



# ORCHESTRA LONDON

ANNUAL REPORT  
2010/2011





# Message from the Board President

Each year, I relish this opportunity to thank the many people that make Orchestra London such a treasure in our community. I would like to thank our passionate and talented musicians, for enriching our community with your beautiful music; our subscribers, for joining us for another season of inspiring concerts; our wonderful volunteers, for serving on our Boards, Volunteer, Advisory and Oversight Committees; our small but dedicated staff, for moving us toward a brighter future; and our private, corporate, and government donors, for continuing to financially support our work. We especially acknowledge The City of London, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and our leading corporate supporters.

I have a favorite Chinese proverb that aptly describes what is happening within our community and Orchestra London today: “Tell me and I’ll forget, show me and I may remember, involve me and I’ll understand.” We are inviting our community to get involved with its Orchestra, and as a result, Londoners are embracing a new sense of understanding and positive energy about Orchestra London. For example, we were thrilled earlier this year when the community welcomed our new Maestro, Alain Trudel. One of Maestro Trudel’s first visits was with our Superintendent of Schools to ask about the curriculum and how Orchestra London might fit in. This is truly a new and exciting chapter for Orchestra London and our community.

Today we will be presenting our Strategic Plan. We invite you to take a look and see how you too can fit in and get involved with your Orchestra London.

**Ailene Wittstein**  
**Board of Directors**





# Artistic Highlights - 2010/11

Orchestra London's 53rd season enjoyed a sparkling season of events, featuring some outstanding performances by well-known guest artists. Pianist Sara Davis Buechner delighted audiences at the opening night Masterworks; we were thrilled by the amazing young Canadian prodigy, pianist Jan Lisiecki in December; and Jeanne Lamon took us on a musical journey exploring exotic lands last January.

Timothy Vernon's first year as Conductor Laureate allowed us to maintain our artistic continuity and friendship with the talented Maestro. In our search for a new conductor we were fortunate to host outstanding conductors to appear with Orchestra London, including such stellar names as Jean-Philippe Tremblay, James Somerville, Grzegorz

Novak, Stewart Robertson and John Morris Russell. Brian Jackson continued charming Pops audiences, conducting three concerts and performing on the piano. Memorable performances were also provided at our Red Hot Weekends series by the Jeans 'n Classics band under the guiding hand of London's own Peter Brennan.

A season of extraordinary artistic growth and strategic initiatives also included an array of Community Outreach initiatives. In December, we produced *The Christmas Carol* in support of The Unity Project for Relief of Homelessness, and in May we performed *Support Our Troops and their Families*, supporting the London Military Family Resource Centre.

A number of talented local

artists performed with Orchestra London last season, including Sonja Gustafson, Angela Park, Sherry Steele, Stephan Sylvestre and Annette-Barbara Vogel. Orchestra London's own stars were also featured soloists, including Joseph Lanza, Ian Franklin, Graham Lord, and Joe Phillips.

Orchestra London's commitment to the performance of new works by contemporary Canadian and other composers from around the world was realized in two programmes performed in collaboration with the University of Western Ontario on campus. These programmes included a strong emphasis on mentorship, with university students in some cases performing alongside of Orchestra London musicians.

Looking ahead to cultivating the

next generation of musicians and concert-goers, Orchestra London undertook a number of initiatives last season: The Orchestra attracted 90 emerging civic leaders to launch our new program designed to attract the next generation of music lovers. We also embarked on educational activities such as a unique partnership between Orchestra London and the University of Western Ontario that culminated in performances of excerpts from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* at youth concerts. Other youth concerts included performances with the St. Mary School Choir; the Honours Strings mentorship program at Saunders Secondary School, spearheaded by Mitch Tyler; and our school concerts that delight over 8,000 children in schools throughout Southwestern Ontario.



# *Artistic Highlights - 2010/11 continued*

The naming of our outstanding Canadian Maestro, Alain Trudel, as Music Director of Orchestra London is surely the artistic development of the year as well as the dawning of a new era of remarkable potential. This development is being noticed around the nation and beyond as nothing short of a coup for the orchestra.

Alain's reputation as a conductor with an international career as well as his standing as one of the world's greatest trombonists have put Orchestra London and its potential in a new light. What makes this development even more promising is the wide range of Alain's musical interests and performing activities – a fact that could not have been a better fit or wish for all of us here at Orchestra London. The future looks bright for all music lovers of music in London.



# Education & Community Outreach

Orchestra London remains dedicated to enhancing the creative and cultural life of our community through entertaining and educational concerts and events. Our education programs offer unique, varied and interactive learning opportunities for students of all ages. Every year we perform education concerts for over 8,000 students from across Southwestern Ontario. In addition to our concerts for children and families, we also offer special discounts for students and youth to attend our regular series.

As we reflect on our accomplishments this year we must thank our corporate sponsor London Life for their generous assistance in developing the London Life

Community Music program. We enjoyed playing to several thousand young children in partnership with Dufflebag Theatre and we were most fortunate to have the leadership of Mitch Tyler, a local high school teacher and talented composer, as he developed our Honours Strings program. This unique program connects Orchestra London's professional musicians with a promising array of high school students to play for their peers and to wow their parents at a fantastic joint concert.

We also remain busy reaching out to many communities in Southwestern Ontario, with concerts performed in Strathroy, Chatham and St. Thomas. The orchestra also enjoyed new contemporary music at our



second annual TD Bank Group Festival of New Music, in partnership with the Don Wright Faculty of Music. Our thanks to faculty members Colleen Richardson and Paul Frehner.

The community education and outreach concerts remain a vital

component in our success now and in the future.

***Special thanks to London Life for sponsoring the London Life Community Music Program.***

# The Musicians' Perspective

**T**For the musicians of Orchestra London the high point of the 2010-2011 Season was without any doubts the nomination of Alain Trudel as our new Music Director. We were actively involved in the selection process and the news of his coming to London was applauded by all of us. In the past, each time he had been a guest on Orchestra London's podium, we had come to greatly appreciate his work and efficiency. Now after working on a few programs with Maestro Trudel we can already feel his great musicianship and positive attitude re-energizing our ranks and having a real impact on our music making.

We would like to thank a few people who have helped make last season a successful one. First we are eternally grateful to the volunteer committee who

year after year is behind us, supports us and raises funds for the orchestra. Their generous contribution makes a difference and it is comforting to have so many friends behind the scene.

We also want to single out the work of Mitch Tyler, Orchestra London's Educational Development Advisor, and of Jeff Christmas, arranger extraordinaire, who have brought so much to the orchestra. Mitch has been instrumental in getting our Education concerts back on track while Jeff's numerous and skilful arrangements heard on several of our Pops programs last season really showcased the orchestra in all its colours and splendour.

We thank Jeans 'n Classics for their long run with Orchestra

London, wish them the very best in their new adventures and look forward to the next season of Red Hot Weekends concerts in 2011-2012.

One of the musical highlights of the season was the Musical Gala at the beginning of June with Maestro Trudel, offering a sample of the present season to our audience. Earlier in the season the concert featuring the young Canadian virtuoso pianist Jan Lisiecki was a memorable event. His interpretation of the Chopin piano concerto was stunning. Finally, our colleague bass player Joseph Phillips blew everyone one away with his mastery of the instrument. His cadenza was breathtaking in its virtuosity. On the community front we were happy to once again collaborate with the Unity

Project for the reading of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". We hope that this event will become a yearly tradition in London and that more and more citizens will attend the event. Also the fundraiser concert for the Japanese earthquake relief efforts spearheaded by our own Sigmar Martin was a great way to connect with our city and our world.

In closing we want to assure our audience that we remain committed to our art and look forward to many more exciting and meaningful concerts under the baton of our new Music Director Alain Trudel.

***The Players' Committee,  
Orchestra London***





Peter Audet & Shawn Spicer, trumpet and Kate Stone & Ron George, French horn

# Financial Overview - 2010/11

I am pleased to report on the financial results of Orchestra London for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011. Your orchestra finished the year with an operating surplus of approximately \$67,000 and this was accomplished with the cooperation of many individuals within our organization. This was the second consecutive year we finished with an operating surplus and the Board continues to demonstrate its commitment to achieving a healthy balance sheet. Today's economic reality dictates that we must act as sound stewards of our funds and this responsibility is not taken lightly.

Over the past two years, the organization has focused on rebuilding its financial

sustainability to ensure we have a healthy and growing environment where our patrons from London and area come to enjoy best in class musical offerings.

Over the past 12 months, the Board and staff have continued to redefine what it means to be an Orchestra. We have reached out to our community and re-engaged our patrons with a diversity of programs, ensuring we have a pipeline of appreciative audiences who share our excitement for all types of music.

As we plan our new season, we have stabilized our expenses and continue to provide excellence in our programming, but we must now consider the future state of our Orchestra and seek

out partnerships that will secure our financial future. We will continue to focus on increasing tickets sales, donor support and corporate sponsorships to ensure we are able to deliver innovative and audience driven performances. New audience development while maintaining and growing revenues continues to be our biggest challenge. We sincerely thank our loyal private sector donors and generous government sponsors and donors.

We must also continue to build our brand and make a case for support that includes artistic excellence, community collaborations, and arts leadership.

Indeed it is an exciting time for the arts community in London

and capitalizing on these opportunities will ensure we are on solid ground as we build a patron base who are interested and supportive of our diverse musical offerings.

I wish to thank the volunteer members of the Finance Committee and staff for their commitment and dedication. I would also like to acknowledge the fine work done by Lezlie Wolfe for her tireless work on revising our governance accountabilities framework and by-laws. I especially want to thank our musicians for providing us with lasting musical moments that continue to touch and inspire.

**Shawn Gilhuly,**  
**Board of Directors**



Marie Johnson & Graham Lord, clarinet and Spencer Phillips & David Haward, bassoon.

# Financial Overview 2010/11

## Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2011

### Assets

<i>Current</i>	2011	2010
Cash and term deposits	\$26,443	\$28,992
Amounts receivable	6,652	45,408
Prepaid expenses	17,333	64,006
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>50,428</b>	<b>138,406</b>
Capital assets	109,598	123,805
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$160,026</b>	<b>\$262,211</b>

### Liabilities and Fund Balances

<i>Current</i>		
Bank indebtedness	\$202,295	\$225,489
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	271,606	251,620
Current Portion of obligation under Capital Lease	7,807	7,556
Deferred revenue and contributions	664,225	819,168
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1,145,933</b>	<b>1,303,833</b>
Deferred contributions	-	4,148
Obligation under Capital Lease	931	8,852
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>(986,838)</b>	<b>(1,054,622)</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$160,026</b>	<b>\$262,211</b>

This Financial Summary is excerpted from the complete Financial Statements of the organization, which were audited by NPT LLP Chartered Accountants, as of audit report date October 25, 2011 and are available to members upon request.

## Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended June 30, 2011

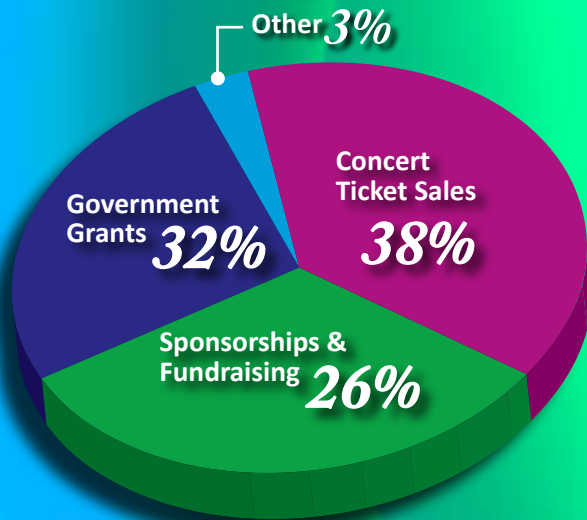
### REVENUES

Concert Ticket Sales	\$1,096,144
Government Funding	909,813
Concert sponsorships and community	749,403
Other	94,571
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,849,931</b>

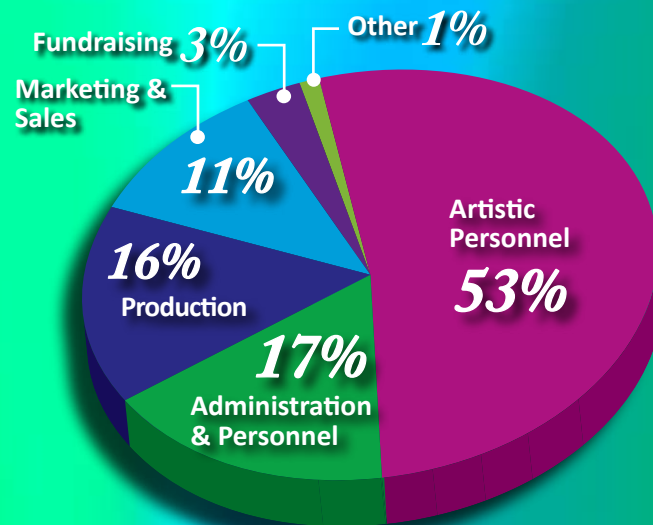
### EXPENSES

Artistic Personnel	1,473,938
Administration & Personnel	460,812
Production	433,030
Marketing & Sales	302,574
Fundraising	79,182
Other	32,611
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,782,147</b>
Excess revenues over expenses	67,784
Fund balances, beginning of year	(1,054,622)
<b>FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$(986,838)</b>

## *2010/11 Revenues*



## *2010/11 Expenses*







# The Volunteer Committee Report

Called the Volunteer Committee only since 1997, we have been supporting the Orchestra since 1951 with fundraising and other activities. This means that this year we are celebrating 60 years of service. Over those years we have raised more than 1.5 million dollars! Today we can report another successful year to add to that, a total donation of \$65,000. Our wonderful new maestro, Alain Trudel, found time in his tight schedule to make an appearance at our AGM on May 31 to accept a mock cheque in this amount.

As in the past, our major fundraisers this past year were the spring and fall rummage sales, which yielded a total of \$50,434.30, with the next largest being the Christmas wrapping, coming in at over \$9,000; special thanks to White Oaks Mall for this opportunity. And the third largest was the Boutique, with

a net profit for the year of just under \$5,000. And, of course, the generosity of the patrons who rent cushions at the Cathedral series netted just over \$1,000 for the year, adding up over the five years to over \$6,000.

The number of volunteer hours might surprise. The Boutique: 25 members and 2 non-members worked over 800 hours at 29 concerts. The two rummage sales: as many as 49 members and 32 non-members working anywhere from 3 to 120 at each of the sales add up to countless hours of dedicated work. This past season's Christmas gift wrapping was staffed for 14 days by 35 members and 41 non-members, Board members and musicians, for a total of 157 hours.

In addition, Volunteer Committee members continued to assist in other projects, including the Education Concerts, and selling

tickets for the Orchestra's 50/50 draw.

The Volunteer Committee is very proud of its efforts to be an expense-neutral organization, so that almost all of its fundraising proceeds go to the Orchestra. For that reason we have annual dues of \$25.00, and many of the miscellaneous supplies required to run the rummage sales are donated by the members. Most of the expenses of the Obbligato (the Organizations's newsletter) and the annual award of \$750 to a student in the music performance programme at The University of Western Ontario are covered by those dues.

In our efforts to add new members, our Publicity Convenors, with the help of Orchestra office personnel, have produced a colourful flyer that describes the Volunteer Committee and its activities. Currently we have a total of 85

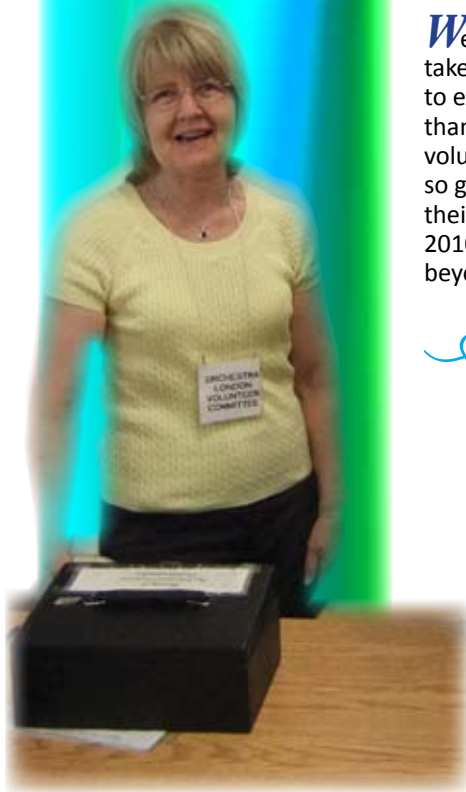
members, 4 of whom joined during the recent rummage sale. A few of the 23 Life Members are inactive, mainly for reasons of age or health. Death has taken 3 of our members this year.

This Annual Report would in no way be complete without thanking and recognizing both the Orchestra London staff and the musicians for their continued support and expressions of appreciation of the work the Volunteer Committee does. Again this year members were given two tickets to the Pops Concert on April 3, 2011, and honoured at a warm reception afterwards.

Since our new year commenced in June of this year, I can drop the hint that the 2012 Orchestra AGM report will include some exciting details of this 61st year in progress for the Volunteer Committee of Orchestra London.

***Perry Clouston, Co-President***

# Volunteer Committee Members



*We* would like to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our volunteers who have so generously given their time during the 2010/11 season and beyond.



Marianne Apfelbaum  
Betty Blackwell  
Janet Bargh  
Margaret Blair  
Nancy Bol  
Ann Brown  
Susan Brown  
Doris Casaubon  
Kim Cechetto  
Ann Chambers  
Daphne Chorley  
Barbara Cole  
Marion Cook  
Irene Croot  
Angela Challenor  
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Liz Etherington  
Sharon Fiset  
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Mary Ann Hachinski

Virginia Hannay  
Nina Hannigan  
Maggie Harsanyi  
Marjory Haywood  
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June Levy  
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Helen Luckman  
Gwen McBurney  
Carol McPherson  
Betty Magee  
Flora MacKenzie  
Vidozaba Marchant  
Pat McKinna  
Dora McNeil  
Susan Merskey  
Ursula Miller  
Sheila Morgan  
Cassandra Musil  
Arda Naregatsain

Christine Nath  
Brenda Neill  
Dolores Niskanen  
Ina Pakkert  
Eva Princz  
Dorothy Read  
Eleanore Reynolds  
Adelaide Richter  
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Judy Silver  
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Mary Torr  
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Kathy Wade  
Ann Wearing  
Pamela Wesson  
Madelon West  
Penny Westmacott  
Ilonka Wiegiers  
Josephine Wilcox  
Beverly Woode  
Stella Woodhouse

# Volunteer Ushers

*We* are greatly indebted to our wonderful volunteer ushers. Their time, commitment and continued support assist us in serving our patrons with the quality of service they deserve.



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Anne Humberstone  
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Betty Cooper  
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Julie Whitlock  
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Lillian Knight  
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Marilyn Hall  
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Marion Hall  
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Mary Loncke  
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Pat Pugh  
Pat Delmore  
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Phyliss Brady  
Ronny Dubber  
Rose Durston  
Ray Anderson  
Rick Martin  
Ruth Rowe  
Sandra Coven  
Sandy McManus  
Smija ( Sam) Sesar  
Sharon Fry  
Sharon Durston  
Shirley Cookson  
Shirley Hotham  
Shirley McLean  
Shirley Brown  
Sonja Joon  
Susan Marth  
Tom Groshok  
Terry Castle  
Toni Bongetman

Valentina Avvakumova  
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Vicki Coatsworth  
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William Bradwin  
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Sandra Colbert In memory Of  
Cam Colbert



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Sigmar Martin  
Regina Audet  
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Kelvin Enns  
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