

21C Music and Orchestrated

Kishi Bashi

Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 7pm

This is the 1,490th concert in Koerner Hall

Kishi Bashi

Mark Camilleri, conductor

Strings from the Royal Conservatory Orchestra

Kishi Bashi

Kishi Bashi is the pseudonym of Emmy-nominated singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Kaoru Ishibashi. A Berklee-trained virtuoso violinist, Kishi Bashi is acclaimed for his uplifting, high-energy concerts and his distinctive loop-based violin style. He has also earned recognition for his groundbreaking collaborations with major symphonies, including the National Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, and Oregon Symphony, where he blends classical and pop influences in captivating performances. Beyond the orchestral stage, he has toured internationally with Regina Spektor and of Montreal, and released five acclaimed albums – beginning with his *NPR*-praised debut *151a* (2012), followed by *Sonderlust* (2016), the documentary project *Omoiyari* (2019), and most recently *Kantos* (2024), a kaleidoscopic fusion of funk, jazz, and orchestral pop. Known for his cinematic storytelling and genre-bending sound, Kishi Bashi continues to push creative boundaries while captivating audiences worldwide.

Mark Camilleri

Conductor

Mark Camilleri is a celebrated musician known for his versatility, creativity, and collaborative spirit. With a career spanning over three decades, Mark has built a reputation as one of Canada's most sought-after musical talents across a wide range of genres, including classical, jazz, pop, and musical theatre. Mark has worked with internationally renowned artists including Andrea Bocelli, Céline Dion, Sarah McLachlan, David Foster, Il Divo, Sting, The Tenors, Annie Lennox, and Paul Anka. He has conducted and arranged for major symphony orchestras across Canada, bringing together classical and contemporary worlds with skill and sensitivity. Mark has served as music director for numerous national tours, concerts, theatrical productions, and televised specials, with credits including the Stratford Festival, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Mirvish Productions, and *CBC Television*. In addition to his performance work, Mark is the owner of *IMAGINE Sound Studios*, a recording facility serving Canada's top artists and producers. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, Mark brings passion, precision, and artistry to every performance.

Royal Conservatory Orchestra

Joaquin Valdepeñas, Resident Conductor

The Royal Conservatory Orchestra (RCO), part of the Temerty Orchestral Program, is widely regarded as an outstanding ensemble and one of the best training orchestras in North America. Through the RBC Guest Conductor Program, four renowned conductors work with the RCO each season, allowing Glenn Gould School students to gain experience through professional rehearsal and performance conditions. A full week of rehearsals culminates in a Koerner Hall performance under the batons of such distinguished guest conductors as Sir Roger Norrington, former *Ihnatowycz* Chair in Piano Leon Fleisher, Bramwell Tovey, Johannes Debus, Peter Oundjian, Gábor Takács-Nagy, Ivars Taurins, Tania Miller, Andrei Feher, Mario Bernardi, Richard Bradshaw, Nathan Brock, Julian Kuerti, Uri Mayer, Tito Muñoz, Andrés Keller, Earl Lee, Naomi Woo, William Eddins, and Lior Shambadal. With four annual performances, participation in the RCO ensures that instrumental students in the Bachelor of Music and the Artist Diploma Program of The Glenn Gould School graduate with extensive orchestral performance experience. Additionally, winners of The Robert W. and G. Ann Corcoran Concerto Competition have the opportunity to appear each year as soloists with the RCO. Graduates of the RCO have joined the ranks of the greatest orchestras in the world, including the Cleveland Orchestra, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the BBC Orchestra, the Israel

Philharmonic, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Tafelmusik, the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra, the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Calgary Philharmonic, the Quebec Symphony Orchestra, the Hallé Orchestra of Manchester, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, and Leipzig Gewandhaus. In addition to performances in Koerner Hall, the RCO has performed on numerous occasions at the Isabel Bader Performing Arts Centre in Kingston, has been heard repeatedly on the national broadcasts of the *CBC Radio*, and in May 2024 made its Carnegie Hall debut under Maestro Peter Oundjian. The RCO's Resident Conductor, Joaquin Valdepeñas, is supported by a generous gift from Robert & Ann Corcoran.

RCM alumnus Mark Camilleri made his Royal Conservatory debut on December 11, 2025, and Kishi Bashi is making his Conservatory debut tonight.