

FALL 2013

Full Circle



ConneXXions North: Innovative technology connects students in Canada's North with NAC musicians in Ottawa

*"It's amazing how quickly the technology disappears
and it becomes all about the connection between
the mentor and the students."*

—Maurizio Ortolani, New Media Producer, NAC

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Joanna G'froerer, NAC Orchestra principal flute,
working with students at Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit
Photo by Martin Jones

It is a beautiful Saturday morning in Nunavut as a group of young trumpet players arrive for their music lesson. There is no instructor waiting for them, unless you count high school music teacher, Mary Piercey. Instead the room in Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit is filled with the broadband technology that will make this lesson possible.

Soon Karen Donnelly, principal trumpet player for the National Arts Centre Orchestra, appears on the screen and it's time for the private lesson to begin. It makes no difference that Karen is hundreds of kilometres away in Ottawa; the technology is so good she may as well be in the same room.

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NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

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message

from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

Welcome to another exciting season at the NAC. If you're like me, you've spent the summer eagerly anticipating the moment when the artists once again take the stage, the lights dim and the curtain rises on a brand new season.

As always, there is much to look forward to in the area of performance. If music is your passion, you'll want to be in attendance when soprano Renée Fleming performs with the NAC Orchestra. It's sure to be a night to remember. For theatre lovers, English Theatre is proud to present Eric Peterson in *Seeds* while French Theatre's presentation of Michel Tremblay's play *Albertine en cinq temps* is already being eagerly anticipated by our French-speaking audience members. Of course, we have a lot in store for dance enthusiasts too. We're especially pleased to welcome the Pennsylvania Ballet to our stage in a presentation of *Coppélia*.

As spectacular as it is, performance is only part of the picture at the NAC. As a loyal supporter your generosity also helps fund the creation of new works – inspiring new choreography, compositions and plays that Canadians will be proud to call our own for generations to come. You also support a variety of education programs, both for emerging

artists and for schoolchildren receiving their first taste of the arts we hold so dear. Our *National Youth Education Trust*, which supports a variety of education programs, is 85% funded by your donations. Please take a few minutes to read through this issue of *Full Circle* to see how your loyalty and commitment is making a difference here at the NAC, in Ottawa and across the country. Programs like *ConneXXions North*, the *Three-Minute Play Festival* and *My First NAC* would not be possible without your generosity.

I hope you enjoy the 2013-2014 season at the NAC, and I hope you know how grateful I am to you for helping to keep the performing arts in Canada ever strong.

With gratitude,



Jayne Watson



Photo by Ottawa's
Valberg Imaging

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ConneXXions North: Innovative technology connects students in Canada's North with NAC musicians in Ottawa

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"Karen is fantastic and really engages the students," says Mary. "The kids feel relaxed."

That's music to the ears of everyone at the NAC. It's proof that *ConneXXions North*, a new initiative that connects members of the NAC Orchestra with music students in Iqaluit through broadband videoconferencing, is making an impact.

"We have a mandate to support education in the performing arts," says Maurizio Ortolani, New Media Producer at the NAC. "One of the best ways the NAC can deliver on that mandate is by supporting music programs across Canada through innovative technology. *ConneXXions North* provides an opportunity for mentoring that otherwise wouldn't be possible."

ConneXXions North, which will officially begin in September, is the legacy of the NAC's "Year of the North" and the Orchestra's Northern Tour. In 2012, the Orchestra used technology to reach out to the students in advance of the Tour. They then connected in person during the Tour, which made a lasting impression on members of the Orchestra. "Our musicians were emotionally moved by the connections they made with the kids up North. The Tour was an eye-opening experience for them. They learned just as much as they taught," recalls Maurizio. "Now the musicians are jumping at the opportunity to engage with students through the *ConneXXions North* program."

Meanwhile, in Iqaluit, Mary's 45 band students from Grades 10, 11 and 12, are also jumping at the opportunity to receive mentoring from professional musicians.

"These kids don't normally have access to private instruction on their instrument," she admits. "I teach them what I can but there are certain intricacies of playing an instrument that will come from the professionals at the NAC. The program is already making a difference. After just one lesson, the positive reinforcement they received from their instructor has inspired them. At least two students have expressed an interest in going to music school."

And that's only the beginning. Mary hopes her music program – the only official high school music program in Iqaluit – will benefit from what she calls, "such attention from a prestigious institute".

"In the past all the promotion and money for travel has gone into our choir which promotes the Inuit culture and language. There hasn't been a whole lot of financial support for classical music," says Mary. "This program will hopefully change that and show students this music is important too."

It will show Canadians that in addition to honouring their culture, our students can do all kinds of things."

Maurizio couldn't agree more. He sees *ConneXXions North* as a valuable opportunity to reach out to students beyond Inuksuk High School. "As the network grows, I hope we can connect with other schools across Nunavut," he says. "We're also looking at mentoring from north to south. We would love Northern artists, such as throat singers, to connect with students in Ottawa. We want the connections to be balanced, for the mentoring to flow both ways."



Clarinet students in Iqaluit playing with Kimball Sykes, NAC Orchestra principal clarinet
Photo by Martin Jones

Of course, this vital program wouldn't be happening without the support of caring donors like you. "I'd like to say a big, big thank you to NAC supporters," says Mary. "You've given many grateful kids an opportunity that has never been possible before. Hopefully, with your generosity, *ConneXXions North* will be around for a long time to come."



Making miracles with toothpicks: A sculptor's unique and creative tribute to the NAC Orchestra

Go Sato doesn't know where the idea came from, but in 2010 he was suddenly filled with the desire to make a 62-piece orchestra, loosely based on our own NAC Orchestra, out of toothpicks.

"I've been doing this type of art since I was a boy in Japan. I like to try things nobody has tried before," says Go. "I didn't know if it was possible so I went to the store, bought 2,000 toothpicks and made a prototype. That was three years ago."

Over 3,200 hours and 12,500 toothpicks later, Go's creation is finished. He has generously donated it to the NAC. "The NAC is the most important institution in Ottawa. It's the foundation of the performing arts in Canada," says Go. "I get so much pleasure from the orchestra, ballet and opera. I'd like to give something in return. I hope my little

orchestra will educate children and attract people to the NAC."

Go's "little orchestra" was no small feat to create. "I have to see everything in my mind first because I can't measure. I have to make cuts with a tiny saw. It takes about 20 cuts to do one musician," he explains.

This isn't the first time Go has donated his unique artwork to the NAC. Six years ago, he built Canada's Parliament Buildings out of NAC ticket stubs. "I go to the NAC so often and had all these ticket stubs I didn't want to throw away," Go explains.

Go plans to take a break before starting on his next creation. "I'm thinking about the next one already," he says. "Maybe it will be a scene from a classical ballet like *Swan Lake* or an opera like *Carmen*."



Go Sato with his toothpick creation
Photo by Marnie Richardson

Whatever his next creation, Go is deeply proud that his orchestra will forever have a place at the NAC. "These projects are like my children. I put my heart and soul into them," he admits. "I'm pleased to donate them to the NAC so people in Ottawa can see my crazy artwork."

My First NAC

showcases some of Canada's most promising musicians

Soprano, Jacqueline Woodley, admits she had to step out of her comfort zone during her performance at the *My First NAC Showcase*, last May.

"As our encore, I was asked to sing a duet of *Mack the Knife* with the jazz combo. It was definitely more stressful than what we usually do but it ended up being tons of fun," Jacqueline says.

Jacqueline was one of eight young musicians featured at the third annual *My First NAC Showcase*, which places a spotlight on some of the most promising Canadian musicians who have come through NAC training and mentoring programs. In addition to performing on the NAC stage, winners also receive a financial prize.

"I was very excited to be selected" recalls Jacqueline, a participant of NAC's *Summer Music Institute* (SMI) for the last two years. "I chose to sing a Spanish set of music I'd been dying to learn."

The set included a Spanish lullaby. "I'm expecting a baby and it was a moving moment to perform this piece," Jacqueline says. "It was a wonderful feeling to sing in an intimate and supportive setting and think about how many times I'll sing this song to my own baby in the future."

Jacqueline is grateful for the opportunities the NAC, along with caring supporters like you, have given her. "Exposure is as important as education when a career is first taking off," she explains. "Having the chance to work with great musicians, either in lessons and masterclasses or on the stage is invaluable."

"I have always found the community supportive here at the NAC. It's very important and inspiring to know that individuals who love music are following your career and cheering you on."

—Jacqueline Woodley, soprano

Jacqueline Woodley, one of eight young musicians who performed at the third annual *My First NAC Showcase*
Photo by Karen E. Reeves



Putting their best face forward:

Young dancers benefit from ballet make-up and hair workshop

You could feel the concentration in the room. Ten young dancers, each with her own make-up station, watched intently as Alberta Ballet's Skye Balfour-Ducharme and Alexandra Pera demonstrated step-by-step how to apply stage make-up. Then it was their turn. By the end of the two-hour session, the lovely ladies were in full make-up, snapping pictures of each other.

"They took it very seriously," says Kirsten Andersen, Dance Outreach Coordinator at the NAC. "After all, dance is their passion. It's not just a hobby for them. This workshop taught them how to put their best face forward."

The workshop is a new initiative for NAC Dance Education and Outreach. Young artists were taken through the process of getting hair and make-up ready for a show by professional ballerinas. "It's about learning the tricks of the trade and increasing confidence as they go from studio to stage," Kirsten explains. "Hair and make-up is something you learn from watching other people so this is a huge opportunity for the participants. It gives them a sneak peek into the life of a dancer."

Young dancers learn tricks of the trade from ballerina Skye Balfour-Ducharme
Photo by Kirsten Andersen





Pinchas Zukerman conducts 'The Musical Team Canada' at the NAC Orchestra's China Tour launch event on April 15, 2013
Photo by Sophimage

Making Giving Easy: Taking stock of your support for the performing arts

Announcing the NAC Orchestra China Tour: Strengthening ties between Canada and China through music

It has been years in the making, but this October the NAC Orchestra will leave for China on a 17 day performance and education tour. And Tour Manager, Nelson McDougall, couldn't be happier.

"Classical music in China is a great bubbling of activity", shares Nelson. "Millions of young artists are studying and learning about classical music. This is an opportunity to collaborate with teachers in China and bring a different perspective to students."

In keeping with that philosophy, the *China Tour* will include a large education component, featuring over 80 educational and outreach events. "Whenever we tour there is a strong priority to go into community schools and universities and connect with students," says Nelson. "It's a great opportunity for cultural

exchange. There is a real opportunity for learning on both sides."

And, of course, there will be concerts. The 70-member NAC Orchestra will perform in eight cities including Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai, and the program will include works by Canadian composers Alexina Louie and John Estacio.

"The Tour will demonstrate how proud we are to play Canadian music," says Nelson. "Carrying Canada's flag to other parts of the world is culturally relevant. It's important to matter internationally where we can showcase that what we do in Canada is at a world-class level!"

"Your generosity makes it possible for us to showcase outstanding Canadian orchestral creation and performance here at home and across the world."

—Nelson McDougall,
Tour Manager

Every once-in-a-while, you might decide it's time to sit down with your financial advisor and reorganize your portfolio. This is a great time to see if you have securities with accumulated capital gains. It's also the ideal time to increase your support for a cause that's important to you and share your passion for the performing arts with other Canadians, now and in the future.

Here's how it works. If you choose to transfer your securities (stocks, bonds, ETFs and mutual funds) directly as a donation to a charitable organization like the NAC Foundation, you won't pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value. You will also receive a tax receipt for your donation so you save in two ways.

You can be sure your donation of securities in any amount is welcome. We have donors who have given gifts of \$1,000, \$1,500 or more. Whatever amount is right for you is deeply appreciated and has an impact on keeping the performing arts in Canada going strong.

You can also make an impact that will last well into the future through a planned gift. When you make a bequest of securities to the NAC the same advantages apply. Simply instruct your executor to donate securities directly, as opposed to selling them first. This will result in greater tax savings, which means more money will be available to distribute to your heirs and to the charitable causes you support.

When you donate a gift of securities with accumulated capital gains directly to the NAC Foundation everybody wins. For more information, please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000 ext. 314.

Donor Profile:

Linda Wood

Linda Wood
Photo by © Luther Caverly



It's Christmas Day in Linda Wood's childhood home in New Brunswick. She and her two sisters take their places, ready to put on a performance for their family. "I'd play the piano and we would sing Christmas songs," Linda recalls. "The performing arts have always been part of my life."

These days Linda prefers to be behind-the-scenes or in the audience rather than on stage. She's been a loyal volunteer with the *Friends of English Theatre* at the NAC since it came into being 11 years ago. "Our mandate is to support English Theatre. We do modest fundraising, help out at special events like Family Day and organize theatre trips. It's also a forum for theatre lovers to get together," Linda explains. "We're like a family. We feel like we're a part of things and have a role to play."

Linda plays another important role at the NAC, one she shares with you. "I'm a huge fan of the NAC and have chosen to support them financially," she says. "The NAC relies on the generosity of donors so Canadians can continue to see top quality productions. I want to make sure that's sustainable."

Generous with both her time and financial resources, Linda encourages other arts enthusiasts to give what they can. "All gifts matter. Any amount is welcomed," she says. "As a volunteer, I know how much the arts cost. What you pay at the box office doesn't begin to cover it. I give because I love the performing arts so much and want to help ensure the power of music, theatre and dance can be experienced by future generations. This is what is close to my heart."

Students develop a three-minute play and the skills to last a lifetime

The little girl was shy at first. She had recently arrived from China and didn't speak much English. She wasn't sure what the *Three-Minute Play Festival* was all about or how she could contribute. "She was part of a group but she would just disappear," admits Kristina Watt, artist/educator.

As the weeks passed, Kristina witnessed a remarkable transformation in the little girl. She began drawing her ideas on paper which her fellow playwrights would then put into words. "Suddenly, she was engaged and involved with the group," says Kristina.



The joy of self-expression, creation and collaboration is what the *Three-Minute Play Festival* is all about. Once a week for five weeks, Kristina visited two schools in the Ottawa area. She divided the Grades 4 and 5 students into groups and took them through the process of developing a short play.

"On Family Day, the three-minute scripts were delivered to the NAC where the public was invited to do a stage-reading of them as part of the activities offered," explains Judi Pearl, Lead Producer for Family Day at the NAC. "We hung the students' pictures and bios on the wall and the kids got the sense they were real playwrights. They were so proud of what they'd created."

Judi hopes the program will expand in the future. "We want to make an impact in the classroom and help more students realize their creative potential," she says. "The *Three-Minute Play Festival* really focuses on giving kids the chance to see themselves in a new light while it fosters collaboration, shared values and a sense of community."

Both Kristina and Judi realize it is the generous support of donors like you that help make this valuable program possible. Judi adds "Thank you for believing in the potential of children and for giving them the opportunity to realize that potential."

Students at Connaught Public School working on their script as part of English Theatre's *Three-Minute Play Festival*
Photo by Michelle Richardson

Five Minutes with Michael van der Sloom

A Q&A with promising cellist, composer and Summer Music Institute participant

Originally from Medicine Hat, AB, Michael van der Sloom will pursue his Master's Degree in Cello Performance at Northwestern University. The 22-year-old cellist will study with renowned teacher and member of the Summer Music Institute (SMI) faculty, Hans Jorgen Jensen, who he worked with at the SMI. Michael took a few moments to talk to us about his passion for the cello and his experience at the SMI.

Q: How and when did you get interested in the cello?

A: I come from a family of violinists. Both my parents as well as my sister play the violin. I started on the piano but I really love

the string instruments. Since there are so many violinists in my family, I thought I'd be rebellious and choose the cello like my brother, Paul.

Q: How has the SMI helped you develop as a young artist?

A: The main thing is the opportunity to work with Hans. The chance to work with him at the SMI helped me get into his studio this fall. When a teacher works with you and sees how you grow as a player, it really helps.

Q: Why are programs like SMI so important to young artists?

A: Every aspiring, young Canadian musician should apply to the SMI. To get the calibre of training we receive and the amount of training in a short period of time is invaluable.

Michael van der Sloom
Photo submitted



Q: What would you like to say to NAC supporters who help make programs like the SMI possible?

A: I want to thank you for your financial and artistic support. It's so important for musicians to know people are interested in what we're doing. Music can't exist in a vacuum. It wouldn't be nearly as rewarding.

Calendar of Events

A special thank you to our Open Rehearsal and Preview sponsor,
Rob Marland, Royal LePage Performance Realty.

DATE AND TIME	EVENT/ SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
October 17, 2013 6:45 pm	Donor Preview – English Theatre: <i>Tartuffe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
November 6, 2013 6:45 pm	Donor Preview – French Theatre: <i>Cendrillon</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
November 20, 2013 9:15 am	Donor Open Rehearsal – NAC Orchestra: <i>Barber's Violin Concerto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
November 28, 2013	Corporate Club Reception: <i>Mozart and Shostakovich</i>	✓							
January 30, 2014 1:15 pm	Donor Open Rehearsal – Dance: National Ballet of Canada, <i>Swan Lake</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

For further information or to register for any of the events above, please contact:

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