



Western
Music

Don Wright Faculty of Music

**FRIDAYS AT 12:30 SERIES
THE AUTUMN OF BRAHMS**

Friday, November 28, 2025

12:30 p.m., von Kuster Hall and [via livestream](#)

James Campbell, *clarinet*

Leopoldo Erice, *piano*

Intermezzo Op. 117, No. 1 (Andante moderato)

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Sonata for Piano and Clarinet, Op. 120, No. 1 in F minor

Allegro appassionato

Andante un poco Adagio

Allegretto grazioso

Vivace

Intermezzo Op. 118, No. 2 (Andante teneramente)

Sonata for Piano and Clarinet, Op. 120, No. 2 in E-flat Major

Allegro amabile

Allegro appassionato

Andante con moto—Allegro

THE ARTISTS

James Campbell, clarinet

James Campbell has been called “Canada’s pre-eminent clarinetist and wind soloist” (Toronto Star), “Canada’s premier clarinetist” (Ottawa Citizen), “a national treasure” (CBC), and “one of the top half-dozen clarinetists in the world today” (Fanfare Magazine). He has performed in over 35 countries with more than 65 orchestras, including the Boston Pops, Montreal Symphony, and London Symphony.

He has collaborated with Glenn Gould and Aaron Copland, and toured with over 35 string quartets, including the Guarneri, Vermeer, and the Amadeus (replacing Benny Goodman on a California tour). Of his 60-plus recordings, his performance of Brahms’ Clarinet Quintet was named the finest available by the BBC and The Times of London.

Campbell is a recipient of the Order of Canada, the Queen’s Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, and has been named Canada’s Artist of the Year. He was recently inducted into CBC’s Classical Music Hall of Fame.

He served as Professor of Music at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music (U.S.) from 1988 to 2019, and continues to perform and teach worldwide.

Since 1985, Campbell has been Artistic Director of the Festival of the Sound, programming over 1,500 concerts and leading tours to England, Japan, and the Netherlands. The Festival has been the subject of documentaries by BBC Television, CBC, and TVOntario.

Leopoldo Erice, piano

One of my brothers says that our parents had “7+1 children”—my seven siblings were born within eight years, followed fourteen years later by me. I grew up in a musically rich environment: my mother studied piano and guitar, my father was passionate about music, and the family’s upright piano was always nearby, nurturing my early love of music.

My piano studies began in my hometown of Madrid, Spain, under the guidance of José Ramón Martínez Reyero, whose inspiring teaching profoundly influenced my decision to pursue a career in music. I continued my training there with Beata Monstavicius and Joaquín Soriano, followed by studies with Rian de Waal in the Netherlands. Later, I had the privilege of studying with Leonard Hokanson, Menahem Pressler, and Emile Naoumoff at Indiana University’s Jacobs School of Music in the U.S., supported by a prestigious “la Caixa” Foundation scholarship. I earned my Doctorate in Music from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where I studied with Christina Dahl.

Having performed extensively across five continents, I have collaborated with ensembles such as the Quiroga and Penderecki Quartets and appeared on numerous broadcasts. Teaching has been a central part of my career, with faculty positions in Spain, the U.S., the UAE, and currently at the University of Ottawa. Beyond performing and teaching, I lead artistic projects and curate cultural events. Outside of music, I enjoy life with my wife, family, and friends, reading good books, taking photographs, hiking, and sailing.

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