

# QUARTETTO GELATO

*"Tasty Tunes"*



Friday | April 11 | 7:30 PM

THE Valley  
Concert  
Society

WORLD  
CLASS  
MUSIC

OUR 42<sup>ND</sup>  
SEASON  
2024-2025

# Program Guide

<i>Programme: Quartetto Gelato</i>	3
<i>Artist Profiles</i>	4
<i>About the Valley Concert Society</i>	9
<i>Next Season Calendar</i>	13
<i>Sponsors</i>	14
<i>Valley Concert Society Membership</i>	15

**TONIGHT'S  
PERFORMANCE  
HAS BEEN  
GENEROUSLY  
SPONSORED BY**



**KING'S MUSIC**

*with donations from*  
**Valley Concert Society members**

*Special thanks to Leen van Dijk for programme illustrations*

*Flowers are courtesy of She's My Florist.*

[valleyconcertsociety.com](http://valleyconcertsociety.com)

*The Valley Concert Society supports a scent-free environment for the enjoyment and well-being of everyone in the audience.  
No unauthorized photography or electronic recordings are allowed during today's performance.*

# QUARTETTO GELATO

## *"Tasty Tunes"*

- Overture to The Magic Flute** W.A. Mozart (arr. C Cozens)  
**Romamolda Hora** Traditional (arr. De Sotto/Sevastian)  
**Cigano No Baião** Fafà Lemos (arr. Scott Macintosh)  
**Rodeo and Juliette** Copland, P. Tchaikovsky, S. Prokofiev,  
 N. Rota (arr. Charles Cozens)  
**La Vie en Rose** Edith Piaf (arr. Quartetto Gelato)  
**Brahms' Polka** J. Brahms (arr. Colin Maier)  
**Spaghetti Roads** J. Denver & E. Morricone (arr. Charles Cozens)

### INTERMISSION

- Pipes** Traditional (arr. Maier/Camilleri)  
**Summer (from The Four Seasons)** A. Vivaldi (arr. M. Pulkki)  
**Mesecina** G. Bregovic (arr. Konstantino Popovic)  
**Sicilienne** G. Fauré (arr. K. Starkey)  
**Toccatà in D minor** J.S. Bach  
**Tanti Anni Prima** Astor Piazzolla (arr. Charles Cozens)  
**Minnie the Moocher** Cab Calloway (arr. Charles Cozens)  
**Klezmer Explosion** Traditional (arr. Charles Cozens)

## Artist Profiles

### **Colin Maier**

Born and raised in Calgary, Colin Maier graduated from the University of Calgary in 1997 with a degree in oboe performance studying with David Sussman. Since 2009, Colin has been the oboist for Quartetto Gelato. During that time he has been heard on national radio broadcasts, seen on the BRAVO network and received the 2010 INDIE award for best classical ensemble. He has also played with orchestras such as the Calgary Philharmonic and the National Ballet Orchestra. He has performed in orchestra pits for mega musicals across Canada. As well as being a guest lecturer/

recitalist at universities across North America, Colin is currently the oboe professor at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario.

In addition to oboe, Colin also plays clarinet, english horn, violin, acoustic/electric bass, piano, saxophone, flute, guitar and musical saw. Colin can be heard playing the Saw on the soundtrack for the “Cuphead 2” video game. Colin has recorded several pieces with layering and multi-tracking all the instruments to perform every sound on the song, a project called “The Colin Maier Orchestra”. He also regularly uses these instruments to teach workshops and demonstrations to children ages 5-18.

Colin has co-created a curriculum based online music education program with Liza McLellan called “Music By CandL”. This program is designed for elementary students to use in the classroom or at home to learn music skills and concepts including rhythm, melody, harmony, history, musical instruments, composers, reading & writing music.

In addition to being a musician, Colin has also worked for over 20 years as a dancer, actor, stuntman, singer, choreographer, acrobat and martial-artist. Colin had



the honor of playing the devil fiddler in the flying blue canoe for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic Opening Ceremonies.” Colin had also been seen in; “Lord of the Rings” (Mirvish), Fire (CanStage), “Forbidden Phoenix” (LKTYP), “KA” (Cirque du Soleil), “Amadeus” (Alberta Theatre Projects), “That Dance Show” (Saltance Productions), “Cats” (Neptune Theatre), Joseph’s Dreamcoat (StageWest/Drayton), “A Chorus Line” (StageWest), Sarah Brightman’s World Tour, and TV’s “Honey I Shrunk the Kids!”. This combination of music and theatre is quite unique and he continues to find new, exciting and ground breaking ways to combine his two passions.

### ***Dobrochna Zubek***

Polish-Canadian cellist Dr.

Dobrochna Zubek has established herself as a versatile artist dedicated to a wide-ranging musical repertoire and to exploring boundaries between artistic disciplines. A soloist, chamber musician, orchestral cellist and educator, Zubek’s multi-faceted career has taken her to cities across Europe, Asia and North America. She has collaborated with some of music’s most distinguished artists, including Peter Gabriel, José Carreras, Shauna Rolston and Gioconda Barbuto.

From 2009-2012, Zubek held an orchestra position with the Orquesta Sinfonica del Estado de Mexico. As a soloist, she has appeared on many festival stages, including Geneé International Ballet Competition (2019), Banff Center for Arts and Creativity (2019) and Ottawa Chamberfest (2016). From 2017-2023 served as a principal cellist of Sudbury Symphony Orchestra. In 2024, Zubek was invited by Symphony New Brunswick to be their principal cellist and a quartet cellist in residence.

Zubek made her New York debut at La MAMA , an Off Broadway experimental theatre where she appeared in an all-female production



of *This is Why We Live*. Written for cello and two actors, Zubek's performance was hailed by critics as that of a virtuoso whose playing is soulful and wonderful. As a recording artist, Zubek's repertoire includes *Mexico-Voyage* and the JUNO – nominated CD *Hymns of Heavens and Earth*, composed by Peter-Anthony Togni among others. Dobrochna holds DMA from University of Toronto.

### **Konstatntin Popović**

Konstantin Popović began his violin studies at the age of five in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where he was acknowledged as the most promising beginner violinist by the members of the board of education for strings.

Parallel to his achievements in violin, at the age of seven, Konstantin was appointed vocal soloist in a renowned youth choir *Drinka Pavlovic*.

Konstantin graduated from a music high school, MS Mokranjac, in Belgrade having accumulated numerous awards at the highest national violin competition. Konstantin studied violin with Vlada Bobić in Belgrade.

After graduation, Konstantin immigrated to Toronto, Canada where he continued his studies at the University of Toronto in the music performance department under Leo Wigdorichik.

After graduating he extended his orchestral studies as a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada and National Academy Orchestra. As a member of the National Youth Orchestra, he toured major Canadian cities and numerous countries in Europe and Asia.

In 2000, Konstantin became the Assistant Concertmaster of the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. That year, he won an equivalent position in Sinfonia Toronto, a string orchestra comprised of fourteen members.

Konstantin has been featured as a violin soloist on numerous tracks of Kosta Arnakouros' instrumental CD *Mediterranean Rendezvous*. He



also did studio work for composer-arranger Charles Cozens of Somerset Entertainment and was featured as a first violinist of a string quartet on the same recording.

Konstantin has had the honour of collaborating with conductors such as Giuseppe Lanzetta, Nurhan Arman, Peter Wiebe, Charles Greenwell, Ivars Taurins, Janez Govednik, Mark Skazinetsky, Fabio Mastrangelo, John Morris Russell and Robert Franz.

Konstantin plays regularly with *Wellington Music* agency which he co-founded with cellist Orsolya Lengyel in 1997. Tino is a current member of the string trio pop band The Guitar Guys, Punjabi dhol band The Folk Guys and also has a solo pop violin act Tino Pop Violin. Tino is highly regarded as a Bollywood-style violinist.

Of all his achievements Mr. Popović puts most value on the arrivals of his children Dimitri and Tatiana and is immeasurably grateful to his wife Dawn for all her support.

### **Matti Pulkki**

Matti Pulkki got his first accordion and began his music studies at the age of six in the small town of Joutseno in eastern Finland. He grew up immersed in traditional Finnish music, old dance tunes, virtuosic show-pieces and classical music, performing and competing with the accordion from an early age on.

Later Matti proceeded to study with esteemed Finnish accordionist Matti Rantanen. Over the years, he participated in numerous international masterclasses and seminars. The interest to meet musicians and teachers around the world also led Matti to Canada for the first time in 2014 to study for a year with Joseph Macerollo. After multiple shorter visits for shows and concerts, Matti returned to Canada in 2019. Holding Bachelor's and Master's degrees in accordion



performance from the Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki, Matti is currently pursuing a doctorate at the University of Toronto.

Matti has performed internationally with numerous ensembles and as a soloist. He has also been involved with multiple theater and opera productions both in Finland and Canada. Since his debut recital at the Helsinki Music Center in 2018, Matti has appeared at several international festivals. In his solo repertoire, Matti often concentrates on original classical contemporary works written for the free-bass accordion. Recently, he has been focusing on collaboration with composers to reimagine the possibilities of his instrument. Matti continuously premieres new solo and chamber works and holds lectures about the accordion for composition students in institutions around the world.

Outside the contemporary music scene, Matti eagerly arranges and performs music from a wide variety of styles and genres. His transcriptions of classical pieces range from Renaissance and Baroque keyboard music to twentieth-century pieces. Matti does not restrict himself to classical music, and can often be seen performing music from tangos and klezmer to folk music and jazz, and everything in between. Matti is the accordionist for the internationally renowned and critically acclaimed ensemble Quartetto Gelato.





### ***Forty Years of Outstanding Music***

The Valley Concert Society has brought over 200 remarkable musical experiences to the residents of Abbotsford. The most frequent performer has been the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, which performed sixteen times in the first nineteen seasons. The Victoria Symphony and the North Shore Sinfonia also played three times each. Smaller chamber orchestras made frequent appearances including such outstanding groups as I Musici de Montreal, Tafelmusik, and the Pacific Baroque Orchestra.

Choral groups were often booked. They came from near—the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the Vancouver Cantata Singers, and Chor Leone—and from far—the Soweto Choir of South Africa, the Cuban National Choir, and the Little Eagles of Siberia. Smaller vocal ensembles included Chanticleer, QuintEssence, and Gesualdo Six. Some of Canada's greatest singers made solo appearances: Maureen Forrester, Isabel Bayrakdarian, and Ben Heppner.

Solo piano recitals included such transcendent talents as Robert Silverman, Janina Fialkowska, Charles Richard-Hamelin, and David Jalbert.

Classic chamber music repertoire held an important place in the society's history. The Shostakovich, Minguet, and St. Lawrence String Quartets all made memorable visits to Abbotsford. The Gryphon Trio played in Abbotsford three times, and the recent performance by Ehnes, Tsang, and Armstrong was unforgettable.

Other diverse strings made an appearance. Guitars came in solo, trio, and quartet combinations. Rita Constanzi performed on a solo harp while harp ensembles brought several varied programs, as did the Langley Ukulele Ensemble.



There were some definite favourites among the many brass groups that performed. A Touch of Brass, Foothills Brass, and Cosmos Brass played here a combined fourteen times. Less common were woodwind ensembles such as the Prairie Winds from Chicago and the Winds of the Southern Cross from Brisbane, Australia.

The diversity of performing groups was endless. The Sidestreet Strutters were a Dixieland combo, Acclarion came with a clarinet and accordion, Sal Ferreras performed twice with a percussion ensemble, Trio Voronezh brought Russian music, there was a concert featuring only a bassoon and a guitar. Chris Jarrett performed a piano accompaniment to the silent film classic Battleship Potemkin. The actor Colin Fox narrated a program based on letters between Robert and Clara Schumann along with music by a soprano and piano.

### ***People to Remember***

George Zukerman was never a part of The Valley Concert Society, but he looms as an enormous figure throughout the history of the organization. He was a critical contributor during the restructuring of the society in its third year by providing performers who were touring in the area. He himself performed in Abbotsford more than once on his bassoon as part of varied groups. He came to the rescue on one occasion when the Kiev Symphony Orchestra did not come as scheduled, and he filled in with a program entitled The Great Mozart Hunt. He also narrated programs, including his last one in April of 2022 less than a year before his death at age 95.

Paul Moritz was the founding president of The Valley Concert Society and provided effective leadership for that intrepid group that had the



vision to bring this kind of music to our city. He served intermittently in that position until 1997. The society recognized his important contribution by naming a bursary in his honour.

Lorna Keith was the longest serving president in the society's history. She assumed that position after Paul Moritz stepped down until her retirement in 2014. She guided the organization through the transition from the Abby Arts Centre to the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium as performing venues. The society named the endowment fund that it holds at the Abbotsford Community Foundation in her honour, a fitting tribute as she played a key role in establishing that fund.

Liz Carter was the last remaining charter member of the board when she passed away during the season in 2015. While not very visible publicly, she was enormously valuable behind the scenes. She chaired the committee that programmed each season. She was the Volunteer Coordinator. She was the House Manager. Liz had her hands on most of the organization's key functions. It was a considerable challenge to replace her many roles on short notice. The society honoured her memory by giving her name to its pre-concert talk.



### ***VCS Contributes to the Community***

The Valley Concert Society has two key elements in its mission statement. Providing concerts and other musical performances is the obvious one. The second is to support the musical education of young people in the community. The organization addresses this goal in several ways.

#### ***■ Bursaries***

The Valley Concert Society has created two bursaries to be given annually to deserving music students in the community. They are named in honour of two founding board members, Paul Moritz and Marjorie Nixon. The value of the awards has increased over the years and currently stands at \$500. The society also provides a scholarship for the Abbotsford Music Festival named in honour of former board member Rudy Baerg at a value of \$200.

#### ***■ Master Classes***

Since 2016, The Valley Concert Society has been holding master classes which give talented young music students the opportunity to work on a prepared piece of music with some of the artists that we bring to our stage. Piano students have had the privilege of working with such luminaries as Jane Coop and Charles Richard-Hamelin. In alternate years, string students have worked with the likes of Bryan Cheng, Nancy Dahn, and are working with violist Molly Carr this year.

#### ***■ Performances***

The society has provided several opportunities for local music students to perform publicly. At its 25th and 35th anniversaries, it presented a concert of former bursary winners. This gave the audience the opportunity to experience the talent of these remarkable young people. The society has also programmed two past bursary winners in its regular season, recognizing their growth as musicians.

#### ***■ Community Outreach***

In the season just past, The Valley Concert Society has initiated a new venture aimed at allowing various members of the community to enjoy the wonderful artistry of our performers. Axiom Brass played for seniors in a high-rise complex, and for children participating in a Day Camp at The Reach. This year the society is presenting an outreach concert to the community served by the Salvation Army. These concerts come at no cost to the audience.

## Next Season Calendar

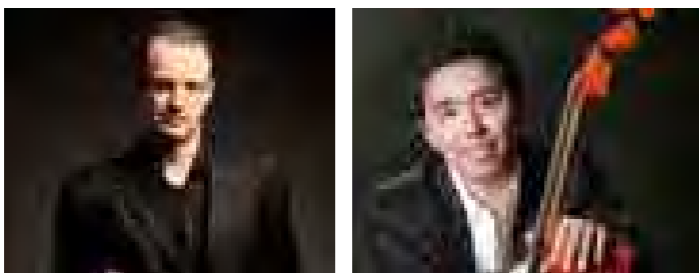
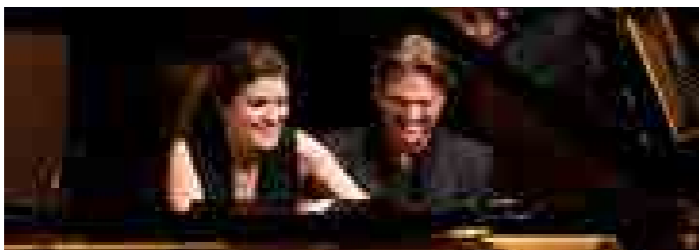
**OUR 43<sup>RD</sup>**  
**SEASON**  
 2025-2026



Subscription can be purchased for all 6 concerts at \$140 for adults, \$130 seniors and \$60 for students. The Tickets for individual concerts will be available online at \$32 for adults/seniors and \$20 for students.

### Pocket Symphonies

Thursday, October 2, 2025



Pianists Marcel and Elizabeth Bergmann will be joined by violinist Jasper Wood and cellist Sungyong Lim to bring arrangements of works written for full orchestras including Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony and Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture.

### Buzz Brass

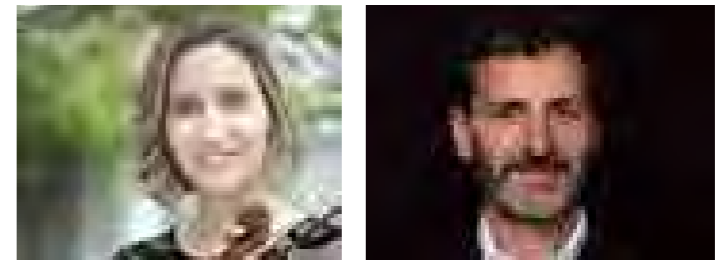
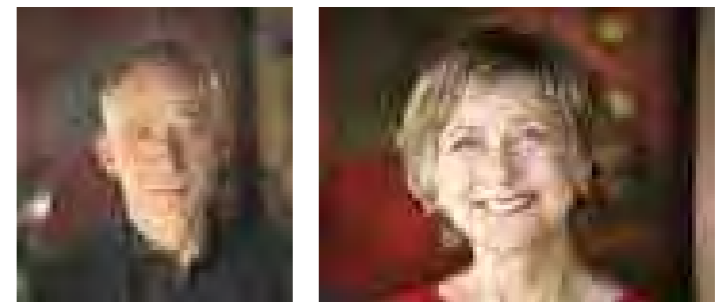
Thursday, January 22, 2026



With a name that denotes both excitement and the technique of blowing into brass instruments, this Montreal-based quintet has delighted audiences worldwide. They will bring a varied program entitled Famous Inspirations.

### Suzie LeBlanc

Friday, March 27, 2026



Beloved Canadian soprano Suzie LeBlanc will be joined by Alexander Weiman, harpsichord, Chloe Meyers, baroque violin, and Grégoire Jay, traverso and percussion to bring a program of Purcell, Bach, and traditional tunes.

### Gryphon Trio

Friday, November 14, 2025



A Canadian musical treasure and one of the world's foremost trios, the Gryphon Trio is entering its fourth decade of performance. We are thrilled to welcome this much-loved prize-winning ensemble back to Abbotsford.

### Jeneba Kanneh-Mason

Friday, February 20, 2026



A member of Britain's most famous musical family, this young pianist is captivating audiences with her maturity in performance and interpretation. She brings a program that includes Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, and Florence Price, among others.

### Cheng<sup>2</sup> Duo / James Campbell

Friday, April 24, 2026



The brilliant young duo of cellist Bryan Cheng and his sister Silvie, piano, will partner with the dean of Canadian clarinetists James Campbell to perform classics by Beethoven and Brahms along with contemporary klezmer music and other works.

# Sponsors

We are grateful to our Concert Sponsors

## PLATINUM SPONSOR



## GOLD SPONSORS



## SILVER SPONSORS



## BRONZE SPONSORS



And generous donations from  
**Valley Concert Society members**

## Valley Concert Society Membership

Valley Concert Society (VCS) is a not-for-profit society incorporated in BC.

We invite you to become a member of the society.

**COST:** \$10 per person annually

**BENEFITS:** Vote at General Meetings.

Invitations to special events.

Reserved seating at concerts.

### Patrons

Joe Baker  
Gordon & Frances Bates  
Elspeth Bowers  
Helen Braun  
Marcia Clarke-Richardson  
Walter & Jacqueline Davies  
William Denoudsten  
Anita Everett  
Virginia Fearing  
Juan & Gloria Fernandez  
Connie Friesen  
Peter Goertzen  
Alan & Patti Hougen  
Trudy Janzen  
Rovin Karuna  
Elishka Klima

Jake & Grace Kobes  
David & Jean Ledgerwood  
Gayle Leslie  
Victor J. & Diane Martens  
Robert J. Martens  
Roderick & Elaine McLean  
Donna Miller  
Carolyn Naylor  
Patricia O'Malley  
Walter & Mabel Paetkau  
Jean Pamplin  
Robert & Vivienne Parkes  
Joseph Peters  
Sandra Postlethwaite  
Elaine Regier  
Linda Reverchon

Ingrid Segger  
Theodore Severud  
Sara Virginia Shadbolt  
Cheryl Sheridan  
Peter-William & Sheila Slade  
David & Marcia Smith  
Harry Snyders  
Sven & Rose Soderlund  
Barbara Starcher  
Mark & Janet Sweeney  
Ina van Dijk  
Lubbert & Anne VanderLaan  
John Wiebe  
Michael Wintschel

### Directors

John Wiebe/President  
Cheryl Gardiner  
Bill Glasgow

Peter Goertzen  
Joyce Janzen  
Kathleen Stanyer

Emma Sweeney  
Ina van Dijk  
Ann Walker

### Leave a Legacy

We appreciate the support of our patrons in so many ways. If you would like to leave a legacy in your will to provide for quality music in the future, contact John Wiebe: (604-856-9490) or [wiebej@shaw.ca](mailto:wiebej@shaw.ca)

[valleyconcertsociety.com](http://valleyconcertsociety.com)