



Kingston
Symphony

Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang

Saturday, March 28, 2026
2:30 p.m. at the Isabel

Dean Burry, Narrator
Rafael Luz, Guest Conductor



PHOTOS: S. WILD

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Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang

Kingston Symphony

Rafael Luz, Guest Conductor

Dean Burry, Narrator

Program

Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang

Music by Dean Burry

Novel by Mordecai Richler

Text adapted by Jacob Richler

Presented with support from



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Rafael Luz, Conductor

Brazilian-born conductor Rafael Luz is recognized for his energetic musicianship, imaginative programming, and commitment to connecting orchestras with their communities. He is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Huronia Symphony Orchestra in Barrie, and the Music Director of the North York Concert Orchestra in Toronto.

Since making his debut with the North York Concert Orchestra in 2014, Luz has led the ensemble in repertoire ranging from symphonic masterworks to contemporary compositions, including large-scale works such as performances of Richard Strauss's *Alpine Symphony*. He has collaborated with guest soloists such as Jonathan Crow, Joseph Johnson, Andrew Haji, and Emily Rocha. His work with the orchestra has included innovative programming initiatives and special projects designed to broaden audience engagement and encourage the discovery of new music.

In addition to his work with these ensembles, he has appeared with orchestras in North and South America, including the Kingston Symphony and the Orquestra Petrobras Sinfônica. His performances are noted for their clarity, expressive energy, and attention to musical storytelling.

Born in São Paulo, Brazil, Luz began his musical studies as a pianist and violinist before discovering his passion for conducting. He holds a Master of Arts in Conducting from the Aaron Copland School of Music in New York, where he studied with Maurice Peress, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting from the University of Toronto, under the supervision of Sandra Horst.

Alongside his conducting career, Luz has been actively involved in music education and artistic initiatives. He has worked with major music education programs serving young musicians and underserved communities in Brazil and founded an annual youth concerto competition that gives emerging performers the opportunity to appear as soloists with orchestra. In addition to his conducting work, he has served as Assistant Librarian with the National Ballet of Canada and as Technical Revisor for EdUSP, one of Brazil's largest university publishers.



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Dean Burry, **Composer & Narrator**

Composer and librettist Dean Burry has become one of the world's leading composers of children's opera, his works receiving performances across Canada, the United States, Europe, China, and Brazil. At over 600 performances, his opera *The Brothers Grimm* is one of the most produced operas of the twenty-first century and his operatic adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, commissioned by the Canadian Children's Opera Company, has been performed throughout the United States and received its European premiere to sold-out houses in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2017. In 2018, Burry accepted a professorship at the Dan School of Drama and Music at Queen's University in Kingston. He was the Artistic Director of the Canadian Children's Opera Company from 2015-2017.

Recent premieres include the Dora Award winning opera *Shanawdithit* (Tapestry Opera/Opera on the Avalon),

Sea Variations (Canadian Art Song Project), String Quartet No. 1 (New Orford String Quartet), and the opera Il Giudizio di Pigmalione with COSA Canada and Opera McGill. His chamber work The Highwayman was released on the Centrediscs/NAXOS label in October 2023.

Burry was the 2011 recipient of the Ontario Arts Foundation's Louis Applebaum Composers Award for excellence in the field of music for young people. Following the fall 2022 premiere of Tracing Colville with the Kingston Symphony, Burry has begun working on a book which charts not only his own artistic journey, but that of famed Canadian war artist Alex Colville. In September 2024, Tracing Colville served as the Canadian representative at a concert celebrating the 80th anniversary of liberation in Nijmegen, the Netherlands.



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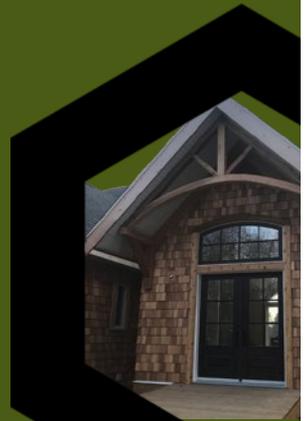


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Jacob Richler, Journalist & Writer

Jacob Richler is the publisher and founding editor of Canada's 100 Best Restaurants, launched in 2015. A National Magazine Award winner, he has written on food, travel, and numerous other topics for Financial Post magazine, Toronto Life, GQ and enRoute, and Maclean's, among many others – and the inaugural restaurant critic for the National Post. He is the author of *My Canada Includes Foie Gras* (Penguin, 2012) and has co-authored cookbooks with Mark McEwan, Susur Lee, and David Hawksworth.

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Lucas Waldin, Guest Conductor

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