Fusion

with Symphony Nova Scotia

and **Lucas Waldin,** *conductor* • **Rachel Akiko Ashmore,** *vocals*

Magic, drama, and adventure.

Additional players: Amy Spurr-Caveney, *violin* • Hartmut Richter, *violin* • Anna Sprange, *clarinet* Julie Cuming, *horn* • Natalie Alcorn, *horn* • Emily Bellman, *trumpet* • Nathaniel Jenkins, *trombone* David Moulton, *trombone* • Bob Nicholson, *bass trombone* • Tim Keels, *tuba* • Jeff Brancato, *timpani* Mark Morton, *percussion* • Clare Macdonald, *percussion* • Damien Moynihan, *drumset* • Karen Rokos, *harp* Andrew Coll, *piano* • Brad Conrad, *guitar* • Peter Bull, *electric bass*

7:30PM • **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13** • 2026

The Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Hfx.

PROGRAM:

Joe Hisaishi
Ponyo: "Ponyo On a Cliff By The Sea"
(arr. Joseph Perkins)
Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocalist*

Jensen / Larsson / et al.
Pokémon: Gotta Catch Em All
(arr. Michael Clark)
Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocalist*

Ikimono Gakari
Naruto Shippuden: "Blue Bird"
(arr. Lucas Waldin)

Joe Hisaishi
Symphonic Variation from Howl's Moving Castle
Merry-Go-Round / Cave of Mind

Various
Pokémon Horizons Suite
(arr. Geoff Li)

Shiro Sagisu
Bleach: "Never Meant to Belong"
(arr. Peyber Medina)
Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocalist*

LiSA
Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba: "Gurenge"
(arr. Lucas Waldin)
Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocalist*

INTERMISSION: 20 MINUTES

Hiroyuki Sawano
Attack on Titan / Shinegeki no Kyojin: Introduction and "Vogel im Käftig"
(arr. Michael Clark)

Yoko Kanno
Tank! from *Cowboy Bebop*
(arr. Michael Clark)
Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocalist*

Horie / Kobayashi
Violet Evergarden: "Sincerely"
(arr. Michael Clark)
Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocalist*

Yui Sakakibara
Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood: "Again"
(arr. Abednego Bogi)

Akira Senju
Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood: Main Theme
(arr. Michael Clark)

Joe Hisaishi
Spirited Away: "One Summer's Day"
(arr. Adriano Carrijo)

Shunsuke Kikuchi
Dragon Ball Z: Suite for Orchestra
(arr. Daniel de la Rosa)
Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocalist*

Lauren Aquilina
Hotarubi no Mori e: "King"
(arr. Lucas Waldin)

Joe Hisaishi
My Neighbor Totoro / Tonari no Totoro: "My Neighbor Totoro"

Featured Artists

Lucas Waldin, *conductor*

Lucas Waldin is a dynamic and versatile conductor who has collaborated with artists including Carly Rae Jepsen, Ben Folds, The Canadian Brass and the Crash Test Dummies, in addition to conducting presentations such as Disney in Concert, Blue Planet Live, Cirque de la Symphony, and Red Bull Symphonic. Waldin frequently conducts "film-in-concert" presentations and has been a guest conductor for numerous orchestras in the U.S. 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 Philly Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, the Vancouver Symphony, the Calgary Philharmonic and the Toronto Symphony.

After joining Edmonton Symphony Orchestra as Resident Conductor in 2009, Waldin was 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 in 2012. In recognition of his accomplishments he was awarded the Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestral Conducting and received a Citation Award from the City of Edmonton for outstanding achievements in arts and culture.

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

Rachel Akiko Ashmore, *vocals*

Rachel Akiko Ashmore is a vocalist and musician born in Vancouver, BC.

Influenced by the vocal artistry of masters such as Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, and Mariah Carey, she developed a deep appreciation for using the voice as both an instrument and an emotional extension.

Her vocal style spans pop, R&B/soul, and rock, characterized by her "small but mighty"voice—powerful, controlled, and pitch-perfect. Throughout her career, Rachel has toured around the world and performed with notable artists and bands, including Men Without Hats, Howard Jones, Josh Ramsay, Jakalope, K-OS, The Broken Islands, ByStarlight and Shocore, among many others.