

Fredericton Symphony Orchestra Presents

VIVE LA
FRA NCE



Conducted by
Richard Hornsby

Featuring Karine Basque
singing the music
of Édith Piaf

Monday, April 7th 2025
Fredericton Playhouse 7:30pm

Program

La princesse jaune	Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921)
Pavane pour une infante défunte	Maurice Ravel (1875-1931)
Suite française	Darius Milhaud (1892-1974)
Normandie	
Bretagne	
Île de France	
Alsace-Lorraine	
Provence	

Intermission

An American in Paris Suite	George Gershwin (1898-1937) arr. John Whitney
Chansons d'Édith Piaf (1915-1963) Karine Basque, jazz vocalist	compositeur de musique/parolier
Les feuilles mortes (Autumn Leaves)	Joseph Kosma/ Jacques Prévert & Johnny Mercer arr. Garry Hansen
Milord	Marguerite Monnot/Georges Moustaki arr. Robert Fienga arr. Richard Hornsby
La foule	Ángel Cabral/Michel Rivgauche arr. Tilân Dossogne arr. Richard Hornsby
Hymne à l'amour	Marguerite Monnot/Édith Piaf arr. Richard Hornsby
La vie en rose	Louiguy/Édith Piaf arr. Richard Hornsby
Non, je ne regrette rien	Charles Dumont/Michel Vaucaire



Enchanting the classic songbook with elegance, beauty and flair, Karine Basque is a unique vocal talent capable of weaving a beautiful musical journey of jazz standards. With grace and style, Karine can equally deliver on beautiful, nuanced performances in both English and French. Being relatively new to live performance has worked in Karine's favour, as she brings an unmistakable "joie de

vivre" to the material and her performances are genuine and a lot of fun as a result.

For more: <https://www.karinemusic.com/>

SOLOIST



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



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.

Biographies

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921) was a prolific and masterful composer of the French Romantic Era. His output is enduringly popular and contains pieces such as his *Symphony No. 3 (Organ)* (1886), numerous concertos, the tone poem *Danse macabre* (1876), and the charming children's piece *The Carnival of the Animals* (1886). While Saint-Saëns also composed several operas, only *Samson and Delilah* (1877) is still frequently staged. Among his early operas was a one act opéra comique, *La princesse jaune*, which premiered in 1872. The opera, though titled in a way that reflects outdated and culturally insensitive attitudes, tells a charming and heartfelt story. It follows Lena, a Dutch woman, as she gently draws her cousin Kornelis, a painter and student of Japanese literature, away from his cocaine-fueled infatuation with an imagined Japanese woman depicted in an old painting and helps him see the real love and companionship she offers. Composed during the height of Japonisme, a 19th-century European movement fascinated by Japanese art and culture following Japan's opening to the West, the opera reflects both the allure and the exoticism projected onto Japanese culture at the time. Despite the problematic framing, the overture remains a standout. Lush with pentatonic harmonies and orchestral textures evoking an "eastern" atmosphere, it is a beautiful and evocative piece of music.

Maurice Ravel (1875-1937) was one of France's leading composers in the early 20th century. He composed numerous pieces for solo piano and chamber ensembles, several ballets, three operas, and many orchestral pieces. He is well known for his innovative orchestration. He is closely associated with the pre-1914 Impressionism style that explored new facets of harmony, expression, and tonal colour. He also incorporated the musical styles and forms of early modern Europe, especially the Baroque period, into several of his compositions, linking him to the Neo-Classical movement of the interwar years. His musical output is awash with dance forms, and allusions to "exotic" music from Spain, Hungary, and the Romani. The piece which we will hear today, *Pavane pour une infante défunte* (Pavane for a Dead Princess), exhibits all these traits. While originally written for solo piano in 1899, Ravel also produced an orchestral arrangement in 1910. The piece is meant to evoke the emotions of mourning in the 16th century Spanish royal court for a deceased princess via the pavane, a slow, processional dance popular in Renaissance Europe.

Biographies

Darius Milhaud (1892-1974) was a prolific and influential composer and teacher, who was one of the chief figures of Modernism in French music. He was a member of "Les Six," a collection of avant-garde musical radicals who rejected the then predominant strains of Romanticism and Impressionism in favour of Neo-Classical style with dissonant modern harmonies. Milhaud's own music was heavily influenced by the atonalism of Arnold Schonberg, the folk music of his native Provence region, as well as Brazilian folk music and American Jazz. Being Jewish, Milhaud and his family were forced to flee Nazi occupied France in 1940. They settled in California, where Milhaud entered a productive period of composition and teaching, with some of his students including soon to be famous composers and musicians such as Philip Glass, Steve Reich, Burt Bacharach, and Dave Brubeck. It was during this American sojourn that Milhaud composed *Suite française* (1944), originally written for concert band with an orchestral arrangement produced the following year. The five movements of the suite musically depict various regions of France and showcase his emphasis on lyricism and modern harmonies.

George Gershwin (1898-1937) was a major figure in 20th century American music, whose output fused popular music with the classical tradition. Born in New York City to Russian Jewish immigrants, at a young age George and his brother Ira became successful song writers for both "Tin Pan Alley" and the Broadway stage. But Gershwin was always drawn to the classical stage and sought to blend the popular jazz genre with the classical, which led to several successful compositions such as *Rhapsody in Blue* (1924) and *Piano Concerto in F* (1925); both also showcases for his considerable skills as a pianist. While hits with audiences, some critics were aghast at what they considered a vulgarization of the classical genre, opinions fed by thinly veiled bigotry. Undeterred, Gershwin strove to refine his composition methods, even spending some time in France in the mid-1920s seeking to study with French composers he admired, such as Maurice Ravel. His time in France inspired the composition of *An American in Paris* (1928), a jazz infused tone poem conveying the emotions of an American visitor to the dynamic French capital. The version we will hear today is not the complete piece, but rather a condensed "suite" with the highlights of the original intact.

Biographies

Singer and song writer Édith Piaf (1915-1963) is one of the giants of 20th century French music, who left an indelible mark upon her country's culture. Born to a family of entertainers, as a young adult she matured as a performer through working as a street singer in Paris. She rose to fame as a Parisian nightclub singer in the late 1930s, and she continued to be sought after as an entertainer during the Nazi occupation of France. Her career was almost derailed after the war by charges that she had collaborated with the Nazis, but friends of hers in the French resistance spoke on her behalf, arguing she had used her position to help French freedom fighters and Jews escape the Nazis, and the accusations were dropped. It was after the war that her career reached its peak, as she recorded several of her biggest hits, including *Autumn Leaves* (1945), *La vie en rose* (1946), *Hymne à l'amour* (1949), *La foule* (1957), *Milord* (1959), and *Non, je ne regrette rien* (1960), all of which we will hear performed tonight. It was during these years that she also became known internationally, frequently touring Europe and North America, and becoming a French cultural ambassador. Piaf died in 1963, but she remains a touchstone of French culture, and is the subject of numerous books and films, including a 2007 biopic, *La Vie en Rose*, starring Marion Cotillard in an Oscar winning performance as Piaf.

Conductor
Richard Hornsby

Violin I

Ian Burdon, Concertmaster
Miriam Lobinsky
Grace Jackson
Glorietta Benigno
Thomas O'Connor
Emma Fortunato
Kynan Hughson

Violin II

Julie Probert, Principal
Wladyslaw Cichocki
Kelsey Fraser
Daniel Robb
Marnie Schwarz
Samantha Johnstone
Libby Cassidy

Viola

Alison Ready, Principal
Theodore Campbell
Christine Chase
Carol Maurey

Cello

Conor Britt, Acting Principal
Chad Cromwell
Sarah Jarvis
David Nielsen
Gary Chase

Bass

Byrann Gowan
Daniel Da Fonseca

Flute

Julie Grant
Yunjia Dai

Oboe

Karen Arnold
Fran Robinson

Clarinet

Vasana Abeyssekera
Ed Maurey

Bassoon

Sam Arnold
Yvonne Kershaw

Horn

Yeva Sibiryakova
Mark Roberts
Barbara Richards
Cameron Bowie

Trumpet

Don Lévesque
Morgan Mollins
Norman Neil

Trombone

Heather Fyfe
David Bent
Gavin Woodward

Percussion

Siobhan Hanratty
Andrew Northmore
Catherine Macdonald

Keyboard

Jorian Hapeman
Catherine Macdonald

Singers

Pascale Bergeron
Jenna Bullied
Céline Cormier
Angela Desroches
Marie-Claude Landry
Marie-Hélène Mchaud

About the FSO

The Fredericton Symphony Orchestra (FSO), previously named the Fredericton Chamber Orchestra (FCO), has been giving concerts 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.

Music Director and conductor is Richard Hornsby.

Stay tuned for information about our
50th Anniversary Season 2025/26

FSO Thanks the Following

Les Jazzmoizelles

Brian Cassidy
UNB Centre for Musical Arts
The Fredericton Playhouse



For information about the orchestra or our performances please
visit: www.FrederictonSymphonyOrchestra.ca