



FREDERICTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

SEASONAL CONCERT

CONDUCTOR, RICHARD HORNSBY

DECEMBER

7

AT 7:30PM

Fredericton Playhouse

Program

A Christmas Festival	Leroy Anderson
Nutcracker Suite	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Ouverture miniature	
Danses caractéristiques	
Marche	
Danse de la Fée Dragée	
Danse russe Trépak	
Danse arabe	
Danse chinoise	
Danse des mirlitons	
Valse des fleurs	

Intermission

A Christmas Overture	Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
A Hanukkah Festival	Traditional
Sevivon	(arr. C. M. Bernotas)
Maoz Tzur	
Hanukkah	
A Medieval Christmas	Traditional
Gaudete	(arr. P. Sparke/R. Hornsby)
Coventry Carol	
In dulci jubilo	
White Christmas	Irving Berlin (arr. R.R. Bennett)
A Carol Festival (sing-along)	Hawley Ades
Joy to the World	
We Three Kings	
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	
O Little Town of Bethlehem	
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	
Silent Night	
O Come, All Ye Faithful	

About the Orchestra



FREDERICTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The **Fredericton Symphony Orchestra** (FSO), previously named the Fredericton Chamber Orchestra (FCO), has been performing regularly in Fredericton since 1976. Orchestra members are either accomplished amateurs who have studied music and performance or professional musicians.

The FSO performs two to three times per year.



Richard Hornsby became Artistic Director of the Fredericton Symphony Orchestra in 2010 and is an active performer, educator, arts administrator, and arts advocate. Since coming to New Brunswick

in 1992 he has also founded and/or been the Artistic Director for projects such as the UNB Music Camp, UNB Music Conservatory, Atlantic Sinfonia and the New Brunswick Summer Music Festival. As a volunteer and advocate for the arts, Richard has been active on the local, provincial, and national levels, including serving as President of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra, President of the New Brunswick Arts Board, and President of the New Brunswick Arts Council.

In 2024, Richard was recognized with both the Playhouse Honours and the City of Fredericton's Arts Achievement Award.

Program Notes

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) was an American composer and arranger who specialized in light orchestral pieces, infused with the colours and rhythms of jazz and popular music. Many of his works were commissioned by Arthur Fiedler and premiered by his Boston Pops Orchestra. Starting with *Jazz Pizzicato* (1938), Anderson composed many famous works for the Pops, such as *The Syncopated Clock* (1945), *The Typewriter* (1950), *Blue Tango* (1951), and *Bugler's Holiday* (1954). Anderson also wrote pieces for the holiday season which have become orchestral standards, such as the famous *Sleigh Ride* (1948), which despite its wintery theme was conceived during a summer heatwave. His charming carol medley *A Christmas Festival* (1950) has also proved to be enduringly popular and is a fixture of seasonal classical concerts.

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893) was one of the greatest composers of the Romantic Era, and the one who, more than any other, brought Russian classical music into the European mainstream. He composed numerous symphonies, concertos, overtures, and symphonic poems, but he is arguably best known for his three great ballets *Swan Lake* (1877), *The Sleeping Beauty* (1890), and *The Nutcracker* (1892). While the latter did not meet with instant success, since the 1950s it has become a holiday season staple, with many ballet companies earning much of their revenue from the annual stagings of it. A few months before the ballet's premiere, Tchaikovsky extracted eight numbers from the ballet to form *The Nutcracker Suite*, which did meet with instant success and became one of his most familiar and popular works.

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912) was a British composer and conductor who enjoyed great success in both Britain and America in the early 20th century. Many of his works, particularly the cantata *The Song of Hiawatha* (1900), were widely performed during his lifetime and have enjoyed a revival in recent years. His music was popular despite racism of the day, as he was of mixed African-European heritage. Sadly, his promising musical career was cut short by an early death from pneumonia.

The posthumous work *A Christmas Overture* (1925), arranged by Sydney Baynes, is derived from incidental music Coleridge-Taylor wrote for the play *Forest of Wild Thyme* (1911). The overture features several well-known carols and melodies of Coleridge-Taylor's own creation woven together in a festive package.

A Hanukkah Festival, arranged by Chris M. Bernotas, is a medley of three traditional Hanukkah songs, "Sevivon," "Maoz Tzur," and "Hanukkah." "Sevivon" has a dramatic melody and is written with a variety of accompaniment leading to a brief, but impressive, clarinet cadenza that leads into "Maoz Tzur." This beautiful melody is scored with full, rich voicing. "Hanukkah," the last song of the piece, is a bright, playful march with an exciting conclusion. *A Hanukkah Festival* is filled with memorable tunes that students and audiences will enjoy while paying homage to this important holiday. - *Program Note from publisher*

A Medieval Christmas weaves together three carols whose histories span the late Middle Ages and early modern period, each contributing a distinct facet of the season. "Gaudete" opens the suite with its buoyant, chant-like refrain and rhythmic drive, capturing the jubilant spirit of Christmas in a lively, processional style. "Coventry Carol," linked to the medieval mystery-play *The Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*, offers a poignant, lullaby-like lamentation evoking both tenderness and solemnity. The suite concludes with "In dulci jubilo," with its bright, dance-like character and intertwined lines drawing the set to a joyful and exuberant close.

Irving Berlin (1888-1989) was one of America's greatest and most prolific popular song writers. With a career spanning six decades, he composed innumerable hits, many of which have become standards. Berlin's biggest hit, and his most famous work, is the perennial holiday favourite *White Christmas*. Written in 1942 for the musical film *Holiday Inn* starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire, the song presents a wistful and nostalgic yearning for a Christmas with snow on the ground. It

proved so popular that it has been covered by various artists, and inspired a 1954 film musical named after it, which has itself become a Christmas classic. Berlin returned as song writer, and Crosby as the lead, joined this time by Danny Kaye and Rosemary Clooney. The orchestral version you will hear tonight dates from 1948 and was arranged by Robert Russell Bennett.

A Carol Festival brings together some of the most beloved Christmas melodies in a seamless, uplifting suite. Hawley Ades shapes each carol, ranging from the triumphant “Joy to the World” to the gentle “Silent Night,” into expressive, richly textured settings that highlight their familiar warmth. The suite culminates in “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” creating a festive and full-hearted conclusion.

FSO Thanks the Following

UNB Centre for Musical Arts

Photos and Videography

Luowei Xu

Charles Pan

Salvador Alejandri

For more information about the orchestra, please visit:

www.FrederictonSymphonyOrchestra.ca

Join us for our next concert

FSO: 50th Anniversary Concert

Tuesday, 14 April 2026

Fredericton Playhouse – 7:30pm

Fredericton Symphony Orchestra Members

Violin I

Ian Burdon, Concertmaster
Miriam Lobinsky
Thomas O'Connor
Glorietta Benigno
Ali Johnson
Xinwei Lu
Kynan Hughson
Katheryn Hughson
Grace Jackson

Violin II

Kelsey Fraser, Principal
Wladyslaw Cichocki
Anna Thériault
Jasmine LeFave
Daniel Robb
Keyvan Ahmadi
Marnie Schwarz
Samantha Johnstone
Sylbie Roy
Libby Cassidy

Viola

Alison Ready, Principal
Theodore Campbell
Carol Maurey

Cello

Conor Britt, Acting Principal
Chad Cromwell
Sarah Jarvis
Laura Hatfield
David Nielsen

Bass

Byrann Gowan, Principal
Daniel DaFonseca

Flute

Julie Grant
Thea Loughrey
Yunjia Dai

Piccolo

Yunjia Dai

Oboe

Karen Arnold

Clarinet

Vasana Abeysekera
Ed Maurey

Bass Clarinet

Michelle Hughson

Bassoon

Sam Arnold
Yvonne Kershaw

Horn

Charles MacKinnon
Kathleen Michael
Mya Salawu
Cameron Bowie

Trumpet

Don Lévesque
Morgan Mollins*
David Garson

Trombone

Heather Fyffe
David Bent

Tuba

Matthew Daley

Percussion

Siobhan Hanratty
Andrew Northmore

Keyboard

Catherine Macdonald*

* added percussion