



Guelph Musicfest

at the Guelph Youth Music Centre

guelphmusicfest.ca

20th
anniversary
season

Schmaltz & Pepper

Eric Abramovitz clarinet, composer, arranger, co-leader/founder

Rebekah Wolkstein violin/vocals/composer/co-leader/founder

Drew Jureka producer, arranger, multi-instrumentalist, composer

Jeremy Ledbetter piano **Michael Herring** bass

Friday May 22, 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)

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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 Roberston (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 Střížek (violin), Petr Holman (viola) & Vladimír Fortin (cello)

Schmaltz & Pepper

Eric Abramovitz clarinet, composer, arranger, co-leader/founder

Rebekah Wolkstein violin/vocals/composer/co-leader/founder

Drew Jureka producer, arranger, multi-instrumentalist, composer

Jeremy Ledbetter piano **Michael Herring** bass

Friday May 22, 2026 at 7:30 pm

Guelph Youth Music Centre, Recital Hall

“Genre-bending, electrifying energy, virtuosic musicianship, and unexpected twists to every performance. Shatters expectations and redefines tradition. This isn’t just a concert. It’s a cultural evolution. Experience this exhilarating ensemble live, where tradition meets cutting-edge.”

Stratford Summer Music

A uniquely virtuosic and entertaining chamber ensemble performing original music inspired by Klezmer, Yiddish Swing, Jazz and Classical music.

This groundbreaking ensemble features the extraordinary talents of **Eric Abramovitz**, the principal clarinetist of the Toronto Symphony and the Grammy-nominated multi-instrumentalist and arranger, **Drew Jureka**, virtuosic violinist/vocalist/composer, **Rebekah Wolkstein**, founder/leader of the acclaimed **Payadora Ensemble**, Juno-nominated bassist, **Michael Herring** and Juno-award winning pianist, **Jeremy Ledbetter**. This ensemble is redefining the traditional boundaries of Yiddish music, blending classical mastery with innovative compositions and soulful arrangements.

This band has an exhilarating trajectory. A mere 6 months after Abramovitz and Wolkstein came up with the idea to form a band, they had a full show of original music and inventive arrangements. Their debut performance was a live-to-air broadcast with a studio audience at Zoomer Hall in Toronto for Classical 96.3FM in May 2024. Since then, they have sold out shows for Ashkenaz, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Jewish Music Week in Toronto and are headlining the ‘Put a Yid on it’ festival in Winnipeg. They are performing at many of the top chamber music festivals in Canada in 2026: Toronto Summer Music, Ottawa Chamberfest, Stratford Summer Music, Elora Music Festival, Tuckamore Festival in Newfoundland and more!

Thank you for turning off the sound on your mobile devices

Schmaltz & Pepper



online HD video replay



low data replay



Online HD video replay: vimeo.com/user66331855/schmaltz-pepper

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Many thanks to Guelph Musicfest supporters

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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 continues



Friday May 29... FESTIVAL TRIO

Sadie Fields violin
Katie Schlaikjer cello
Ken Gee piano

Beethoven Piano Trio in C minor, Op. 1, No. 37
Michael Conway Baker Trio for violin, cello & piano
Brahms Piano Trio No. 1 in B major, Op. 8

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT INTERMISSION

Friday June 5... STEWART GOODYEAR — SOLD OUT*

J.S. Bach, Goldberg Variations

Friday June 12... GRYPHON TRIO

Annalee Patipatanakoon violin Roman Borys cello Jamie Parker piano

Friday June 19... PENDERECKI QUARTET with Ken Gee piano — SOLD OUT*

Jerzy Kaplanek violin Jeremy Bell violin Christine Vljak viola Katie Schlaikjer cello

* STANDBY SEATS MAY BE AVAILABLE — Contact ken@guelphmusicfest.ca

TICKETS FOR ONLINE VIEWING — musicfest-tickets.square.site/s/shop

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.



Reserve your ENCORE seats now. No payment required.

cognitofrms.com/GuelphMusicfest/ENCORE2026AdvanceSeatReservation

Be sure to hear about upcoming concerts by joining the mailing list. Please be sure you let me know when there is a change of your email or home address.



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Facebook

www.facebook.com/guelphmusicfest

Ken Gee founder/artistic director
521 Kortright Rd. West, Guelph, ON N1G 3R5
519.993.7591 | ken@guelphmusicfest.ca
guelphmusicfest.ca

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!

