

CELEBRATING

10

YEARS

SINFONIA ANCASTER
2025/2026 SEASON
JEFFREY POLLOCK, MUSIC DIRECTOR



MONUMENTAL STATEMENTS

May 8, 2026 7:30 p.m.

Distinguished Canadian cellist

Amber Ghent

Edward Elgar's elegiac and contemplative Cello Concerto.

Camille Saint-Saens magnificent **3rd Symphony!** Ian Sadler: organ



ANCASTER MEMORIAL ARTS CENTRE 357 WILSON ST EAST, ANCASTER, ON



Photo: @scottphoto

Sinfonia Ancaster, a community making music!

Sinfonia Ancaster is the resident symphony orchestra of the new Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Sinfonia Ancaster continues the tradition of community-based classical ensembles, reaching out to entertain and engage the community at large, while giving aspiring musicians the opportunity to develop their orchestral skills as they rehearse and perform together under the leadership of professional coaches.

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info@sinfoniaancaster.com
 www.sinfoniaancaster.com

Mailing Address

c/o Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre
 357 Wilson Street East
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Sinfonia Ancaster gratefully acknowledges Marie Phillips, Insurance and Wealth Advisor, NSP INC™ for her ticket sponsorship for the Hamilton Music Collective.



Jeffrey Pollock is known for his musical versatility, his innovative concert programming, and for his ability to make connections with audiences. The 2025-26 season is his second season as Music Director of the Georgian Bay Symphony orchestra and his fifth season as Music Director for Sinfonia Ancaster.

Chosen by the League of American Orchestras as a featured conductor for their prestigious National Conductor Preview, he has performed with orchestras across North America including the Detroit, Houston, Nashville, Cleveland Chamber and Charlotte

Symphonies in the US and the Windsor Symphony, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Hamilton Philharmonic, and Niagara Symphony in Canada.

A sensitive accompanist, he has performed with virtuoso artists such as Valerie Tryon, Conrad Tao, Zuill Bailey, and Angela Cheng. While he was Associate Conductor with the Fort Worth Symphony and Resident Conductor of the Toledo Symphony, he worked with a wide variety of international performers, including Roberta Flack, Wynnona Judd, Randy Newman, Pink Martini, Nanci Griffith, Arturo Sandoval and Natalie MacMaster. For the opera stage, he has conducted productions of *The Barber of Seville*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *The Turn of the Screw* and has been chorus master for several regional opera companies.

When not on the podium, Jeff can be found mixing vintage cocktails, teaching, or exploring new hiking trails with his wife, Melinda.



Photo: Karen E. Reeves

Violinist **Corey Lyle Gemmell**, a native of Hamilton now based in Markham, Ontario, is celebrated for his expressive artistry and versatility as a soloist, concertmaster, and chamber musician. He currently serves as concertmaster for Sinfonia Ancaster, the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, the Burlington Symphony Orchestra, and Orchestra Toronto, and has held leadership roles with numerous other Canadian ensembles.

As a soloist, Mr. Gemmell has performed major violin concertos by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Sibelius, Prokofiev, Mozart, and Vivaldi. He is also an active chamber musician, performing with the Gemmell & Smith Duo (violin and piano) and Duo Regale (violin and organ). His collaborations have included Ensemble Vivant, the Elgin String

Quartet, and the National Piano Trio.

A devoted educator and adjudicator, Mr. Gemmell serves on the faculty of the National Music Camp of Canada and the Royal College of Examiners, and has adjudicated the Canadian Music Competition and the JUNO Awards. His recordings span classical, contemporary, and Canadian repertoire, including acclaimed releases with Ensemble Vivant and the Mozart Effect series.



Amber Ghent, cello A versatile chamber and orchestral musician, Amber joined Sinfonia Ancaster as principal cellist in 2022 and enjoys leading her cello team. As cellist with the Madawaska String Quartet (2007-2022), she performed and recorded a wide range of repertoire and appeared at major venues including the Festival of the Sound, the Toronto Royal Conservatory's Koerner Hall, the Elora Festival, and the Indian River Festival in P.E.I. Amber held the position of assistant principal cello of the Erie Philharmonic and performed with a wide range of ensembles, including Fredonia's Bach and Beyond festival and Tapestry New Opera, Toronto. Currently, she performs regularly with the Hamilton Philharmonic, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, and the Niagara Symphony.

In 2015, Amber became a Licensed Body Mapping Educator, drawn to the work as a way to help musicians move beyond performance-related limitations and play with greater ease and expression. She has held teaching positions at Wilfrid Laurier String Academy and the Suzuki String School of Guelph, and has taught at numerous summer institutes across Canada. She now runs a private studio in Hamilton, offering cello instruction along with body mapping lessons and workshops for performers, educators, and students of all ages.



Ian Sadler, organ Ian maintains an active career as a Concert Organist and Choral Conductor. Highlights of recent seasons have included conducting his Cathedral Singers for a week of services at Westminster Abbey, guest organist for the Memorial Service for Mr. Galen Weston in Toronto, and recital tours in Jamaica and Helsinki, Finland. In August 2025 Ian was organist-in-residence for a week at Salisbury Cathedral, UK.

Ian was a chorister at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England. He was awarded the organ scholarship at Bristol University and later, the organ scholarship for three years back at St. Paul's Cathedral. His final engagement in the UK before moving to Canada was to play the organ in the movie Chariots of Fire. In 1980, Ian moved to Canada following appointments in Toronto as director of music at Grace Church on-the-Hill and choral director at Upper Canada College. He has since held positions as organist of St. James Cathedral, Toronto, and most recently as director of music at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario. In 1986, he won first prize at the Syracuse International Organ Competition in the United States. Recitals have since taken him to Denmark, Sweden, Germany, France, Austria, Australia, the United States and United Kingdom. In 2001, Ian was awarded a Juno for a choral album by his Burlington Chamber Choir, Pro Musica. In 2007, he was awarded the Fellowship Diploma from The Royal Canadian College of Organists for his promotion of Canadian organ music.

2026 began with a series of concerts in Barbados. In July, Ian will be organist-in-residence at Durham Cathedral and following Christmas his Cathedral Singers has been invited to act as choir-in-residence for a week at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, UK.



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THE MARQUEE SEASON

2026 - 2027

Welcome to *The Marquee Season* — a year where every concert is a headline event. This season, we celebrate elite artistry through a curated lineup of world-class guests and celebratory collaborations!

SHADOWS AND SPIRITS

October 30, 2026 @ 7:30 p.m.

Join us for an atmospheric evening led by guest conductor Daniel Warren. The eerie power of Mussorgsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*, the dramatic intensity of Berlioz's *March to the Scaffold*, the soaring wonder of William's Music from *E.T. ...and more!* *Halloween costumes encouraged – add your own touch of flair to this exhilarating and memorable evening!

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

December 5, 2026 @ 7:30 p.m.

Kick off the season with our popular holiday concert - a celebration of traditional favourites, including a sing along and a few surprises! The Jazz Connection Big Band will add a fresh take to our annual tradition, performing Duke Ellington's swing-infused *Nutcracker Suite*. *Photos with Santa Claus in the lobby!* *This concert is included in the Season Subscription *See our **HOLIDAY MATINEE** event for a one hour holiday concert option, sold separately.

BRILLIANCE REFLECTED

March 5, 2027 @ 7:30 p.m.

This concert turns the spotlight on four winners from our inaugural concerto competition, jointly created by the Hamilton Music Festival and Sinfonia Ancaster. Young soloists join the orchestra in performances of music by J.S. Bach, Haydn, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. This celebratory evening also features the glittering and evocative colours of Kodály's *Háry János Suite*.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE

May 7, 2027 @ 7:30 p.m.

We conclude with a true *Command Performance*. The lean and energetic *Symphony No. 3* of Sibelius sets the stage for Juno Award-winning pianist Philip Chiu's performance of Beethoven's triumphant *Emperor Concerto*.

HOLIDAY MATINEE

December 5, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m.

**Released for sale on June 1st; not part of the season subscription*

Celebrate the season with a festive afternoon of holiday favourites, sing-along and The Jazz Connection Big Band brings performing Duke Ellington's swing-infused *Nutcracker Suite*. This one-hour concert (no intermission) offers a relaxed and welcoming way to enjoy the music!

Photos with Santa Claus in the lobby!



JEFFREY POLLOCK, MUSIC DIRECTOR



2026-27 Season Subscription

All concerts in Peller Hall, Ancaster Memorial Arts Centre
www.sinfoniaancaster.com Box Office 905.304.3232

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE 20%, ON SALE NOW!

Single concert tickets on sale as of June 1st

MONUMENTAL STATEMENTS

Samy Moussa (b. 1984) *Elysium* (2021)

Edward Elgar (1857 - 1934) Cello Concerto in E minor, op. 85 (1919)

- I. Adagio — Moderato
- II. Lento — Allegro molto
- III. Adagio
- IV. Allegro — Moderato — Allegro, ma non troppo

Amber Ghent, cello

INTERMISSION

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835 - 1921) Symphony #3 in C minor, op. 78, "Organ" (1886)

- I. Adagio — Allegro moderato — Poco adagio
- II. Allegro moderato — Presto — Maestoso — Allegro

Ian Sadler, organ

Please set cell phones to silent.

Patrons are encouraged to take photos during ***applause only***.

Feel free to tag us in your social media @sinfoniaancaster

The cello podium used by our soloist this evening was designed and built by Jamie Gilgen Furniture, specifically for this performance.

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Sinfonia Ancaster

Jeffrey Pollock, music director

Violin 1

Corey Gemmell,
Concertmaster

Lucia Bacari
Bob Brooks
Sumon Chakrabarti
Sarah Cushnie
Laura Doddington
Amanda Duggan
Christian Orozco
Jun Park
Deborah Tamminga

Violin 2

Michelle Odorico*

Jenn Brasch
Michelle Camilleri
Sumon Chakrabarti
Cecilia Chang
Andrew Cushnie
Jamie Gilgen
Colette Von Bodegom

Viola

Elsbeth Thomson*

Amrita Akhand
Lorraine Dargavel
Rachel Hutchings
Barry Seligman
Glenn Welbourn

Cello

Amber Ghent*

Garth Greaves
Keira McArthur
Flora Seul-Jacklein
David Macdonald
Howard Taynen

Bass

Rob Wolanski*

Jennifer Macdonald
David Waterfield

Flute/Piccolo

Madison Deppe*

Simali Garach
Caroleen Molenaar

Oboe/English horn

Colin Maier*

Chloe D'Eath
Krishna Gelda

Clarinet

Paul Burnip
Michelle Bodner

Bassoon

Spencer de Man
Lydia Beaudette
Graham Martin

Horn

Michelle Fawcett
Ryan Duffy
Sandi Sherk
Peter Macdonald

Trumpet

Christopher Giffin
Steve Riis
Fred Cunningham

Trombone

Stephen Ruttan
Severine Salvador
Mike Polci

Tuba

Steve Butterworth

Percussion

Lorne Grossman
Zsuzsanna Kazar
Mike Schutz
Craig Snowden

Piano

Erika Reiman
Larissa Basset

* = Coach

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