

# Merry Murdoch Mysteries in Concert: Sugar Plum Murdoch

**Lucas Waldin**, conductor

**Yannick Bisson**, host

**Robert Carli**, composer & host

**Steven Page**, vocalist

**Arwen Humphreys**, special guest

**Members of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra**

(Bowen Wang, Elyssa Arde & Jack Wong, percussion)

**Etobicoke School of the Arts Festive Voices**

**David Ambrose**, Choir Director

**Patricia Warnock**, Choir Director

---

**Robert Carli**

*A Merry Murdoch Concert Opening*

---

**Katherine Kennicott Davis/**

**arr. Robert Carli**

*"The Little Drummer Boy"*

---

**Robert Carli**

*The World of Murdoch: Christmas*

---

**Robert Carli**

*Scoring Murdoch 1—Train Fight*

---

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

Selections from

*The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a*

Dance of the Reed-Flutes

Russian Dance (Trepak)

---

**Robert Carli**

*Scoring Murdoch 2—The Maze*

---

**Steven Page/orch. Robert Carli**

*"Christmas in Toronto"*

---

---

**Robert Carli**

*Scoring Murdoch 3—Sleigh Ride*

---

**Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky**

*"Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairy"* from

*The Nutcracker Suite, Op. 71a*

---

**Traditional/arr. John Finnegan/**

**new lyrics by Sharron Matthews**

*"The Twelve Days of Christmas"*

---

**Intermission**

---

***Murdoch Mysteries:***

***"Sugar Plum Murdoch"***

Showrunner/Executive Producer:

Peter Mitchell

Written by Noelle Girard

Directed by Katie Boland

Music by Robert Carli

*Program 1*

---

Tuesday,  
December 2, 2025  
7:30pm

---

As a courtesy to musicians,  
guest artists, and fellow  
concertgoers, please put your  
phone away and on silent during  
the performance.

Photography and/or recording  
of the performance is prohibited.



## About the Concert

*Murdoch Mysteries* is one of Canada's most acclaimed and longest-running drama series. It stands as one of CBC's highest-rated shows and has been licensed to broadcasters in over 150 countries. Since its première in Kitchener-Waterloo in November 2022, *Murdoch Mysteries in Concert* has grown into a coast-to-coast tour, connecting fans with the music and storytelling they love in a whole new way.

This evening's performance was envisioned by Shaftesbury Chairman & President Christina Jennings, who recognized a crossover audience of orchestral music lovers and *Murdoch Mysteries* fans. Composer Robert Carli wrote two versions of the episode's score—one for the television broadcast and another for this concert experience, which is being brought to fans across Canada.

We hope you enjoy "Sugar Plum Murdoch". Happy Holidays!

---

## "Sugar Plum Murdoch": Episode Synopsis

It's a special Christmas event at the Feere's Department Store, and the star attraction is a diamond-encrusted tiara. Murdoch, the Brackenreids, and a crowd of onlookers watch as a holiday display is unveiled—but the tiara has been stolen! The toy factory owner who was to auction off the precious item for a Children's Hospital charity is crushed, and it's up to Murdoch and Watts to recover the tiara and bring the thief to justice. Meanwhile, Margaret Brackenreid tries to convince Anna Pavlova to perform in a charity *Nutcracker* ballet, and Higgins is desperate to find the perfect toy for his daughter.

---

## Production Credits

**Christina Jennings & Robert Carli**  
Concert Co-Producers

**Mark Bernardi**  
Producer, Creative Marketing

**Sharron Matthews**  
Concert Script

**Kristjan Bergey**  
Technical Director

**Henry Mitton**  
Music Preparation & Additional  
Orchestration

**Chris Mayo**  
Additional Orchestration

**Bryan Blaak**  
Music Assistant

[murdochmysteries.com](http://murdochmysteries.com)



© 2025 Shaftesbury Murdoch XIX Inc., music courtesy of Shaftesbury Music



### **Lucas Waldin, conductor**

Lucas Waldin made his TSO début in December 2012.

Lucas Waldin is a dynamic and versatile conductor whose performances have delighted audiences across North America. He has collaborated with some of today's most exciting artists including Carly Rae Jepsen, Barenaked Ladies, Ben Folds, the Canadian Brass, Crash Test Dummies, and Leslie Odom Jr., in addition to conducting presentations such as *Disney in Concert*, *Blue Planet Live*, *Cirque de la Symphonie*, and the groundbreaking symphonic début of R&B duo Dvsn as part of the global Red Bull Music Festival.

Waldin has been a guest conductor for numerous orchestras in the US and Canada, including The Cleveland Orchestra, the Houston Symphony, the Dallas Symphony, the Grant Park Festival Orchestra, the St. Louis Symphony, the Seattle Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Vancouver Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic, and the Toronto Symphony.

Having joined the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO) as Resident Conductor in 2009, Waldin was subsequently appointed Artist-in-Residence and Community Ambassador—the first position of its kind in North America. He appeared with the ESO over 150 times and conducted in Carnegie Hall during the orchestra's participation in the 2012 Spring for Music festival. In recognition of his accomplishments, he was awarded the Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestra Conducting, and received a Citation Award from the City of Edmonton for outstanding achievements in arts and culture.

A native of Toronto, Waldin holds degrees in flute and conducting from the Cleveland Institute of Music.



### **Yannick Bisson, host**

Yannick Bisson made his TSO début in March 2023.

Despite having over 100 acting credits to his name, Yannick Bisson is nonetheless best known as Detective William Murdoch on the hit series *Murdoch Mysteries*. Seen in 110 countries around the world, the show is Canada's longest-running and most-watched period mystery. As one of Canada's most recognizable people, Bisson draws attention to every project he's partnered on.

A Montreal native, Bisson got his first big acting break with CBC's critically acclaimed television movie *Hockey Night*, followed by playing the lead role in his first feature film, *Toby McTeague*. Bisson was later cast as the star in the CBC series *Nothing Too Good for a Cowboy*, as attorney Brian Tedrow in the hit Showtime series *Soul Food*, and as FBI Agent Jack Hudson in the popular crime series *Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye*. He also played the lead in the indie film *Nothing Really Matters*. Bisson has also had guest-starring roles in The CW's *Beauty and the Beast*, CBS/CTV's *Flashpoint*, CTV/Fox International's *The Listener*, the action feature *Animal 2*, and the feature film *Casino Jack*, which premiered at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival. Additional credits include the Lifetime movie *Too Late to Say Goodbye* with Rob Lowe, and *Young at Heart* for CBS and Warner Brothers, in a supporting role opposite Oscar winner Olympia Dukakis and the legendary Frank Sinatra.

Acclaimed for his craft, Bisson has been nominated for many Canadian Screen Awards and won Best Lead Actor for *Murdoch Mysteries* in 2018. As a director, Bisson also directs select episodes of *Murdoch Mysteries*, as well as outside projects, such as Lifetime's *Baking All the Way*. In 2025, he also hosts *Murdoch Mysteries in Concert*, a live event that allows audiences to experience the power of the show's music.

A family man, avid mountain biker, and self-proclaimed "car guy," Bisson is married to author and podcaster Shantelle Bisson, with whom he shares three daughters.



### **Robert Carli, composer & host**

Robert Carli made his TSO debut in February 1993.

Robert Carli is the composer and music producer behind over 300 episodes of *Murdoch Mysteries* across 18 seasons. He is also the co-creator and co-producer of the live experiential touring show *Murdoch Mysteries in Concert*.

His recent work includes scoring for series such as *Wynonna Earp*, *Frankie Drake Mysteries*, and *SkyMed*; the critically acclaimed documentaries *Toxic Beauty* and *Malcolm Is Missing*; and George A. Romero's final film, *Survival of the Dead*.

Carli's music has earned numerous industry accolades, including five Gemini Awards, four Canadian Screen Awards, a Children's & Family Emmy Award nomination, and several SOCAN Awards.

As a saxophonist, Carli often performs with esteemed ensembles such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, The National Ballet of Canada, and the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

In 2017, Carli teamed up with singer-songwriter Danny Michel to release *Khlebnikov*, an album written aboard a Russian icebreaker travelling through the Northwest Passage, featuring astronaut Chris Hadfield. The album earned them a Canadian Folk Music Award in the category of Producer of the Year.

Carli holds a degree in music composition from the University of Toronto, where he has taught for over 25 years.



### **Steven Page, vocalist**

This performance marks Steven Page's TSO debut.

Canadian Music Hall of Fame inductee Steven Page has established himself as one of the most recognizable and enduring voices in entertainment. This year, Page has been touring almost non-stop across Canada and the US, and, with new music releases on the horizon, he has no plans to slow down anytime soon.

As a co-founder, vocalist, and songwriter for Barenaked Ladies, Page sang and wrote classics like "Brian Wilson", "If I Had a Million Dollars", "What a Good Boy", "It's All Been Done", and many more.

With the band, he sold over 15 million albums and received multiple JUNO Awards, Billboard Music Awards, SOCAN Awards, and Gemini Awards, and two GRAMMY® nominations. After leaving the band in 2009, Page embarked on a solo career that has produced five solo

albums. After his last release, 2022's *Excelsior*, Page continues to tour worldwide, from folk festivals, cabarets, and theatres all the way to packed arenas on his string of dates opening for rock legends The Who as well as a run of shows with Billy Bragg.

Page has performed symphonic arrangements of the best-loved songs from his long career with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Victoria Symphony, West Texas Symphony, and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, and Symphony New Brunswick, to name just a few. Performances with the Calgary Philharmonic and Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra are planned in the coming months.

Page has been a frequent collaborator with Toronto's innovative Art of Time Ensemble (AOTE), made up of some of Canada's best classical, jazz, and pop musicians. With AOTE, he released an album of covers, *A Singer Must Die*, and also appears on their *Sgt. Pepper* and *Songs of Leonard Cohen Live* albums.

Along with Chris Murphy (Sloan), Moe Berg (The Pursuit of Happiness), and Craig Northey (Odds), Page makes up a quarter of the Trans-Canada Highwaymen, four lead singers of classic Canadian bands, whose first album of Canadian covers, *Explosive Hits Vol. 1*, was released in 2023.



### **Arwen Humphreys**, special guest

Arwen Humphreys made her TSO debut in March 2024.

For almost 30 years, Arwen Humphreys has been a staple of the film and television industry in Canada. From some of her first appearances on *Straight Up* (CBC) and *Kung Fu: The Legend Continues* (Various) to her recent appearance on the critically acclaimed *How to Fail as a Popstar* (CBC Gem), Humphreys has charmed audiences with her performances, which range from the dramatic to the comedic.

From the late '90s to the early aughts, Humphreys was a staple in the Toronto comedy scene. She started with *All Canadian Theatresports* and then made appearances on the *Second City* mainstage and at various iconic comedy bars throughout the city. Humphreys is grateful to have had the privilege to perform with some of the best comics and improvisers in Canada.

As an actor, Humphreys's proudest achievement has been playing Margaret Brackenreid on *Murdoch Mysteries*. As one of the two recurring characters original to the show, she has enjoyed being a part of a series that has grown into the international phenomenon it is today. She feels honoured to have worked with some of the best cast and crew in the industry. Humphreys is especially grateful to the fans of the show whose support is something she will always cherish.

Toronto born, and raised by parents who loved classical music, Humphreys has been going to Roy Thomson Hall since she was a child. Some of the performances she has seen include Handel's *Messiah* and Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (which is her favourite), and with great excitement she was in the audience to watch the first *Murdoch Mysteries in Concert*. To say she is thrilled to have the opportunity to take the stage with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra would be an understatement. She'd like to thank Shaftesbury for asking her to be a part of this special night, and she hopes you enjoy the show.

## Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra

**Nicholas Sharma**, TSYO Conductor

For 52 seasons, since its founding under the direction of Victor Feldbrill in 1974, the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra (TSYO) has been dedicated to providing a high-level orchestral experience for talented young musicians aged 22 and under. The tuition-free TSYO program delivers a unique, powerful, and life-enriching opportunity that encourages significant achievement, regardless of participants' chosen career paths. The TSYO is closely affiliated with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra: TSO musicians serve as coaches through the season, TSO guest artists lead TSYO master classes, and the TSYO performs annually with the TSO in a side-by-side concert.

## Etobicoke School of the Arts Festive Voices

**David Ambrose**, Choir Director

**Patricia Warnock**, Choir Director

The Etobicoke School of the Arts Chorus made its TSO début in November 2008.

Etobicoke School of the Arts (ESA) has been Canada's premier arts-focused high school for more than 40 years, teaching young artists in music, music theatre, dance, drama, visual arts, and film. The ESA Chorus is led by David Ambrose and Patricia Warnock, and comprises Grade 11 and 12 students, including members of its award-winning ensembles, Splash, Chamber Choir, WoCo, and Jamme. Many graduates of the program have gone on to careers in music and music theatre, performing on Broadway; on North American tours; in such illustrious organizations as the Stratford and Shaw Festivals, the Canadian Opera Company, and the Metropolitan Opera; and in major TV and film roles.

### **SOPRANO**

Samiya Ali  
Victoria Andrews  
Dalia Avigdor  
Samantha Barber  
Clara Barry  
Maeve Bondy  
Charlotte Caragata  
Ella Cardoso  
Chloe Coppen  
Emily Cram  
Niamh Doyle  
Adelaide Rae Evans  
Francesca Flamminio  
Gaia Friedman  
Alivia Girma-D'Ettorre  
Dhyana Gopalan  
Harriet Greene  
Tasha Jackson  
Lara Klausz  
Zoie Koch  
Mariella Larose

Nanamie Li  
Lily Luukkonen  
Gabriela Majewska  
Xiomara Mallo  
Ella Mercer  
Sasha Middleton  
Floral McCaw Neff  
Eden Oelbaum  
Lua Olafson Ramos  
Penny Otis  
Maika Preston Doyle  
Lauren Raposo  
Leah Sturino  
Siara Suhaila  
Sophie Teixeira  
Eve Therrien  
Eva Torianyk  
Kenzi Vancea  
Chelsea Webster  
Sophia Wennekers  
Lily Westsmith  
Ashton Wilkinson

### **ALTO**

Monica Alencar  
Madeleine Crummey  
Juliette Digings  
Valeria Franco  
Lauren Freedman  
Mela Gadsden  
Styles Hansen  
JD Harris  
Charlie Herbert-Scott  
Sylvia Hinds  
Tallulah Joy  
Sophia Kot  
Kelly Li  
Brenna MacDonald  
Carolina Morais Dias Da Silva  
Simone Neubacher  
Aili North  
Sydney Proctor  
Adshyaa Sachythanantham  
Skyler Siwek  
Chloe Stanwick

Rosie Taylor  
Mia Vogel-Alexiou  
Hannah Walker

### **TENOR**

Keandre-Kymoi Bailey  
Niko Ceci  
Sebastian Gonzalez  
Evan LeFeuvre  
Aster Queale  
Liam Tsuji  
Enoch Williams

### **BASS**

Rafael Amelunxen  
Anik Bernaus-Townsend  
Massimo Della-Schiava  
Quintin Glasgow  
Ezequiel Igreja  
Owen Peeters  
Quentin Snowden  
Charlie White