

Renowned jazz vocalist joins youth orchestra for 'Home for the Holidays'

La Jeunesse Youth Orchestra rings in the festive season with symphonic jazz, as vocalist Michael Danso joins the orchestra for 'Home for the Holidays' on November 29.

Now in its eleventh season, Port Hope-based LJYO continues to grow, with 36 members this year along with 9 adult coaches. Members this year come from as far as Oshawa, Lindsay and Castleton.

The holiday concert will include symphonic favourites such as Carol of the Bells, selections from The Nutcracker Suite, and six pieces specially arranged by woodwind coach David Tanner, featuring the full orchestra and internationally renowned jazz vocalist Danso.

Known around the world for his stage roles in Riverdance and Jesus Christ Superstar, Danso has also performed as a vocal soloist with many symphony orchestras.

"Danso's remarkable voice combines the warmth and silky soulfulness of Nat King Cole with the panache of Sammy Davis Jr.," wrote Andy Cooper in the *Regina Leader Post*.

"Danso's gifts as a performer defy description, his vocal range is immense, his stage presence commanding," says reviewer John Ware in *Portfolio Magazine*.

In 'Home for the Holidays', Danso will perform Baby It's Cold Outside, Winter Wonderland, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, and other seasonal classics.

"LJYO will undoubtedly be positively affected by this incredibly seasoned performer, who has appeared with orchestras all over the world," says LJYO Music Director Michael Lyons.

'Home for the Holidays' takes place at 7 pm on November 29 at the Port Hope United Church. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students, \$50 for a family, available at 1-866-460-LJYO, at the Capitol Theatre in Port Hope and at Victoria Hall in Cobourg.