



KITCHENER-WATERLOO  
**SYMPHONY**

EDWIN OUTWATER • MUSIC DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Outwater Conducts KWS In Nordic Masterwork - Symphony No. 3 by Sibelius**

KITCHENER, Ontario (January 21, 2008) - The **Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony** (KWS) led by Music Director **Edwin Outwater** will perform two works by composer Jean Sibelius; *Valse Triste* and Symphony No. 3. Performances of *Valse Triste* will feature also the Kitchener-Waterloo Youth Orchestra. Additionally, the KWS will perform the Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor by Johannes Brahms featuring award-winning Canadian pianist **Ian Parker**. Ian Parker is part of the extraordinarily musical Parker family as cousin to pianists Jon Kimura Parker and Jamie (James) Parker. These performances will take place on Friday, January 25 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, January 27 at 8:00 p.m. at the Centre In The Square, (Kitchener, Ontario) and on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at the River Run Centre (Guelph, Ontario) as part of the KWS *Signature Series*.

Born in Finland, composer **Jean Sibelius** (1865-1957) ranks among the most notable composers of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The leading figure in the formation of a Finnish musical identity at the turn of the century, Sibelius' music often employs familiar folk elements in unorthodox ways. Originally one of six compositions written as incidental music to the play *Kuolema (Death)* by Arvid Järnefelt, the *Valse Triste (Sad Waltz)*, was first performed in 1903. The *Valse Triste* opens Järnefelt's haunting drama and was an immediate hit amongst audiences. It was subsequently published independently in 1904, becoming a signature work for the composer.

Completed in 1907, Jean Sibelius' Symphony No. 3 is often considered a departure from the grandiose style of the late Romantic era and marking a return to classical sensibilities. The work bears comparison to the symphonies of Haydn and Mozart whilst maintaining a uniquely Nordic quality through the integration of distinct elements from Finnish folk music.

First performed in 1859 when the composer was just 25-years old, **Johannes Brahms'** (1833-1897) Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor is amongst the composers most often performed works. Although the influence of Beethoven and Mozart are palpable, Brahms' Concerto No. 1 places a

new equality in the musical roles assigned to soloist and orchestra. This is likely due in part to the complicated gestation of the work which began as a sonata for two pianos. Subsequent efforts to adapt the work into a symphony were unsatisfactory, resulting in the use of the concerto form. Brahms was a formidable pianist at a young age, and the Concerto No. 1 in D minor captivates audiences through the technical demands placed upon the soloist and orchestra alike capturing the spirit and passion of the Romantic Era.

Music Director of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony **Edwin Outwater** is in demand throughout the world as a conductor noted for his insightful and nuanced interpretations. Additional engagements this season include performances with the Columbus Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic, the San Antonio Symphony, the Charlotte Symphony and the Malmo (Sweden) Symphony among others. He has served as Resident Conductor of the San Francisco Symphony from 2001 to 2006 and held the post of Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra from 2001 to 2005. In both capacities, he worked closely with Michael Tilson Thomas, accompanying the Orchestra on tour and conducting numerous concerts each season.

First Prize winner at the 2001 CBC National Radio Competition, **Ian Parker** has also won the Grand Prize at the Canadian National Music Festival, the Corpus Christie International Competition and the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Competition. Parker is a frequent guest soloist and recitalist throughout North America having performed with the symphonies of Toronto, Vancouver, Jacksonville, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Honolulu and Edmonton among others. While at the Julliard School Parker received the 2002 William Petschek Piano Debut Award and, on two occasions, was the winner of the Gina Bachauer Piano Scholarship Competition. Heard regularly on CBC Radio, *Parker* has also performed live on WQXR (hosted by Robert Sherman) in New York.

Preludes: The Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony performances will feature a FREE pre-concert talk available to all ticket-holders. Preludes begins at 6:45 p.m. with Principal Flautist Thomas Kay for concerts at the Centre In The Square and at 12:45 p.m. with Jef ten Kortenaar for performances at the River Run Centre.

**TICKETS** for the KWS Signature Series performances at the Centre In the Square (CITS) range in price from \$15 to \$50 and may be purchased at the CITS box office (101 Queen Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 6P7), by phone at 519-578-1570 or online at [www.centre-square.com](http://www.centre-square.com).

Tickets for the KWS Signature Series performances at the River Run Centre range in price from \$15 to \$45 and may be purchased at the RRC box office (35 Woolwich Street, Guelph, Ontario N1H 3V1), by phone at 519-763-3000 or online at [www.riverrun.ca](http://www.riverrun.ca). Information regarding group sales is available through the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony at 519-745-4711.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony season sponsor is Sun Life Financial, *Signature Series* sponsorship provided by Spaenaur and additional sponsorship provided this weekend by The Delta Kitchener-Waterloo.

*At a Glance...*

Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony *Signature Series Concert 4*

Edwin Outwater, conductor

Ian Parker, piano

KWS Youth Orchestra

Sibelius: *Valse Triste*

Sibelius: Symphony No. 3 in C major

Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor

Jan. 25, 2008 – 8:00 p.m. at Centre In The Square, Kitchener

Jan. 26, 2008 – 8:00 p.m. at Centre In The Square, Kitchener

Tickets available through the CITS Box Office at 519-578-1570 or

online at [www.centre-square.com](http://www.centre-square.com).

Tickets are \$27, \$39, \$46, \$50 and

\$15 for Children and Students (with valid ID)

Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony *Signature Series in Guelph Concert 2*

Jan. 27, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. at River Run Centre, Guelph

Tickets are \$40, \$45, and \$15 for Children and Students (with valid ID)

Tickets available through the CITS Box Office at 519-763-3000 or

online at [www.riverrun.ca](http://www.riverrun.ca).

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