



Guelph Musicfest

at the Guelph Youth Music Centre

guelphmusicfest.ca

20th
anniversary
season

Penderecki Quartet

Jerzy Kaplanek & Jeremy Bell violin
Christine Vlajk viola Katie Schlaikjer cello
with Ken Gee piano

Friday June 19, 2026 at 7:30 pm

Guelph Youth Music Centre



Guelph Musicfest alumni

20 years have brought an array of fantastic performers and concerts. Thank you to all the performers who have made Guelph Musicfest a success for two decades!

Cathy Anderson (cello)	Arlen Hlusko (cello)	John Medina (baritone)
Roman Borys (cello)	Chiharu Iiuma (piano)	Paul Pulford (cello)
Sheng Cai (piano)	Anna Jennewein-Ronai (piano)	Charles Richard-Hamelin (piano)
Cameron Crozman (cello)	Jerzy Kaplanek (violin)	Adam Riggs (cello)
Glyn Evans (tenor)	Brett Kingsbury (piano)	Marion Samuel-Stevens (soprano)
Mark Fewer (violin)	André Laplante (piano)	William Shookhoff (piano)
Sadie Fields (violin)	Bénédicte Lauzière (violin)	Robert Silverman (piano)
Janina Fialkowska (piano)	Brandon Leis (tenor)	Theresa Thibodeau (soprano)
Colin Fox (actor)	Betty Maher (piano)	Valerie Tryon (piano)
David Gillham (violin)	Stephanie Mara (piano)	Annette-Barbara Vogel (violin)
Stewart Goodyear (piano)	Meredith McCallum (violin)	

AFIARA STRING QUARTET: Valerie Li (violin), Yuri Cho (violin), David Samuel (viola) & Adrian Fung (cello)

ANAGNOSON & KINTON: James Anagnoson & Leslie Kinton (piano duo)

CECILIA DUO: Sarah Nematallah (violin), Min-Jeong Koh (violin) & Ken Gee (piano)

CECILIA STRING QUARTET: Sarah Nematallah (violin), Min-Jeong Koh (violin), Caitlin Boyle (viola) & Rebecca Wenham (cello)

CECILIA STRING QUARTET: Sarah Nematallah (violin), Min-Jeong Koh (violin), Caitlin Boyle (viola) & Rachel Desoer (cello)

ENSEMBLE MADE IN CANADA: Elissa Lee (violin), Tawnya Popoff (viola), Rachel Mercer (cello) & Angela Park (piano)

FESTIVAL QUARTET: Jerzy Kaplanek (violin), Christine Vlajk (viola), Paul Pulford (cello) & Ken Gee (piano)

FESTIVAL QUARTET: Jerzy Kaplanek (violin), Christine Vlajk (viola), Katie Schlaikjer (cello) & Ken Gee (piano)

FESTIVAL TRIO: Sadie Fields (violin), Paul Pulford (cello) & Ken Gee (piano)

FIRE & GRACE: Edwin Huizinga (violin) & William Coulter (guitar)

GRYPHON TRIO: Annalee Patipatanakoon (violin), Roman Borys (cello) & James Parker (piano)

JERZY KAPLANEK QUARTET: Jerzy Kaplanek (violin), Anthony D'Alessandro (piano), Mark Godfrey (bass) & Ethan Ardelli (drums)

MADAWASKA ENSEMBLE: Sarah Fraser Raff (violin), Anna Redekop (viola), Amber Ghent (cello) & Brett Kingsbury (piano)

MADAWASKA QUARTET: Jeewon Kim (violin), Sarah Fraser Raff (violin), Anna Redekop (viola) & Mary-Katherine Finch (cello)

PAYADORA: Rebekah Wolkstein (violin, vocals), Drew Jurecka (violin), Elbio Fernandez (vocals), Jesse Dietschi (double bass), Mark Camilleri (piano)

PENDERECKI STRING QUARTET: Jeremy Bell (violin), Jerzy Kaplanek (violin), Christine Vlajk (viola) & Simon Fryer (cello)

PENDERECKI STRING QUARTET: Jeremy Bell (violin), Jerzy Kaplanek (violin), Christine Vlajk (viola) & Katie Schlaikjer (cello)

QUARTETTO GELATO: Colin Maier (oboe), Adam Diderrich (violin), Matti Pulkki (accordian) & Kirk Starkey (cello)

RIDGE TRIO: David Gillham (violin), Thomas Landschoot (cello) & Chiharu Iiuma (piano)

ROLSTON STRING QUARTET: Luri Lee (violin), Emily Kruspe (violin), Hezekiah Leung (viola) & Jonathan Lo (cello)

SCHMALTZ & PEPPER: Eric Abramovitz (clarinet), Rebekah Wolkstein (violin/vocals), Drew Jureka (arranger, multi-instrumentalist), Jeremy Ledbetter (piano), Michael Herring (bass)

SLIDE BY SLIDE: John Monkhouse, Dave Davidson, Jim Edwards & Susan Follows (trombone)

ST. PETERSBURG STRING QUARTET: Alla Aranovskaya (violin), Alla Krolevich (violin), Boris Vayner (viola) & Leonid Shukayev (cello)

TACTUS VOCAL ENSEMBLE: Stephanie Kramer (soprano), Catherine Robertson (artistic director, soprano), Valerie Nunn (alto), Daniel Cabena (countertenor), Glenn Peirson (tenor), Marcus Kramer (tenor), Gordon Burnett (bass), Neil McLaren (bass)

TRIO CONCERTANTE: Nancy Dahn (violin), Simon Fryer (cello) & Timothy Steeves (piano)

ZEMLINSKY QUARTET: František Souček (violin), Petr Štřížek (violin), Petr Holman (viola) & Vladimír Fortin (cello)

Many thanks to Guelph Musicfest supporters

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Maide de Stein
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Jean-Pierre & Louise Schoch
Helga Sonnenberg
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Guelph Musicfest is grateful for the support from members of the audience.

This season is dedicated to the late **Diana Philbrick**, who supported Guelph Musicfest from 2021 to 2024.

Guelph Musicfest 20th Anniversary Season

It's over. Thanks everybody for coming out to this special series. See you in October!



Penderecki Quartet

Jerzy Kaplanek & Jeremy Bell violin
Christine Vlajk viola Katie Schlaikjer cello
with Ken Gee piano

Friday June 19, 2026 at 7:30 pm
Guelph Youth Music Centre, Recital Hall

String Quartet No. 8 in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

1. *Allegro*
2. *Molto adagio*
3. *Allegretto*
4. *Finale (Presto)*

String Quartet No. 3, “Leaves of an Unwritten Diary”Krzysztof Penderecki (1933–2020)

— intermission —

Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, Op. 81Antonin Dvořák (1841–1904)

1. *Allegro ma non tanto*
2. *Andante con moto (Dumka)*
3. *Scherzo (Furiant)*
4. *Finale (Allegro)*

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Program notes

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827)

String Quartet No. 8 in E minor, Op. 59, No. 2 ("Razumovsky")

Beethoven dedicated his three Op. 59 quartets to Count Andreas Razumovsky, the Russian ambassador to Vienna and a passionate music patron. When these works appeared in 1806, audiences were baffled — one violinist reportedly declared them unplayable. Today, they stand as cornerstones of the quartet repertoire, marking a decisive leap into Beethoven's "heroic" middle period.

The E minor quartet is the most introspective of the three, its emotional world darkly restless and searching. A famous story holds that when asked about the unusual opening movement, Beethoven replied, "I was thinking of the starry sky and the contemplation of God" — whether apocryphal or not, it captures something essential about this music's spiritual gravity.

I. *Allegro*: The quartet opens with an eerie, sustained unison note before dissolving into turbulent, searching figures. The music rarely settles, pressing forward with a compulsive energy that never fully resolves.

II. *Molto adagio*: One of Beethoven's most profound slow movements — a deeply meditative *Adagio* marked *con molto sentimento*, with long, singing lines that feel almost like a sacred hymn.

III. *Allegretto*: A wiry, brusque scherzo with a touch of grim wit. Beethoven introduces a Russian folk tune as a tribute to his patron, though he subjects it to characteristically rigorous development.

IV. *Finale (Presto)*: The quartet ends with a headlong, exhilarating rush — a perpetual-motion finale that sweeps away the earlier shadows in a torrent of rhythmic energy.

Krzysztof Penderecki (1933–2020)

String Quartet No. 3, "Leaves of an Unwritten Diary" (2008)

Penderecki's Third Quartet was composed when the composer was 75, and it bears the reflective quality of an artist looking back across a long creative life. The evocative subtitle — *Leaves of an Unwritten Diary* — suggests something fragmentary and personal: not a continuous narrative, but glimpses, memories, and impressions gathered like pages from a journal never meant to be read by others.

This is the later Penderecki — far from the provocative sound-world that made his name in the 1960s (the *Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima*, the *Fluorescences*). By the 1980s he had made a celebrated turn toward a warmer Neo-Romantic language, and the Third Quartet inhabits that world fully. Lyrical melodies, rich harmonies, and intimate textures prevail, though flashes of dissonance remind us that this composer never entirely abandoned his past. It is music of quiet intensity, by turns tender and melancholic, ultimately deeply human.

Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904)

Piano Quintet No. 2 in A major, Op. 81

If one work could serve as a perfect ambassador for chamber music — accessible, exuberant, and utterly satisfying — Dvořák's A major Piano Quintet might be it. Composed in a remarkable burst of inspiration in the autumn of 1887, the work practically wrote itself: Dvořák completed it in just over a month. It has been beloved ever since, and it is not hard to hear why.

The quintet overflows with Dvořák's gift for song. Czech folk idioms and *dumka* (a Slavic form alternating lament and dance) run through the work, giving it a distinctive national character while remaining universally appealing. The piano and strings are true partners throughout — neither accompanist nor soloist dominates, but rather five voices converse as equals.

I. *Allegro ma non tanto*: A warm, generous opening movement launched by one of Dvořák's most irresistible themes in the cello. The mood is sunny and expansive, rich with lyrical melody.

Program notes continued

II. *Andante con moto (Dumka)*: The emotional heart of the work. A haunting, song-like melody in the minor alternates with episodes of wild, dance-like joy — the very essence of the dumka spirit. It is deeply affecting.

III. *Scherzo (Furiant)*: A vigorous Czech dance full of rhythmic cross-accents and high spirits. The trio section offers a moment of folk-tinged lyricism before the dance resumes.

IV. *Finale (Allegro)*: The quintet ends with an irrepressible, dancing finale, drawing on folk-like themes and building to a jubilant close that leaves audiences smiling.

About the Penderecki Quartet

Celebrating their 40th anniversary, the Penderecki String Quartet is based in Waterloo, Ontario where they have been Quartet-in-Residence at Wilfrid Laurier University since 1991. Originating from Poland, Canada, and USA, they bring their varied yet collective experience to create performances that demonstrate their “remarkable range of technical excellence and emotional sweep.” (Toronto *Globe and Mail*).

The PSQ’s international performing schedule has included appearances in New York (Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall), Amsterdam (Concertgebouw), Hong Kong (Academy for the Arts), Los Angeles (REDCAT Hall at Disney Center), St. Petersburg (Sheremetev Palace), the Adam Festival in New Zealand, and throughout Europe in Rome, Madrid, Paris, Belgrade, Prague, Krakow, Vilnius, and Zagreb. The PSQ has also toured extensively in Mexico, Australia, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, and from coast to coast in Canada.

The PSQ’s large discography includes over three dozen recordings including the chamber music repertoire of Beethoven and Brahms as well as the first Canadian release of the six Béla Bartók quartets. Their disc of Marjan Mozetich’s *Lament in the Trampled Garden* won the 2010 JUNO Award for Best Composition, and most recently they were nominated for a 2023 JUNO for their jazz album *Blue* with Diana Panton and Don Thompson.

In October 2013, the PSQ worked with Maestro Krzysztof Penderecki on his *Third Quartet* (2008) and performed it at Symphony Space in New York City on the occasion of his 80th birthday. This followed with the recording of Penderecki’s *Third Quartet* along with quartets of Norbert Palej on the Marquis label. In 2022, the PSQ was featured in Howard Shore’s soundtrack to David Cronenberg’s film *Crimes of the Future*.

Dedicated educators, the PSQ have been recent guests at Bloomington Indiana University’s String Academy, the Beijing Conservatory, University of Southern California (Los Angeles), and with their partner universities in Osnabrück, Germany and Lyon, France.



Guelph Musicfest

at the Guelph Youth Music Centre

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20th
anniversary
season

Guelph Musicfest ENCORE



Friday October 30...

ZEMLINSKY QUARTET

František Souček violin

Petr Střížek violin

Petr Holman viola

Vladimír Fortin cello

program tba

This wonderful ensemble from Prague makes a return visit to the GYMC.



Friday November 6...

FESTIVAL DUO

Sadie Fields violin

Ken Gee piano

program tba

Sadie returns from Edinburgh, Scotland, to perform a solo recital in Guelph.



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Recital Hall Revitalization: Many Hands, One Hall

The Guelph Youth Music Centre has entered a new and exciting chapter, and it is asking our community to help take the next step.

The GYMC has launched a \$50,000 Recital Hall Campaign to outfit the Recital Hall with the sound, lighting, and presentation technology it needs to become the fully-equipped community performance space Guelph deserves. The goal is to introduce professional sound, dynamic lighting, and video presentation technology to a hall that already serves students, artists, non-profits, grassroots arts groups, and **Guelph Musicfest**.

If the Recital Hall and Guelph Musicfest have been meaningful to you, please be part of this next chapter.

canadahelps.org/en/charities/guelph-youth-music-centre

SELECT: Recital Hall Revitalization: Many Hands, One Hall



Guelph Musicfest 2026—*at the GYMC*

May 22 to June 19, 2026 20th ANNIVERSARY SEASON!

