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2024-2025

68th Season





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Payadora, tango ensemble

Saturday, October 19, 2024

Obsidiana Duo, mezzo-soprano and piano

Saturday, November 23, 2024

Jack Chen & Rachel Desoer, flute and cello

Saturday, February 15, 2025

Duo Concertante, violin and piano

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Maritime Brass Quintet

Saturday, April 12, 2025



Payadora and Obsidiana Duo are presented
in collaboration with Debut Atlantic

All concerts held at
Woodlawn United Church
54 Woodlawn Road, Dartmouth at 7:00 PM

Tickets and memberships are available for cash or cheque at the door or on
our website: DartmouthCommunityConcert.ca

Tickets: Adult \$30 / Senior (60+) \$25 / Student \$15

Membership (all five concerts) :

Adult \$75 / Senior (60+) \$65 / Student \$35 / Family \$150



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 **Nova Voce**
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Nocturne

October 19, 2024

Shambhala School, Halifax

Holiday Concert

November 29, 2024

HRM

Voice Male Workshop

February 22, 2025

HRM

Late Winter Concerts

March 15, 16, 2025

HRM & Lunenburg

Late Spring Concerts

May 31, June 1, 2025

Yarmouth & Annapolis Royal





Payadora

tango ensemble

Saturday

October 19, 2024

"The beloved ensemble that is tango and beyond. It is world. It is classical. It is jazz. It is tango...a delicious swirl of music that is the Payadora Ensemble." -The New Classical FM 96.3

Payadora is an award-winning ensemble that performs its own arrangements of a core repertoire drawing from Argentinian/Uruguayan traditions (tangos, milongas, waltzes, and folk music such as the Zamba and chacarera), as well as original songs inspired by that tradition. Comprised of musicians who are each musical powerhouses in their own right, this "superstar group" has combined their profound love of tango with their classical, jazz and world music backgrounds to create something entirely new. Payadora is officially endorsed by the Argentinian Consulate in Toronto for its adherence to the spirit of tango, and audiences flock to performances that convey joy, virtuosity, humour and intense passion.

Since 2013, Payadora has presented concerts and sold-out shows at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa Chamberfest, St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Toronto's Harbourfront Centre, Stratford Summer Music, Toronto Summer Music, Festival of the Sound, Vancouver Island MusicFest, Toronto Jazzfest, the COC's World Music Series at the Four Seasons Centre and the World Accordion & Tango Festival in Victoria. Payadora has also collaborated with the London Symphonia, the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony and the Hannaford Street Silver Band, as well as, with PointeTango Dance Company, which explores the intersection between classical dance and earthy tango. Their sold-out 2023 European tour (Madrid, Copenhagen, Budapest and London) included a live-to-air BBC performance.

In the spring of 2023, Payadora's third and latest CD, the critically acclaimed "Silent Tears: The Last Yiddish Tango", reached #1 on the World Music Charts in Europe, accompanied by rave reviews, airtime, and press coverage around the globe, including the BBC, CTV, CBC television and radio, the Bangkok Post, NPR, and RTE Irish Public Radio. "...The most memorable release I have ever had the privilege to listen to and review" (WholeNote Magazine).

In 2023-2024, Payadora will be touring Brazil, Argentina, and throughout North America.

Rebekah Wolkstein, violin/vocals

Drew Jurecka, bandoneon/violin/vocals

Joseph Phillips, bass

Robert Horvath, piano

Elbio Fernandez, vocals

Halifax Camerata Singers

Joel Tranquilla, *artistic director* | Lynette Wahlstrom, *piano*

Amelia McMahon, *assistant conductor*

2024-2025 SEASON



Inhale

Nov. 16, 2024 | 7 pm

First Baptist Church

Halifax



Exhale

May 24, 2025 | 7 pm

All Nations Church

Halifax



Camerata's Winter Showcase II

March 1, 2025 | 7 pm

Grace United Church

Dartmouth



Music at Trinity Concert Series

June 15, 2025 | 3 pm

Trinity—St. Stephen's

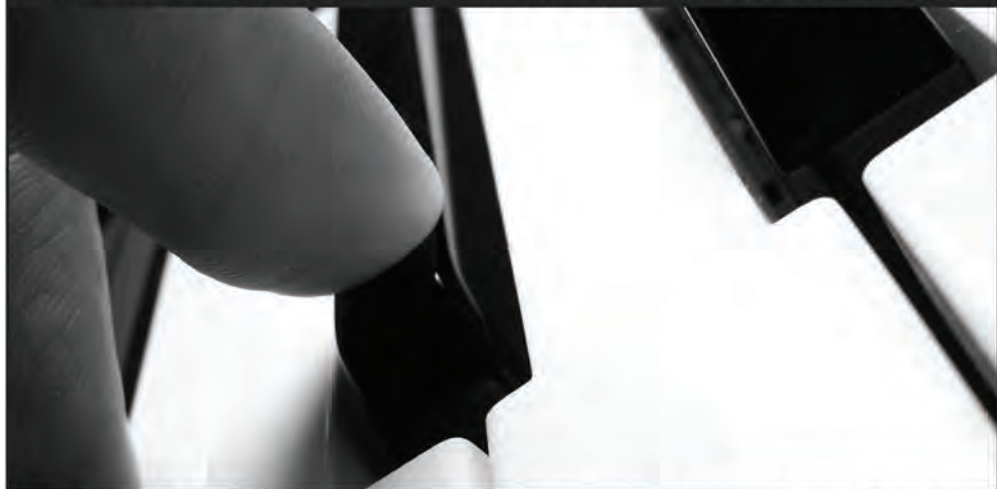
United Church, Amherst

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Obsidiana Duo

mezzo-soprano and piano

Saturday November 23, 2024

Obsidiana Duo has a reputation as an international prize-winning collaborative pair, having been featured at CollabFest 2020, Collabaret 2020, and 2021 as part of the International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society. Most recently, they won First Prize in the 2022 Puerto Rico Collaborative Piano Competition and a fellowship in the Toronto Art Song Festival 2022. They are currently part of Prairie Debut's roster of touring ensembles.

Brazilian-born mezzo-soprano **Camila Montefusco** is quickly distinguishing herself as a passionate and exciting artist. Hailed for her "lush steady tone" (Stage Door), Camila was a young artist with the Britten Pears Young Artist Program, the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices, and Toronto Summer Music Festival. During these residencies, Camila worked extensively on operatic and art song repertoire with renowned industry professionals such as Wolfram Rieger, John Fisher, and Dolora Zajick.

Camila is excited to tour with Prairie Debut in the 2023-2024 season, bringing to the Prairies repertoire she is passionate about. As a co-founder of Obsidiana Duo, Camila believes in the importance of Ibero- American musical culture and history. The duo was born from her desire to give voice to BIPOC and historically excluded composers through folk music from Latin America. Along with pianist Yolanda Tapia, Camila is proud to be part of the work towards a more equitable and diverse industry.

Yolanda Tapia is an international prize-winning pianist and a highly sought-after collaborative pianist. A native of Mexico, she has performed as a soloist and as a chamber musician across Mexico, Switzerland, Italy, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Canada, and the United States. She was a staff pianist at the Instituto Superior de Música in Xalapa, Mexico, and pursued graduate studies at Colorado State University, the University of Boulder Colorado, and the University of Western Ontario where she obtained her Doctor of Musical Arts. She was a Fulbright scholar and has won awards at international piano competitions, concerto competitions, and chamber music competitions in Mexico, Costa Rica, the United States, and Canada. Most recently, Yolanda's performance with the mezzo-soprano Camila Montefusco (Obsidiana Duo) was awarded the first prize of the Virtual International Professional Collaborative Piano Competition of the Puerto Rico Center for Collaborative Piano.

Since 2015, Yolanda has worked as a private collaborative pianist at the University of Western Ontario working with vocalists and instrumentalists, as well as, being the music director of Knox St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Dutton, Ontario. Currently Yolanda is a resident performer as part of Holland America's Lincoln Center Stage piano quartet. As part of this unique program, she has been travelling to different countries in Europe, South America, and Antarctica.



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Cell: (902) 240-0433



Jack Chen & Rachel Desoer

flute and cello

Saturday February 15, 2025

Taiwanese-born Canadian flutist **Jack Chen** lives and performs in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Jack's love of chamber music has brought him to the stages of concert series all across the Maritimes and he has premiered works by many Canadian composers. He appears frequently with Symphony Nova Scotia, Scotia Chamber Players, as well as, Inner Space Concerts, a chamber concert series he founded in 2014. Jack earned his degrees in flute and early music performance from Indiana University and the University of British Columbia. He has shared the stage with artists such as Jeanne Lamon, Bobby McFerrin, and Sir James Galway and has also appeared in numerous PBS television music specials and tours. In addition to performing, Jack is the Artistic Director of Inner Space Concerts, is on the faculty at the Acadia University School of Music, and is the General Manager of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. While not playing the flute or teaching, Jack can be spotted enjoying the great outdoors of the East Coast kayaking, biking and skiing.

Rachel Desoer is a Canadian cellist. She studied at the Juilliard School, Oberlin College, McGill University and the Banff Centre. She graduated from Oberlin in 2008 with a Bachelor of Music degree. Rachel was the cellist of the Cecilia String Quartet from 2010 to 2018. In this ensemble Rachel toured extensively around the world, recorded 4 albums on the Analekta label and taught chamber music at the University of Toronto. Touring has allowed Rachel to perform at such inspiring venues as Wigmore Hall, The Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Konzert Haus Berlin and many more. The Cecilia Quartet also made educational programming a priority and performed hundreds of presentations for schools. In 2014, the quartet created a concert series called Xenia concerts specifically designed for children on the autism spectrum and their families. Exemplifying their commitment to the equal representation of women in music, Rachel spearheaded the commissioning of 4 string quartets by Canadian women composers in 2016. Rachel continues to play recitals and concertos with orchestra regularly. She has worked in orchestras, most notably, the National Arts Centre Orchestra and the Canadian Opera Company. Currently, Rachel is the principal cellist of Symphony Nova Scotia. Rachel plays the 1929 Carlo Guiseppe Oddone cello generously on loan to her from an anonymous donor.



This concert will begin with a brief performance by a youth performer. **Kaelin George-Wegner** is in her 4th year of her Bachelor's of Music at Dalhousie University where she is a student of vocal instructor Cindy Townsend. Kaelin began taking private voice lessons with Dr. Jennifer Farrell in 2019 and in 2021 she was the winner of the senior category of the Registered Music Teachers Association Scholarship Competition. Kaelin performed her first solo recital in May 2022 and made her operatic debut at the Fountain School of Performing Arts in 2023.



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Duo Concertante

violin and piano

Saturday

March 15, 2025

For twenty-four years through live performances and acclaimed recordings, violinist **Nancy Dahn** and pianist **Timothy Steeves** have built an international career in the Canadian chamber ensemble **Duo Concertante**. Their name comes from the inscription over Beethoven's "Kreutzer" sonata, "in stilo molto concertante," which implies the two performers are equal, dynamic voices. This defines their unique artistic relationship and the "deeply integrated performances that flow naturally as if the music were being created on the spot" (Gramophone). Outstanding musicians, champions of new Canadian music, visionary artistic directors, and inspiring mentors, Duo Concertante have forged a musical legacy and strive to provoke thought and engagement through music in innovative ways.

Duo Concertante have twelve other acclaimed recordings on top Canadian labels ATMA, Centrediscs, and Marquis, many of which have won awards and special recognitions. In addition, Duo Concertante are the founders and artistic directors of the Tuckamore Festival – an internationally acclaimed chamber musical festival held for two weeks each August. For 22 years, Tuckamore – a major contributor to the cultural life of Newfoundland and Labrador – has put the province on the map by welcoming leading artists and emerging musicians worldwide to St. John's.

Upcoming projects and commissions for 2023-2024 include a 60-minute dramatic/musical piece by playwright Robert Chafe and composer Randolph Peters which addresses issues relating to ocean change and sustainability, a new sonata written for the Duo by German composer Stefan Heucke, and a 40-minute multimedia piece by composer Alice Ho and animator Duncan Major inspired by Tom Dawe's Newfoundland ghost stories. Nancy Dahn and Timothy Steeves are Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada, University Research Professors and John Lewis Paton Distinguished Professors at Memorial University. They are also the proud parents of Clara and Sasha.



This concert will begin with a brief performance by a youth performer. Fourteen year-old **Jenny Chen** began her piano study at age 5 and began studying with Professor Lynn Stodola at Dalhousie in 2018. She is the winner of many awards and prizes, including NS Talent Trust, Royal Conservatory of Music Gold Medal in piano, and 2023 First Prize in the Developing Artist Stream at the Confederation of Music Festival's National Competition.



Music Director Holly Mathieson

2024/25 SEASON



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Maritime Brass Quintet

Saturday, April 12, 2025

The **Maritime Brass Quintet** brings the highest calibre chamber music to concert halls, churches, festivals and schools across the Maritimes. The group is comprised of five of Canada's finest brass players: Curtis Dietz and Richard Simoneau (trumpet), Gina Patterson(horn), Dale Sorensen (trombone) and Bob Nicholson (tuba & bass trombone).

Maritime Brass Quintet members have studied throughout North America and performed or held positions with many of Canada's leading ensembles including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, and the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra. They also have experience playing in numerous smaller groups and ensembles including Foothills Brass, Northumberland Brass, the Jive Kings and the Canadian Brass.

Since forming in the spring of 2011, the Maritime Brass Quintet have maintained a busy concert schedule and have been featured guests at many of the regions' well-known concert series and performance venues including the Scotia Festival of Music, the Music Room, Acadia University, University of Prince Edward Island, Université de Moncton, and First Baptist Church, Halifax. They frequently collaborate with some of the region's finest musicians including Paul Halley and the King's College Choir, Nick Halley and Capella Regalis, Jeff Joudrey and the Halifax Camerata Singers, and in recital with Mark Duggan at the Scotia Festival of Music.

Recent performances include concerts with the Musique Royale Concert Series, Music at Three Churches, Mahone Bay, collaborations with King's Chapel Choir and Capella Regalis, and tours with Debut Atlantic. MBQ can be heard every spring performing at all the Convocation ceremonies at Dalhousie University and the University of King's College. All MBQ members are dedicated educators, as well as, players and are committed to working with brass players of all ages.

Curtis Dietz (trumpet)

Richard Simoneau (trumpet)

Gina Patterson (horn)

Dale Sorensen (trombone)

Bob Nicholson (tuba & bass trombone)



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Honorary Life Members: Donald Hill and Gerry Nelson, a dedicated DCCA volunteer until his passing at 91 in Feb. 2021.

Webmaster: David Stredulinsky

If you are interested in becoming more involved with the DCCA in any capacity, please contact any one of our Directors or inquire at info@dartmouthcommunityconcert.ca

Donors

When you make a tax deductible contribution, you are assisting DCCA in maintaining our high standard for musical programing. As of September 2024, these donations were gratefully received for our 68th Season. We would like to thank the following members for their generosity:

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