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**NEWS RELEASE – August 2020**

**Re: Music in the Gardens: The Strings and Soloists of Arcady**

## **BRANT/NORFOLK'S RENOWNED ARCADY ANNOUNCES ITS FIRST LIVE PERFORMANCE OF 2020**

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2020

Time: 4-6:30pm

Arcady invites you to step into a world of tranquility and exquisite beauty. On Saturday, September 12, the acclaimed ensemble invites you to hear the musical sounds of the strings and voices amidst the colourful gardens and sparkling fountains of Whistling Gardens in Wilsonville. Music in the Gardens: The Strings and Soloists of Arcady promises to be an event where the senses will be immersed with pleasure and enjoyment!

Arcady's 2020 season opens with a special outdoor performance of Ronald Beckett's music set against the backdrop of Whistling Gardens' award-winning botanical gardens and fountain displays. Beckett's music paired with the incredible scenery will create an enchanting atmosphere.

In a time where we are all staying home and most public events have been cancelled, Arcady and Whistling Gardens will reopen live performance for people of all ages in a safe way. Music in the Gardens: The Strings and Soloists of Arcady will showcase some of the finest singers and strings players that Canada has to offer. The cast of performers consists of Arcady's string quintet, sopranos Paula Thomas, Anna Boyes, Cristina Pisani, mezzo sopranos Katie Walshaw, Diana DiMauro, and tenor Shawn Oakes. The concert will also feature Arcady's 2020 Emerging Artist, soprano, Lauren Bryant-Monk.

The show's very own dynamic Canadian composer himself will conduct the entire program. Ronald Beckett is a prolific composer who has had numerous compositions performed by ensembles throughout Ontario. He has written three operas and a collection of other instrumental and vocal works. Beckett's works are often on classical radio in North America and Europe. Ron Beckett's music has achieved international acclaim for its fun nature, variety of style, and appeal to audiences of all ages.

According to Wanda and Darren Heimbecker, owners of Whistling Gardens, "We have admired Ron Beckett's vital role in cultivating area emerging artists for some time as the Director and Composer with Arcady. We jumped at the chance to collaborate to reintroduce music into our

22 acre botanical gardens during this historic time which has impacted us all. Ensuring every Covid-19 compliance safety measure is in place, we encourage ticket purchasers to arrive early before the performance to experience the healing properties of our gardens artistry.”

Arcady is a professionally based ensemble that performs, in its various forms, about 30 times a year throughout Toronto and Southwestern Ontario. The ensemble has released three CD recordings on the Crescendo label: A Baroque Messiah (1999), Welcome Yule! (2001), and Ruth (2007). In 2002, Phoenix Records released the CD A Beckett Miscellany – a sampling of Beckett’s instrumental music performed by The Essex Winds and Arcady.

The concert is limited to 100 entrants so tickets should be bought soon. Tickets also include a day pass to the gardens and fountain displays as well as Arcady’s silent auction.

The ensemble’s first indoor performance will be “There’s a song in the air” on November 28 at Brantford’s St. Andrew’s Church.

For complete information on all concerts visit: [www.arcady.ca](http://www.arcady.ca)

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### **Music in the Garden: The Strings and Soloists of Arcady**

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Silent Auction and Concert 4:00pm-5:30pm

Rain date: September 13, 2020 4:00pm-5:30pm

Tickets \$37, including day admission to Whistling Gardens. Reserve in advance at Whistling Gardens’ Garden Centre (<https://www.whistlinggardens.ca/contact.php>), by emailing [info@arcady.ca](mailto:info@arcady.ca), or calling 519 428 3185.

Admission up to 100 people with social distancing in effect.

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