Most of the works programmed are new for the DCB this season. Great classical works along with recent movie and TV music combine into a programme that adds to the excitement of the cosmic countdown. It doesn’t matter what part of the galaxy you come from, there is something for everybody on this spring concert.

Space and Beyond is a collection of themes that are from the classical and movie genres. This arrangement includes the Theme from Also Sprach Zarathustra by Richard Strauss, known better to most as the opening theme from 2001: A Space Odyssey from 1968. A section from Mars, the Bringer of War originally from The Planets orchestral suite by Gustav Holst is also featured. Excerpts from the Star Wars saga as well as Star Trek-The Motion Picture round out this collection.

Other works that relate to the galactic theme of this concert include movie music from Star Trek: Into Darkness. Also featured is music from the Mandalorian, the 2019 TV series that documents the exploits of a lone bounty hunter in a remote section of the galaxy.

The band will also present an arrangement of “I Vow to Thee, My Country” a British patriotic hymn created when a poem by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice was set to music by Gustav Holst. The tune is Thaxted which Holst has drawn from his chorale theme contained in Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity, also from The Planets.

Gustav Holst is a big part of this concert for a good reason. This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of this famous classical composer who was born September 21, 1874 in Cheltenham, United Kingdom. Holst was a key figure who defined the instrumentation of the modern-day concert band. Holst’s First Suite in Eb for Military Band written in 1909 is an extremely important work in the evolution of band writing and this work is acknowledged to be a true band masterpiece. It is most fitting that the DCB will present this work in recognition of the Holst anniversary.

It’s an afternoon where science fact will meet science fiction. The cosmic connection of the concert will also include brief presentations relating to the field of astronomy by Jo Ann Salci. She is a member of the Hamilton Amateur Astronomers Club and also a flutist with the DCB.

Local composer and arranger Tom Altmann, long associated with the DCB and known as Sir Lunch will see his Viaje del Sol (Journey of the Sun) performed. It is a fitting addition to a concert that precedes the solar spectacle. The journey of the Sun is what most of the North American population will be watching on April 8. One would think this work from 2015 had been specially commissioned for the April 7 concert.

Is there going to be a doctor in the house? Doctor Who: Through Time and Space has been recently obtained by the DCB specifically for this concert. The band is working hard to ensure the Tardis will land in the parking lot of St. Paul’s United Church. The long running, iconic BBC TV series celebrated its 60th anniversary this past November. Some of composer Murray Gold’s classic theme music including I Am The Doctor is included in the medley.

The programme is rounded out by other major works that favour an indoor venue rather than the outdoor summer concerts that are staged in the Dundas Driving Park. This includes Highlights from the 1980’s musical Chess with tunes created by Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus of the pop group ABBA. The show is best known for the pop hit One Night In Bangkok, and tells the story of a love triangle involving two chess grandmasters, one Russian and one American, and a Hungarian-born refugee. The characters' personalities are said to be loosely based on those of Victor Korchnoi and Bobby Fischer.

The modern concert band overture Ross Roy by Jacob de Haan is also programmed. This work was commissioned by the St. Peters Wind Symphony of Brisbane, Australia. It premiered in August 1997 with the composer conducting. This work features an English Horn solo which is a rare instrument to see in a community concert band. The solo is played by Beth Stephens.

The DCB Summer Concert Series in the Dundas Driving Park is expected to be presented on Tuesday evenings from July 2 to August 6 for the 2024 Season. More information regarding our summer schedule will be posted soon on the website.