

2026
BIG LAKE
FESTIVAL

CLASSICS

August
21 — 29

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

BIGLAKE Festival Calendar



KERSON LEONG

Opening Night

FRI AUG 21 — 7:30 pm
WELLINGTON MUSIC HALL



KAFFEEKUCHEN

Haydn & the Viennese Court

WED AUG 26 — 4 pm
MAISON MILLEFLEURS



PHILIP CHIU

Up Close

SAT AUG 22 — 7:30 pm
WELLINGTON MUSIC HALL



CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

Beethoven Then and Now

THU AUG 27 — 7:30 pm
WELLINGTON MUSIC HALL



THE GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

Bach Then and Now

SUN AUG 23 — 5:30 pm
WELLINGTON MUSIC HALL



KERSON LEONG & PHILIP CHIU

Dorman & Chausson

FRI AUG 28 — 7:30 pm
WELLINGTON MUSIC HALL



PHILHARMONISCHES STREICHQUARTETT BERLIN

Canadian Debut

MON AUG 24 — 6:30 pm
THE EDDIE HOTEL & FARM



MEDIEVAL SONGS

IMPACT Concert

SAT AUG 29 — 11:00 am
THE ANDREW



A MUSICAL FRIENDSHIP

Schumann & Brahms

TUE AUG 25 — 7:30 pm
WELLINGTON MUSIC HALL



FESTIVAL FINALE

Vivaldi & Bach

SAT AUG 29 — 7:30 pm
WELLINGTON UNITED CHURCH

A CELEBRATION OF IMMERSIVE MUSICAL EXPERIENCES IN PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.

DEAR FRIENDS *AND MUSIC LOVERS*

Welcome to BIGLAKE Festival 2026!

As every year, we look forward to the unique excitement and energy that fill the room before a concert begins. At BIGLAKE, our super-intimate venues allow the natural vibrations of an unamplified instrument or voice to move through small spaces, creating a transformative, therapeutic experience you feel in your body and soul, and this season promises to get your heart racing!

For the very first time, we are presenting exclusively classical music. While we usually mix in jazz, folk, and world music, this year is devoted to cherished masterpieces that have withstood the test of time. Since starting BIGLAKE, it has been so wonderful to have opened a window to a rich musical world to many who used to be skeptical or afraid. We strive to strip away the “golden cage” of classical music, creating an inviting, friendly atmosphere where, after one concert, you want to come back for more.



We have an incredible week ahead, highlighted by Kerson Leong’s mesmerizing opening recital and the historic Canadian debut of the Philharmonisches Streichquartett Berlin at The Eddie Hotel & Farm—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear these world-class European artists in one of the County’s most majestic barns. This year, for the first time, we will have 3 keyboard instruments: a harpsichord, a fortepiano and a concert grand piano, providing a unique and authentic musical experience.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the Prince Edward County community for nurturing our vision and to those who have transformed their barns and homes into concert venues. We deeply appreciate our donors and sponsors, whose generosity enhances lives through music, as well as our dedicated board members and volunteers, whose invaluable support makes this festival possible.

Special thanks to our General Manager, Miquel Serrano-Martin, and our Manager of Artistic Operations, Kelly Anglin, for their relentless dedication throughout the year.

Lastly, we extend our gratitude to our audiences – your presence truly brings BIGLAKE to life.

Elissa Lee and Johannes Debus, BIGLAKE Co-founders and Directors

BIGLAKE

WHERE ARE WE?

At this time, we acknowledge we are in the land of the Peacemaker, on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and Huron people, who, for thousands of years, were stewards of the environment, living in harmony with their natural surroundings, governing themselves according to the Great Law, practicing their livelihoods, singing their songs, honouring their ceremonies and raising their families in this place we now call “the County.”

The descendants of the original peoples continue to live in the nearby Mohawk territory of Tyendinaga and, in the spirit of reconciliation, we acknowledge the historical harm done and affirm our intention to move forward together; to live in harmony, supporting healthy relationships with all Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island, this land now called Canada.

Nia:wen / Thanks,



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

KERSON LEONG

OPENING NIGHT

Fri Aug 21 | 7:30 pm

Wellington Music Hall

CONCERT SPONSORED BY TD

BIGLAKE proudly presents **Kerson Leong**, “*not just one of Canada’s greatest violinists but one of the greatest violinists, period*” (Toronto Star). Be prepared to be mesmerized by “*a mixture of spontaneity and mastery, elegance, fantasy, intensity that makes his sound recognizable from the first notes*” (Le Monde).

This programme explores darkness and light, angels and devils, and passion and ethereality. Be transported by these powerful forces of life through Kerson’s magnetic musicianship and breathtaking mastery on the violin. This is a rare opportunity to see Kerson in an intimate setting, feel every note and breath up close!

This concert is guaranteed to leave you wanting more.



We invite all audience members to a wine reception before the concert!

Avro Pärt Fratres

Francis Poulenc Violin Sonata

Allegro con fuoco

Intermezzo

Presto tragico

Ralph Vaughan Williams *The Lark Ascending*

INTERMISSION

Eugène Ysaÿe Sonata op. 27 no. 2, Jacques Thibaud

Obsession - Prelude: Poco Vivace

Malinconia - Poco Lento

Danse des Ombres, Sarabande - Lento

Les Furies - Allegro Furioso

Giuseppe Tartini *Devil's Trill Sonata*

Maurice Ravel *Tzigane*

Kerson Leong, violin

Philip Chiu, piano

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PIANO RECITAL

PHILIP CHIU

UP CLOSE

Sat Aug 22 | 7:30 pm

Wellington Music Hall

CONCERT SPONSORED BY RARDI VAN HEEST & CHARLES PICK

Experience a night of piano magic with **JUNO** Award-winning pianist and CBC guest host **Philip Chiu**. From Chopin's songful nocturnes to **Debussy's** iconic *Clair de Lune*, the brooding drama of **Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata**, and the barn-burning virtuosity of **Sergei Rachmaninoff's Preludes**, Philip brings some of the most beloved piano masterworks to life – while revealing the hidden stories, secrets, and colourful contexts behind them.

Join us for an evening of music, insight, and storytelling not to be missed.



Programme will be announced from the stage

Philip Chiu, *piano*

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HISTORICAL SERIES: HARPSICHORD AND MODERN PIANO

THE GOLDBERG VARIATIONS

BACH THEN AND NOW

Sun Aug 23 | 5:30 pm

Wellington Music Hall

CONCERT CO-SPONSORED BY EDDIE KRAMER & AJ NEWTON AND CHERYL DOUGLAS, IN LOVING MEMORY OF GERRY

Nearly everyone has heard about *Bach's Goldberg Variations*. In Canada it carries a particular importance – Glenn Gould's defining recordings. But have you heard it on the harpsichord, the instrument Bach actually composed it for?

The legend goes that **Count Hermann Karl von Keyserlinck** asked **Bach** for some pleasant music to cheer him up during his sleepless nights, to be played on Keyserlinck's harpsichord, by resident prodigy **Johann Gottlieb Goldberg**.

Travel back in time to 1741 with keyboardist **Ilya Poletaev**, first prize winner of the prestigious *International Bach Competition* in Leipzig and experience this masterpiece on both the harpsichord and the modern piano.

Be sure not to miss this very rare experience!

Historical Series are part of **BIGLAKE LEARN**



J.S. Bach "Goldberg Variations" - Clavier Übung bestehend in einer ARIA mit verschiedenen Veränderungen

Part 1 on the harpsichord

Part 2 on the modern piano

Ilya Poletaev, harpsichord and piano

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

PHILHARMONISCHES STREICHQUARTETT BERLIN

CANADIAN DEBUT

Mon Aug 24 | 6:30 pm

The Eddie Hotel & Farm

CONCERT SPONSORED BY REMEMBERING OTTO PICK FOUNDATION

The **Philharmonisches Streichquartett Berlin** carries the musical lineage of one of the great orchestras: distinguished, refined, and deeply committed to the highest standards of ensemble playing. They arrive in Canada for the very first time to perform three of the most beloved works in the string quartet repertoire.

Barber's achingly beautiful *Adagio*, **Dvořák's** joyful and melodically irresistible *American Quartet*, and **Schubert's** haunting and magnificent *Death and the Maiden* – one of the greatest works written for string quartet.

Experience a rich European musical tradition in a rural and natural setting.



Samuel Barber *Adagio*

Antonin Dvořák *String Quartet no. 12 op. 96* “*American*”

Allegro ma non troppo

Lento

Molto Vivace

Finale: vivace ma non troppo

INTERMISSION

Franz Schubert *String Quartet No. 14, D. 810* “*Death and the Maiden*”

Allegro

Andante con moto

Scherzo: Allegro molto

Presto

Philharmonisches Streichquartett Berlin

Dorian Xhoxhi, *violin*

Helena Berg, *violin*

Julia Gartemann, *viola*

Christoph Heesch, *cello*

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY

The Eddie

A MUSICAL FRIENDSHIP

SCHUMANN & BRAHMS

Tue Aug 25 | 7:30 pm

Wellington Music Hall

CONCERT SPONSORED BY MAI WHY AND PETER LEVITT

Schumann was the established master: composer, pianist, critic, and champion of new music. **Brahms** was the brilliant, passionate newcomer who would go on to become one of the towering figures of the Romantic era. Their bond shaped both men and left an indelible mark on the music they wrote.

Ensemble Made In Canada — one of the country's most beloved and acclaimed chamber ensembles — celebrates this extraordinary friendship with an evening of short gems for each instrument, followed by Brahms's magnificent *Piano Quartet No. 2*, a work of soaring lyricism, elegance, and optimism that Brahms himself premiered in 1862.

This is Romantic music at its most human and most beautiful.



Johannes Brahms *Scherzo* for Violin and Piano from *F-A-E Sonata*

Robert Schumann *Märchenbilder* for Viola and Piano, op. 113

Nicht schnell

Lebhaft

Rasch

Langsam, mit melancholischem Ausdruck

R. Schumann *Adagio* and *Allegro* op. 70

The performance of these works is dedicated to Wade

Heggie, who brought love and joy to many

INTERMISSION

Johannes Brahms *Piano Quartet no. 2* in A major

Allegro non troppo

Poco Adagio

Scherzo: Poco Allegro

Finale: Allegro

Ensemble Made In Canada

Elissa Lee, *violin*

Sheila Jaffé, *viola*

Cameron Crozman, *guest cellist*

Philip Chiu, *piano*

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AFTERNOON CONCERT

KAFFEEKUCHEN

HAYDN & THE VIENNESE COURT

Wed Aug 26 | 4 pm

Maison Millefleurs

BIGLAKE is proud to collaborate with *The Renaissance Farm* and **Maison Millefleurs**, bringing you a delightful afternoon concert!

Imagine you are an invited guest of **Count Esterházy** at his lavish castle, where you will enjoy the finest cakes with coffee and delight in listening to the music composed by Court resident composer **Joseph Haydn**, performed by the **Court orchestra**. **BIGLAKE** is recreating this experience in one of the most beautiful properties in **Prince Edward County** and with some of the finest chamber musicians in the world.

Relive chamber music for nobility, County style in a gorgeous modern setting, together with delicious coffee and cakes.



Joseph Haydn Divertimento in G, Hob II:2

Presto

Allegro moderato

Menuet 1 - Trio

Adagio

Menuet 2 - Trio

Finale. Presto

Joseph Haydn String Quartet op. 76 no. 3

"Emperor"

Allegro

Poco Adagio: Cantabile

Menuetto Allegro

Finale: Presto

Joseph Haydn Divertimento in E-flat, Hob II:39

"Das Echo"

Philharmonisches Streichquartett Berlin

Dorian Xhoxhi, violin

Helena Berg, violin

Julia Gartemann, viola

Christoph Heesch, cello

Elissa Lee, violin

Sheila Jaffé, violin

Rémi Pelletier, viola

Cameron Crozman, cello

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At TD, we aspire to help foster a sense of belonging for people from diverse backgrounds. That's why we're proud to support music festivals such as BIGLAKE Festival - where people can come together to experience the vibrancy of our communities.

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HISTORICAL SERIES: FORTEPIANO AND MODERN PIANO

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

BEETHOVEN THEN AND NOW

Thu Aug 27 | 7:30 pm

Wellington Music Hall

CONCERT SPONSORED BY EPCOR

Piano? Fortepiano? What is the difference?
Well, come and hear for yourself!

Immerse yourself into an 18th-century candlelit salon, where **Beethoven's piano** works would have been performed for nobility. Learn about Beethoven's rivals and contemporaries and find out how they influenced the development of the modern day piano. Experience first hand what kind of instrument Beethoven would have at his disposal when writing his masterpieces.

Ilya Poletaev, together with **Ruxandra Oancea**, will perform on both the fortepiano and the modern piano, guiding you through the differences between the two. Sort of like test driving a Model T Ford and a Porsche!

Come listen to **Beethoven's** masterpieces on a historical instrument in a candlelit setting.

Historical Series are part of **BIGLAKE LEARN**

Joseph Wölfl Sonata in D major, op. 6 no. 2

Allegro

Andante

Jan Ladislav Dussek Sonata *Élégie harmonique* op. 61

Lento patetico - Tempo agitato, non presto

Tempo vivace e con fuoco, quasi presto

L. van Beethoven Sonata in D minor op. 31 nr.2, "The Tempest"

Largo

Adagio

Allegretto

INTERMISSION

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L. van Beethoven *Rondo* in G major op. 51 no. 2

L. van Beethoven *Eroica* Variations op. 35

Ilya Poletaev, piano

Ruxandra Oancea, fortepiano



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FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

KERSON LEONG & PHILIP CHIU

DORMAN & CHAUSSON

Fri Aug 28 | 7:30 pm

Wellington Music Hall

PRESENTED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE AZRIELI MUSIC PRIZES
PERFORMANCE FUND

In this concert, we bring **Kerson Leong**, **Philip Chiu** and the **Philharmonisches Streichquartett** on stage together, to perform two riveting concertos in a chamber music format. Be ready to be blown away by the musical forces of these world-class artists all together on the same stage.

Feel the energy of a large orchestra in an intimate setting!



Avner Dorman *Nigunim*

Adagio Religioso

Scherzo

Adagio

Presto

INTERMISSION

**Ernest Chausson Concerto for Violin, Piano and
String Quartet, op. 21**

Décidé - Animé

Sicilienne: Pas vite

Grave

Très animé

Kerson Leong, *violin*

Philip Chiu, *piano*

Philharmonisches Streichquartett Berlin

Dorian Xhoxhi, *violin*

Helena Berg, *violin*

Julia Gartemann, *viola*

Christoph Heesch, *cello*

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COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER CONCERT

MEDIEVAL SONGS

IMPACT CONCERT

Sat Aug 29 | 11 am

The Andrew

Ensemble Comtessa presents *Florilegium*, a vibrant collection of medieval songs from the **British Isles** (1150–1300) that traces the lifecycle of a flower through the seasons. These timeless works reveal the enduring foundations of “classical” tradition — where folk melody, chant, and courtly song first intertwined. Blending Celtic, troubadour, and plainchant traditions.

Presented with authentic medieval performance practices and period instruments, this program brings a richly layered musical culture shaped by centuries of cultural exchange to life.

With every ticket sold, **BIGLAKE** will donate 50% to **Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory** (PEPtBO), a local charity that helps protect birds and other wildlife and their habitats on the South Shore through research, advocacy, and education.

Aestas • Summer

*Flur de virginité
Byrd on a brene
Flos convallis est egressus*

Autumnus • Fall

*Mirre it is while sumer ilast
Scribere proposui*

Hiems • Winter

*Foweles in þe frith
Ar ne kuthe
El tens d'iver*

Ver • Spring

*Veri floris sub figura
Sumer is icumen*



Ensemble Comtessa

Ellen Torrie, soprano / citole /
tambourine / anglosaxon lyre
Isabelle Douailly-Backman, vielle /
tambourine / sinfonia

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THE ANDREW
a space for every story

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHT

FESTIVAL FINALE

VIVALDI & BACH

Sat Aug 29 | 7:30 pm

Wellington United Church

CONCERT SPONSORED BY ROB COLLINS

For our **Festival Finale**, we are having a musical party on stage, and after the concert! Creating a 12-piece Festival Ensemble, we will perform beloved classics of the Baroque era. The whole programme is filled with famous *Double Concertos* where not one, but two soloists will interact, respond and imitate each other in a playful musical dialogue, whilst colleagues are cheering them on from the orchestra.

This music is fun and cheerful, the perfect finale to our festival.

Please join us post-concert for a fun, informal party at **Wellington Music Hall!**



J.S. Bach *Concerto for Violin and Oboe, BWV 1060R*

Allegro

Adagio

Georg Philipp Telemann *Concerto for 2 Violas, TWV 62:G3*

Lent

Gai

Large

Vif

Antonio Vivaldi *Concerto for 2 Violins, RV 522*

Allegro

Larghetto e spritoso

Allegro

Helena Berg + Dorian Xhoxhi

Antonio Vivaldi *Concerto for 2 Cellos, RV 531*

Allegro

Largo

Allegro

J.S. Bach *Concerto for 2 Violins, BWV 1043*

Vivace

Largo ma non tanto

Allegro

The performance of this work is sponsored by Chris Hatley in memory of Lindy Cowan.

BIGLAKE Baroque Ensemble

Helena Berg, Sheila Jaffé, Elissa Lee, Dorian Xhoxhi, *violins*

Julia Gartemann, Rémi Pelletier, *violas*

Cameron Crozman, Christoph Heesch, *cellos*

Nick Bobas, *bass*

Ilya Poletaev, *harpsichord*

INTERMISSION

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OUR ARTISTS

Ensemble Comtessa

COMTESSA is a Montreal-based ensemble dedicated to performing and promoting music written before 1500. Rooted in research and artistry, the ensemble brings medieval music to life with creativity,

authenticity, and passion. While Montreal is a renowned early music hub, medieval repertoire remains rarely performed; COMTESSA creates a space where female and non-binary musicians lead in sharing these expressive works. Through collaborations with scholars and specialists, the ensemble crafts engaging programs, educational initiatives, and interdisciplinary projects for audiences across Canada.



Sheila Jaffé

Violinist and violist Sheila Jaffé is principal viola of the Canadian Opera Company and National Ballet of Canada orchestras. Raised in Montreal and South Florida, she studied at the Conservatoire de



Musique de Québec, Université de Montréal, and the Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik in Berlin. A passionate chamber musician, Sheila co-founded the Rosebud String Quartet and performs regularly with the new music group Array Ensemble. Her recording career includes her debut solo album *Lachrymae* (2022) and the Rosebud String Quartet's debut release of Haydn and Mozart (2023). She plays a 1710–15 Francesco Gobetti violin and a 2001 Raymond Schryer viola, generously on loan from Canimex.

Kerson Leong

Violinist Kerson Leong has been praised as “one of Canada’s greatest violinists” (Toronto Star). Since winning First Prize at the 2010 Menuhin Competition, he has established an international career

as a soloist, performing with the Royal Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony, and Orchestre Métropolitain, and in venues like Carnegie Hall. His critically acclaimed album of Britten and Bruch concertos with the Philharmonia Orchestra earned a Gramophone Editor’s Choice. A passionate chamber artist and educator, Kerson gives masterclasses worldwide and collaborates with his father on lectures exploring physics and string resonance. He plays a Guarneri del Gesù courtesy of Canimex.



Cameron Crozman

Canadian cellist Cameron Crozman performs internationally as a soloist and chamber artist. Winner of the 2021 Virginia Parker Prize and 2024 Fernand-Lindsay Career Grant, he has appeared

with the Orchestre National d’Île-de-France, Montreal Symphony, and Vancouver Island Symphony, performing at venues like the Philharmonie de Paris. Cameron co-founded the ClassicalValley festival in BC and the HausMusique series in Montreal, and serves as Assistant Artistic Director of the Festival of the Sound. A graduate of the Paris Conservatoire, he records for ATMA Classique and plays a c. 1750 Gennaro Gagliano cello, generously on loan from the Canada Council Instrument Bank.



Elissa Lee

Juno Award winner and First Prize winner of the Eckhardt-Gramatté Strings Competition, violinist Elissa Lee has performed as soloist with top orchestras across Canada. She held positions as second concertmaster in the Oslo Philharmonic and WDR Sinfonieorchester, and has appeared as guest concertmaster and leader with leading European ensembles, including the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and Berlin Philharmonic. In 2010, Elissa joined Ensemble Made In Canada, performing extensively across North America. An active chamber artist, she collaborates with prominent international musicians and frequents Prussia Cove's Open Chamber Music. When off stage, she delights in cooking, reading cookbooks, and exploring new culinary stops.



Nick Bobas

Bassist Nick Bobas began his musical career in Ottawa before earning degrees from McGill University, the University of Ottawa, and Boston University, alongside pivotal studies with Joel Quarrington. His formative summer festival appearances include the Lucerne Festival, the JM World Orchestra, and the NAC Young Artist Program. Nick has held seasonal positions with the Calgary Philharmonic, Bergen Philharmonic in Norway, and Thunder Bay Symphony, alongside freelance appearances with the Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, and Canadian Opera Company. Beyond the orchestral stage, Nick co-owns and brews beer at Slake Brewing in Prince Edward County, which he operates alongside his partner Sarah.



Aleh Remezau

Canadian oboist Aleh Remezau is acclaimed for his "sensual and exuberant" performances. Principal Oboe of the Hamilton Philharmonic and a core member of Esprit Orchestra, he has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony, and National Arts Centre Orchestra, as well as guest Principal with the City of Birmingham Symphony. A former member of The Orchestra Now and alumnus of the Manhattan School of Music, Aleh features on the New York Philharmonic's Grammy-nominated album of Rouse's Symphony No. 4. He performs regularly with Toronto's avant-garde ensemble The Happenstancers and has played in Broadway and Mirvish theater productions.



Ruxandra Oancea

Pianist and fortepianist Ruxandra Oancea is a versatile performer across modern and historical keyboards. Trained in Romania under Dan Grigore, she holds a Doctorate from the National University of Music in Bucharest and completed advanced performance degrees at McGill University. She has concertized across Europe, Asia, and North America, with major projects including complete Beethoven sonata cycles on period instruments and coordinating McGill's George Enescu Festival. A dedicated educator, Ms. Oancea was appointed tenured professor at Bucharest's George Enescu National College of Music in 2001 and joined the faculty at McGill University as a Lecturer in 2018.



Rémi Pelletier

Associate Principal Viola of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra since 2019, Rémi Pelletier previously served in the viola sections of the New York Philharmonic and Orchestre symphonique de Montréal. He has performed as Guest Principal Viola with the International Orchestra of Italy and substituted with The Philadelphia Orchestra. A top prizewinner at Canada's National Music Festival Competition, Rémi studied at McGill University and the Curtis Institute of Music under Michael Tree and Joseph De Pasquale. An active chamber musician, he appears regularly across Quebec festivals, including the Société de musique de chambre de Québec.



Ilya Poletaev

Pianist and harpsichordist Ilya Poletaev is acclaimed for his inquisitive artistry across modern and historical keyboards. First Prize winner of the 2010 Leipzig International Bach Competition—the only Canadian to achieve this honor—he has performed at Leipzig's Gewandhaus, Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall, and Philadelphia's Kimmel Center. Ilya has appeared as soloist with the Toronto Symphony, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and Moscow State Symphony, and creates original film scores for silent cinema. He holds a doctorate from Yale University and currently serves as Associate Professor of Piano at McGill University's Schulich School of Music.



Ensemble Made In Canada

Rapidly recognized as Canada's premier piano quartet, Ensemble Made In Canada (EMIC) brings together four acclaimed musicians: violinist Elissa Lee, violist Sheila Jaffé, cellist Trey Lee, and pianist Philip Chiu. Ensemble-in-Residence at Western University since 2014, EMIC performs extensively across North America, appearing at premier venues including Ottawa Chamberfest, Stratford Music Festival, and Montreal Pro Musica. The group actively delivers masterclasses, coachings, and school outreach programs throughout Canada and the United States. EMIC gratefully acknowledges the support of FACTOR, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts.



Philip Chiu

Pianist Philip Chiu is celebrated for his vibrant artistry, stage presence, and collaborative spirit. Inaugural winner of the Mécénat Musica Prix Goyer, Philip has toured Canada 14 times and concertized across the United States, France, and Japan. A founding member of Ensemble Made In Canada, his chamber partners include James Ehnes, Emmanuel Pahud, and Jonathan Crow. His extensive discography spans ATMA Classique, Leaf Music, and Warner Music, featuring collaborations with cellist Cameron Crozman and flautist Lara Deutsch. Philip also founded the Collaborative Piano Program at the Domaine Forget International Academy.



Philharmonisches Streichquartett Berlin

Founded in 2018, the Berlin Philharmonic String Quartet blends fresh energy with a rich orchestral sound. Carrying forward the Berlin Philharmonic's world-class chamber music legacy, they captivate audiences worldwide with a repertoire ranging from classical masters to modern works.



Helena Berg

Violinist Helena Madoka Berg was born into a musical family in Berlin and studied at Juilliard and the Hanns Eisler University of Music. A prizewinner at the Jakob Stainer Competition, she gained orchestral experience with the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra Academy. Helena joined the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra in 2012 and returned to the Berlin Philharmonic in 2013, joining its first violin section in 2016. She is a co-founder of the Philharmonic String Quartet and balances her performing career with family life.

Julia Gartemann

Violist Julia Gartemann has been a member of the Berlin Philharmonic since 2000. Born in Münster, Germany, she studied under Nobuko Imai at the Hochschule für Musik Detmold and with Michael Tree at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. She completed her training at the Karajan Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic and has performed extensively worldwide as a soloist and chamber artist at premier events including the Salzburg and Lucerne Festivals. A recipient of numerous awards from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben, she also teaches viola at the Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler in Berlin and plays a 1767 Carlo Ferdinando Landolfi instrument.

Christoph Heesch

Cellist Christoph Heesch studied at the Julius Stern Institute and the Berlin University of the Arts. A laureate of the Antonio Janigro, Witold Lutosławski, and German Music Competitions, he serves as solo cellist for Ensemble Esperanza and Chamber Orchestra Eroica Berlin. Christoph combines historically informed performance practice with modern instruments and engages audiences through innovative concert formats with the TONALI project. A member of the Philharmonic String Quartet, he plays a Domenico Montagnana cello on loan from the Deutsche Stiftung Musikleben.

Dorian Xhoxhi

Violinist Dorian Xhoxhi joined the Berlin Philharmonic's first violin section in 2010 after holding positions with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin and Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. First taught by his father in Tirana, he completed advanced studies in Munich and Berlin and won the International Queen Sophie Charlotte Competition. Dorian actively performs on period instruments with the Berliner Barock Solisten and serves as an associate professor at the Rostock University of Music and Drama. In 2018, he co-founded the Philharmonic String Quartet. He plays a 1739 Camillo Camilli violin.

OUR TEAM

Johannes Debus

Co-founder and
Artistic Director

Johannes Debus has been the music director of the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto since 2009. He is attracted to the city's diversity and openness, and finds artistic stimulation in the company's curiosity and willingness to take risks, which has allowed him to expand his repertoire further. Under his leadership, the Canadian Opera Company, the largest opera house in Canada, has continuously grown in international reputation and visibility.

In North America, Debus is a guest conductor with major symphony orchestras such as the Cleveland Orchestra and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. In 2016, he made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, conducting "Salome". In Europe, Debus conducts the ORF Radio Symphony Orchestra Vienna, the Frankfurt Radio Symphony Orchestra, and the Hallé Orchestra. He has also conducted at prestigious opera houses, including the Bavarian State Opera in Munich, the Berlin State Opera (Staatsoper Unter den Linden), the Frankfurt Opera, the English National Opera, and the Opéra National de Lyon.

Off the podium, Johannes enjoys long bike rides, especially the cold beer after the ride. He is also incurably addicted to gummy bears and has actually read every single book in his expansive library.



Elissa Lee

Co-founder and Executive Director

Juno award winner and First Prize winner of the 23rd Eckhardt-Gramatté Strings Competition, Elissa Lee has appeared as a soloist with top orchestras across Canada. She has held positions as second concertmaster in both the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra and the WDR Sinfonie Orchester. Now enjoying a busy freelance career, Elissa tours frequently the greatest concert halls and festivals in Europe. She has performed as Concertmaster with the Rundfunk Orchester München, the Swedish Radio Orchestra, the KlangVerwaltung Orchestra in Munich, and Festival Strings Luzern, and in leading positions with the Mahler Chamber Orchestra, the Komische Oper Berlin, the Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra and Luxembourg Philharmonic and the Canadian Opera Company. She has also been a guest of the world renowned Chamber of Orchestra of Europe, and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra and has worked under the baton of Claudio Abbado, Simon Rattle, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Bernard Haitink and Daniel Harding.



As a chamber musician she has performed with Louis Lortie, Augustin Dumay, Anton Kuerti, Pascal Devoyon, Kevin Fitzgerald, Lawrence Lesser, and Shauna Rolston and has been a frequent participant in Open Chamber Music in Prussia Cove, England. Elissa Lee joined Ensemble Made In Canada in 2010, which performs concerts and tours throughout Canada and the United States.

Elissa enjoys sleeping. When she is not sleeping, playing the violin, or on her computer, she enjoys cooking, baking, reading cookbooks, going to restaurants and thinking about what she wants to eat for her next meal.

Miquel Serrano-Martin
General Manager

Miquel Serrano-Martin has called Prince Edward County home since 2019. Originally from Barcelona, Miquel has been involved in the events industry in Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas since 2008.



Since December 2023 Miquel has been BIGLAKE's General Manager, the classical music festival that celebrates the best of the genre in the stunning natural setting of Prince Edward County. Miquel has a wealth of experience in creating and managing successful events across different industries and regions, from healthcare to fashion, from Europe to the Caribbean. He is an expert in integrated marketing, business repositioning, and strategic partnerships, with a strong track record of delivering profitable results. He is also a multilingual communicator who can work effectively with diverse stakeholders and audiences.

Miquel started his career at Fira Barcelona, one of Europe's largest venues, where he was the show director for several major events worldwide. He has since expanded his portfolio to include virtual, corporate, and hybrid events, as well as trade shows in various sectors. He has a passion for working with brand identities and connecting with creative people.

As the General Manager of BIGLAKE Arts, Miquel is excited to bring his vision and expertise to this unique festival that showcases the beauty and diversity of classical music. He enjoys collaborating with the talented artists, sponsors, staff, and volunteers who make this event possible. He is also eager to engage with the loyal fans and new visitors who come to enjoy this unforgettable musical experience.

Kelly Anglin
Manager of Artistic Operations

Kelly joined the BIGLAKE team in 2024. Working in the music industry since 1996. Her incredible career at Warner Music in Toronto saw her excel in the role of Senior Manager, Artist & Repertoire/ International Artist Marketing. She actively worked with a diverse roster of Canadian artists and songwriters signed to Warner Music, including Billy Talent, Blue Rodeo, Great Big Sea, Brett Kissel, Chantal Kreviazuk, The Sheepdogs and Sarah Slean, to name just a few, promoting their new releases in Canada and internationally.

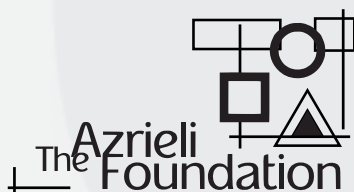


Kelly was instrumental in managing the creation of artist assets and worked closely with the artists and their managers, photographers, video directors, producers, designers, music publishers, publicists and more to support their music releases. Kelly also travelled extensively and worked with international affiliates to help artists gain support in other markets around the world during the promotion of an artist's new release and concert tours. She served as the Chair and Co-Chair for 6 years on the JUNO Awards Music Advisory Committee, working closely with the organization on behalf of Warner artists.

Kelly is proud to call Prince Edward County home, and in her spare time, along with her partner Chris, she has been focusing on her creative passion for interior design, while demoing, designing and overseeing the renos on their home. Kelly loves the community and is a strong advocate for supporting local and helping it grow, and experiencing what makes The County a beautiful place to live or visit!

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Thank you for helping us make music happen.

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A sunset over a field of wildflowers. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, casting a warm, golden light across the sky and the field. The field is filled with dark, silhouetted wildflowers, some of which are in focus in the foreground, creating a bokeh effect. The sky is a gradient of orange and yellow, with a few wispy clouds.

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