



SSO SAULT  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA

# Yuletide Splendour

Sibelius • Hely-Hutchinson • Coleridge-Taylor



Sunday, December 7, 2025 - 2pm at The Machine Shop

Get your tickets at Sault Community Theatre Box Office: 705-945-7299

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Today, we perform Symphony No. 3 in C major, Op. 52 by Jean Sibelius, Finland's greatest composer. It received its premiere performance in 1907 by the Helsinki Philharmonic Society, conducted by Sibelius himself. Given the myriad of spectacular choices from the orchestral canon, why do we play this particular symphony now?

Amidst a programme of Christmas music, this symphony is a perfect foil with its austere Nordic character. Sibelius indicates that this symphony need not be performed by an orchestra of more than fifty players. He preferred a small string section to emphasize the transparency of the orchestration. Sibelius had a way of creating melodies that sound like ancient folksongs but are entirely his own tunes. Rhythm is just as important as his melodic material. He talks about the "compelling forward movement" that binds the symphony together. In the third movement, his music illustrates in his own words "the crystallization of thought from chaos".

Much of Sibelius's music was inspired by the *Kalevala*, the Finnish oral folklore compilation of epic poetry, telling a story about the Creation of the Earth. Sibelius had been working on an oratorio called *Marjatta*. He abandoned the project but retained many of the musical themes in his third symphony. In the last poem of the *Kalevala*, Rune 50, *Marjatta* appears: she is a young maiden who becomes pregnant after consuming a lingonberry. Harshly censured for her miraculous pregnancy, she looks for a sauna in which to give birth but is rejected by Herod's wife. She finds a stable and a boy is born. He is baptized by *Virokannas* and crowned King of Karelia. The obvious parallel to Luke's biblical account is striking.

Victor Hely-Hutchinson was Director of Music for the BBC. He composed his Carol Symphony in 1929. It is based on traditional English Christmas carols: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*; *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*; *The Coventry Carol*; *The First Nowell*; *Here We Come A-wassailing*.

Merry Christmas and please, enjoy the concert.

**Stephen Mallinger**

**Artistic Director - Sault Symphony Orchestra**



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# SSO SAULT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## **Violin I**

Anya Mallinger, Concertmaster  
Kimlan Bell  
Dottie Case  
Victoria Palahnuk  
Lorie Zenker

## **Violin II**

Erica Mancuso, Principal Second  
Lee Carlson  
Elaina DiSanto  
Kathy Evoy  
Owen Goslin  
Anne-Danaëlle Laroulette

## **Viola:**

Vincent Feletti, Principal Viola  
Seth Knepper  
Dorota Milczarek  
Meika Sonntag

## **Cello:**

Elizabeth Bert, Principal Cello  
Sophia Battel  
Daniel Dennis

## **Bass:**

Martin Virta, Principal Bass  
Sara Jane Marshall

## **Flute:**

Rob Galbraith, Principal Flute  
Sharon Dick  
Molly Di Pietro

## **Clarinet:**

David Bean, Principal Clarinet  
Louise Cescon  
Christopher Dobson, Bass Clarinet  
Paul Gilchrist

## **Oboe:**

Angela Lickiss Aleo, Principal Oboe  
Élise Cormier

## **Bassoon:**

Barbara Finch, Principal Bassoon  
Deanna Irwin

## **Horn:**

Tracy Texter, Principal Horn  
Rachel Brozman  
Diane Kolak  
Laura Sanderson

## **Trumpet:**

Paul Stevenson, Principal Trumpet  
Julie Vaughan

## **Trombone:**

Karl Hermann, Principal Trombone  
Cam Dunlop  
Robert Rozgonyi

## **Tympani:**

Louis St. Pierre

# OUR MUSICIANS

## **Percussion:**

Marc Dubreuil  
Kathy Kasper

## **Harp:**

Karen Beacom

## **Saxophone:**

Josh Norling

## **English Horn**

Angela Lickiss Aleo

## **Sharing the stage in the spirit of the season:**

Students of the Algoma Conservatory of Music &  
Soo Theatre Youth Orchestra (Michigan)\*

## **Violin:**

Beckett Bernardo  
Callie Broad  
Joseph Cain  
Micah Carew  
Lillian Chiarello  
Eliana Chong  
Hannah Doucette  
Robert Eady  
Zoe Greenwood  
Phoenix Ingram  
Sawyer Johnston  
Pia Kasch  
Ava Lettieri  
Sophia Leva  
Maya Macmichael  
Elizabeth Maloney\*

Hannah Palahnuk  
Colleen Rice\*  
Ava Paufler  
Thomas Paufler  
Liam-Joel Rivera  
Nevaeh Smith

## **Viola:**

Elise Rice\*

## **Cello:**

Helen Deresti  
Roxie Eady

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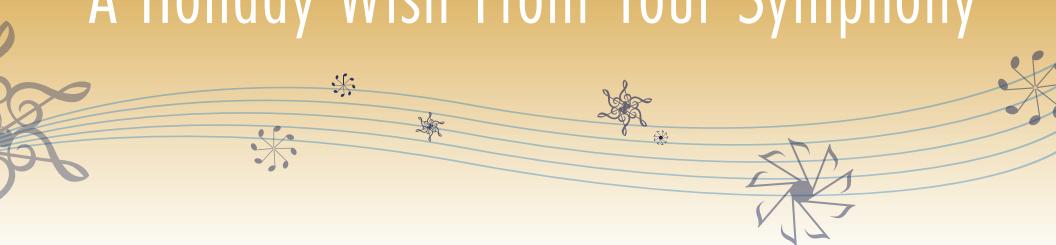
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Evelyn Simon

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# A Holiday Wish From Your Symphony



As the lights twinkle and the music of Yuletide Splendour fills the air, the Sault Symphony Orchestra sends a warm and sparkling thank-you to all our past and present donors. Your generosity is the magic that helps our stages shine, our musicians soar, and our community stay beautifully in tune.

If you feel inspired this holiday season, we invite you to support the symphony and help keep the music playing well into the New Year. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a charitable tax receipt — perfect for adding a little extra cheer to your giving.

You can make a gift in a snap by scanning the QR code in this programme, which will whisk you to our Donorbox page.

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From our orchestra family to yours, thank you for supporting local music, imagination, and holiday joy. Your kindness keeps the season bright — and the symphony playing.

**Warm holiday wishes,  
The Sault Symphony Orchestra**



### **Christmas Overture**

*Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)*

### **String a Song of Christmas**

*Arr. Edmund J. Siennicki (1920-2014)*

### **A Carol Symphony**

*Victor Hely-Hutchinson (1901-1947)*

1. *Adeste Fideles*
2. *Scherzo: God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*
3. *Romance: Coventry Carol and The First Nowell*
4. *Finale: Here We Come A-wassailing*

– INTERMISSION –

# PROGRAMME

**Symphony No. 3 in C major, Op. 52**

*Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)*

**I. Allegro moderato**

**II. Andantino con moto, quasi allegretto**

**III. Moderato - Allegro ma non tanto**

**A Most Wonderful Christmas**

*Arr. Robert Sheldon (b. 1954)*



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# Congratulations to Gabrielle Turgeon!

We extend our warmest congratulations to Gabrielle Turgeon on her remarkable achievements at the prestigious Concours OSM (Montreal Symphony Orchestra Competition), one of Canada's leading classical music competitions. On November 17th, 2025 Turgeon claimed the coveted Barbara Bronfman Prize, which includes a \$20,000 scholarship awarded to the competition's top emerging artist.



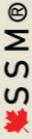
Her success continues with an impressive sweep of additional honours, including the OSM Invitation Prize (Canimex), the Michèle-Paré Prize for a residency at Orford Musique, the Chapelle Musicale Reine Élisabeth Prize for a 2026–2027 residency in Belgium, and the \$25,000 Ann Birks Career Scholarship supporting advanced professional development.

During the 2025–26 season, Turgeon performs Micaëla in Carmen with the Brott Music Festival and returns to Los Angeles Opera for her second season as a Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist, singing Meretaten in Glass's Akhnaten and First Lady in Mozart's Die Zauberflöte under the direction of James Conlon.

A graduate of the University of Toronto (BMus) and the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (Masters), Turgeon is also an alumna of the Aspen Music Festival and a proud former student of Korah Collegiate here in Sault Ste. Marie.

Gabrielle's accomplishments place her among Canada's most exciting emerging vocalists, representing Sault Ste. Marie with distinction on national and international stages. We celebrate her artistry, dedication, and bright musical future, and we look forward to the day when we may welcome her home to share her extraordinary talent with our Sault Symphony audience.

**Bravo, Gabrielle!**

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