

Welcome back!

# Strings

of St. John's

in concert

featuring:

music by **Mozart, Mendelssohn, Finzi** and more  
with **Mehdi Javanfar**, guest conductor


**Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 2 pm**

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

2021  
**Strings**  
of St. John's

**Ottawa**

The Strings of St. John's gratefully  
acknowledges the financial support  
of the City of Ottawa.

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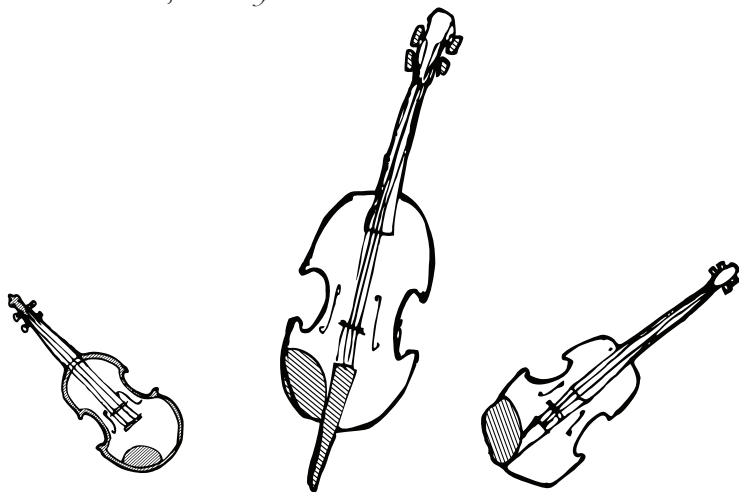
[www.stringsofstjohns.ca](http://www.stringsofstjohns.ca)

# *A message*

from the Strings of St. John's Board of Directors

Little did we realize that our concert held on March 8th, 2020 would be our last of the season. For the first time in our 23-year history, owing to public health restrictions, we would not be able to rehearse together or perform a concert for our entire 20/21 season. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of all Canadians doing their part, we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and the Strings of St. John's is back to making music! It is with great pleasure and excitement that we welcome you to our first concert of the season. We hope you enjoy the performance, and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Katherine Tinkler, *Chair*  
Mary Young, *Vice Chair*  
Catherine Campbell, *Librarian*  
Laura Mennill, *Treasurer*  
Gabriella Csoti, *Secretary*



# *Programme*

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)**

Adagio and Fuga for Strings in C, K. 546

**Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)**

String Symphony No. 1, in C major

**Gerald Finzi (1901 – 1956)**

Prelude for String Orchestra in F minor, Op. 25

**Lars-Erik Larsson (1908 – 1986)**

Serenade for Strings

**Robert Volkmann (1815 – 1883)**

Serenade No. 1 in C major for string orchestra, Op. 62

**Sincere thanks to our 2021-2022 donors:**

Church of St. John the Evangelist

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Sandra Allan

Michael Hoffman

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# *Programme notes*

## **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791)**

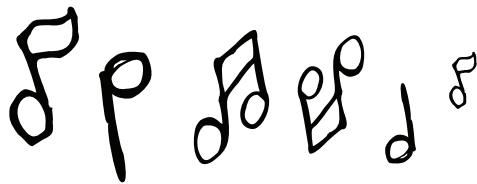
Adagio and Fuga for Strings in C, K. 546

Mozart himself wrote this description of the piece – “a short adagio for two violins, viola and bass, for a fugue which I wrote some time ago for two pianos.” The work was catalogued as K. 546. The fugue was the two piano fugue in C minor, K. 426, written in December 1783. The reason for the work’s composition remains a mystery as there is no known commission for it.

## **Felix Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847)**

String Symphony No. 1, in C major

Mendelssohn was a German composer, pianist, organist and conductor of the early Romantic period. Mendelssohn’s compositions include symphonies, concertos, piano, organ and chamber music. His 13 string symphonies were written between 1821 and 1823, when he was between just 12 and 14 years old! These symphonies were tributes to Classical symphonies especially by Joseph Haydn, Johann Christian Bach, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. String Symphony No 1 is composed in 3 movements – Allegro, Andante, and Allegro. Some of the other String Symphonies are in 1 movement, 4 movements and no. 11 is in 5 movements.



## **Gerald Finzi (1901 – 1956)**

### **Prelude for String Orchestra in F minor, Op. 25**

Gerald Finzi, an early twentieth century British composer, is known largely for his many choral works and several song cycle settings of the texts from a wide selection of English poets. The prelude was originally started in the 1920s as the opening movement (Bud) of a subsequently unfinished chamber symphony entitled “The Bud, the Blossom and the Berry.” Finzi abandoned the project and scored the prelude for strings only. It stands wonderfully as an independent piece displaying powerful feelings of introspection and melancholy.

## **Lars-Erik Larsson (1908 – 1986)**

### **Serenade for Strings**

Larsson was a Swedish composer who wrote music for the theatre, cinema and broadcasting, in addition to the more traditional forms of symphony, concerto, chamber and vocal music. The *Serenade for Strings* does not have an opus number nor is it listed in complete lists of Larsson’s music. It is, however, a delightful piece marked “tempo di valse.”

## **Robert Volkmann (1815 – 1883)**

### **Serenade No. 1 in C major for string orchestra, Op. 62**

Born in Dresden, Germany, the son of a church musician, Volkmann studied piano and organ from his father. He also studied violin and cello and as he got older, was encouraged by many other German composers including Robert Schumann to dedicate himself to music. Volkmann later made the acquaintance of Johannes Brahms and they became very dear friends. Little is known about Serenade No. 1 other than it was published in 1869.

## *Mehdi Javanfar*, Guest Conductor



Mehdi Javanfar is an active conductor and educator. He is a two-time recipient of the Graduate Merit Awards in Conducting at the University of Michigan, where he studied with Maestro Kenneth Kiesler. His other conducting mentors include the late Gustav Meier, Gunther Schuller, and David Epstein. Mehdi has conducted the London, Ontario Symphony

Orchestra, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Hamilton Symphonic Band, University of Michigan various orchestras, Hart house Strings, the Composers' Orchestra consisting of the members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Kharkiv Philharmonic Orchestra in Ukraine, and the Toronto Sinfonia of Nations, which he founded. Mehdi currently holds the position of the Music Director and Conductor of the Pembroke Symphony Orchestra.

Mehdi began his musical career as a violinist in Tehran Symphony Orchestra. Following immigration to Canada in 1994, while studying at the University of Toronto, he joined the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra where he served as the Principal Second Violin. As a conductor, his first concert in the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, in 1997, featuring Dvorak's Serenade in D minor, and Stravinsky's Histoire du Soldat was recorded and broadcast by CJRT FM. His conducting repertoire is varied, and includes more than a hundred pieces from the standard repertoire, as well as pieces by contemporary composers of various nationalities, such as Behzad Ranjbaran, Arsalan Kamkar, Shahin Farhat, Reza Vali, Suad Bushnaq, Fikret Amirov, Vladimir Solyanikov, and Goulak Artemovsky. As an advocate for Canadian

music, Mehdi has performed pieces by Gary Kulesha, Marjan Mozetich, Larysa Kuzmenko, Murray Schafer, Tawnie Olson, Maya Badian, and the late John Weinzweig to name a few.

As an educator, Mehdi is a senior member of the College of Examiners at the Royal Conservatory of Music. He has taught and prepared countless students for RCM examinations in various subjects of Theory, History, as well as Violin, and Piano, from elementary to advanced levels. As a music writer, Mehdi's activities include participation in writing a textbook of fundamentals of music for the University of Tehran, Iran; translation of "The Story of Music" by Geoffrey Brace (Ladybird Books) into Persian; biographical writings on Tchaikovsky, Bartok, Prokofiev, and Mahler; correction of the list of errata published in the journal of the Conductors' Guild, for "Rite of Spring" by Stravinsky; essays on Iranian Traditional Music, and a variety of other subjects, published in various magazines.



# *The Strings of St. John's*

## **Violin I**

Jackie Morris,  
*Concertmaster*  
Rosalind Spencer  
Daniella Turcanu  
Khalid Ahmad  
Carolyn Phillips  
Marg Macpherson

## **Violin II**

Iain Macpherson,  
*Principal*  
Alessandra Kempson  
Katherine Tinkler  
Gabriella Csoti  
Marko Yanishevsky

## **Viola**

Shalva Chabukiani,  
*Principal*  
Olivia Walsh-Pelling  
Laura Mennill  
Jessica Li

## **Cello**

Sandra Allan,  
*Principal*  
Catherine Campbell  
David Van Dine

## **Bass**

Declan Kinghorn,  
*Principal*