



**In Schumann's Footsteps: Dances,
Dreams and Remembrances**

with

**Odin Quartet
Daniel Vnukowski – piano**

**Saturday, April 11, 2026
7:30 p.m.**

Almonte Old Town Hall



PROGRAMME

- Slavonic Dance No. 2 in E minor, Op. 46 No. 2 Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)
- Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17 No. 4 Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)
- String Quartet No. 3 in A major, Op. 41 No. 3 Robert Schumann
II. Assai agitato (1810–1856)
- Ungenaue Erinnerungen* Simon Bertrand (b. 1980)
- Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48 No. 1 Frédéric Chopin
- String Quartet in A minor, Op. 51 No. 2 Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)
IV. Finale. Allegro non assai

---Intermission---

- Piano Quintet in E-flat major, Op. 44 Robert Schumann
I. Allegro brillante
II. In modo d'una marcia. Un poco largamente
III. Scherzo. Molto vivace
IV. Allegro, ma non troppo

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Odin Quartet

The Odin Quartet, formed in 2015 and hailing from the heart of Toronto's music scene, derives its name from the Norse god Odin, revered for his insatiable thirst for wisdom and exploration. Embodying Odin's spirit of exploration, the quartet endeavours to redefine classical music's role in contemporary storytelling.

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.

Together, their collective artistry forms the cornerstone of the Odin Quartet's musical exploration and innovation. Committed to broadening the reach of classical music, the quartet champions modern Canadian compositions alongside classical masterpieces, offering audiences a diverse and enriching musical experience.

Their performances have graced renowned festivals and concert series including Music Toronto, Music Niagara, Luminato Festival, Guelph Connections, Concerts Ponticello and Ottawa Valley Music Festival, captivating audiences with their emotive interpretations and innovative programming.

During the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Odin Quartet launched a project called "Lockdown Lullabies", commissioning 28 original compositions from composers worldwide and premiering them over 2 evenings. These compositions, originating from diverse corners of the globe, including Canada, the UK, USA, Hong Kong, Norway, Brazil, France, Italy,

China, and Spain, fostered artistic connections across borders, serving as a beacon of hope and resilience during uncertain times.

Since 2018, the quartet has proudly served as the Ensemble-in-Residence for the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra, further solidifying their role as cultural ambassadors and community leaders in the Canadian music scene. Notably, the quartet has been featured as soloists with the orchestra on a new work by Samuel Bisson entitled *EPITAPH foratonality* which showcases the quartet's collaborative spirit and their commitment to pushing the boundaries of classical music.

The Odin Quartet has released three albums, *Lockdown Lullabies* (2025), *Between the Lines* (2023) and *Journey Through Night* (2021), that all feature premiere recordings that showcase the ensemble's innovative approach and mastery in the contemporary classical music landscape. 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 showcase their ability to seamlessly integrate into diverse musical landscapes.

Renowned for their collaborative spirit, the Odin Quartet has partnered with a diverse array of artists from the classical, world, jazz and pop/rock worlds, forging connections that transcend traditional boundaries and inspire new musical horizons. They have had the honour of sharing the stage with virtuoso violinist Atis Bankas and celebrated pianists Alexander Panizza and Victoria Kogan whose dynamic interpretations, technical brilliance, and emotive storytelling have captivated audiences worldwide. Collaborative ventures with acclaimed artists including AHI, David Usher (from Moist), Ellen Reid (from Crash Test Dummies), Thompson Egbo-Egbo, Joey Niceforo and Tenzin Choegyal highlight the quartet's versatility and willingness to explore new musical horizons.

With their unwavering dedication to musical excellence and their tireless commitment to pushing the boundaries of classical music, the Odin Quartet continues to inspire audiences and shape the future of Canadian music.

Daniel Vnukowski

Polish Canadian pianist Daniel Vnukowski has toured throughout Europe, North America, South America and Asia. He has performed with many orchestras, including the Polish Radio Orchestra, Orchestra Now (TON), Sinfonia Varsovia, Windsor Symphony, Orchestra Filarmonica Marchigiana, Sinfonia Iuventus, Poznan Philharmonic, Arthur Rubinstein Philharmonic with conductors such as Leon Botstein, Ariel Zuckermann, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Alain Trudel, Jacek Kasprzyk and David Amos.

He has also taken part in numerous international festivals, such as Chopin and His Europe in Warsaw, Poland; Festival Dei Due Mondi in Spoleto, Italy and Chopiniana in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and lectures at universities and institutes around the world, including University of California San Diego, Georgian Triangle Lifelong Learning Institute, Queens College CUNY, University of Toronto, University of Windsor and Tsinghua University in Beijing. In 2020, Mr. Vnukowski continued his cross-continental lecture recital series on Holocaust music at universities throughout the world.

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vnukowski's virtual live streaming project from home made waves internationally and reached over half a million viewers. The livestreams have been endorsed by Fazioli Pianoforte and featured on NPR Radio, Classical FM, Ludwig Van Toronto and BBC Music Magazine playlists.

Since 2019, Daniel Vnukowski has frequently performed the music of Karol Rathaus, a Weimar-era composer whose music came to his attention in 2016 through his work with Exil.Arte, a Vienna-based organization whose mission is to restore 'degenerate' music. In February 2019, he performed the composer's Piano Concerto with The Orchestra Now conducted by Leon Botstein, as part of a Rathaus Festival presented by the Copland School of Music at Queens College, where Rathaus was on faculty and made his sold-out Weill Hall recital at Carnegie Hall debut in a program that included the composer's Piano Sonata No. 3, Op. 20.

For these performances, Mr. Vnukowski was called "a formidable pianist" (*ConcertoNet*) and "a pianist to watch" (*New York Classical Review*). His latest recording of the solo piano music of Karol Rathaus presented world-premiere recordings and garnered many positive reviews: "Vnukowski plays with sympathetic understanding" – *Limelight Magazine* (July 2019);

“Vnukowski communicates the emotions within the music.” – *Fanfare Magazine* (Issue 43:1 – Sept/Oct 2019); “played to the hilt” – *American Record Guide* (July/August). This album was also featured in many interviews during a cross-country radio tour on various U.S. radio stations such as NPR, TPR, WBAA, and WOSU. Mr. Vnukowski will also be featured in a documentary on Karol Rathaus produced by Lev Deych & Michael Haas.

Since 2019, Daniel Vnukowski has performed a cross-country, community outreach tour throughout Canada from Fort Nelson, BC to Corner Brook, NL. The tour began in early 2019, with a visit to Canada’s Western provinces, organized by Piano Six Artists and ended later that year with a tour of Canada’s Atlantic provinces – Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, organized by Debut Atlantic. In November 2019, Mr. Vnukowski also performed in the first-ever fundraiser for the Africville Museum in Halifax, featuring the music of Black composers such as Florence B. Price, Zenobia P. Perry, Art Tatum and Duke Ellington.

Daniel Vnukowski inaugurated the 2017 year in Warsaw, Poland as a special guest at the National Philharmonic Hall, performing Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* under the direction of Jerzy Maksymiuk. The concert was broadcast live on television, and a commercial DVD recording was made available. On May 5 of that year, he performed at the Austrian Parliament in remembrance of Holocaust victims targeted by Nazi Germany. This deeply, meaningful event was broadcast live on Austrian television for ORF-2.

During the 2015–2016 season, Daniel Vnukowski performed a solo piano recital tour in China. He also performed a recently discovered piano concerto written by a Polish-Jewish composer, Jozef Koffler, who had died during the Holocaust. This performance was recorded live in Warsaw, Poland, with Sinfonia Iuventus under the direction of Krzysztof Slowinski and released on commercial CD by the EDA record label in February 2018.

During 2013 and 2014, Mr. Vnukowski recorded and edited the complete piano works of Walter Arlen, an Austrian composer who had escaped the Holocaust, for the Austrian record label Gramola and publisher Doblinger. He is the recipient of numerous scholarships and grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and private foundations for promoting the works of exiled Jewish composers of the early 20th century including Szymon Laks, Karol Rathaus, Józef Koffler, Władysław Szpilman and Viktor Ullmann.

In May 2011, his all-Liszt recital was recorded and broadcasted over European and U.S. radio stations. In the beginning of 2010, he inaugurated the Chopin year in Poznań, Poland, together with Metropolitan Opera Soprano Aleksandra Kurzak and was chosen as a Samling Scholar. In May of that same year, he performed a special recital in Tokyo, Japan, to commemorate the unveiling of a new Chopin monument in that city. This also led to a debut in Singapore, in the hall of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. His outdoor concert at the Singapore Botanic Gardens received rousing ovations by a crowd of close to 10,000 people.

Dedicated to giving back to the country that nurtured him as an artist, Mr. Vnukowski was awarded a grant from the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council to perform outreach concerts for remote, rural communities in Canada together with five other pianists in a project entitled “Piano Six – New Generation”. In October 2019, Mr. Vnukowski hosted a highly acclaimed gala concert in collaboration with Music Toronto at the St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts to celebrate the program’s first year of touring. This event included a specially commissioned work by Kevin Lau written for six pianists. Since November 2021, Mr. Vnukowski has been radio announcer of the Classical Jukebox on the New Classical FM, the only full-time classical radio station in English-speaking Canada.

In 2019, Daniel Vnukowski also founded the Collingwood Summer Music Festival to bring over 100 high-calibre, performers to the charming Southern Georgian Bay area in Ontario each summer.

Mr. Vnukowski was trained at the Lake Como International Piano Academy in Italy, where he worked with distinguished artists such as Dmitri Bashkirov, Menahem Pressler, Claude Frank, Fou Ts’ong, John Perry and William Grant Naboré; at the Peabody Institute of Baltimore under the guidance of Leon Fleisher; and at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London with Graham Johnson and Ronan O’Hora.

The Odin Quartet and Daniel Vnukowski appear by arrangement with

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