



strings
attached
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Concert Programme

e•motion

▮ Sunday, June 28 2026

Season Finale Concert

Strings Attached Orchestra

stringsattachedorchestra.com

WELCOME!

Welcome to our Season Finale Mainstage Concert!

Music has the power to move us like nothing else, and we are excited to play a program this evening that will take you from the emotional highs of the concert hall to the irresistible beats of the dance floor. Tonight's program spans globetrotting rhythms, irresistible flair, and one of the most sublime love songs in the orchestral repertoire.

Strings Attached Orchestra (SAO) is dedicated to the advancement of both our members' musical education and the community's appreciation for string orchestra music. Our mission is to bring music into the community through performances at retirement homes, hospitals, community centres, and schools. These community concerts are specifically designed for audiences who would not typically be able to attend live orchestra performances, and we are proud to play to appreciative audiences throughout the year. Highlights of this season's community concerts are on the inside back cover.

SAO continues to grow in both members and activities. We expanded our quartet concerts this year for venues that could not accommodate the whole orchestra, and played our second summer pops concert at Earl Bales Park. We'll be back as part of the Earl Bales Summer Concert Series on Thursday, August 13 - come enjoy a beautiful summer evening with us!

Whether you're here at the concert in person or watching on livestream, thank you for supporting us by being part of our audience today! If you would like to support us further, donations are always welcome on our CanadaHelps page at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/strings-attached-orchestra/>.

For more information about Strings Attached Orchestra, or if you'd like us to perform in your community or at your special event, please contact us at: info@stringsattachedorchestra.com or visit our website at: www.stringsattachedorchestra.com.

We hope you enjoy and are moved by the concert!

**Strings Attached Orchestra is a Canadian Registered Charity.
Registration No. 83585 3599 RR0001**



SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2026

CONCERT PROGRAMME

e•motion

HOE DOWN FROM RODEO

Aaron Copland (1900-1990)

LOVE SONG FROM KANGDING

Traditional arr. Albert Wang

OBLIVION

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992) arr. Robert Longfield

LIBERTANGO

Astor Piazzolla arr. James Kazik

AS SUMMER WAS JUST BEGINNING

Larry Daehn (b. 1939) tr. Thomas Stone

RUMANIAN FOLK DANCES, Sz. 56

Béla Bartók (1881–1945) arr. Arthur Willner

- I. Jocul cu băță [Stick dance]
- II. Brâul [Sash dance]
- III. Pe loc [In one spot]
- IV. Buciumeana [Dance from Bucsum]
- V. Poarga românească [Romanian polka]
- VI. Mărunțel [Fast Dance]
- VII. Mărunțel

INTERMISSION

THE GATHERING OF EAGLES (ESKEKW TA S'PAKWUS)

Bob Baker arr. Robert Buckley

ADAGIETTO FROM SYMPHONY NO. 5

Gustav Mahler (1860–1911)

BY THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE DANUBE, OP. 314

Johann Strauss Jr. (1825–1899) arr. Clark McAlister

PROGRAMME NOTES

HOE DOWN FROM RODEO (1942/1945)

Aaron Copland (1900–1990)

The dean of American composers, Aaron Copland was initially reluctant to compose a ballet for dancer and choreographer Agnes de Mille and the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Rodeo would become one of the most recognizable ballets of the American repertory, alongside Copland's Pulitzer-winning Appalachian Spring. In this closing dance, Copland weaves 19th-century square dance tunes with his characteristic fierce rhythms and open harmonies, building the ballet's final scene to a romping conclusion.

LOVE SONG FROM KANGDING (2008)

Traditional arr. Albert Wang

This love song is well known throughout China. The exact origin of the song is unclear and it is described simply as a Sichuan folk song. The song sings of the beauty of Mt. Paoma, a mountain peak that rises 1,000 feet over the city. It has a Tibetan monastery at the peak and is said to "scrape the clouds from the heavens."

Programme note from the publisher

OBIVION (1982/2013) ARR. ROBERT LONGFIELD

LIBERTANGO (1974/2014) ARR. JAMES KAZIK

Astor Piazzolla (1921–1992)

Astor Piazzolla was a revolutionary Argentine tango composer and bandoneonist. His nuevo tango style incorporated elements of jazz and classical music, creating a unique and diverse repertoire. Oblivion showcases Piazzolla's mature style, its melancholic drawn-out melody accompanied by smoky harmonies evoking his time in Parisian jazz clubs. Libertango, a slightly earlier work, presents Piazzolla's shift away from the classical tango style. Its driving rhythms and bold melodies made it an instant classic, and it remains perhaps Piazzolla's best-known work.

AS SUMMER WAS JUST BEGINNING (SONG FOR JAMES DEAN) (1994/1998)

Larry Daehn (b. 1939) tr. Thomas Stone

James Byron Dean (1931–1955) experienced the brightest and briefest movie career ever. In 16 months he made three movies: East of Eden, Rebel Without a Cause, and Giant. Only the first had been released when he was killed in a car accident at the age of 24. His death, on September 30, 1955, sparked an unparalleled outpouring of sorrow. The main melody is loosely based on a traditional folksong from the British Isles, "The Winter it is past, and the Summer's here at last." I chose it because Dean's Quaker heritage is rooted in England, Ireland and Scotland, and because this simple bittersweet song about summer seemed appropriate for remembering James Dean.

Programme note by the composer

RUMANIAN FOLK DANCES, Sz. 56 (1915/1929)

Béla Bartók (1881–1945) arr. Arthur Willner

Originally composed for solo piano, Béla Bartók's Rumanian Folk Dances is a collection of short melodies collected by Bartók during his journeys across his native Hungary and beyond. As a pianist himself, Bartók performed the work many times, and in its versions for piano, violin and piano, and variously sized orchestras it became one of his most popular works. Bartók's characteristic harmony and rhythm add colour to the dances' vitality and typically Romanian expression.

THE GATHERING OF EAGLES (ESKEKXW TA S'PAKWUS) (2018/2019)

Bob Baker arr. Robert Buckley

As work continues toward reconciling the past with the First Peoples of North America, it is also necessary to forge a shared path forward based on our commonalities rather than our differences. Music seems a very good place to start. Efforts are underway to include accurate First Nation's content in schools and it is important to ask permission from the creators and caretakers of First Nation's stories, art and music before including or adapting them for the wider community. This publication began as a conversation with Squamish Nation Cultural Adviser and performer, Bob Baker, who generously agreed to share a piece of his aural tradition - a song that he received many years ago. Our hope in commissioning this work is that it will foster a deeper love, respect and understanding for the people and culture of the Squamish Nation (and all First Nations) through shared music.

Programme note by Douglas Macaulay

ADAGIETTO FROM SYMPHONY No. 5 (1902)

Gustav Mahler (1860–1911)

As Gustav Mahler reportedly said to the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, "The symphony must be like the world, it must embrace everything." Though he was more renowned during his lifetime as a conductor rather than a composer, Mahler's nine symphonies are now cornerstones of the orchestral canon, beloved for their all-encompassing breadth of sonic, philosophical, and emotional extremes. His fifth symphony is in five movements totalling nearly 70 minutes of music. For the fourth movement, an Adagietto, he pares down his large orchestra to only the strings and a solo harp. Gustav's wife Alma wrote that Gustav sent her a copy of this movement as a musical love letter, accompanied by a short poem hinting at his ineffable adoration of her. The music is no easier to describe in words, at once intimate and passionate, tranquil and bittersweet.

BY THE BEAUTIFUL BLUE DANUBE, Op. 314 (1866/2016)

Johann Strauss Jr. (1825–1899) arr. Clark McAlister

The "Waltz King" himself almost had a flop on his hands at the premiere of his *An der schönen blauen Donau*, receiving only one encore. The lyrics probably were to blame: Austria had just lost the Seven Weeks' War with Prussia, so Viennese morale and economy were both wounded, and the original lyrics satirized the whole ordeal. Strauss created a purely orchestral version for the 1867 World's Fair in Paris, and in this form it has become a mainstay in concert halls and celebrations worldwide, especially the Vienna New Year's Concert and its many imitations.

Programme notes by Jonathan Wong unless otherwise attributed

2025-26 ORCHESTRA MEMBERS

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Jonathan Wong

VIOLIN

Rudi Abel
Mehran Ataee
Olivia Baker-Sullivan*
Linda Byron
Paul Collier
Lee Coplan
Myriam Dilindi
Amanda Donelan
Jill Fraleigh
Breanna Gilzene
Laurie Hayden
Rhonda Haznof
Emily He
Solomon Hoasjoe
Marg Kerr
Christina Kim
Jenna Lee
Jerry Loterman
Lou Mersereau
Ariel Park
Andrea Pines
Ying Quan
Nadia Romito
Nelly Sinclair
Gary Tom**
Sofia Vendittelli
Mikhail Vinnik
Bonnie Wasser
Claire Watson
Yuk Yip

DOUBLE BASS

Jordan Kojokaro
Matthew Poon

VIOLA

Claire Hibbert
Matthijs Kronemeijer
Francis Lau
Caroline Pai
Christopher Petruccelli
Gabriel Rouer
Andrea Rush
Venita Sitahal*
Reed Thomas

CELLO

Cathie Bellingham
Denise Chik
Danielle Figov
Peter Grant
Hanseul Kim*
Ruth Levenstein
Wally Levitt
Lydia Mountney
Malcolm Noble
Claire Nunes-Vaz
Rita Shahin
Len Silverberg
Kellin Wong

THANK YOU TO OUR GUEST MUSICIANS FOR JOINING US TONIGHT:

Joseph Chang, percussion
Brett Lipson, percussion
Danielle Sum, percussion
Jack Wong, percussion

Daejun Kang, double bass
Mac VanDuzer, double bass

Emmanuel Luna, Harp

**concertmaster

*section principals

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all the volunteers who contributed their time and talent to Strings Attached Orchestra this season!

STRINGS ATTACHED ORCHESTRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CONCERT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Ezra Wasser	Stage Manager
Janet Loterman	Reception
Gary Rose	Photographer
Ryan Marshall	Livestream and Video Recording

Thank you to Mary Anne Santiago and Nicole Aprile at Earl Bales Community Centre for supporting our rehearsals and performances in the Earl Bales Summer Concert Series.

And most of all, thank you to our family, friends and audience members for your ongoing support!

JONATHAN WONG

CONDUCTOR AND MUSIC DIRECTOR



Jonathan is a Toronto-based conductor, keyboardist, clarinetist, singer, and educator. His wide-ranging work is unified by a love for music's communicative power and its ability to build communities in inimitable ways.

This is Jonathan's fourth season serving as Conductor and Music Director of Strings Attached Orchestra. Jonathan also serves as Instructor of conducting at Tyndale University. He was twice a conducting fellow with the Denis Wick Canadian Wind Orchestra, Apprentice Conductor with Orchestra Toronto, and a recipient of the College Band Directors National Association Mike Moss Conducting Study Grant. His principal conducting teachers have been Dr. Gillian MacKay and Ivars Taurins.

Jonathan's experience as an award-winning clarinetist includes solo, chamber, orchestral, and wind band playing. Career highlights include performing at Carnegie Hall as concertmaster of the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra and a concerto performance with the University of Toronto Wind Ensemble as a winner of the University of Toronto Winds Concerto Competition. As a keyboardist, Jonathan plays both modern and historical instruments. He particularly enjoys collaborative and continuo work on piano, harpsichord, and organ.

Jonathan is fiercely committed to education in community, classroom, and private settings. In addition to teaching at Tyndale University, he can be found adjudicating at festivals and leading clinics and masterclasses across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

Jonathan holds an Advanced Certificate in Performance, Early Music (harpsichord) and a Bachelor of Music with Honours (music education, clarinet) from the University of Toronto.

Thank you

to the Wood Foundation
for their generous support of
Strings Attached Orchestra

*May your life be
as beautiful as your Smile*



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US AT

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EMAIL: suttonbythelake@rogers.com



Strings Attached Orchestra plays at

Earl Bales 2026 Summer Concert Series

FREE OF
CHARGE

7:00pm, Thursday, August 13th, 2026
Barry Zukerman Amphitheatre at Earl Bales Park

TAKING OUR MUSIC INTO THE COMMUNITY

Strings Attached Orchestra's vision has always been "We fill our lives with music and we share it with others". Our charitable mission is to take our music into the community to play for enthusiastic and appreciative audiences that would not usually get to hear live orchestra music. This season's community concerts included:



AMICA THORNHILL
Quartet
April 22, 2026

CASTLEVIEW WYCHWOOD
LONG-TERM CARE HOME
Full Orchestra
March 29, 2026



EARL BALES
SUMMER CONCERT SERIES
Full Orchestra
July 29, 2025

CUMMER LODGE LONG TERM CARE HOME, Quartet, Full Orchestra
July 25, 2025, November 30, 2025 and May 31, 2026

ONTARIO SHORES, Small Ensemble Holiday Party, December 4, 2025

ST. ANDREW'S MIDDLE SCHOOL,
Full Orchestra playing side-by-side with Student Orchestra, February 2, 2026

DELMANOR NORTHTOWN, Quartet, May 9, 2026

CHARTWELL GIBSON RETIREMENT RESIDENCE, Full Orchestra, April 26, 2026

Your support helps fund our community concerts!
Visit www.stringsattachedorchestra.com to donate.

CARDINAL CARTER ACADEMY FOR THE ARTS



From the emotional highs of the concert hall to the irresistible beats of the dance floor, music has the power to move us like nothing else. Globetrotting dances by Bartók, Copland, Ginastera, Piazzolla, and Johann Strauss Jr. will showcase rhythmic vitality and flair, while tender lyrical melodies set the tone for Mahler's sublime Adagietto, perhaps the greatest love song in the orchestral repertoire, at once serene and fervent.

