



WINTER, 2025 ISSUE

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LONDON MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION

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tempo

Seth McNall, President

Winter is my favourite season. The snow helps clean things up outside and makes the city quieter. Winter is also a time for reflection and planning for the new year.

December marks the end of my first year as president and I'd like to thank Doug Eyre and Rob Weatherstone for their never ending support this year.

I would also like to thank all of you for your patience and your willingness to share the collective knowledge and experience that we are fortunate to have in this association.

I wish you all continued success and excellent work in the new year.

Happy holidays!

In solidarity,

Seth

Did you know?

London, Ontario was recognized on November 8, 2021, as Canada's first UNESCO City of Music.

Why London?

London has deep roots in the creative field of music and continues working towards improving and growing the sector.

London's distinct advantage is being a music education and production hub with three internationally recognized post-secondary schools.

London continues to develop world-renowned, award-winning talent including artists, songwriters, producers and engineers through Western University, Fanshawe College and Ontario Institute of Audio Recording Technology (OIART).



In Memorium - Peter Brennan (1951-2025)

Contributed by Mitchell Tyler



"Peter Brennan and what he affectionately called his "cabinet". Local 279 members from left to right... John Regan, Don Paulton, Peter Brennan, Jean Meilleur, Mitch Tyler, Jeff Christmas." (photo date 1999)

Upon graduating from Western University in the late 1980's, I set out to make my living as a professional musician in the London, Ontario music scene. And what a scene it was! There were vibrant jazz, blues, rock, and Top 40 clubs committed to live music programming multiple times per week. There was symphonic work, session work, theatre work and arranging work. Country music boasted several local venues and there was an exciting indie music vibe centered around "Call The Office." Touring bands made regular stops in the city and played clubs, theatres and halls of every size and description, often hiring and interacting with local musicians. Six-nighters (with matinees) were still a thing and house gigs abounded on a variety of different nights of the week (there were two long-running Sunday evening house gigs in Southwest London alone!). It was during these halcyon days that I first met Peter Brennan.

Peter, after attending Western and touring the country extensively, had settled into his role atop the hierarchy of London's best professional musicians. He played guitar, sang and he wrote, performed, and produced commercial advertisements at EMAC studios. He arranged music for horn bands, talent shows and theatres and he owned his own record company, Auto Records. There were very few serious musicians in the area who did not rub shoulders with Peter and benefited from his talent, kindness, and generosity. Despite his success at the time, Peter's greatest accomplishments still lay ahead of him. In the late 1980's he arranged and orchestrated his first education concert for Orchestra London, which featured a rock band sharing the stage with symphonic musicians at a local theatre.



Peter was hooked! Before long, he had written a show which was performed as part of a special concert at Centennial Hall. One show led to another, a series of concerts was programmed and Peter's company, Jeans 'n Classics, was born. Peter dedicated the rest of his musical life to the goal of assimilating the rock music he so adored with that of the symphonic world.

Before long, Jeans 'n Classics was performing with orchestras across Canada and by the year 2000 had started to make inroads into the U.S. market. Peter surrounded himself with a core of local musicians to whom he remained loyal throughout the many years. As the company grew and the number of annual concerts spiked, he expanded the group to include some of Canada's finest players, singers, and entertainers. As his trailblazing idea to marry rock music with the symphony took hold, Peter began to field many requests to write, produce and orchestrate shows for a number of successful Canadian and international stars. A short list includes Lawrence Gown (Styx), Rik Emmett (Triumph), Alan Frew (Glass Tiger), Roger Hodgson (Supertramp), and Martin Fry (ABC). His obituary states, "While a highlight of his career was performing with the BBC Concert Orchestra and the band ABC at Royal Albert Hall in London, England, nothing meant more to him than returning to perform for the hometown crowd in London, Ontario."

Peter received official recognition for his excellence many times; he was a 2009 inductee into the Western Faculty of Music Alumni Wall of Fame and received the 2025 Forest City London Music Awards Lifetime Achievement Award to name just two. But accolades were never important to Peter. While many people who came into his orbit understood intimately the debt of gratitude they owed him, he always deftly deflected any praise he received and was unwilling to accept that he may be in any way deserving of it. He preferred to demonstrate, through his everyday actions, just what was possible if one worked hard and was fully committed to the pursuit of excellence.

Upon his passing on September 29, 2025, many kind messages were communicated to his wife, Sharon, his daughter, Jessica and to his Jeans 'n Classics family. Without fail they cite, above all else, Peter's kindness and generosity of spirit as his overarching qualities. Peter's loss is a loss to our city, its arts community, to our local Musician's Association and it is also a deep personal loss for the many people who worked closely with him and knew him well.

Mitchell Tyler
Local 279



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas!

The London community is saddened by the loss of Peter Brennan who passed away this past September. Please see the memorial that Member Mitchell Tyler has contributed to this newsletter.

The LMA Executive Board is pleased to announce that Member Marianna Grigg has accepted a position as an Executive Board member, and we welcome her participation and input.

The newly updated LMA “Schedule of Fees” (previously referred to as “Tariff of Fees) was presented for a vote at the last general member meeting and passed unanimously. A huge thank you to all who attended the meeting! It has been a few years since the last update, and we look forward to our members being paid higher rates for performing.

I hope to see you at the upcoming general meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 20, 2026 7:00pm via Zoom.

In Solidarity,

Doug Eyre



Office Notes, Doug Eyre
Secretary Treasurer

Reminder

We hope to see
you at the
upcoming general
meeting
scheduled for
Tuesday, January 20th
at 7 pm via Zoom.





Alexandra Kane is a person of many titles: musical director, performing artist, Lead Activist for Black Lives Matter London, and Founding Member of the Black London Network – to name just a few. Yet, whether she is leading a crowd at a rally, or leading musicians on stage, Kane devotes her time to ensure that she is making the world a better and more beautiful place for all.

Alexandra holds a Bachelor of Musical Arts from Western University, a graduate certificate in Corporate Communications and Public Relations from Fanshawe College

and a graduate certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University.

In recognition of her activism within the community and her contributions to the performing arts in London, Kane was the recipient of both a Lifetime Achievement Award and the Award for Excellence in Theatre at the inaugural Essence and Culture Awards in February 2022.

Post-COVID, the orchestra pit at the Grand Theatre has become a second home; she has occupied either the conductor's chair or the keyboard at numerous productions. Currently, she is conducting Frozen, the show with the biggest running crew (stagehands, lighting and sound technicians, wig artists, dressers, props and fly people, video, and production staff) in the theatre's history.



Born in Toronto, Kane moved to Orlando at age 10 with her mother, who had obtained a U.S. visa as a nurse. While young Alex had a variety of music teachers, the most influential was the late Anne Lovell Bartlett, a pianist and lifelong music educator in Central Florida. “She taught me everything I knew,” Kane says. Dr. Phillips High School, the secondary school Kane attended, lay directly across Turkey Lake Road from Universal Studios.



Member Spotlight, continued

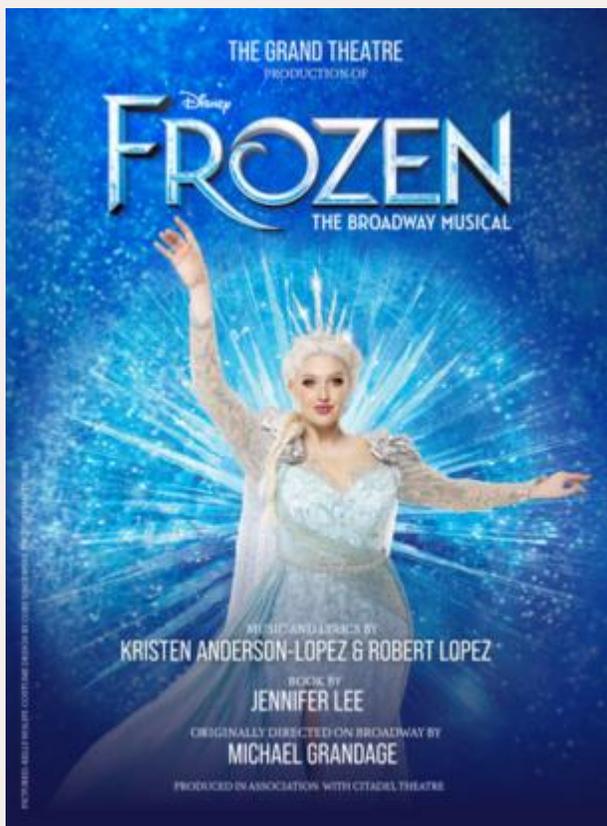
The school and theme park boasted several partnerships; among them, chances for the maturing Alexandra to sing in the choir at Disney candlelight services and perform at other special events.

At nearby Stetson University, Kane spent a semester in vocal training. When she turned 18 she was no longer eligible to stay stateside under her mother's visa. She had to return to Canada, effectively deported.

In the years that followed, Kane completed a Bachelor of Musical Arts degree at Western University, followed by post-graduate certificates in public relations and diversity/inclusion, from Fanshawe College and Cornell University, respectively.

Even as Kane tries to balance a complex career with family (she and husband Ryan Blain have a seven-year-old son and two-year-old daughter), she hasn't abandoned her activist sensibilities, even in the face of far-right racist demonstrations such as the one London saw a week ago. She is simply re-focusing now.

“Hate can exist, but truth and beauty and wonderful things can also exist.”



BOARD MEMBERS

President / 1st Delegate: Seth McNall
Interim Vice President: Bobbi Thompson
Secretary Treasurer / 2nd Delegate: - Doug Eyre
Executive Officers: - Sandy MacKay, Tom McInerney,
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