



Music Director: Ronald Royer

THE SCARBOROUGH PHILHARMONIC  
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## The Scarborough Philharmonic celebrates 30 years!

**Toronto, ON.,** - On May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 8:00pm, the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra will close its celebratory 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with a special concert to mark the occasion. The SPO will be joined by Canada's inimitable chamber ensemble **The Gryphon Trio**, performing the *Sinfonia Concertante for Piano Trio and Orchestra* by the Orchestra's own Music Director, **Ronald Royer**.

Maestro Royer joined the SPO in September 2008 as Interim Music Director, and took on the position permanently this season. To celebrate the Orchestra's history, he has been sharing the podium with guest conductors who are all former Music Directors of the SPO, including **John Barnum** and **Jerome Summers**. At this final concert, **Christopher Kitts** will take the stage to conduct Michael Conway Baker's *Vancouver Variations* - familiar as the theme song of the former program "Here's to You" on CBC Radio Two.

The SPO has seen a great deal of change in the three decades since its creation in 1980 by Clifford Poole. From the beginning it was a community orchestra comprised of a core of professional musicians, along with a diverse collection of amateur musicians of all ages and backgrounds. In 1985, Maestro Poole left to form Scarborough's second orchestra, the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony, itself celebrating 25 seasons in 2010. Although the size of the orchestra was diminished by this split into two ensembles, the SPO grew and revitalized under the leadership of five Music Directors beginning with Christopher Kitts. In 1994, the SPO introduced its successful Composer-in-Residence program, leading to the commissioning of new works from Canadian composers including Donald Coakley, Barbara Croall, Chan Ka Nin, John Estacio, Omar Daniel, Ronald Royer, Vince Gassi and Alex Eddington.

The Scarborough Philharmonic continues its ongoing practice of presenting new Canadian music in each season, by commissioning 30th anniversary pieces by emerging Toronto composers. The May 15<sup>th</sup> concert will see the premiere of *Epochs of Rock and Time* by **Chris Meyer**, commissioned through the Toronto Arts Council.

Following the SPO tradition of presenting rarely-heard gems alongside familiar favourites, the program will also include Tchaikovsky's rarely-performed *Third Symphony*, the "Polish".

The 8:00pm concert (preceded by an informative lecture at 7:15) will be held at the SPO's traditional home of Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute (3663 Danforth Avenue).

**Tickets:** \$30 regular / \$25 seniors / \$10 youth. At the Door, (416) 429-0007, or [spo@spo.ca](mailto:spo@spo.ca)

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