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CONCERT  
SEASON

# LADOM ENSEMBLE

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Raven's Cry Theatre, Sechelt



This concert sponsored by Sunshine Coast Slipper Factory.

**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.



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# 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* (די מחותנים אהיים פיהרען) 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 Ladam 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. Ladam Ensemble’s music is a backdrop in her scramble to help her village outsmart the monster.

**maestoso (\$1000 and up)**

Kit Artus  
Denise Ball & Ken Kramer  
Alan & Margaret Skelley  
John Storer  
Alec Tebbutt & Wendy Humphreys Tebbutt

**forte (\$500-\$999)**

Jeffrey Abbott & Suzanne Robert  
Karyn Burney  
Fred & Unni Claridge  
Barbara & Ian Cochran  
Steven Godden  
Karen Gordon & Martin Smith  
Joyce Harpell & Judith Miller  
Julie Kirkland  
Christine Pawley  
Janet Rhodes  
John & Robyn Sloan  
Rosemary Bates Terry

Marcia James & Ward Tinney

3 Anonymous

**espressivo (\$250-\$499)**

Ellen Adelberg & Jim Davidson  
Jane Coop  
Hiroko Crane in memory of Allan Crane  
Ken Dalgleish & Donna Shugar  
Timothy Dayton  
Erwin & Eva Diener  
Maureen Drake  
Ron Dunford & Penny Johnson  
Pamela Earle  
Paul Falzone & May Jim  
Louis Fortin & Michael Jackson  
Sahra Hailey  
Linda & Thomas Kern  
Bronia & Dan Kingsbury  
Angelika Kleta

Randy Knill & Sandra Micheals  
Genevieve LeMarchand  
Errol Lipschitz & Judy Rother  
Barry Morrow  
Ian Munro & Gail Riddell  
Isabelle & Sunil Perera  
Karen Scott & Karel Valenta  
Ari Tomita

**dolce (up to \$249)**

David Allan & Fran Heppell  
Dawn Allen & Anthony Paré  
Jody Anderson  
Pat Bean & David Harrington  
Sheila Blake  
Don Bland & Mary Findlay  
Gordon & Melva Bradshaw  
Jill Brandon

Stacey Buchhorn  
Bette Chadwick & Larry Musser  
Brian Chalmers  
Christine Chandler  
Libby Covernton  
Marie Elder  
Eugene & Sue Evanetz  
Jamie Flemming & Carmen Sombrowski  
Dièdra Goodwin  
Jerry & Wendy Griffin  
Carol Harmon & Gary Sill  
Rifa Hodgsons  
Helen Ible  
Liz James  
Katherine Johnston  
Maryann Kamphuis  
Heidi Kurz  
Dixie Meagher  
Heather Morrison  
Anne Moul  
Marni Mulloy  
Pauline Nelitz  
Rod Olafson

Jeanette Penson  
Diana Popowycz  
Pamela Proctor & John Roper  
Barbara Raphael  
Christine Richter  
Julie Rutter  
Val Rutter  
Morrie Sacks  
Maggie Scott  
Paula Selmayr  
Jody Shaw  
Patty Shields  
Dieter Stulken  
Ines & Marcel Tancre  
Maria Van Dyk  
Sally Watson  
Pamela Wood  
Peter Wooding  
6 Anonymous

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**Peter Sever in memory of the Orford String Quartet's first violinist, Andrew Dawes**



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