

Ottawa's oldest community orchestra welcomes new Music Director

The National Capital Region's longest-running community orchestra is thrilled to welcome a new Music Director who brings decades of experience ranging from the classics, a smattering of swing and a passion for pop.

John Kraus will make his debut as the Music Director of the Parkdale Orchestra (PO) Nov. 19/22 presenting "A Night at the Movies".

"Mr. Kraus immediately impressed us with his love of all genres of music, his passion for music education and his extensive experience working with student, amateur and professional musicians," says PO President, Liane Luton.

Originally from northern Ontario, Mr. Kraus studied clarinet and saxophone at Western University, London, ON. He is a Heinz Unger Award nominee, a prestigious Ontario Arts Council award recognizing an emerging professional conductor.

For a sneak preview of what he will bring to the PO stage, Mr. Kraus is the voice of 'Maestro's Picks', a weekly hour-long classical music radio program on Northumberland 89.7 and CKLU 96.7, Sudbury.

"I very much look forward to working with the Parkdale Orchestra," Mr. Kraus said. "The warmth and spirit I experienced while getting to know the members of the ensemble reveals their passion and work ethic. I also look forward to furthering the legacy of preceding Music Directors and keeping the spirit and history of the Parkdale Orchestra alive and well."

The award-winning Parkdale United Church Orchestra, established in 1945, currently consists of approximately 55 amateur and professional musicians from all walks of life and musical backgrounds. The PO performs quarterly concerts at the Parkdale United Church, 429 Parkdale Ave, Ottawa.

For more information on PO, or to schedule interviews, please contact:

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