

In **Concert** with
Our **Community**

Kingston Symphony Association
2025-2026 Impact Report





Our Purpose

The Kingston Symphony Association provides exceptional musical experiences and programs of the highest calibre for the enjoyment and education of our audiences. Within the broader orchestral and choral repertoire, we proudly support and showcase diverse Canadian and contemporary content, artists, and composers. The Kingston Symphony is a cornerstone of cultural life in our community, striving to be a vibrant, versatile, and highly skilled musical resource, accessible to all.



Live Concerts

The Kingston Symphony's 2025-2026 season was filled with impactful performances that had audiences on their feet. We presented some of the most beloved works of the orchestral repertoire, including Mahler's colossal Fifth Symphony, and featured guest artists such as Andrew Wan and Anna Sagalova. Audience members gained a behind the scenes look at the hit TV show "Murdoch Mysteries" at our sold-out "Muder in F Major" performance. And, we were proud to present a new orchestral interpretation of Mordecai Richler's "Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang", composed by Kingston's own Dean Burry.

Our Season by the Numbers

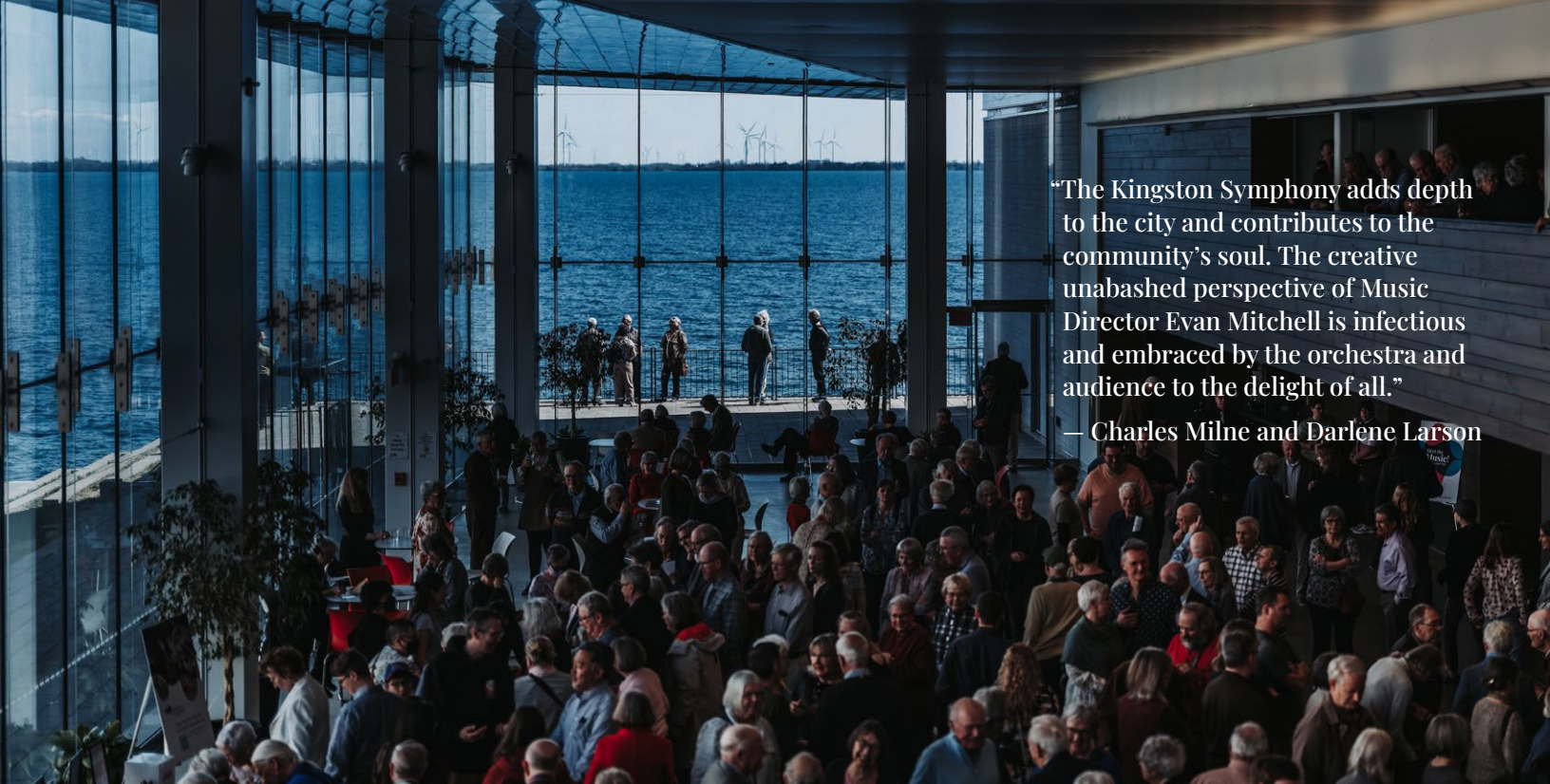
16 Main Series
Concerts

4 Symphony Education
Partnership Concerts

4 Guest
Conductors

10 Guest
Artists





"The Kingston Symphony adds depth to the city and contributes to the community's soul. The creative unabashed perspective of Music Director Evan Mitchell is infectious and embraced by the orchestra and audience to the delight of all."

— Charles Milne and Darlene Larson

Our Audience

We believe in the power of live music and our community does too! In 2025-2026, our audience continued to grow with many new subscribers and ticket buyers. Ticket sales rose by 8.4% from the previous season, reflecting a continued demand for our performances. Subscribers continue to make up the majority of audience members at our Sunday Masterworks performances, almost all of which were completely sold-out this season.

Our Audience by the Numbers

Tickets Sold 2025-2026

7,607

Tickets Sold 2024- 2025

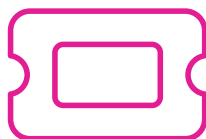
7,016

Subscribing Households
2025-2026

334

Subscribing Households
2024- 2025

296



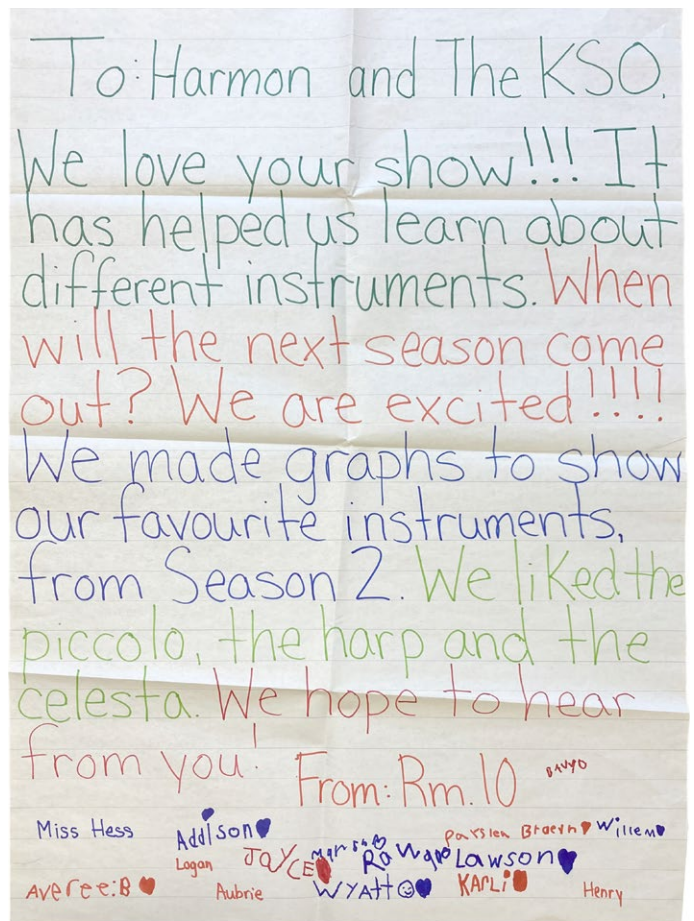
862

New Ticket Buyers



864

Members of the
Classically Hip Club



Online Reach

Through our website, social media, and YouTube channel, the Kingston Symphony shares orchestral music with people around the globe. Our educational children's video series, Harmon in Space, continues to be used in classrooms in Canada and beyond. And, Maestro Evan's Classical Countdowns and Dress Rehearsal videos help audience members to learn more about the music performed at Kingston Symphony concerts.

Social Media Followers

Facebook	Instagram	X	YouTube
2,700	2,500	1,700	1,800

Website Visits 2025-2026	54,875
Website Visits 2024- 2025	38,271

Community Access

Through our work, we are proud to be expanding access to the performing arts in our community. Our core outreach programs continued in 2025-2026, bringing live music to community spaces around the city. The Discover the Symphony program taught children and their families about the science of sound at the Kingston Frontenac Public Library. Harmony at Home brought groups of musicians to retirement and long-term care homes, in collaboration with Concerts in Care Ontario. Through our Share the Music program, we offered hundreds of complimentary tickets to families who otherwise would not be able to attend a performance.

Lisa Draper, Danielle Lennon, and Jeff Hamacher perform at the Calvin Park library.

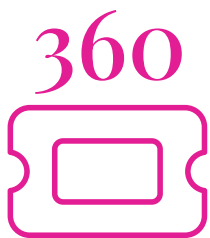


Kiri-Christina Fill, Grace Moon, and Andrew Dicker perform at Kingsbridge Retirement Community.

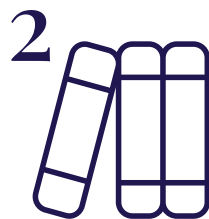
“Programs like [Harmony at Home] are especially valuable in retirement living environments, where access to high-quality cultural experiences can sometimes be limited. The Kingston Symphony musicians brought exceptional talent and professionalism while creating a welcoming and accessible experience for our residents.”

— Gail Quinn, Normandy Retirement Living

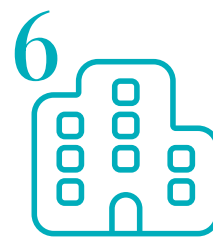
Our Outreach by the Numbers



Tickets donated through our Share the Music program



Children's Concerts in Libraries

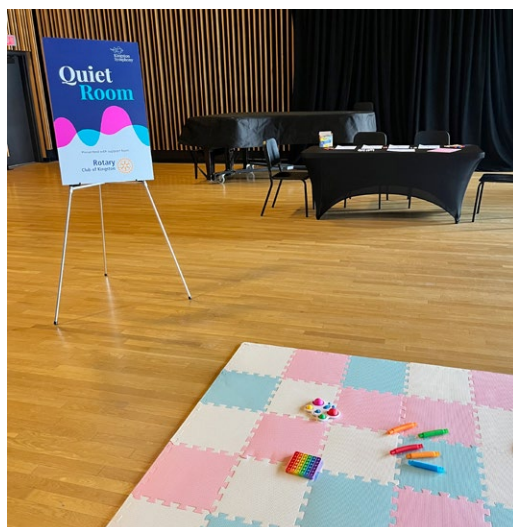
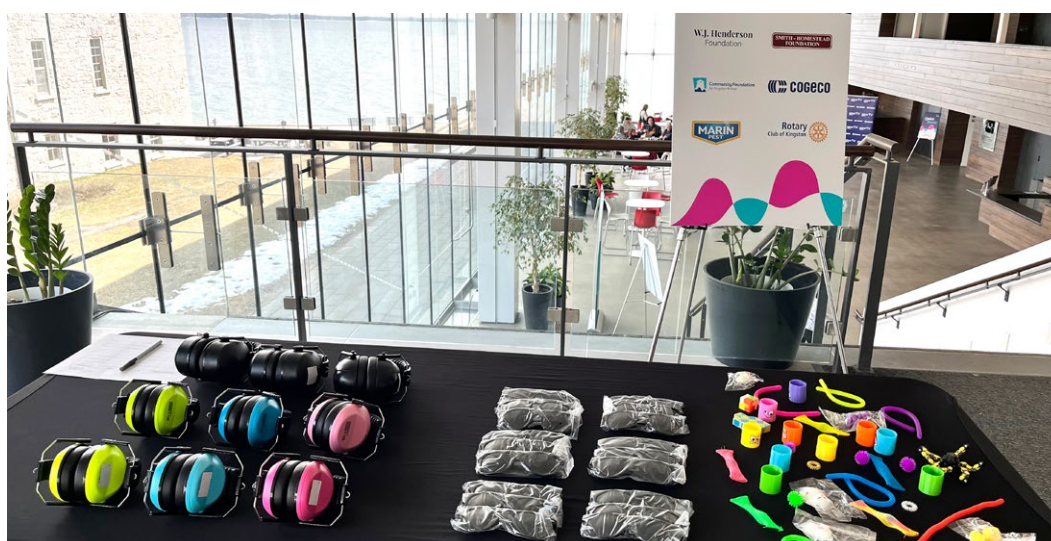


Concerts in Retirement and Long-Term Care Homes

Relaxed Performance

This season, over 350 audience members attended the Kingston Symphony's second relaxed concert. During a relaxed performance, audience members may move around, make noise, and leave the hall to access a separate quiet space if needed. Adjustments are made to lighting and sound in the hall, and accommodations such as fidget toys and noise cancelling headphones are available. These concerts are a great option for individuals with sensory sensitivities, or anyone who enjoys a more relaxed concert experience.

We are proud to be increasing the accessibility of the performing arts in our community through our relaxed concerts, and we look forward to offering more in future seasons!



Composer Dean Burry and guest conductor Rafael Luz at the Kingston Symphony's relaxed performance of "Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang".

"Relaxed concerts are an open door for bringing the broader community into what's happening in the arts in Kingston."
— Peter Wowk, violin

Music Education

Over 2,000 students participated in our Symphony Education Partnership this season, attending performances of "Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang". To deepen the learning experience, teachers received curriculum-connected lesson plans in advance of the performances that were developed by faculty at Queen's University Dan School of Drama and Music.

The Kingston Youth Orchestra, Kingston Youth Strings, and A-Strings had exciting seasons of learning and music-making, culminating in a performance at the Isabel in collaboration with the Kingston School of Dance. This spring, the Kingston Youth Orchestra won the top award at the Ontario Music Festivals Association Provincial Finals. Four graduating members of the ensemble will continue their musical journeys in post-secondary music programs this fall.

The Kingston Symphony Volunteers further supported the next generation of musicians by organizing another successful round of music awards this season, distributing 17 prizes in total to talented young artists from our community. Thank you to the volunteers and volunteer judges whose dedication makes this program possible.

The Kingston Youth Orchestra at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts May 26, 2026.



Daphne Kennedy rehearses with the Kingston Youth Strings and Kingston A-Strings. May 26, 2026.



Christine Liu performs at the 2026 Kingston Symphony Volunteers Music Awards.

“Being part of the Kingston Youth Orchestra has helped me grow so much as a musician and exposed me to a whole new style of playing.”

— Sarah, Kingston Youth Orchestra Musician

Music Education by the Numbers

2,106
attendees from **37** Kingston-area schools at our
four Symphony Education
Partnership concerts

38
students in the
Kingston Youth
Orchestra

8
students in
the Kingston
Youth Strings

11
students in
the Kingston
A-Strings

3 Kingston Youth
Orchestras concerts

10 prizes awarded through the Kingston
Symphony Volunteers Music Awards
program, totalling \$4,500

7 additional awards
distributed through the
Kiwanis Music Festival





The Kingston Community Strings rehearse for their concert, "Art Songs and Opera Classics". March 6, 2026.

Kingston Community Strings and Kingston Choral Society

The Kingston Community Strings and Kingston Choral Society both had seasons filled with unique and engaging performances. The Kingston Community Strings presented three concerts this year, including a program focused on the music of Haydn and Gossec, a concert of opera music featuring the Battel Duo, and a final performance with music from the world of television.

In November, the Kingston Choral Society presented Mozart's Requiem, featuring soloists Kathryn Rose Johnston, Colleen Renihan, David Walsh, and Bruce Kelly. After three nights of sold-out Candlelight Christmas performances with the Kingston Symphony, they went on to perform a final concert in May featuring moving music by Ola Gjeilo, Morten Lauridsen, and Eric Whitacre.



The Kingston Choral Society performs at the Spire. November 23, 2025.

Our Volunteers

We are so grateful for our amazing volunteers. Throughout the year, the Kingston Symphony Volunteers donate thousands of hours of their time to raise funds through their Book Fair, Vinyl Record Sales, and All Things Christmas, Gifts and Art Sale. Their sales broke records again this season and raised a total of \$100,000 to support the Kingston Symphony Association's work!



Our Volunteers by the Numbers

200+ volunteers

4,325 hours donated by volunteers in 2025-2026

\$100,000
contributed to the
KSA in 2025-2026

\$5,000
raised to support 17 young musicians
through the Music Awards program
and the Kiwanis Music Festival

To learn about becoming a volunteer, please contact the Kingston Symphony Volunteers at volunteers@kingstonsymphony.ca.

Thankful for You!

On behalf of all of us at the Kingston Symphony Association, thank you so much for your support this season. Whether you are a donor, subscriber, volunteer, or audience member, your generosity has helped to bring incredible performances to our region. We look forward to sharing many more musical moments together in the coming year!



The Kingston Symphony Association gratefully acknowledges the support of our government funding agencies, corporate and foundation partners, and individual donors.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada



THE ANNA & EDWARD C.
**Churchill
Foundation**

**GILL
RATCLIFFE
FOUNDATION**



**William James
Henderson Foundation**

**SMITH - HOMESTEAD
FOUNDATION**



www.kingstonsymphony.ca