



## **Hamilton Music Collective and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra Announce Free Outdoor Concert Series in Downtown Core**

**Hamilton, Ontario** – The free summer concert series Eclectic Local is returning to the downtown core, featuring a unique lineup of musical acts from classical to funk.

“We are thrilled to partner with the HPO again to provide free concerts in downtown Hamilton” says Hamilton Music Collective CEO Astrid Hepner. “The HPO works with such stellar musicians and to showcase them in this unique, family-friendly atmosphere is really special.”

Eclectic Local will run across four dates in July and August, and showcase established artists, bands and ensembles in a variety of genres.

Says HPO Executive Director Kim Varian, "Hamilton is home to an amazing array of talented musicians. The HPO is proud to support our city and to support the wonderful artists here in Hamilton through the Eclectic Local concert series. We are delighted to collaborate with the Hamilton Music Collective once again this summer."

Local jazz-funk heavy weights *Who It Is!* open the series on July 6, featuring Darcy Hepner on saxophone and Jesse O'Brien on keyboards. The series will also feature two HPO string ensembles – Tadioli Duo on July 20, and a string quartet accompanied by tenor vocalist Bud Roach on August 24. The quartet will perform selections from the Great American Songbook, featuring iconic jazz works arranged by HPO cellist Laura Jones. Local funk-fusion band Junestone will also perform on August 3, led by bassist and vocalist Olivia Brown.

Eclectic Local takes place at 141 Park Street North at The HMC Centre for Performance and Education at The Gasworks outdoor stage, just steps from James Street. The one-hour concerts take place at 5pm on Saturdays, and will also offer a beer garden. No admission fee is required; however, donations will be collected with all proceeds supporting educational initiatives from HMC and the HPO.



### **About Hamilton Music Collective:**

**Hamilton Music Collective** (HMC) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2008 by a local group of musicians, educators and community supporters, who are passionate about music and believe in its transformative power to enrich lives and empower students. HMC's mission is to invigorate the music scene in Hamilton through professional live performances, education, events, workshops, and exhibits. Since 2009, more than 9000 children have been a part of the An Instrument For Every Child program.

### **About Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra**

For 140 years, the **Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra** (HPO) has presented dynamic orchestral performances ranging from standard classical repertoire to popular music and world premieres by living composers. As one of Canada's leading professional orchestras, the HPO has proudly contributed to the shaping of Hamilton's cultural landscape through its concerts and education programs. Its mission to enrich the wellbeing of the greater Hamilton region drives the HPO's deep commitment to inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility across its in-personal and online concerts and education and outreach programs which include the Hamilton Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, administered by the HPO since 2021, and now the flagship music education program for young musicians in the region; 60+ community-based partner programs designed to meet the needs of diverse communities; music education talks and performances in schools and libraries; performances for children, youth and seniors; chamber music concerts in diverse neighbourhoods; lifelong learning and wellbeing events. In 2024, the HPO was proud to receive the Vida Peene Award from the Ontario Arts Council for artistic and organizational achievement.

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