

The Kindred Spirits Orchestra has performed, to a great acclaim, sold-out audiences, and standing ovations, for 2 seasons at the renowned CBC Glenn Gould Studio in downtown Toronto. As of the 2011 | 2012 season, the KSO has established a 6-concert subscription series at Markham Theatre for the Performing Arts, in addition to 3 community outreach and 2 educational concerts. Led by the charismatic Maestro Kristian Alexander, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra is enjoying an enormous popularity among York Region's residents and continues to attract avid audiences across the Greater Toronto Area.

The upcoming concert season includes masterworks by Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Mendelssohn, Handel, Schumann, Mahler and many more. Internationally renowned soloists, such as Joelle Kee, Rachel Mercer, Andrew Ludwig, Mark Djokic, Maxim Bernard, Daret Zuko, to mention just a few, will bring the Markham Theatre a high level of professional music making that will move even the most avid listener. All concerts will be hosted by the celebrity host Alexa Petrenko from the National Classical 96.3 FM Radio. Complimentary Champagne will be offered to all guests after each of the concerts as well as entertaining discussion in the intermissions and enlightening pre-concert chats at the theatre's foyer.

"The performances of the Kindred Spirits Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Kristian Alexander are inspiring, powerful and transformational. The musicians are always exhilarating and the audience always moved", said Jacques Israelievitch, violinist and former concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. The Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of culture pointed out that "Kindred Spirits Orchestra plays an important role in promoting arts and culture in Ontario through their outstanding musical performances." Mr. Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham recently exclaimed: "I commend the Kindred Spirits Orchestra for their efforts to inspire, uplift, educate and entertain their audiences through the power of music."

The Kindred Spirits Orchestra is conducted by the internationally renowned music director Maestro Kristian Alexander who is also the founding Music Director of the International Music Academy and the founding Artistic Director of Markham Contemporary Music Festival as well as the founding Music Director of the "Mozarteum" Symphony Orchestra in Sofia. Maestro Alexander has conducted Windsor Symphony Orchestra, the Opéra de Montréal Orchestra, the Royal Conservatory of Music Symphony Orchestra (Toronto), Oakville Chamber Orchestra, Guelph Symphony Orchestra, Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra, Vaughan Symphony Orchestra as well as the Internationale Bach-Collegium and Gächinger Kantorei (Stuttgart) and the "Mozarteum" Symphony Orchestra (Sofia).

"Kristian Alexander is a remarkable conductor. As a soloist, I had the freedom to play knowing that he and the orchestra are always there for me", said Christina Petrowska-Quilico, one of the most celebrated Canadian pianists of all time. The Italian newspaper Courriere Canadese praised Maestro Alexander impeccable conducting while the great conductor Nurhan Arman noted that "Mr. Alexander's expressive manner to conduct inspired the orchestra immensely".

Maestro Alexander speaks English, French, Russian, and Bulgarian and has an extensive working knowledge of Italian, German, Czech, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages. In addition to master degrees in Conducting and Music Theory and History, he holds various degrees in anthropology, psychology, theology, computer science, and arts management from academies and universities in Toronto, Montreal, Stuttgart, Sofia, and Plovdiv. He has been a recipient of several grants and awards from the Canada Arts Council, London City Council, L'Université de Montréal, Internationale Bachakademie (Stuttgart), the Mozarteum Internationale Stiftung (Salzburg), Open Society Foundation (New York), and National Music Academy (Sofia).

BRAHMS' MIGHTY FOURTH - Opening Night Fundraising Gala

Saturday, October 27, 2012 at 8:00 P.M.

Maestro Kristian Alexander opens the concert season with a sparkling evening gala featuring the Prelude to Wagner's splendid opera "The Master Singers from Nuremberg". Mendelssohn's virtuosic Violin concerto features Joelle Kee and was named "the heart's jewel" and the most well-known violin concertos of all times. Brahms' last symphony, the Fourth, dramatic and passionate, completes this journey through one of the most remarkable masterworks of the German Romanticism.

Savour a sumptuous dinner at 6:00 p.m. featuring key-note speaker Mr. Frank Scarpitti, Mayor of Markham. Enjoy live jazz music, raffles, Markham Theatre backstage tour, and a silent auction. Tickets: \$150 per person (includes a prime seat admission to the concert at 8:00 p.m. as well as a membership in KSO Friend club. A tax receipt for \$70 charitable donation will be issued.) Table for 10 can be purchased for \$1,350. Space is limited to 100 people. To book your tickets, please call the KSO administration office at 905.604.8339.

HANDEL'S GLORIOUS MESSIAH

Saturday, December 15, 2012 at 7:30 P.M.

It wouldn't be the holiday season without Handel's Messiah - performed with matchless spirit by the KSO! A heartening performance of the immortal oratorio, masterfully orchestrated by Mozart, with a stellar cast and Village Voices choir under the baton of Maestro Kristian Alexander. Classical 96.3 FM radio celebrity Alexa Petrenko leads the audience through this most extraordinary story of passion and glory.

BEETHOVEN, SCHUMANN, MENDELSSOHN

Saturday, February 16, 2013 at 8:00 P.M.

Internationally acclaimed French Canadian pianist Maxim Bernard makes his highly anticipated début at Markham Theatre with Schumann's beloved piano concerto. The overture to Beethoven's only opera, Fidelio, heroic and triumphant, counterparts Mendelssohn's joyous and majestic "Scottish" symphony, dedicated to Queen Victoria.

MAHLER'S DAS LIED VON DER ERDE (The Song of the Earth)

Saturday, March 30, 2013 at 8:00 P.M.

The quest for the Holy Grail triumphs with unparalleled glory in Wagner's last opera, Parsifal, which took almost 20 years to complete, in 1877. The same year Tchaikovsky premiered in Russia his graceful and charming Variations on a Rococo Theme, for cello and orchestra (featuring the internationally renowned cellist Rachel Mercer). Gustav Mahler, in his "vocal symphony" Das Lied von der Erde, transforms the text of six Chinese love poems by Li Bai into a beautiful story of death and resurrection, The Song of the Earth, featuring the mezzo-soprano Andrea Ludwig and the Tenor Keith Klassen.

SIBELIUS' VIOLIN CONCERTO

Sunday, May 5, 2013 at 2:00 P.M.

Maestro Alexander leads the Kindred Spirits Orchestra in Lutosławski's Symphonic Variations, a rare survivor among his music written before the World War II, which would subject Poland to six years of direct Nazi German rule and forty-five years of domination by Soviet Russia. Internationally renowned

French Canadian violinist Marc Djokic makes his début with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra in the emotionally intense Violin Concerto by the Finish composer Jan Sibelius. Stravinsky's First Symphony, youthful and energetic, channels the full spirit of the Russian romantic era while paying homage to Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, and Glazunov.

MENDELSSOHN'S REFORMATION SYMPHONY

Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 8:00 P.M.

The elegant and somewhat haunting Pavane by the French composer Gabriel Fauré sets the tone for Brahms' epic First piano concerto performed to a great acclaim by Darrett Zusko whose début with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra in 2010 brought the audience to its feet. Mendelssohn's "Reformation" symphony offers a rediscovery of the musical past, marked by the composer's noteworthy spiritual odyssey through some of the most significant events in European history. Special guest is the Village Voices 100-members choir.

For complete information about the best classical music series in Markham, visit www.KSOchestra.ca (all information on the website is available in Chinese).

Subscription packages are available for as few as 3 concerts and start from \$45. To subscribe and save 30%, call Kindred Spirits Orchestra Administration Office at 905.604.8339.

Tickets are only \$28 (adult) and \$18 (senior, children, students) and can be booked on-line at www.MarkhamTheatre.ca or by calling Markham Theatre Box Office 905.305.7469.