

*Symphonette*  
BY THE SEA - SUR MER



# JOYOUS MUSIC & SONG

guest baritone 🌿 **Paul Bustin**

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 ♦ 7:00 pm**

**Portland United Church**  
50 Newport Crescent (off Adelaide) ♦ Saint John

**Admission** Donations Welcome

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## SYMPHONETTE BY THE SEA ★ MUSICIANS



### Music Director



**Hok Kwan**, born in Hong Kong, moved to the Maritimes in 1992, bringing decades of experience as a violinist, conductor, and educator. In 1990, he co-founded the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, one of Hong Kong's leading orchestras. He served as principal violinist with Symphony New Brunswick and the Saint John String Quartet (1992–2003) and was Concertmaster of Prince Edward Island Symphony Orchestra (2004–2024). Since 2017, Hok has been Artistic Director and Director of Orchestral Programming for the St. Andrews Arts Council.

In 2022, Hok became Conductor and Music Director of Symphonette by the Sea—sur mer. In 2024, he became Music Director of the St. Croix Chamber Orchestra, a cross-border ensemble that debuted in December. A Guildhall School of Music graduate in London, UK, Hok studied under David Takeno and has performed worldwide as a conductor and soloist, bridging communities through music.

### Soloist



**Paul Bustin**, alumnus of Mt. Allison University and the Opera performance program at Indiana University at Bloomington, has been featured in broadcasts on CBC Radio, Radio Canada, as well as National Public Radio (NPR).

Mr. Bustin has been a featured soloist with The Knoxville Symphony and Indianapolis Opera and created the role of “Enrico Fermi” in *The Woman at Otowi Crossing* with Opera Theater of Saint Louis.

Symphonic performances include Mozart's *Requiem*, Faure's *Requiem*, Haydn's *The Seasons*, Handel's *Messiah*, Liszt's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, and Brahms' *German Requiem*.

Operatic roles include “Golaud” in Debussy's *Pelleas et Melisande*, “Zuniga” in Bizet's *Carmen*, “Leandre” in Prokofiev's *L'amour des Trois Oranges*, “Baron” in Verdi's *La Traviata* as well as both “Angelotti” and the “Sacristan” in Puccini's *Tosca*.



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\* ex officio

To volunteer or offer support in other ways, email us: [symphonette2024@gmail.com](mailto:symphonette2024@gmail.com)

Benita Turnbull ♦ program





## WELCOME ★ SYMPHONETTE BY THE SEA

Welcome to *Joyous Music & Song* as Symphonette by the Sea—sur mer celebrates the warmth of music and song with you in our annual Christmas concert.

This year, we are featuring well-known soloist Paul Bustin with a celebratory journey into Christmas. Our conductor, Hok Kwan, and the orchestra hope to bring comfort and joy to everyone.

If you wish to support our orchestra, please contact us by email or phone.

Thank you for sharing tonight. Enjoy the concert!  
Season's Greetings,

Gary Chase, President of the Board  
symphonette2024@gmail.com  
(506) 643-1546

**symphonette** ★ *a small orchestra that plays light music in addition to standard classical repertoire*

### Orchestra

<b>Violin I</b>	Dmitri Myzdrikov*, Ian Burdon, Liandra La Mantia, Shelby Marshall, Miranda Lees		
<b>Violin 2</b>	Jane Quinn*, Amanda Contreras, Susannah McKenzie-Sutter, Robert McCausland		
<b>Viola</b>	Cameron McLellan*, Sara Lafferty, Theodore Campbell, Helen Gollings, Christine Chase		
<b>Cello</b>	Katie Bestvater*, Suzanne Bonnell-Burley, Keith Wilson, Deveney Malcolm		
<b>Bass</b>	Byrann Gowan*	<b>Keyboards</b>	Wai-chung Rachel Kwan
			★ concertmaster ◇ section leader

### Italian Serenade

**Hugo Wolf** (1860-1930)

The Austrian composer Hugo Wolf was a superb song composer, bringing the late Romantic *lied* into the modern age. [...] The new German *lieder* style that Wolf worked in was much influenced by Wagner. Songs were now expressive and dramatic, with an often-surprising chromatic sound.

from: [interlude.hk/hugo-wolf-italian-serenade/](http://interlude.hk/hugo-wolf-italian-serenade/)

### Danse from *Les Indes galantes*

**Jean-Philippe Rameau** (1683-1764)

Rameau debuted his opera-ballet *Les Indes galantes* in Paris in 1735. In the fourth and final act, a French and a Spanish person in America compete for a young indigenous woman's attention, but she rejects both in favour of an indigenous warrior.

from: [www.britannica.com/topic/Les-Indes-galantes](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Les-Indes-galantes)

### Five Ukrainians in a Bell Tower

**Mykola Dmytrovych Leontovych** (1877-1921)

The beautiful Christmas song *Carol of the Bells* is just over a century old. The music, based on a Ukrainian folk chant, *Shchedryk* (The Generous One), was written by Leontovych. The original lyrics tell of a swallow flying into a household to tell them of the wealth they will have in the coming year.

from: [interlude.hk/carol-of-the-bells-by-mykola-leontovych-history-and-recordings/](http://interlude.hk/carol-of-the-bells-by-mykola-leontovych-history-and-recordings/)

### The People that Walked in Darkness

**George Frideric Handel** (1685-1759)

How is this for a description of Handel's famous Aria! "This sinister sounding bass aria is requited with hope! Dueling lines of melody, one a husky male bass, the other a light airy violin—stride together; one claiming darkness, the other dispelling it like a fairytale.

from: [cslewisinstitute.org/resources/handels-messiah-the-people-that-walked-in-darkness/](http://cslewisinstitute.org/resources/handels-messiah-the-people-that-walked-in-darkness/)

# Joyous Music & Song

Hok Kwan, conductor and music director

Italian Serenade .....	Hugo Wolf
Danse from <i>Les Indes galantes</i> .....	Jean-Philippe Rameau
Five Ukrainians in a Bell Tower .....	Mykola Dmytrovych Leontovych
Paul Bustin, baritone	
The People that Walked in Darkness, Aria No. 11 from <i>Messiah</i> .....	George Frideric Handel
Paul Bustin, baritone	
The First Noel .....	Traditional English Carol /arr. Daniel Michalak /adapted Christine Chase
Paul Bustin, baritone	
Concerto Grosso in F minor, Op. 1, No. 8 .....	Pietro Locatelli
★ Largo ★ Grave ★ Vivace ★ Grave ★ Largo Andante ★ Andante ★ Pastorale Andante	

## ✿ SING SONGS of the SEASON with PAUL BUSTIN ✿

Good King Wenceslas .....	Traditional Adest Floridum 1582 /arr. Christine Chase
Mary's Boy Child .....	Jester Hairston /arr. Christine Chase
Silent Night .....	Franz Gruber /arr. Elaine Fine

**The First Noel** Traditional English Carol /arr. Daniel Michalak /ad. Christine Chase  
Paul Bustin requested that Symphonette perform this favourite carol with him, replacing the choir with string orchestra. Christine Chase adapted the work to accommodate strings and hopes you enjoy this rendition.

**Concerto Grosso in F minor, Op. 1, No. 8** Pietro Locatelli (1695-1764)  
Italian violinist and composer, Locatelli was a master of the Concerto Grosso, a form that juxtaposes a small group of soloists against a larger orchestral body. Locatelli's Concerto Grosso is renowned for its dramatic contrasts, its thrilling virtuosic demands on the soloists, and its rich Baroque harmonies.

from: [mymusicscores.com/locatelli-concerto-grosso-op-1-no-8/](http://mymusicscores.com/locatelli-concerto-grosso-op-1-no-8/)

**Good King Wenceslas** Traditional Adest Floridum 1582  
Good King Wenceslas was actually Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia. He was also known as Vaclac the Good.  
from: [classicfm.com/discover-music/real-story-good-king-wenceslas-carol/](http://classicfm.com/discover-music/real-story-good-king-wenceslas-carol/)

**Mary's Boy Child** Jester Hairston (1901-2000)  
In the early 1950s, Hairston was asked to provide a new Christmas carol. Using music with a calypso rhythm that he had composed a few years earlier, he wrote some Christmas-themed lyrics, resulting in "Mary's Boy Child."  
from: [pbs.org/wgbh/christmas-tabernacle-choir/concert-2020/marys-little-boy-child/](http://pbs.org/wgbh/christmas-tabernacle-choir/concert-2020/marys-little-boy-child/)

**Silent Night** Franz Gruber (1787-1863)  
One of the most well-known pieces, Silent Night was composed by Austrian Franz Xaver Gruber in 1818.  
from: [classicfm.com/discover-music/real-story-good-king-wenceslas-carol/](http://classicfm.com/discover-music/real-story-good-king-wenceslas-carol/)