



Comfort and Joy

with the

**Toronto Brass Quintet
and**

Andrew Rasmus - percussion

Saturday, December 2, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Almonte Old Town Hall



**Mississippi
Mills**

PROGRAMME

- Carol of the Bells* Mykola Leontovych (1977–1921)
arr. Arthur Frackenpohl
- El Burrito de Belén* Hugo Blanco (1940–2015), arr. Andrew Rasmus
- The Boar's Head Carol* Traditional, arr. Jen Stephen
- Merry Christmas!* Robert Weymouth (b. 1988)
- Tu Scendi dalle Stelle* Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787)
arr. Megan Hodge
- Charlie Brown's Christmas* Vince Guaraldi (1928–1976)
Linus and Lucy arr. R. Kevin Paul
Skating arr. Brendan Ridenour
Christmastime Is Here arr. Brendan Ridenour
- Intermission---
- Hanukkah Suite* Traditional, arr. Ralph Richmond Hayes
Yemei Ha'Chanukah (Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah)
Ner Li (I Have a Candle)
S'vivon, Sov Sov Sow (Dreidel, Spin Spin Spin) / Dresdel Song
- Betelehemu* Wendell Whalum (1931–1987), arr. Jen Stephen
- Feliz Navidad* Jose Feliciano (b. 1945), arr. David Shaffer
- Räven raskar över isen* Traditional, arr. Andrew Rasmus
- Ang Pasko Ay Sumapit* Vicente D. Rubi (1903–1980) / Mariano Vestil
arr. Megan Hodge
- Christmas Crackers* Traditional, arr. John Iveson
Jingle Bells–Deck the Halls
A Carol Fantasy
We Wish You a Merry Christmas

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Steven Woomert



Steven Woomert joined the Toronto Symphony Orchestra as Associate Principal Trumpet in 2014. He has recently appeared as acting Principal Trumpet of the Orchestre symphonique de Montreal, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra. As an accomplished orchestral player, he has also performed with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, New World Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Barbados Classical Pops All-Star Orchestra, the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, and the Sun Valley Summer Symphony.

Born in Toronto, Steven began his musical studies at age five on violin and continued with trumpet studies at age 11. He completed his Bachelor of Music degree at Northwestern University, where he studied with Barbara Butler, Charles Geyer, and Christopher Martin. Steven continued his studies at The Glenn Gould School at The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto where he studied with Andrew McCandless. In 2013, he was the winner of the International Trumpet Guild Orchestral Excerpts Competition. Steven has participated in many summer festivals, including the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, National Academy Orchestra, Banff Festival Orchestra, National Orchestral Institute, National Repertory Orchestra, and Spoleto Festival USA.

As an active educator, Steven is part of the Music Faculty at the University of Toronto and has also taught at the University of Western Ontario. Steven and his father Barton have commissioned and recorded a CD of brand-new music for two trumpets and piano, entitled *Tandem*. Besides performing, Steven enjoys joining some of his TSO colleagues on their volleyball team (The Gustav Bahlers).

Amy Horvey



Amy Horvey is a Montreal-based creator/interpreter of new and experimental music, a performer of modern orchestral music, and a researcher of the baroque trumpet. She is currently Acting Principal Trumpet of the Canadian Opera Company.

A champion of Canadian contemporary music, she has commissioned works by Nicole Lizée, Cassandra Miller, and Keiko Devaux, among many others. She has recorded two solo albums – *Interview* and *Catchment*. Her solo projects have been featured in festivals across Canada, and in the Netherlands, Lithuania, Italy, and the US. Amy has performed with the Lucerne Festival Academy, Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Arraymusic and others.

On the orchestral stage, Amy has appeared as a soloist with the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal and the National Arts Centre Orchestra, in whose trumpet sections she also regularly plays, working with some of the world's greatest conductors including Pierre Boulez, Zubin Mehta, and Roger Norrington.

Her research and experimentation with early instruments has resulted in performances with Arion Baroque Orchestra, Ensemble Caprice, Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, and Les Violons du Roy.

Amy received a SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship to complete her Doctorate of Music at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University. She has taught trumpet performance at numerous institutions, including McGill, Concordia, and Lakehead Universities. Her solo projects have been supported by the National Arts Centre's Richard Li Young Artist Chair, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Saskatchewan Arts Board, and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Marie-Sonja Cotineau



Marie-Sonja Cotineau was appointed Third Horn of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony in 2017 and is an active freelancer in the Toronto region. Formerly Fourth Horn of the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra, she has performed regularly with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, among many other orchestras across Canada and the United States, including on natural horn with Ensemble Caprice.

Marie-Sonja has performed throughout Canada, South America, the Caribbean, the United Kingdom, and Asia on tours of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, the Youth Orchestra of the Americas, the McGill brass ensemble, and the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal respectively.

A native of Montreal, Marie-Sonja holds a master's degree in horn performance from McGill University where she was a student of John Zirbel. Prior to that, she studied at Conservatoire de musique de Québec with Julie-Anne Drolet and Guy Carmichael. She has been a fellow of the Aspen Music Festival, Spoleto Festival USA, Domaine Forget de Charlevoix International Music and Dance Academy, National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and the Youth Orchestra of the Americas.

Megan Hodge



Megan Hodge is an active freelancer, teacher, and clinician on tenor and bass trombone, and has made Toronto her home for the past 19 years. Originally from Edmonton, she studied at The Glenn Gould School, McGill University, and the University of Alberta.

She performs regularly with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, Esprit Orchestra, National Ballet of Canada Orchestra, Hamilton Philharmonic, among others. She has held positions as Principal Trombone of the Victoria Symphony, Kingston Symphony, and as a musician with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band of the Canadian Armed Forces. As a conductor, she holds the position of Director of Music for the

Regimental Band of the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada, leading a 35-piece military band.

In chamber music, Megan is a founding member of both the Canadian Trombone Quartet and the Toronto Brass Quintet where she explores the art of arranging, experimenting with new music for brass and loop stations.

Always interested in new initiatives, she is on the artistic committee of the Canadian Women's Brass Collective which promotes new performing and educational opportunities for women in brass.

Megan is also on faculty at the University of Toronto where she instructs trombone, chamber music and orchestral studies, and during the summers, she teaches at the National Music Camp in Orillia.

Jen Stephen



Jen Stephen is Principal Tuba of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. She grew up in Yellowknife, where she began playing the tuba in grade 11 at Sir John Franklin Territorial High School. With an immediate passion for the instrument, she pursued her studies at Memorial University of Newfoundland, under the direction of bass trombonist Kenneth Knowles, before attending Bowling Green State University, where she studied with renowned tubist and trailblazer Velvet Brown. Upon returning to Canada, Jen Stephen furthered her education at The Glenn Gould School of The Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, where she studied with Sasha Johnson.

In addition to her work with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Jen is an active freelance tubist in Ontario and across the country, performing with ensembles such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, National Ballet Orchestra of Canada, Calgary Philharmonic, Esprit Orchestra, and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, among others. She is a member of the Hannaford Street Silver Band, Canadian Women's Brass Collective, and a founding member of the Toronto Brass Quintet. She is an accomplished brass arranger with many of her works performed by brass ensembles in and around the GTA. Jen is a highly sought after chamber and session musician in Ontario, prolific in a wide variety of styles and genres. She has recorded for film and television and appeared on Cris Derksen's Juno-nominated *Orchestral PowWow* project. She has also recorded for such artists as Danny Michel, Owen Pallett, and others. With a passion for teaching, Jen has a busy private studio, is an in-demand clinician, and has coached at the University of Toronto, University of Calgary, and The Glenn Gould School. She has been on faculty at the National Music Camp of Canada since 2009.

Andrew Rasmus



Andrew Rasmus was appointed to the position of Principal Timpanist with the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra in 2022.

He performs extensively as a percussionist and timpanist in and around the Toronto area. Along with classical percussion, he has also performed in various styles from jazz to traditional Turkish classical music.

His musical career has led to performances with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Canadian Opera Company, among others. In addition to orchestral playing, Andrew also has several chamber music pursuits including the Toronto Brass

Quintet, New ART/New MEDIA, and the Imagine Ensemble.

Currently, he has been actively working on various recording and arranging projects and can regularly be heard performing with various groups around Toronto.

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