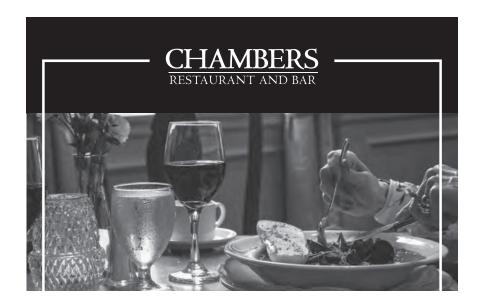


FEATURING JAELEM BHATE **GUEST CONDUCTOR** MUSIC DIRECTOR FINALIST



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 - 2:30pm

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MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 56th season of the PEI Symphony Orchestra. It is an exciting time for our Island's orchestra, with our search for a new music director narrowed to four talented and experienced finalists, who bring diverse and enriching programs to our stage this year. We hope that you will help inform our choice through this final selection process and provide feedback after each concert — surveys will be emailed to all season ticket holder subscribers following each concert week-end. As the PEISO's organization was historically formed as a society, it is essential that we hear from all stakeholders to help make this important decision collaboratively, as it serves to shape our PEISO in the years ahead.

While keeping a foot grounded in the classical masterworks, the PEISO also seeks to expand its mission, making additional connections to communities throughout PEI, including a variety in programming and musical experiences. Our musicians, the heart of our organization, bring together their talents with an intensity and excitement that touches the soul of our audiences. Thank you for your continued support of the PEISO.

Our orchestra is a special gem that we continue to polish in hopes that we convey to you, our audience, the spirit of PEI in a way that only orchestral music can.

Dr. David Sharpe

President, PEISO Board of Directors

David Sharpe



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Greetings from the Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island



As Honorary Patron to the Prince Edward Island Symphony Orchestra, I look forward to the new and exciting chapter in the orchestra's history. As part of the Music Director Search, the four finalists will audition as Guest Conductors for this season's performances. I wish each of them a memorable and rewarding experience.

L'Orchestre symphonique de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard offre aux Insulaires des experiences enrichissantes de musique orchestrale de haute qualité en direct dans le Théâtre de la famille Sobey du Centre des arts de la Confédération. Je suis très reconnaissante pour votre contribution artistique importante aux Insulaires.

I commend the directors for inviting subscribers to contribute to the selection of the next Music Director by sharing their feedback on each performance and guest conductor. I encourage the PEISO community to exercise this unique privilege in this selection process. Make your opinion count!

On behalf of His Majesty The King, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation to the talented and dedicated musicians, Board of Directors and staff of the PEISO, volunteers, patrons, sponsors and all supporters for their generous and valuable contribution to the live musical experience in Prince Edward Island.

antainette Berry

Honourable Antoinette Perry, OPEI Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island



Jaelem Bhate is a conductor and composer whose diversity has come to define his career. A strong proponent of reinvention and accessibility, Jaelem works to reimagine the role of instrumental music in the 21st century. He was named to CBC's *Hot 30 Under 30 Classical Musicians* in 2019 and continues to grow his reputation of sensitive and collaborative artistry and musicianship at home and internationally.

As a conductor, Jaelem founded Symphony 21; a professional orchestra based in Vancouver producing a wide variety of collaborative and unique projects for largely new-to-orchestra audiences. Symphony 21 often works with community partners, artistic or otherwise, to produce orchestral concerts with a strong social message in unexpected venues or settings. The orchestra under his leadership organized a benefit concert for Ukraine 11 days after the outbreak of the war, and raised \$25k for the Canadian Red Cross humanitarian relief fund; the largest single-event fundraised west of Toronto for the cause.

Jaelem was named music director of the Vancouver Brass Collective in 2019 and is preparing for the release of the ensembles first studio album Acoustic Alloy in 2023. He has guested with the symphonies of Vancouver and Winnipeg as the winner of the RBC Canadian Conductors' showcase, and has worked with orchestras in the USA, Italy, and Romania. In addition to being a finalist for the role of Music Director with the Prince Edward Island Symphony Orchestra, he was a candidate for Artistic Director of the Guelph Symphony and has acted as cover conductor with the National Arts Centre Orchestra multiple times. An advocate for new music, he has conducted over 20 world premieres. Recently, with members of Symphony 21, he recorded a new operetta by Canadian composer Katerina Gimon with Re:Naissance Opera and Visceral Visions.

When you're conducting, you kind of need to be a co-composer, if you will, in that not everything in the music is on the page. The conductor is not just there to wave their arms but to create something out of the score, even though it's within someone else's framework." -Jaelem Bhate (from an article by Alexander Varty, The Georgia Straight, Sept. 11/19)

As a composer, his works have been performed by the Vancouver and Victoria Symphonies, as well as many chamber ensembles and soloists. In the jazz world, he has released two albums with the Jaelem Bhate Jazz Orchestra; *On the Edge*, and *Carmen*, a reimagining of Bizet's opera for jazz ensemble. on the edge won the Julian Award for emerging Canadian jazz excellence and spent two weeks at the top of the EarShot national jazz charts. Recent commissions include the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra as the winner of the Hugh Fraser Composer Award, *The Vertical Orchestra* by Redshift Music, and a 20-minute orchestral work for Tutta Musica Orchestra to be released on the renowned Leaf record label. Jaelem has received grants from the Canada Council for the Arts and FACTOR Canada for his compositions, including for a new orchestral work paired with original cinematic video, *A City Soundscape*, in Fall 2022, funded by the Canada Council in partnership with Canadian videographer Andrij Lyskov.

JAELEM BHATE



Jaelem holds a MMus in orchestral conducting and BMus in percussion performance from the University of British Columbia where he studied with Dr. Jonathan Girard and Vern Griffiths respectively. He has furthered his conducting studies with Alexander Shelley, Bramwell Tovey, Boris Brott, Gerard Schwarz, Neil Varon, Paul Nadler, and Christian Macelaru, and counts Dr. Robert Taylor as an early conducting mentor. He twice served as assistant conductor with the National Academy Orchestra of Canada, and was a conducting fellow at the NACO mentorship program with Alexander Shelley, the Cabrillo Festival, Eastern Music Festival, and PRISMA festival. Jaelem studied composition with Fred Stride, and has furthered his education with Jocelyn Morlock, Edward Top, Rufus Reid, John Clayton, and Ron Miles. He is currently on faculty at the University of British Columbia School of Music where he lectures in conducting and served as interim director of orchestras and bands during the 2022/23 academic year.

Jaelem is currently one of four finalists in the search for the next Music Director of the Prince Edward Island Symphony Orchestra. Find out more about him at jaelembhate.com.







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For more than 56 years, our musicians have been the beating heart of the PEISO. Each person devotes countless hours practicing, rehearsing, and perfecting their art. By associating your name with a particular musician, you are acknowledging the extraordinary talent, time and dedication of that gifted individual and the beloved instrument on which they perform. Individuals and businesses have the opportunity to support the PEISO while getting to know a favourite musician better for as little as a \$500 donation. Become part of the PEISO's artistic success. Become part of our PEISO musical family.

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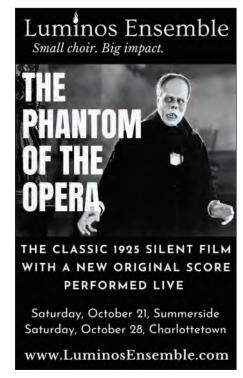
Are you an experienced musician who enjoys the challenge of performing diverse repertoire? Do you love making music with others?

We'd love to hear you!

The PEI Symphony Orchestra is a group of dedicated professional, community and student musicians, united in their pursuit of delivering high quality live orchestral music to Islanders. We are currently auditioning for all orchestral sections to complement our season roster and substitution list.

Auditions may happen at anytime. If you are interested in being part of this dynamic musical organization, please contact auditions@peisymphony.com





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Roots Beneath 6'

Katerina Gimon

(b. 1993)

Remembrance 6'

Rovdon Tse (b. 1991)

Romeo and Juliet, Fantasy Overture 21' Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

(1840 - 1893)

~ INTERMISSION ~

Ballade for Orchestra, Op. 33 12'

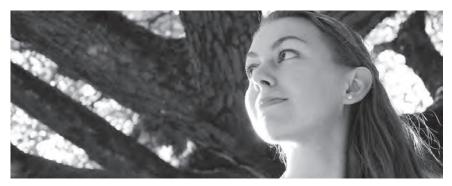
Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875 - 1912)

The Firebird Suite (1919 Version) 22'

Igor Stravinksy (1882 - 1971)

- I. Introduction
- II. The Firebird and its Dance
- III. The Firebird's Variation
- IV. The Princesses' Khorovod
- V. Infernal Dance of King Kashchei
- VI. Berceuse
- VII. Finale

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 - 2:30PM CONFEDERATION CENTRE OF THE ARTS CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



In 2022, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada premiered *Roots Beneath* by Vancouverbased composer, improviser, and vocalist *Katerina Gimon*. Inspired by the forests of British Columbia, the work celebrates the life and death of the mother, or oldest tree, in the forest that through her roots nourishes the trees around her. The piece revels in the beauty of the forest and the majesty of the mother tree that even in her passing gives life and nourishment to her community.



Remembrances was composed shortly after **Roydon Tse** arrived in Canada from Hong Kong. Premiered in Edmonton in 2008, it is a window into the past and represents Tse's memories of his time in the UK and Hong Kong. It begins with a melancholy melody transitioning to a lighter mood and ending on a boisterous note with triumphant brass and strings.



PROGRAMME NOTES

Mily Balakirev encouraged **Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky** to compose a tone poem based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and mentored his work. It premiered in 1870 but the reception was lukewarm at best. In 1872, Tchaikovsky reworked the piece incorporating many of Balakirev's suggestions and it was more warmly received. However, the *Romeo and Juliet*, *Fantasy Overture* we hear today was the result of further revision in 1880. Central to all three is the familiar love theme with the English horn representing Romeo and the flutes Juliet. Woven around them are the themes of Friar Lawrence and the strife between the waring Capulets and Montagues. A sad gentle theme evokes the death of the lovers, but the piece ends with a roar of anger at the futility of it all.



At the suggestion of Edward Elgar, the prestigious Three Choirs Festival commissioned **Samuel Coleridge-Taylor** to compose a piece for the 1898 Festival. His ebullient *Ballade for Orchestra*, *Op.33* was a great success. After the premiere, Sir Arthur Sullivan wrote that he was "impressed by the lad's genius... The music is fresh and original ... at times luscious, rich and sensual..." The recent revival of interest in his works gives us an opportunity to experience that genius.



The young **Igor Stravinsky** had impressed Serge Diaghilev but wasn't the impresario's first choice to compose *The Firebird*. However, when it opened the Ballet Russes' 1910 season in Paris, it was an immediate hit. Stravinsky created three suites from the score, and though he maintained *The Firebird Suite* (1919 Version) contained many errors, it has proved the most often performed. The suite encapsulates the Russian folk story of the Firebird, a creature that brings both good and bad fortune. A pianissimo opening takes us into the garden of the evil Kashschei where Prince Ivan pursues and catches the Firebird. She promises to help him free his captive Princess who dances with her sisters. When he discovers the Prince, Kashschei becomes enraged but the Firebird leads him and his demons in an infernal dance that exhausts the evil forces. She lulls them to sleep with a tranquil lullaby and Ivan crushes the egg containing Kashschei's soul. Everyone is freed from the evil enchantments and celebrate as a solo horn announces the break of a new day.



Music is the universal language La musique est un langage universel. Elle that we all speak and understand. It rassemble les gens, les cultures brings together people, cultures and et les communautés, et contribue communities alike, and contributes to au dynamisme de notre île. the vibrancy that is our Island. Chaque saison, l'Orchestre symphonique de Every season, the PEI Symphony l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard offre de nombreuses Orchestra offers many occasions occasions de découvrir les musiciennes et to discover our talented Island musiciens talentueux de la province. Cette année, musicians. Special this year, les spectatrices et spectateurs auront l'occasion spectators will have the unique unique d'aider l'orchestre symphonique à choisir opportunity to help the Symphony une nouvelle directrice musicale ou select a new music director. un nouveau directeur musical. As a proud supporter of the Le gouvernement de l'Île-du-Prince-PEI Symphony Orchestra, the Édouard est fier d'appuyer l'Orchestre Province wishes our Island music symphonique de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, et community and spectators souhaite à la communauté musicale et another excellent season. aux spectatrices et spectateurs de l'Île une autre excellente saison. Economic Development, Innovation and Trade Minister Gilles Arsenault PrinceEdwardIsland.ca • IleduPrinceEdouard.ca

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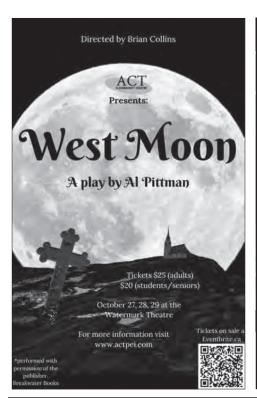
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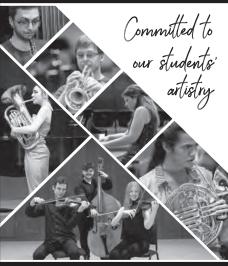
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