



KITCHENER-WATERLOO
SYMPHONY
EDWIN OUTWATER • MUSIC DIRECTOR

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2011/12 Season

Make Time for Great Music

MEDIA RELEASE

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KWS ends the 2010/11 Season on a Strong Note



On November 3, 2011, Board and staff members, musicians, and donor members gathered at the Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts for the Annual General Meeting of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony (KWS). Artistically, operationally and financially the orchestra achieved success.

Board Treasurer Glen Dyrda presented the financial report for the 2010/11 season. "I am delighted to report that for the year ended July 31, 2011, the KWS has recorded an operating profit of \$102,283, and we have reduced our accumulated deficit from over \$632,509 to \$530,601," reported Dyrda. "This is an outstanding financial result, only made possible by the support of our patrons, our generous donors and sponsors, our partners at all three levels of government, our amazing team of volunteers, our talented musicians, and an outstanding group of KWS employees who bring their passion to this organization each and every day".

Ron Craigen, Board Chair, went on to say, "to have presented such an incredible artistic season and to have reduced the accumulated deficit makes the 2010/11 Season a true success all around. Although we ended the 2010/11 Season with an operating surplus we remain well aware that our accumulated deficit represents more than 10% of our annual operating expenditures, and we will need to achieve similar year end results over the next six seasons to eliminate this deficit. The Board and administration of the KWS are mindful of this and are committed to achieving long-term sustainability. Our new strategic plan, and our multi-year operating plan have been built with deficit reduction as a key priority for our continued success in the future."

From the Opening Gala with violin soloist James Ehnes to seven performances of *Swan Lake* with the Kirov Ballet at the Sony Centre, the KWS brought stunning talent and exceptional performances to Waterloo Region and beyond. Highlights of the season included Measha Brueggergosman performing Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* and a commission of a new work *Whirling Dirvish* by Brian Current on the Signature Series; *Cirque de la Symphonie* and *Bugs Bunny at the Symphony* on the Pops Series and the Intersection series continued to break new ground with performances of *Beethoven and Your Brain* with neurologist Daniel Levitin and *Frankenstein!* with author Daniel Handler. "Looking back on the season, it seems incredibly rich and creative to me," Music Director Edwin Outwater reflected. "I honestly know of very few orchestras in North America that could offer such quality and creativity in a single season. It has reaffirmed my belief that risk-taking and unique experiences are the key to revitalizing classical music."

Also presented were the 2011 Mabel Krug Award and the 2011 Rachel Smith-Spencer Award. The Mabel Krug Award, given to Joan Thompson, honours an individual who has supported the orchestra for many years through active service, energetic membership, and whose efforts have led to the advancement of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony. The Rachel Smith-Spencer Award, an annual employee recognition award, was presented to Sandra Villaraga for her outstanding job performance, dedication, positive attitude and contributions to the KWS.

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In addition to the artistic and financial success of the 2010/11 Season, the KWS reported that during this season the KWS renewed its agreement with Music Director Edwin Outwater and announced a new four year agreement with the musicians of the KWS. "This season was truly unique in the history of this orchestra, and we have much to celebrate," stated Executive Director Genevieve Twomey, who also presented the new KWS Strategic Plan to attendees. "We are very pleased with the final strategic plan and are confident that this plan will focus and guide us over the next 5 years."

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Formed in 1945, the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony is the cultural centrepiece of Waterloo Region. The orchestra comprises 52 professional musicians under full-time contract and plays close to 90 performances of music from early Baroque composer Monteverdi through commissioned music by Arcade Fire bassist and Canadian composer Richard Reed Parry. The KWS is nationally praised for its performances, has an education program unparalleled for an organization of its size, and is heard regularly across Canada on CBC. KWS Music Director Edwin Outwater is one of North America's most creative, dynamic, and engaging conductors. His innovative programming has earned him international acclaim, in particular for his Intersections series.

To download the press kit associated with this release, please visit the media room at kwsymphony.ca/media.

For more information, press tickets, or interviews, please contact
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