Cremation
and Funeral Centres

Welcome to our **15th** annual summer concert series,

Music at Mount Pleasant!

Since 2009, we've been thrilled to showcase many talented artists from the Greater Toronto Area, including the Royal Conservatory of Music, here on the historic grounds of Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Home to one of the largest tree collections in North America, and the cherished resting place of many loved ones, we are honoured to serve all people in this beautiful, diverse, and growing Greater Toronto Area. Whether you are a long-time enthusiast or attending your first concert, we hope you will enjoy this season's lineup.

Thank you for gracing us with your presence, and may you find these offerings both uplifting and memorable.

WINDS OF WHIMSY

Timothy Crouch - flute

Anthony Thompson - clarinet

Kevin Harris - bassoon

C. Koechlin *Septuor* (1937)

1. Monodie
2. Pastorale

P. Pierné *Bucolique Variée* (1947)

T. Smirnova *Little Triptych* (1987)

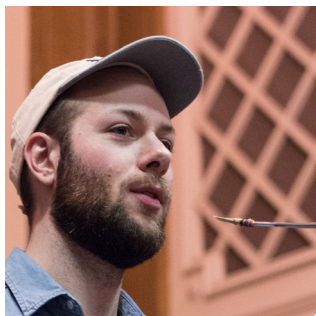
1. Allegretto grazioso
2. Andante
3. Allegro giocoso

J. Françaix *Divertissement* (1954)

1. Prelude
2. Allegretto assai
3. Elégie
4. Scherzo

K- Lau *Postcards from a Blue Planet* (2018)

1. Prologue
2. Polar Mysteries
3. Rivers and Waterfalls
4. Desert Blues
5. Song of the Mountains
6. Of Birds and Beasts
7. An Ocean of Wonders



Always striving to expand his role as a performer, **Kevin Harris** has built a career around deeper audience connection, wider collaboration, and delving deeper into unfamiliar musical territory. As a freelance bassoonist, he performs regularly across Southern Ontario and the GTA in nearly every established orchestra, including the

Toronto Symphony, the National Ballet, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and the Niagara Symphony.

Based in Toronto, Kevin is a member of two ambitious woodwind quintets: Quintagious and Blythwood Winds, each of whom are known for their innovative projects and engaging concert experiences. He contributes a variety of musical arrangements and transcriptions, and many hours of research to help these ensembles achieve their goals of building a broad and inclusive repertoire. In addition to his woodwind quintet transcriptions, Kevin has undertaken the work of producing editions of previously unpublished bassoon concerti by Canadian composers Jean Coulthard and Imant Raminsh.

As a studio musician Kevin has had the opportunity to lend his skills to a number of exciting projects in film, television, and video game soundtracks. Recently, he contributed to “The Ugly Chickens,” a short film produced by famed novelist and screenwriter George R.R. Martin, and scored by Canadian composer Agatha Kaspar. Other soundtrack credits include the hit video game “Cuphead,” composed by Toronto musician Kris Maddigan. Kevin can also be heard on the 2023 album “Lignum et Spiritus” by composer Robert Lemay, featuring works for solo woodwinds and piano.

Kevin is an Edmonton, Alberta native, and he moved to Toronto to attend the Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory, where he studied with Fraser Jackson and Nadina Mackie Jackson, receiving his Performance Diploma in 2013 and Artist Diploma in 2015.



As a freelance clarinetist, **Anthony Thompson** performs with many Toronto-based ensembles. As an orchestral musician, Anthony has appeared with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Opera Company, and the Esprit Orchestra. Anthony has a deep passion for

contemporary music, performing regularly with many of Canada's premier new music ensembles. He has toured across Canada and parts of Asia with Soundstreams, Continuum Contemporary Music, and the Thin Edge New Music Collective. In addition to his performance career, Anthony has a large private teaching studio. Away from the clarinet, he enjoys spending time with his family, rock climbing, and triathlon training.



Tim Crouch is a highly motivated and energetic arts and culture administrator and flutist, with experience in marketing, sales, communications, and general management of both large and small classical music organizations. He is passionate about problem-solving issues facing arts and

culture organizations in Canadian communities, and creating structures and processes to make visions become a reality. He also believes in instilling a sense of entrepreneurialism in all artists. His past and current work has been with organizations of all sizes, including Tafelmusik, Soundstreams, Musicworks Magazine, the JUNOs, Orchestras Canada, Bloor Street Culture Corridor, Loose Tea Music Theatre, Toronto Bach Festival, the Kawartha Art Gallery, and the Kawartha Lakes Arts Council. He holds a Masters in Flute Performance from the University of Toronto, and his favourite place to be is reading a good book on a dock.

MÉTIS ENSEMBLE*FIDDLE TALES: A MÉTIS JOURNEY THROUGH MUSIC*

Alyssa Katrine - Métis fiddle

Special guests:

Amanda Rheaume - guitar

Anna Ruddick - bass



Join **Alyssa Katrine** for an unforgettable afternoon of music that celebrates the rich heritage and vibrant spirit of the Métis people. Through captivating fiddle tunes and heartfelt songs, this program weaves together stories of resilience, community, and ancestral connections.

From the lively rhythms of traditional reels to the soulful melodies of modern ballads, each piece is a testament to the enduring strength and cultural pride of the Métis nation.

Let the music guide you through tales of historical significance, personal triumphs, and the timeless bond between land and people. Experience the power of Métis fiddle music and storytelling in a performance that honours the past and inspires the future.

ODIN STRING QUARTET

BEETHOVEN IN A GLASS HOUSE

Alex Toskov - violin

Tanya Charles - violin

Matthew Antal - viola

Samuel Bisson - cello

P. Glass

Symphony No. 3, 4th movement

G. F. Handel

Passacaglia

S.Reich

Clapping Music

K. Petkovski

The Sleep Garden

L. v. Beethoven

Allegretto from Symphony No. 7, Op. 92

G. Bridgetower

Henry: A Ballad

L.v. Beethoven

Scherzo from Quartet No. 14, Op. 131

Heidt

Tricky Picky

F. Maunders

Dankgesang

P. Glass

Award Montage from Quartet no. 3

L.v. Beethoven

*Allegro ma non tanto from Quartet Op.
18, No. 4*



The **Odin Quartet** was established in 2015. At its core, the quartet is a testament to the diverse talents and backgrounds of its members. Alex Toskov, a virtuoso violinist and multi-instrumentalist, brings forth his Serbian heritage and musical depth from Belgrade, Serbia. Tanya Charles, an accomplished violinist and dedicated educator, channels her heritage from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines into her performances, infusing them with passion and cultural resonance. Matthew Antal, a violist with a keen ear for audio engineering, blends his Italian and Hungarian heritage seamlessly into the quartet's fabric, adding technical finesse and musical sensitivity. Samuel Bisson, a cellist and accomplished composer of French Canadian descent, revitalizes the ensemble with his unique artistic vision and profound understanding of the cello's voice.

Their performances have graced renowned festivals and concert series including Music Toronto, Music Niagara, Luminato Festival, Guelph Connections, Les Concerts Ponticello and Ottawa Valley Music Festival.

During the challenging times of the pandemic, the Odin Quartet launched a project called "Lockdown Lullabies", commissioning 28 original compositions from composers worldwide.

Since 2018, the quartet has proudly served as the Ensemble-in-Residence for the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra, and has released two albums, "Journey Through Night" (2021) and "Between the Lines" (2023). Additionally, their featured appearances on albums such as "From Oblivion to Hope" by Frank Horvat, "Jamaican Quartets" by Ted Runcie, and "Happy Alchemy" by Shannon Graham.

ELIXIR BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

THE EVOLUTION OF THE TRIO SONATA

Valerie Gordon - violin

Michelle Odorico - violin

Felix Deak - cello

Sara-Ann Churchill - harpsichord



Join **Elixir Baroque** on an exploration of the development of the Trio Sonata form. This incredible, mostly extinct musical form, was heavily popular in the Baroque Era. While its name may invoke a performance by three musicians, the trio sonata is written for four players. At times this includes four separate parts, but often has only has three written outlines, consisting of two melodic parts, and one continuo part. Elixir will perform music by A. Corelli, C. P. E. Bach, J. F. Rebel, Purcell, Buxtehude and more.

Since their foundation in 2010, Elixir Ensemble has strived to bring new life to music by serving up intoxicating programs that combine the lyrical with the virtuosic, and the well-known with the newly discovered. Elixir is a major proponent of historical performance practice in the Greater Toronto Area. As mentors to the younger generation of players, Elixir hopes to instil in young minds a curiosity for gut strings, pointy bows, harpsichords, and history. After being named one of the five finalists in the Early Music America Baroque Performance Competition, Elixir went through some updates and additions to their personnel, and has also operated as a historically informed string quartet, most recently participating in the Evolution of the String Quartet program in Banff, Alberta.

TORONTO CELLO QUARTET

Drew Comstock - cello

Peter Eom - cello

Lucie Ticho - cello

Daniel Hamin Go - cello



Program to include arrangements of:

Mozart: *Figaro Overture*

Prokofiev: *March from Three Oranges*

Gardel: *Por Una Cabeza*

Faure: *Pavane*

Vivaldi: *Andante from Winter*

Paul Wiancko: *When the Night*

Song covers including: *Moon River, Sweet Child of Mine, La Bamba, and Everything in Its Right Place.*

BLYTHWOOD WINDS

BLYTHWOOD +1

Sarah Moon - flute

Elizabeth Eccleston - oboe

Anthony Thompson - clarinet

Iris Krizmanic - horn

Kevin Harris - bassoon

Justin Massey - alto saxophone

H. Tomasi - *Printemps* (1964)

R- Lemay - *Tuyaux* (2023)

C. Arrieu / L-M. Simon

Quintette en Ut (1953)

I. Allegro

II. Andante

III. Allegro scherzando

IV. Adagio

V. Allegro vivace

V. Coleman - *Portraits of Josephine Suite* (2007)

I. Ol' St. Louis

II. Les Milandes

III. Paris 1925

IV. Thank You, Josephine (J'ai Deux Amours)

J. Estacio - *Sinfonietta* (2014)

I. Allegretto

II. Allegro animato

III. Lento

IV. Allegro



Blythwood Winds is one of Toronto's most sought-after wind ensembles. Founded in 2010, the quintet plays at many of the city's musical venues. Deeply committed to the performance of Canadian music, the quintet produces annual concerts of all Canadian programs, featuring world premieres from Canadian composers. Starting in 2015, their concerts have featured world premieres by composers including William Rowson, Kevin Lau, Jason Doell, Elisha Denburg, Bekah Simms, Anna Höstman, Emilie LeBel, and Patrick McGraw.

In 2015, the group was also featured on the Junofest Classical Nominees Showcase presented by CBC Music and the CMC. Blythwood Winds has a fruitful relationship with the Canadian Music Centre. As well as concerts of Canadian music, the quintet has also been involved with the CMC's OPUS Testing, a co-presentation with Musica Reflecta in which they premiered pieces for wind quintet and narrator. Blythwood Winds has recordings on the CMC's digital audio archive Centrestreams, and has plans to release an album on Centrediscs featuring a selection of their new repertoire in the near future.

A founding member of Wind Quintet International, they were a part of a 2018 nation-wide project showcasing commissions from five composers (Carmen Brayden, Cris Derksen, Emily Doolittle, Daniel Janke, and Cameron Wilson) in collaboration with five quintets active in other parts of Canada. Blythwood is also passionate about sharing music with all audiences, performing arrangements of different musical genres in fun, casual venues like pubs.

KUNÉ*UNIVERSAL ECHOES: A MUSICAL JOURNEY
THROUGH GLOBAL CLIMATE STORIES*

Alyssa Katrine - fiddle

Paco Luviano - bass

Matias Recharte - percussion

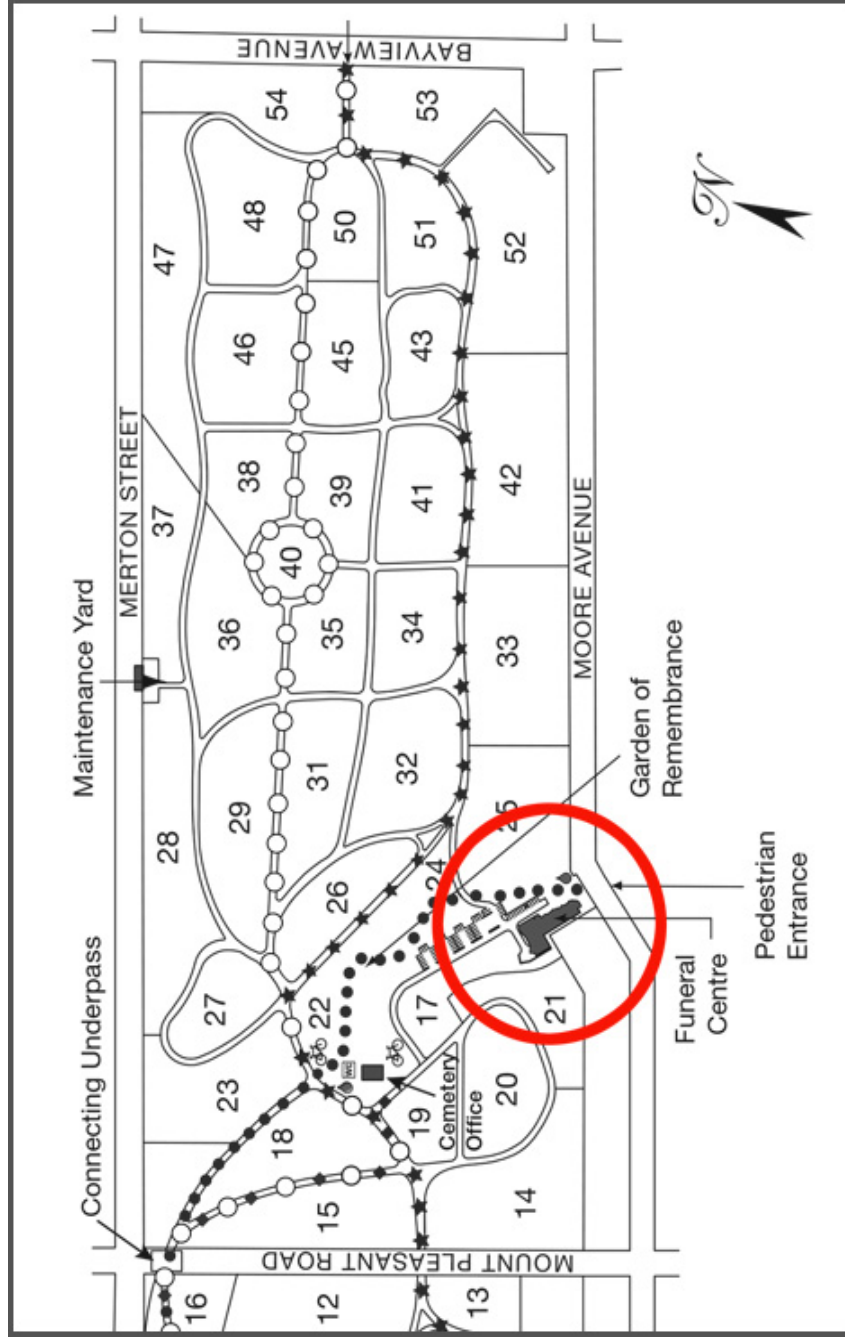
Dora Wang - flute

Padideh Ahrarnejad - tar

Aline Morales - vocals/percussion



Join six talented members of **Kuné**, Canada's Global Orchestra, for an unforgettable evening of music that transcends borders and cultures. Their new album, *Universal Echoes*, addresses the pressing issue of climate change, from deforestation in Brazil to desertification in the Middle East. Each composition is a testament to the power of cross-cultural collaboration and the resilience of the human spirit in the face of global crises. Recently awarded the Oliver Schroer Pushing the Boundaries Award at the 2023 Canadian Folk Music Awards, Kuné's performance promises to be a transformative experience, blending traditional sounds with contemporary messages of hope and action.





RSVP on Eventbrite

Thank you for joining us!

www.mountpleasantgroup.com