

Cambridge Symphony Orchestra mixes it up with *Una Serata Bella*

By Valerie Hill, Record staff

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CAMBRIDGE — In what has become the event everyone seems to want to attend, Cambridge Symphony Orchestra's annual fete will take it up a notch on Friday.

"We're doing four sets of music instead of three, more music, a lot more variety," said Sabatino Vacca, the 40-piece orchestra's director. "This is also the first time we have a bass singer. That's going to be a real treat."

The concert, *Una Serata Bella*, will feature three soloists brought together for the first time: soprano Rachel Cleland, bass Gary Relyea and tenor Romulo Delgado, with Vacca on piano.

Bass baritone Relyea, who lives in Stratford, has enjoyed an international career and is considered the most frequently invited guest soloist with the Toronto Symphony. Toronto-based tenor Delgado has Latin origins and brings with him that Latin passion in his music, particularly when he accompanies himself on guitar playing Spanish music.

Vacca said he has worked with Delgado in the past and was always impressed with the tenor's big voice.

The third soloist, soprano Cleland, has performed both operatic roles as well as light opera, including a 2010 concert performance with pianist James Cheung in London, England. Cleland is Vacca's partner and he enthused that "it will be fun to perform together."

"They all have quite sizeable voices," added Vacca, who says the program will start with opera and gradually phase to more popular pieces.

All three soloists had provided Vacca with a long list of suggested music so it was up to him to create some harmony.



Romulo Delgado. Romulo Delgado

"It was a real balancing act, the suggestions they all sent me," he said. "There was quite a lot to choose from.

"The first set is operatic, the second is a bit lighter and the third is about Valentines, there is lots of love in that one."

The fourth set includes popular pieces such as music from *Tosca*, *Showboat* and for the grand finale, all three soloists come together to perform *Love Unspoken* from the *Merry Widow*.

The elegance and fun of the evening will be paired with wine and food from the Black Shop as well as a silent auction.

Last year, the event raised \$5,000 but there was so much work involved, organizers decided to raise the ticket price from \$50 to \$75, hoping to earn enough money to make the event worthwhile financially.

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Una Serata Bella

Friday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.

Cambridge City Hall, 50 Dickson St.

Music, cocktails and silent auction

Tickets \$75 with partial tax receipt

Call 519-622-5508 or 519-623-4523

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