

May 1, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I, Godwin Friesen, am writing this letter to offer my support for the initiative launched by pianist Frank Braley in his open letter published in L'Orient-Le Jour, in which he champions the "Lebanese Concerto" of composer Dominique Salloum and states his readiness to perform and record it with willing orchestras in France, Lebanon and elsewhere.

I am a pianist and composer based in Montréal, Canada, first prize winner of the Concours Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (2022) and—with the Rilian Trio—first prize winner of the Trondheim International Chamber Music Competition (2023, Norway) and the Ilmari Hannikainen Piano Chamber Music Competition (2026, Finland).

Dominique Salloum is an important musical voice to come out of Lebanon. His music flows from a deep love for his country, its history and culture, and above all, its diverse people. His concerto will be enriching for the music community wherever it is performed because of its excellence with regards to the Western classical tradition at the same time as it innovates by incorporating musical elements from a Lebanese tradition. It will also be enriching for the wider culture as it expresses the beauty and heart of a people group currently suffering and—like all people—needing empathy and solidarity.

This is why I would like to express my own willingness to perform the "Lebanese Concerto," extending this project to places that Mr. Braley might not be able to reach. Being a friend of Mr. Salloum myself, I will work closely with him to be able to convey the music as respectfully and authentically as possible.

I hope that this invitation from Frank Braley for building cross-cultural bonds will be heeded by many.



Godwin Friesen

#ForAMusicThatRefusesToBeSilenced
#PourUneMusiqueQuiRefuseDeDisparaître

This letter may be freely reproduced and published, in its original form or translated to another language. -Godwin Friesen