

2 5 / 2 6 CONCERT SEASON



LADOM ENSEMBLE

Sunday, January 25, 2026
Raven's Cry Theatre, Sechelt

This concert sponsored by Sunshine Coast Slipper Factory.



THE COAST RECITAL SOCIETY

| www.coastrecitalsociety.ca

The artists

Ladom Ensemble – pronunciation: “la” as in “last”, and “dom” as in “dome”

Ladom Ensemble is a mini-orchestra made up of four musicians—piano, cello, accordion and percussion—who play a kind of acoustic fusion that is both passionate and sophisticated. They create music drawn from Western classical, klezmer, rock, tango, jazz, east coast traditional and classical Persian influences—music that is distilled into something distinctly Canadian.

But the ensemble is about much more than the music they perform. Let’s call it “Ladom-ism”—a way of working. An attitude. A set of principles about how to create a small musical community that works by consensus and aspires to share joy. They value rigour, experimentation and generosity of spirit in equal measure.

All are classically trained, all fearlessly virtuosic. They believe in taking improvisational risks, in listening deeply and responding spontaneously to one another. They value friendship, mutual respect and great food.

The band was founded nearly 20 years ago by a pair of music students at the University of Toronto. It grew into a quartet and took its current configuration in 2018.

Pouya Hamidi, piano: Born in Tehran, Pouya is the only remaining member of the original duo who got together to write pieces influenced by the traditions of their homelands. Ladom 1.0 became part of a revolving group of musicians who rehearsed in Pouya’s basement. Pouya went on to get his Masters in Sound Recording at McGill. Today, he’s a much in-demand producer and engineer, scores music for film and theatre and is the chief composer and arranger for Ladom.

Adam Campbell, percussion: Born in Summerside, PEI, Adam jumped in for a Ladom gig in 2009 and never left. He received a BMus from Acadia and a MMus from U of T. And when not keeping the groove for Ladom, he’s a sound designer for theatre and dance and a member of TorQ, a percussion ensemble from Toronto now artist-in-residence at Western University.

Michael Bridge, accordion: Michael grew up in Calgary and started playing accordion when his Mom found a \$5 instrument at a garage sale. He’s gone on to win major international competitions, complete his Masters and DMA at the U of T and is now a concert soloist, half of the Bridge & Wolak duo and teaches a course in business for musicians at his alma mater.

Beth Silver, cello: Joined 2018. Beth grew up in the Toronto area, got a BMus at U of T and a Masters at McGill. She’s a composer, arranger and performer; tours and records with classical, jazz, R&B and folk bands; plays for film and tv scores, commercials and video games and recently travelled to villages in Transylvania collecting traditional Klezmer music.

Ladom has played countless shows across Canada and has collaborated with a collective of Persian composers as well as choreographers, animators and visual artists.

Their second album, *The Walls Are Made of Song* released in 2019, was inspired by Rumi poetry and includes classical arrangements of Prokofiev, Bach and Chopin.

Their third album, *Sofreh Tisch*, based on Jewish and Iranian themes was released to critical acclaim in 2025.



The program

J.S. BACH/MICHAEL BRIDGE/ LADOM ENSEMBLE

Seashelt Toccata in D minor

POUYA HAMIDI

The Walls are Made of Song

NAFTULE BRANDWEIN

Firn Di Mekhutonim Aheym – *Escorting the In-Laws Home*

ARR. BETH SILVER

Romanian Fantasies

BÉLA BARTÓK

Romanian Folk Dances

INTERMISSION

J.S. BACH

Keyboard Concerto No. 7 BWV 1058

1. *Allegro*

ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

Fugeta

POUYA HAMIDI

Distance Suite

1. *Hope*

2. *Exchange*

3. *Song*

FREDERIC CHOPIN

Etude in E major Op. 10, No. 3 – *Tristesse*

JOHANNES BRAHMS

Hungarian Dance No. 5



The program notes

Many works on this program merge established and improvised material. The quartet will introduce each of the works from the stage. Here is a bit of background on some of the selections.

The Walls are Made of Song is an original composition by Pouya Hamidi. It was inspired by the poetry of Rumi:

“In the house of lovers,
the music never stops,
the walls are made of song
and the floor dances”

Firn di Mekhutonim Aheym (“FIH-ren dee me-KHU-to-nim a-HAYM”) Translated to *Leading the Parents of the Bride and Groom Home*, this staple of modern klezmer repertoire directly addresses klezmer music’s traditional role as wedding and secular event music. *Firn di Mekhutonim Aheym* (פִּירֵן דִּי מֵחוּטוֹנִים אֵהַיִם) is in the dance style of a hora (a circle dance) or zhok (coming from joc, a word for “dance” in Romanian) in which the community dances to a broader beat followed by a shorter one. In western notation the hora would likely be simplified to be felt in a sort of moderate—perhaps uneven—three, with emphasis on one and three. Naftule Brandwein was a well-known European-born clarinetist and bandleader whose band was one to define the classic big band American klezmer sound of New York.

Distance Suite

This work was inspired by the “Woman, Life, Freedom” political movement in Iran where young women fought for their freedom and many were jailed or killed by the

oppressive regime in power. The dancers in this video convey a powerful message of liberty and struggle in the shadow of darkness. There is suffering and pain as well as hope for a brighter future.

The music is composed by the pianist and member of Ladom Ensemble who produced this video. The work is choreographed by Hanna Kiel; the principal dancer is Aryana Malek.

Romanian Fantasies

This is a music video animated by Jewish-Canadian artist Yoel O. Fellow (Adam Silver). Its music is an arrangement of part of a well-known (within the niche community) collection of klezmer violin pieces, the Rumanische Fantasien, made known by Josef Solinski. Beth Silver has extensively studied klezmer music and made several extended trips to Eastern Europe to research and enrich her traditional musical practice. Adam immersed himself in Ashkenazi folklore to inform him in creating the original story for the video, its synopsis:

Inspired by Ashkenazi folklore, a young girl is cautioned by her grandmother before heading into the woods to forage. In the forest she encounters the wintry cryptid Lekhoet, which possesses the ability to replicate its prey by conjuring soulless doppelgängers. Ladom Ensemble’s music is a backdrop in her scramble to help her village outsmart the monster.



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