



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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## *Edwin and Friends* to wow Waterloo Region in the KWS' most important fundraising event of the season

The Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony opens its 2011/12 season on September 17, 2011 with the organization's largest fundraising event of the year - a Gala concert at the Centre In The Square featuring five guest artists and music close to Music Director Edwin Outwater's heart. Pianist **Ian Parker** – young, Canadian, and part of the Parker pianist dynasty that includes Jamie and Jon Kimura Parker – performs Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. Canadian singers baritone **Hugh Russell** and mezzo-soprano **Megan Latham** will sing Broadway hits by Rodgers and Hammerstein. Rising young violinist **Tai Murray** plays excerpts from Barber's timeless Violin Concerto, and cellist **Kenneth Olsen** performs excerpts from Victor Herbert's concerto number 2.

"We are thrilled to be chairing the Edwin & Friends Gala, which is the KWS' most important fundraising event of the season. We have a fantastic and dedicated gala committee, and with the community's involvement, we will not only achieve the fundraising objectives of the evening but connect with people who may be experiencing the symphony for the first time," said Gala Chairs Bob and Judy Astley.

Jack Dehmel, BMO Harris Private Banking Regional VP and Managing Director, Southwestern Ontario said, "BMO Harris Private Banking is proud to be the title sponsor of this event. The KWS fundraising gala is an exceptional event that reaches a broad audience and we look forward to its success again this year. More importantly, we're proud to support an event that reaches the core artistic and education programs of the orchestra, going beyond just one fantastic evening."

Following the concert there will be a glittering After Party at the Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts where Edwin Outwater, the soloists, and KWS musicians will mingle with guests. Hosted by George and Tara from CHYM 96.7, the After Party will include live and silent auctions and dancing to the band Strings 'N Traps.

For Concert and After Party tickets and information on auction items, contact the KWS at 519.745.4711 or [kwsymphony.ca](http://kwsymphony.ca).

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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, visit [kwsymphony.ca/media](http://kwsymphony.ca/media). For inquiries or to arrange interviews, please email [jjones@kwsymphony.on.ca](mailto:jjones@kwsymphony.on.ca).