

The PLUMBING FACTORY BRASS BAND

Henry Meredith, Director



2017 marks the Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Season of the Plumbing Factory Brass Band. In September 1995, Henry Meredith assembled a group of like-minded brass players to explore the repertoire of the British-style brass band as well as the music of the community, factory, and concert bands of the "Golden Age" (1850-1950). Their first public concert was presented on April 24, 1996. In 2008, the Plumbing Factory Brass Band was the recipient of the Jack Richardson Music Award for the Best Classical Group in London, Ontario.

Presents **“The Golden Age of Brass”**
Celebrating Canada’s 150th Birthday with 19th-Century Brass Band Music
December 13, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.

Byron United Church – 420 Boler Road (@ Baseline) – LONDON, Ontario

Complementing their performances of mid-19th-century music in April, when they evoked authentic sounds of “The Golden Age of Brass” by playing original period instruments, and in September, during London’s Bands-150 Festival, the Plumbing Factory Brass Band will close this sesquicentennial year with another concert honouring Canada’s 150th birthday. The performance will take place on December 13th, at 7:30 p.m., in Byron United Church, London.

Confederation-era music will again be highlighted, with von Suppé’s exuberant “*Jolly Robbers*” Overture, written exactly 150 years ago in 1867, opening the program. Next, band music by big name composers includes Beethoven’s *Marsch des York’schen Korps* and Mendelssohn’s *War March of the Priests*. The cheerful and charming, yet exceptionally challenging *Raymond Overture* by Ambroise Thomas forms the centrepiece of the program. One of the best military bands in North America at the time was led by famed composer and conductor, Claudio Grafulla. The Plumbers will play a set of four of Grafulla’s up-tempo arrangements and compositions, all testaments to the skill of his musicians. Gradually increasing in speed and complexity, these toe-tapping pieces, based on popular dance forms of the mid-19th century, consist of *Cape May Polka*, *Freischutz Quick Step*, *Skyrocket March*, and *Hurrah Storm Galop*. Calixa Lavallée composed what became our national anthem in 1880, but he also wrote operettas of equal calibre to those of Arthur Sullivan. PFBB audiences have heard Lavallée’s *Bridal Rose*, *King of Diamonds*, and *The Indian Question*, but this concert features, for the first time, his delightful overture, *The Golden Fleece*. With the holiday season approaching, the Plumbing Factory Brass Band offers a tribute to Christmas music of the Confederation period as a medley of familiar carols from the mid-19th century and earlier, often combined simultaneously to form quodlibets. Another seasonal favourite – Johann Strauss Sr.’s famous *Radetzky March* from 1848 – brings the concert to a rousing close.