



TSO

Toronto
Symphony
Orchestra

Bhangra & Beyond

Concert Fact Sheet



**Daniel
Bartholomew-Poyser**
Conductor

A message from the conductor

Welcome to *Bhangra and Beyond!* In this concert we will explore, dance, and sing our way through music by composers of India and the Indian Subcontinent. This is music that is life giving, exciting, and incredibly fun. When the instruments of the orchestra add their sound and colour to music that is already phenomenal, the effect is pure magic. Not only will you hear incredible music, you'll also see traditional dances, and maybe even learn some moves yourself!

Join us as we adventure through a unique world of sounds, the sounds of Bhangra... and Beyond.

Daniel

Concert Facts

When You Visit

Entering Roy Thomson Hall:

- All patrons will enter through the Simcoe Street doors.
- The lobby opens 60 minutes before the concert begins.
- For more detailed information and to help prepare for your visit, please see our venue guide.

Concessions & Coat Check:

- There are concessions in the lobby—you can buy snacks and drinks there!
- Roy Thomson Hall is now a cash-free venue that only accepts debit and credit cards, including major contactless and mobile payment methods, for a safe and speedy checkout.
- If you have a reusable water bottle, you can fill it on-site in the lobby at one of the water fountains.
- There is a coat check at the hall. It opens when the lobby opens. It costs \$2 per item to use the coat check. You should bring a debit or credit card if you plan to use the coat check.

Washrooms:

- The washrooms are located toward the front of the building and are behind the large mirrored wall where you first entered. There are family and accessible washrooms on the Main Floor beside the elevator.
- An usher can direct you if you need assistance finding the washrooms.

Resource Tables:

- We will have a limited supply of sound-dampening headphones on-site to lend to you for free, but we recommend you bring your own if you have a pair at home.

Entering the Auditorium:

- The auditorium will open 60 minutes before the concert begins, at the same time that the lobby opens. This will give you plenty of time to find your seat.
- The ushers will help you to find your seat.
- The Main Floor of the auditorium will be open for this concert.

During the Concert:

- Lights over the audience will remain at approximately 50% brightness during the performance.
- The conductor will speak to the audience during the program.
- The concert begins at 11:00am and will be approximately one hour in length.
- You will be able to move around the auditorium and lobby during the concert.
- If you like, you can move to the back three rows of the Main Floor to get a different view, or for the sounds to be a little softer. If you need it to be even quieter, you can enjoy the concert from the lobby or from the tunnels—there is a screen in each tunnel where you can view the concert.
- If you need to use the Quiet Room, you can ask an usher to show you where it is.

Concert Facts

Things You Will Need to Pay for:

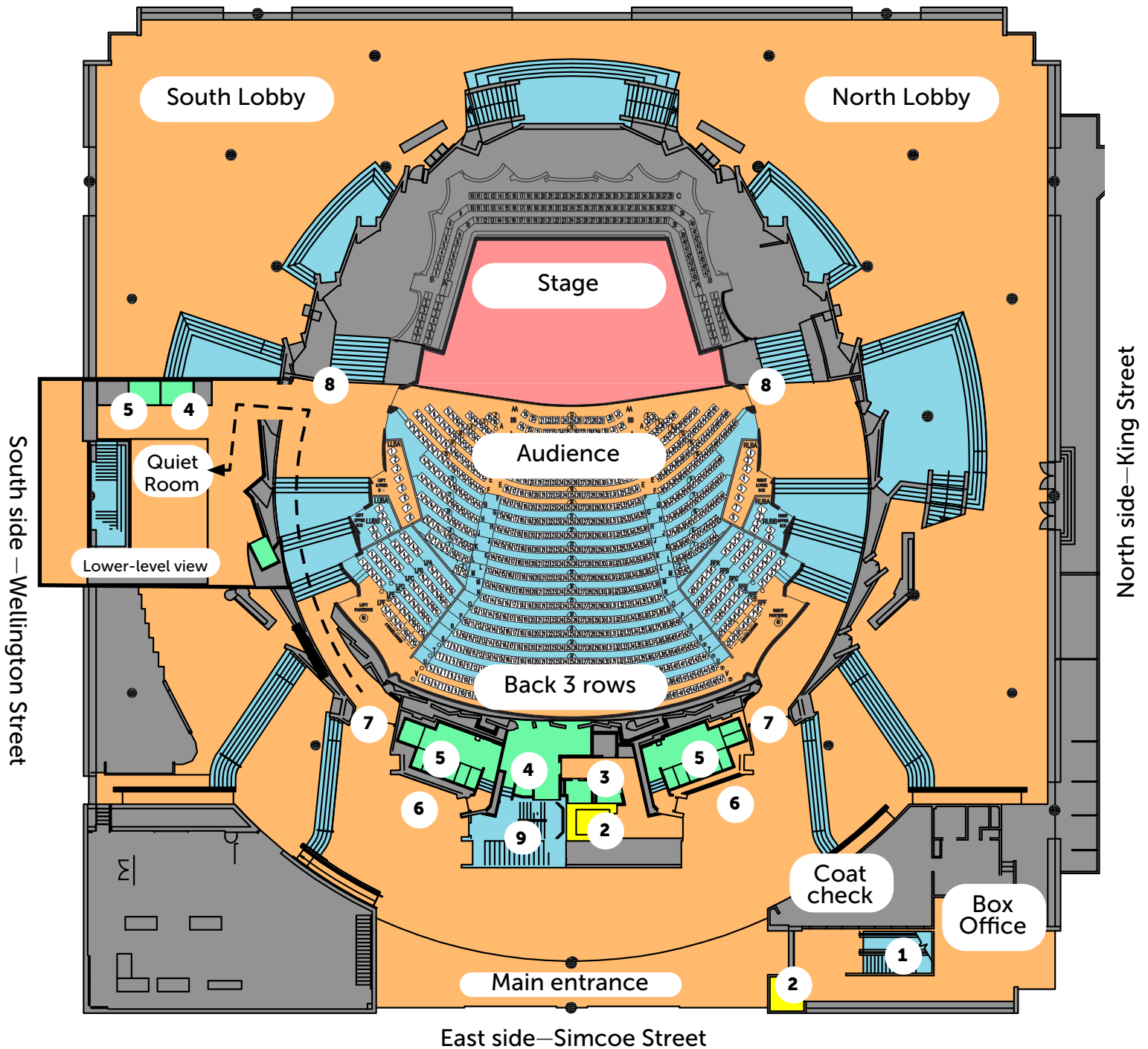
- Parking underneath Roy Thomson Hall, coat check, and concession snacks or drinks. If you do not need these services, you are not required to pay. Parking underneath Roy Thomson Hall costs \$8 per hour, or any part thereof, or \$16 for the day (weekend daily flat rate).

Fun Facts

Did you know:

- The Toronto Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1922. The first concert performed by the Orchestra was in April 1923 at Massey Hall. Today's concert is at Roy Thomson Hall.
- Roy Thomson Hall was designed by architect Arthur Erickson and opened in 1982. You can hear more about the building in our self-guided tour: [TSO.ca/rth-tour](https://www.tso.ca/rth-tour)
- The hall is mostly concrete, steel, and glass. If you look up, you will see that the ceiling and some of the walls are glass. The glass pieces in the ceiling and roof are all different sizes—can you find two that are similar or look the same?
- The lobby is square, but the auditorium is round, which means that parts of the lobby are larger than others. Have you seen a circle inside a square before?

Main Floor Map



Legend

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Subway PATH | 7. Doors to the hall |
| 2. Elevators | 8. TV screens |
| 3. Accessible washrooms | 9. Stairs to access washrooms in between floors |
| 4. Men's washrooms | |
| 5. Women's washrooms | |
| 6. Sensory stations | |
- To access the Quiet Room, please use the south tunnel.

Repertoire Notes

Bhangra & Beyond is a high-energy concert! It features music from, or inspired by, the Indian sub-continent.

Generally speaking, most of these pieces have an exciting rhythm and a fast tempo—after all, the music was written for dancing and celebrating!

In some of the music pieces, dancers from Maritime Bhangra or Sanskriti Arts will be dancing on stage while the orchestra plays. At one point in the show, they will even teach you a few Bhangra dance moves. (Feel free to test them out while dancing in your seats!)

If possible, we recommend that you familiarize yourself with the original songs before attending the concert. (We've included blue YouTube links in the PDF version of this document.) The pieces we will be playing in *Bhangra & Beyond* are orchestral arrangements—they will sound similar, but they won't have any singing in them.

Happy listening!

1. Stephen Roberts

[Bhangra Dance](#)

[5 minutes]

- Our concert opens with an orchestral music piece inspired by Bhangra dancing. Despite the title, this piece only features the Orchestra. (Dancers will come later, we promise!)
- During the piece, you will hear a dhol drum, one of the distinctive instruments of Bhangra music. Can you spot the musician playing it? *Hint: there will be a moment when they play a solo.*
- There are multiple times in this piece when the musicians will all clap to the beat and shout, "Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!" Bhangra songs sometimes include vocalizations like this to inject energy into the music.

2. Malkit Singh/arr. Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser

["Mama Bada Great"](#)

[4 minutes]

- When you hear the bouncy, fast-paced rhythm in this piece, you'll understand why it's a fan favourite at weddings.
- In the original song, the harmonium is one of the distinctive instrument you can hear. *Hint: it plays the short interlude between verses.* The harmonium works almost like a harmonica or melodica—by producing sound when air moves the reeds. But the harmonium is special because the air is created by moving the bellows with your hand!

Repertoire Notes

3. Jatinder Shah/arr. Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser

["Janjhan"](#)

[2 minutes]

- Keep your eyes peeled: Maritime Bhangra will be dancing on stage!
- This is a slower piece, with plenty of bass and some exciting beat drops.
- The dhol plays a big part in "Janjhan", sort of acting like the heartbeat of the song.

4. Dinuk Wijeratne

[Excerpt from *Polyphonic Lively*](#)

[3 minutes]

- We'll be performing a short excerpt from *Polyphonic Lively*, but we invite you to listen to the whole piece ahead of time.
- "*Polyphonic*" means having many voices, and "*Lively*" means having a lot of energy. True to its name, this music features a variety of instruments playing intensely.
- There are both soft and loud parts in the music, especially near the end.

5. Ananda Shankar/arr. Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser

["Universal Magic"](#)

[4 minutes]

- Our second group of dancers enters the stage: Sanskriti Arts will be dancing with the Orchestra!
- This is a dreamy, upbeat piece of music that sounds peaceful and happy.
- The percussion section utilises a lot of auxiliary instruments in this piece, including egg shakers, claves, castanets, and a tabla.
- Midway through the piece, there is a short moment where the percussionist plays faster and more loudly, which may surprise you!
- In the original song, the bansuri plays a pivotal role, sometimes doubling the sitar on the melody to create a different and unique sound.

6. Rimsky-Korsakov

[Sadko, *Song of India*](#)

[3 minutes]

- This piece starts with a moderately loud note played by the entire orchestra, but the rest of the music is soft and relaxing.
- The music has a slow tempo and a beautiful melody played by a variety of instruments.

Repertoire Notes

7. Reena Esmail

["Ram Tori Maya"](#)

[4 minutes]

- This is a Hindustani bhajan (devotional song) with a slow, relaxing tempo, and a beautiful melody. Pay attention to how each instrument plays the melody and gives it a different colour. Which version of the melody is your favourite?

8. Surjit Bindrakhia

["Tera Yaar Bolda"](#)

[4 minutes]

- Maritime Bhangra will be back to dance again during this piece.
- This is another bouncy, upbeat dance song that is very popular at weddings.
- The original song features three main musical elements: a barrel-shaped dhol drum that provides bass and a syncopated rhythm (playing offbeat); a synthesizer that plays two pitched patterns, including one which imitates the sound of the tumbi (a Punjabi folk string instrument); and lastly, vocalizations, like "Brrrruuaaaah", which are added to inject energy into the music.

9. A.R. Rahman

["Patakha Guddi"](#)

[4 minutes]

- Sanskriti Arts returns to dance with the Orchestra for a second time.
- This music has sections with rapid notes, and a pulsing rhythm. These intense moments are broken up by slower, more melodic moments.
- This piece frequently alternates between major and minor keys. It might sound "happy" one moment, and "sad" in another. The composer wrote this song for a film, and the music changing between major and minor keys reflect the happy or sad events in the character's life.

10. Ranjit Bawa/arr. Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser

["Jatt Mele Aa Gya"](#)

[3 minutes]

- For our final piece, dancers from both Maritime Bhangra and Sanskriti Arts will be dancing on stage.
- This is a bouncy, fast-paced song that will make you want to dance.
- In the original song, the tumbi is the first instrument heard, immediately bringing the energy and liveliness to start us off.
- The dhol is also used in this song, providing both high and low pitched drum sounds.
- Lastly, a sapp is employed to emulate a clapping sound, played by both the musicians and sometimes by the dancers as a prop. Enjoy the big finale!



Have a Question?

Call: 416.598.3375
(Mon–Fri, 9:30am–5:00pm)

Email: contactus@TSO.CA

For more information:
[TSO.CA/Relaxed](https://www.tso.ca/Relaxed)