

# ENSEMBLE VIVANT

*"Chamber music at its evocative best!"* - **WholeNote Magazine**



Sarah Boyer, violin; George Koller, bass; Catherine Wilson, piano/artistic director; Norman Hathaway, viola; Lydia Munchinsky, cello

Celebrated pioneering quintet Ensemble Vivant (EV) has been enchanting audiences internationally for over 3 decades with innovative genre-diverse programming, including Classical, Jazz, Ragtime, Latin, and other Jazz-related styles. "This is the highest-level chamber music making. No matter the genre, there is magic in Ensemble Vivant's music making." - Jazz legend/composer Rick Wilkins, C.M. EV is also known for its warm and engaging rapport with all audiences and its passionate deeply communicative playing that touches the hearts and souls of listeners of all ages. Ensemble Vivant has 15 internationally acclaimed albums heard on radio and streaming platforms world-wide.

All arrangements and new compositions were exclusively written for EV by some of the greatest composers and arrangers of our time. Ensemble Vivant is available to tour as a trio, quartet, quintet or sextet (including drums).

For over 20 years ENSEMBLE VIVANT has been dedicated to serving community, ensuring that children of diverse cultural backgrounds as well as seniors receive highest quality musical experiences. Ensemble Vivant does this through the registered not-for-profit charity, EUTERPE: MUSIC IS THE KEY. Ensemble Vivant's evidence-based music education performance programs plant musical seeds and inspire children of all backgrounds. The educational, artistic and

health benefits of Euterpe's programs are documented and endorsed by leading neuroscientists on Music and The Mind. The inestimable benefits for mental health as well as overall health and well-being are palpable for people of all ages. Our principal focus are children, particularly those in underserved communities, and seniors, many who do not have access to these life-enhancing invaluable opportunities.

*See below to discover what EV & Euterpe can do for your community.*

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Audiences always want to know how soon we'll be back. I encourage you to view the short live-in-concert footage (captured from various concerts) featuring spontaneous interaction of Ensemble Vivant with audiences. This video captures the fun and engaging rapport that we have with all audiences in ways that words cannot describe.

[SEE VIDEO HERE](#)

We'd love to perform our FROM BACH to PIAZZOLLA program, or one of our many other beautiful programs in your communities including iFUGUE ~ A World of Fugues TRIBUTE to JAZZ GREAT RICK WILKINS; CHRISTMAS TIDINGS among others (see below). We promise that your audiences will be transported and will experience the infectious joy exuded by our Vivant music making and from the individual and collective Vivant personas.

We can't wait to meet you, your audiences and your community. For us, it's all about enriching people's lives with our beautiful, transformative music making. We know this will be a rich, meaningful, joyous and lasting musical experience for everyone.



## Euterpe: Music is the Key

While we're in your community, EUTERPE will sponsor ENSEMBLE VIVANT to perform at a local school and/or retirement home, FREE of CHARGE to the concert associations, and to the schools and retirement homes. Ensemble Vivant's evidence-based music education performance programs plant musical seeds and inspire children. The educational, artistic and health benefits of Euterpe's programs are documented and endorsed by the scientific community. The inestimable benefits for mental



health as well as overall health and well-being are palpable for people of all ages. Our principal focus are children, particularly those in underserved communities, and seniors, many who do not have access to these life-enhancing opportunities.

Euterpe's video **Music is the Key**, which was filmed/recorded live at an underserved public school in Ontario, captures the reactions and responses of the children, and these reactions and responses are typical of all children at these unique music education/performance programs. The kids typically want more, and the impact of these experiences have proven to have immeasurable benefits for young developing minds and overall well-being. Euterpe's programs are known to have a tremendously positive impact on children of diverse cultural backgrounds. Hear young **Ismael Paris** describe in his own words how Euterpe's program and the world-class Euterpe musicians transformed his life. [See Video Here](#)

Pianist Catherine Wilson's PhD on Music and Healing supports Euterpe's work, and these invaluable musical initiatives have been endorsed by the scientific community and have been enriching the lives of children, seniors and their respective communities for over 15 years.

[www.musicisthekey.org](http://www.musicisthekey.org)

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# Ensemble Vivant Touring Programs for the Upcoming Concert Seasons

## FROM BACH TO PIAZZOLLA

*"It's rare to hear music played with such depth and sincerity, and yet with a sparkle that moved its audience to new heights. No matter the genre there was magic in the music of this esteemed group of musicians, all of whom communicated to their listeners with great sound and deep emotion. The group's compelling playing was filled with bright and creative sound with a beauty all of its own. This was an afternoon of music of the very highest quality."* -

**Alvin Spaxman, Brantford Music Club (Nov. 2024)**

Ensemble Vivant's stunningly beautiful program FROM BACH TO PIAZZOLLA enchants, transports and mesmerizes, deeply touching the hearts and souls of listeners of all ages. With memorable melodies and breath-taking arrangements, there really is something for everyone in this exciting, warm and uplifting program that includes works by composers Johann Sebastian Bach, Jerome Kern, Joaquin Turina, Ernesto Nazareth, Aldemaro Romero, Canadian composers John Burke and Rick Wilkins, C.M. and Neuvo Tango creator Astor Piazzolla.

*"This is the highest-level chamber music making. No matter the genre, there is magic in Ensemble Vivant's music making"* - **Canadian Jazz Icon/composer/arranger Rick Wilkins, C.M.**

*"Ensemble Vivant's music making is absolutely stirring and heart achingly beautiful...these world-class musicians sparkle, pulsate, yeam, beckon, move, tango and haunt in gorgeous (and often sexy) performances... chamber music at its evocative best!"* - **The WholeNote Magazine**

*"Ensemble Vivant...what you get is absolute magic... familiarity of old friends...yet their playing always retains a sense of gracious etiquette associated with the noble chamber ballroom...sincere and poised... great warmth and swing."* **The WholeNote Magazine**

*"Ensemble Vivant, one of the best small chamber groups out there...is led by pianist extraordinaire Catherine Wilson...(Homage to Astor Piazzolla) is an exciting and vibrant album that is a sure-fire hit."* -

**Maxwell Fletcher, Amazon.com (USA)**



L to R: George Koller, bass; Sarah Boyer, violin; Catherine Wilson, piano/artistic director; Naomi Barron, cello; Norman Hathaway, viola; Adrian Bent, drums.

**MUSKOKA CONCERT ASSOC: ENSEMBLE VIVANT performs From Bach to Piazzolla at Gravenhurst Opera House.** Euterpe Corp sponsored EV to play for the students at the Gravenhurst PS and at the Granite Ridge Retirement Home.

*"Ensemble Vivant's performance for the Muskoka Concert Association on November 9, 2018 at the historic Gravenhurst Opera House was the perfect concert experience! The joy created by Ensemble Vivant's performance was obvious from the bubbling-over enthusiasm of the audience members, and from the droves of comments received about Ensemble Vivant's virtuosity and musicality. The audience also loved the group's appealing interaction with the audience and the innovative program of beautiful chamber music that segued from Classical to Ragtime, Latin and other Jazz related styles, all accompanied with interesting commentary that sparkled with humour and wit. The audience was thrilled, and Ensemble Vivant received well-deserved standing ovations. Thanks to Euterpe Corp, Ensemble Vivant additionally performed concerts at the Gravenhurst Public School and the Granite Ridge Retirement Home, enriching people's lives in our community in multiple ways. Ensemble Vivant has performed for our series several times over the group's career, and we thank you so much for returning during our 2018/19 season. We anticipate and look forward to your next concert for the Muskoka Concert Association."*

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## iFUGUE ~ A World of Fugues

Based on one musical motif, the geometric form of Fugue can create a sense of wonder and harmonious order in the hearts and minds of listeners.

When one mentions the word Fugue, they may typically and rightly think of the great Baroque German composer Johann Sebastian Bach. Written almost 300 years ago, Bach's Fugues remain as fresh and as contemporary as though they were just written today. His model became an anchor to composers from around the world and all different cultures.

This wonderful program features masterful Fugues by Argentina's Astor Piazzolla; Brazil's Hector Villa-Lobos; Venezuela's Aldemaro Romero; Canada's John Burke and Michael Coghlan; Russia's Dimitri Shostakovich; Italy's Antonio Vivaldi; France's César Franck; and of course, the King of Fugue himself, J. S. Bach.

*"Pianist extraordinaire Catherine Wilson captures the mood of my composition Fugue for Fireflies exquisitely. Her imaginative, sensitive playing draws the listener in and one truly experiences the unusual and bizarre behaviour of buzzing fireflies swirling around in the warmth of a late July evening. A truly magical performance!"*

*The performance of my composition Peregrine Riffs by pianist Catherine Wilson, violinist Corey Gemmell, with added percussion effects by George Koller, bass, is riveting. These are exceptionally brilliant performances.*

*Fugue, the most democratic musical process, is structured so that each voice presents the theme. The performers are thus challenged to create a sonic environment in which the contrapuntal texture demands equality and precision in support of expression and articulation. The world-class players of Ensemble Vivant are masterful performers in the world of fugues. The performances on iFUGUE ~ A World of Fugues are mesmerizing - Bravos all around are in order!"*

**Michael Coghlan, composer**

*"This is the highest-level chamber music making. No matter the genre, there is magic in Ensemble Vivant's music making"* - Canadian Jazz Icon/composer/arranger

**Rick Wilkins, C.M.**

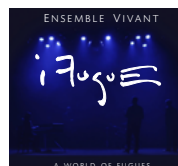
**The spotlight is on Fugue, yet Ensemble Vivant's Fugue concert programs are also enhanced with selected non-fugue compositions by these brilliant and culturally diverse composers, many of which capture riveting jazz and popular elements. This captivating, exciting program consistently demonstrates that this music speaks to people of all ages from all over the world.**



See here what **Record World**, the 2nd-oldest music industry publication behind Billboard, has to say about the new iFugue ~ A World of Fugues CD.

*"Ensemble Vivant's music making is absolutely stirring and heart achingly beautiful...these world-class musicians sparkle, pulsate, yearn, beckon, move, tango and haunt in gorgeous (and often sexy) performances... what you get is absolute magic...chamber music at its evocative best!"*  
**- The WholeNote Magazine**

*"Beautiful, poised performances...reveal the deep musicianship and light interpretive touch of these Toronto-based musicians led by pianist Catherine Wilson... Ensemble Vivant does a fantastic job with the nuevo tango of Astor Piazzolla... captures the passion as well as the verve...Wilson's piano gives this music unerring drive and plenty of sparkle."* - **John Terauds, Toronto Star**



Click **HERE** for complete details on the iFugue ~ A World of Fugues album.

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## LATIN ROMANCE

Ensemble Vivant's Latin Romance shimmers with a colourful tapestry of compelling works by composers from Brazil including Egberto Gismonti and Ernesto Nazareth; Argentina's Astor Piazzolla; Venezuela's Aldemaro Romero; Cuba's Ernesto Lecuona; and includes Latin-inspired works such as La Despedida and Fuga Del Sur by Canada's John Burke, and Phil Dwyer's Bernardo's Tango; and from the United States, Leroy Anderson's most Latin-inspired classic, Serenata. This is a highly original and gorgeous program that will not only capture your heart and imagination but will have you reaching for a dance partner as well as taking you to deeply beautiful and poignant moments.

*"This is wonderful playing. The vitality with which the ensemble brings to these pieces is palpable. One needn't have Latin blood in their veins to discern the commitment these musicians have to this project."* - **Rick Wilkins, C.M., musician, composer, arranger**

*"To my heart, your rendition of Piazzolla's 'Oblivion' is the most touching I have ever heard: Bravo!"* - **François Paré, Radio Classique, Montréal**

*"Latin Romance is a tasteful and refined ode to the venerable tango... Ensemble Vivant brings a joy of music making that is truly infectious, inviting the listener to, if not get up and dance the tango, at least feel they are being transported to some warmer clime where they could watch dancers do it for them."* -

**A Web of Fine Music, Mike Saunders**

*"Ensemble Vivant does a fantastic job with the nuevo tango of Astor Piazzolla... captures the passion as well as the verve... Catherine Wilson's piano gives this music unerring drive and plenty of sparkle... beautiful, poised performances... reveal the deep musicianship and light interpretive touch of these Toronto-based musicians."* - **John Terauds, Toronto Star**

*"(Latin Romance) a wonderful collection by Ensemble Vivant. The music leaps off the page in these performances, which are joyful, attentive to detail, and interpretively clairvoyant. The musicians in the ensemble are individually brilliant and, collectively, greater than the sum of their parts. Thank you Catherine Wilson and Ensemble Vivant..."* - **Phil Dwyer, C.M. (Canadian Jazz Musician)**

*"Catherine Wilson and her stalwart band of Ensemble Vivantists have hit it out of the park again. Combining incisive, emotional playing with challenging material, they strike a compelling tone that never lets up. A grand success!"* **Rick Wilkins, C.M., Jazz Icon - musician, composer, arranger**



LATIN ROMANCE CD was released on December 6, 2019 at Hugh's Room Live, the music making of which was described in The WholeNote (March, 2020) as being "absolutely stirring and heart-achingly beautiful... Catherine Wilson and her merry band of fellow world-class musicians... sparkle, shimmer, pulsate, yearn, beckon, move, tango and haunt in gorgeous (and often sexy) pieces... this is chamber music at its evocative best!" Please read the complete review in the March edition of **The WholeNote Magazine**.

Videos from Ensemble Vivant's LATIN ROMANCE CD Release concert at Hugh's Room Live, December 6, 2019 can be seen on our website **HERE**.

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## TRIBUTE TO JAZZ GREAT RICK WILKINS

**Canada's king of Musical Arrangers - a tribute to RICK WILKINS, C.M.** Nelson Riddle, Henry Mancini, Burt Bacharach, Vince Mendoza and Quincy Jones are just some of the names one thinks of in the world of elite of musical arrangers. Canada's own Rick Wilkins is celebrated and recognized as one the greatest arrangers of our time, and this one of a kind tribute concert will take you on a musical journey of a lifetime.

## ENSEMBLE VIVANT and RICK WILKINS

Ensemble Vivant was a pioneer in the piano chamber music world championing a genre-diverse repertoire including Classical, Ragtime, The Great American Song Book, Latin and other Jazz-related styles. When Rick Wilkins heard Ensemble Vivant in the very early days of the group's career, he immediately recognized the uniqueness and importance of this and he has been one of the group's biggest supporters. He arranged dozens of pieces for Ensemble Vivant spanning from Johann Sebastian Bach to Astor Piazzolla, George Gershwin to Georges Bizet, Leroy Anderson to Maurice Ravel, Scott Joplin to Manuel de Falla, Charlie Chaplin to Ernesto Lecuona. There are also the glorious traditional Christmas classics and originals, with the list continuing.

The group now has an over thirty-year tradition steeped in this diverse range of styles and genres. **Ensemble Vivant's Tribute to Rick Wilkins Concert** can be performed with EV's core quintet of piano, violin, viola, cello and bass, **OR**, the quintet can be joined by trumpeter Kevin Turcotte; **OR** by both Kevin and saxophonist Mike Murley, **OR**, by Kevin, Mike and jazz drummer Nick Fraser, all of whom, along with others, are regular collaborators with EV. Either way, this breathtakingly beautiful, unique program gives a glimpse into the range of styles and genres that Jazz Great Rick Wilkins wrote for Ensemble Vivant. His output of wonderful original music and music brilliantly arranged exclusively for Ensemble Vivant for

piano solo and various piano chamber combinations is significant. He has been an integral force in Ensemble Vivant's career, and Ensemble Vivant's fun, exciting Tribute Concert to Rick Wilkins sparkles with imagination, rich musicality, brilliant interpretations, and heartfelt music making that will transport your audience to a magical place.

One of the highlights in 2018 was the release of EV's LIVE in Concert Tribute to Jazz Great Rick Wilkins CD (with bonus DVD). See Ensemble Vivant LIVE in Concert - Tribute to Rick Wilkins on our website - [HERE](#).

*"Ensemble Vivant...what you get is absolute magic... familiarity of old friends...yet their playing always retains a sense of gracious etiquette associated with the noble chamber ballroom...sincere and poised... great warmth and swing."* **The WholeNote Magazine**

*"This is the highest-level chamber music making. No matter the genre, there is magic in Ensemble Vivant's music making"* - **Rick Wilkins, C.M., musician, composer, arranger**

**PERFORMING ARTS LAKEFIELD: ENSEMBLE VIVANT** performs TRIBUTE to RICK WILKINS. While in the community, Euterpe Corp sponsored EV to perform for the students at Thomas A. Scott HS

*"Dear Ensemble Vivant: What a night!! People are still talking about your September 21, 2018 performance, many saying that it was the best concert ever... absolutely an outstanding highlight of Performing Arts Lakefield's 37-year history. The sheer artistry in the playing and the beauty of the repertoire was both magical and uplifting. Your return to Lakefield was such a treat for us. Know that you are truly a part of the PAL Family. Thank you for being who you are and for doing what you do. Thanks to Euterpe Corporation, Ensemble Vivant also performed at Thomas A. Scott High School in Peterborough."*



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## AN EVENING IN PARIS

A glamorous program that will transport your audience to a magical place with mesmerizing performances of music by French composers including Charles-Marie Widor, César Franck, Claude Debussy, Erik Satie, and others, along with composers whose music has been synonymous with Parisian musical life for many decades, including Astor Piazzolla and George Gershwin.

Broadening traditional musical boundaries, many French Classical composers embraced the interconnected elements of Classical and Jazz, incorporating syncopation and other Jazz elements in their compositions.

This is a fascinating program rich with breath-taking interpretations of French Romantic and Impressionistic works and the syncopation of Ragtime and other Jazz-related styles which have permeated French musical society for well over a century.

A truly captivating, sensual musical journey.

*"Wonderful performance...congratulations to Ensemble Vivant for uncovering these works and presenting them with their usual flare."* – **David Olds, WholeNote Magazine, Canada** (re Ensemble Vivant's recording *Fêtes française*)

*"Beautiful, poised performances...reveal the deep musicianship and light interpretive touch of these Toronto-based musicians led by pianist Catherine Wilson."* - **John Terauds, Toronto Star** (re Ensemble Vivant's recording *Fêtes française*)

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*performances...what you get is absolute magic...chamber music at its evocative best!"* **The WholeNote Magazine**

*"Ensemble Vivant does a fantastic job with the nuevo tango of Astor Piazzolla... captures the passion as well as the verve...Wilson's piano gives this music unerring drive and plenty of sparkle."* - **John Terauds, Toronto Star**

*"This is the highest-level chamber music making. No matter the genre, there is magic in Ensemble Vivant's music making"* - **Rick Wilkins, C.M., musician, composer, arranger**

*"Catherine Wilson is a magnificent and passionate concert pianist...a joy to listen to and lovely to watch. Her playing and that of her group Ensemble Vivant is among the finest anywhere...brilliant musicianship and artistry...warm, heartfelt, vibrant playing...a rare breed of stylistically diverse performers whose playing, no matter the style, is truly in the groove."* **Guido Basso, C.M., jazz trumpet/flugelhorn**



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## Ensemble Vivant Touring Programs for the Upcoming Concert Seasons

### CHRISTMAS TIDINGS “IT’S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR”

Ensemble Vivant often invites a local children’s choir to join the group for part of this program. It is inspirational for the choristers to perform with esteemed world-class professionals, as well as for young audience members hearing and seeing classmates and friends in concert. Performing some of the world’s most beloved seasonal music, and more, this program enhances community participation greatly, and provides a lasting, enriching experience for the choir members, and their families, as well as for the audience. It is a celebration of love, caring and sharing with family and friends, bringing community together during the Christmas season.

Enjoy this LIVE in concert video from Ensemble Vivant’s Ontario Christmas Tour in Dec. 2016: Euterpe: Music Is The Key - EV Christmas Tidings - **It’s The Most Wonderful Time of The Year** (filmed & recorded LIVE at George Weston Recital Hall on Dec. 9, 2016: (4:04 in length)

Euterpe is proud and excited to support this and similar collaborative initiatives in each community that Ensemble Vivant performs. Here are a few comments from Ensemble Vivant’s ‘Christmas Tidings’ tour.

Re: SOLD OUT ‘Christmas Tidings’ concert for the Orillia Concert Association - *“Thank you Euterpe Corporation for inviting the Twin Lakes Secondary School Choir, with conductor Christina Holton, to join Ensemble Vivant for part of this concert. My students have never felt more proud and accomplished than they did at this concert. They sang their little hearts out with more love and appreciation for music than I’ve witnessed in a while. Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with such a professional and accomplished ensemble...just wonderful in every way... It was an experience that our students will never forget... nor will !!!!”*



*“Of all the concerts I have been to for the Orillia Concert Association, and I have appreciated and enjoyed other concerts presented by the OCA over the years, Ensemble Vivant’s concert is the first where I have been so deeply touched that I actually wept. It was the exquisiteness and beauty. Pianist Catherine Wilson seems to be connected to the piano divinely with a one of a kind touch and depth of musicality that is truly celestial ... Ensemble Vivant produces magical music, no matter which piece they are playing, and I hope to hear and experience their magic in concert again and again.”* - **Andrea Lee-Burnet, Orillia**

*“Thank you to Euterpe Corporation for inviting the Upper Canada Chorus and choral conductor Andrea Donais, to join Ensemble Vivant for part of the group’s Christmas Tidings concert at the George Weston Recital Hall, Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts.”* - **Brian Rawlins, Founder & Director, Upper Canada Chorus**

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