

FALL 2010

Full Circle



Share the Spirit: Bringing the magic of performance to deserving families

The day began with another trip to the hospital. Twelve-year-old Sophie and her 10-year-old sister, Nicole, spent the morning at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Both girls have a rare blood disorder that needs constant monitoring.

But on this particular day, there was a feeling of excitement in the air. The family had a very special evening planned, courtesy of the NAC's *Share the Spirit* program and caring friends like you.

"We were going downtown to see A Leahy Family Christmas at the NAC. The girls had new outfits for the occasion. They were so excited," recalls their mother, Janice. "This was their first visit to the NAC. It's hard to plan ahead and spend money on tickets when we never know when we'll have to cancel."

This time the family didn't have to worry about the cost – the tickets were free. With the help of generous support from donors like you and our nine community partners, including the CHEO Foundation, the NAC proudly opened its doors last year to create an unforgettable holiday experience for those who might not otherwise be able to witness its world-class performances. Hundreds of children and families were invited free of charge to open rehearsals and performances of holiday classics.

"We were able to make the NAC more accessible to those who wouldn't otherwise have this opportunity," explains Shelley Levoy, Associate Development Officer for the NAC. "For many, this was their first chance to experience the performing arts."

Vaia Dimas, Community Development Coordinator for the CHEO Foundation, remembers the day the tickets arrived in her office. "Our Child Life team passed them out to families who would really benefit from a night out. They were super excited. The tickets were gone in minutes. Every family made it to be the show. They appreciated this so much and made every effort to get there."

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2009 *Share the Spirit* ticket recipients Sophie and Nicole Pilgrim, seen here with their parents and the Leahy sisters, were thrilled to go backstage at the NAC and meet their idols after attending A Leahy Family Christmas concert. *Photo submitted*



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message

from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

*As the fall season
unfolds, I can't help but
feel inspired by all of the
changes going on around us.
Fresh from summer's lazy days,
this busy and beautiful time of year
brings with it nature's awe-inspiring display of
colours and the rush of back-to-school shopping.*



Photo by Michel Dozois

For me, this year has also brought a new significance to school preparation with my eldest daughter packing to go away to university. It's far from an empty nest at our house with our youngest still quite involved in all of her high school activities, but my husband and I are experiencing an odd mixture of pride, excitement and sadness. In any case, we've sent off our eldest with all of our love and support and we know she'll be inspired by all the changes and challenges coming her way.

This time of year also brings about change and renewal here at the NAC and I'm pleased to welcome you to our new performance season. Thanks to your valued support, we're celebrating the NAC's role as a vibrant hub of performance, creation and learning, and kicking off a year full of exciting new programming.

This season's incredible line-up is full of must-see performances that you shouldn't miss! From the eagerly anticipated Mariinsky (Kirov) Ballet to a classical favourite as Pinchas Zukerman conducts Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 "Ode to Joy," I'm sure you'll find many unforgettable experiences.

This issue of *Full Circle* is also a celebration of how your loyalty and generosity to the NAC are making a difference. Thanks to the vital funding you provide for our NAC productions and our important educational activities, we have much to celebrate as this new season gets underway.

The inspirational stories in these pages demonstrate the true impact of your gifts, from our successful *Share the Spirit* campaign, which touched the lives of so many young people, to our dedicated Music Alive Program teaching musicians who visit thousands of students in rural schools across Alberta and Saskatchewan.

I hope you'll take a few moments to look through this issue and learn more about the children, families and artists we are reaching through the magic of the performing arts. Together, we're building a bright future and helping to change lives.



Jayne Watson
CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation

NAC Foundation

Jayne Watson
CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation

Jane Moore
Chief Advancement Officer

Annual Giving Staff 613-947-7000

ext. 315—Donors' Circle
ext. 218—Corporate Club
annalfund@nac-cna.ca

Barry M. Bloom, CFRE
Senior Development Officer,
Annual and Planned Gifts

Julie Byczynski
Manager,
Major Gifts and Corporate Sponsorship

Maxim Antoshin
Development Officer,
Major Gifts and Corporate Sponsorship

Katie Lauzon
Development Officer,
Major Gifts and Corporate Sponsorship

Catini St. Pierre
Coordinator,
Annual Fund



TOP: Vaia Dimas (far right) enjoyed the *Share the Spirit* launch last year with representatives with our other community partners, NAC staff and Honorary Chair Max Keeping. LEFT: The Pilgrim girls could barely contain their excitement about the Leahy concert, which their mom described as “a bright spot in their lives.”
Group photo by Mike Pinder. Backstage photo submitted.



“Our kids have been going to CHEO for years. That’s our life right now. So, when we get an opportunity like this, it’s everything. It’s one of those happy things that happen.”

—Janice Pilgrim, mother of Sophie and Nicole

Share the Spirit:

continued from page 1

Dressed in their finest, Sophie and Nicole soaked in every moment of the performance, with Sophie providing commentary on some of the dance steps. Both girls had taken step-dancing classes and were delighted to watch the Leahy sisters work their magic on stage. But that was only part of the special evening we had arranged for these girls. Imagine their joy when they were taken backstage and got to meet the Leahy family in person. “They were so excited, we couldn’t contain them,” laughs Shelley. “There they were, two sweet little girls, doing dance steps in the hallway.”

During last year’s holiday season, there were so many heartwarming moments like this one. Vaia recalls the child in a wheelchair who got

to go behind-the-scenes, see the costumes and sets and actually be on stage. “He and his family were enamoured with absolutely everything,” she says.

And Shelley remembers when she brought tickets to the staff at the Ottawa Food Bank. “One volunteer told me, ‘I have the best job in the world today. I get to call people and tell them they’re going to the NAC.’”

Share the Spirit touched so many hearts in 2009 that we’re doing it again this holiday season. “Everyone is on board,” says Shelley. “This year, there will be more tickets for more organizations. We’re adding a French Theatre show and a concert in the TD Family Adventures series with the NAC Orchestra to our list of performances. We really want to grow this program. There are so many people in the Ottawa area who need this opportunity.”

Janice couldn’t agree more. She and her entire family are very grateful to everyone who gave her little girls a night to remember, especially our NAC supporters. “Thank you,” she says. “Your generosity gave us such an enjoyable evening. It was a bright spot in the girls’ lives.”

“I hope everyone who supports the program understands what it means to the people who participate,” says Shelley. “With your support you enrich lives. You brighten the holiday season for hundreds of families and kids.”

For more information about Share the Spirit, including a complete list of this year’s community partners, sponsors and performances, contact Shelley Levoy at slevoy@nac-cna.ca or visit our website at www.nac-cna.ca/foundation.

Come Visit 'Oscar's Corner': *Honouring a jazz giant*



NAC President and CEO Peter Herrndorf joined Queen Elizabeth and visual artist Ruth Abernethy as the sculpture was unveiled on June 30, 2010.
Photo by Trevor Lush



Have you ever wanted to sit next to a legend? Thanks to an outpouring of support from people across Canada, the United States and England, you now have that chance at the NAC with the addition of a commemorative sculpture featuring Canadian piano virtuoso Oscar Peterson.

Commissioned by the Oscar Peterson National Committee, this completely donor-funded memorial was created by renowned Canadian visual artist, Ruth Abernethy, and unveiled by Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Ottawa this summer.

"Members of the Oscar Peterson National Committee wish to thank all of the people, organizations and businesses who have supported this wonderful project," says Peter A. Herrndorf, President and CEO of the NAC. "The success of the fundraising is a testament to Oscar's brilliance as a musician and his tremendous achievement as a Canadian."



The Montreal Jubilation Gospel Choir performed Oscar Peterson's "Hymn to Freedom" along with jazz pianist Oliver Jones during the unveiling ceremony.
Photo by Kevin Bhookun



Queen Elizabeth greeted many of the children who waited in the crowd with flowers and flags.
Photo by Kevin Bhookun

Open Rehearsal and Previews

Enclosed with your newsletter, you will find your new calendar of events for the Rob Marland, Royal LePage Performance Realty Open Rehearsal and Previews available this fall to Donors' Circle members. We hope you find the events exciting and mail your response right away. You will receive a notification from us approximately two to three weeks prior to the event in order to confirm your registration and provide more details.

Many of these events fill up quickly. Should you be placed on a waiting list for an event we will notify you as soon as possible. If you are unable to attend an event you have registered for, please contact our office as soon as possible. Someone may be waiting to take your spot!

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events this fall! For more information about the Open Rehearsals and Previews, please call the Donors' Circle Office at 613-947-7000 ext. 315.

Making Music Come Alive Out West

Music Alive Program Teaching Musician Samantha Whelan Kotkas captivates her young audience.
Photo by Fred Cattroll



All it takes is one question and Samantha Whelan Kotkas knows she's made an important connection. As a teaching musician for the NAC's Music Alive Program (MAP), Samantha has been introducing students in rural schools across Alberta and Saskatchewan to the joy of live music for the past three years.

After her presentation this year at Crowfoot School in Siksika Nation, Alberta, a number of students approached her with questions, eager to learn more about the music.

"This was the first time at this school I have felt the barrier between me and the students was broken," says Samantha. "It was the third time I visited and the first time I felt that I have made a real connection with the students. They are looking forward to my visit next year."

Samantha is a part of a group of teaching musicians who visited 114 schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan in 2009-2010 and reached more than 9,400 students. Thanks to your support, MAP's educators are delivering comprehensive music tools,

supporting teachers with supplemental materials and sharing the love of the performing arts with Canadian children.

"[She] related this remote person, Beethoven, to students' lives," says Heather Colburn, a teacher at Senator Buchanan School in Lethbridge, Alberta. "They were astounded that he is already so much a part of their lives."



Students try out instruments, many for the first time.
Photo by Fred Cattroll

Victoria McNeill
Photo submitted



Virtual Success:

Broadband technology makes a difference

Victoria McNeill did the seemingly impossible for a recent job interview – she was able to be in three places at the same time. The Newfoundland native was in Ottawa as a participant of the NAC's Summer Music Institute (SMI), but she had also landed an audition at the same time for the position of associate principal horn with the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra.

Thanks to the power of broadband video-conferencing, Victoria was able to perform in the NAC's Hexagon Studio as both the interviewers in St. John's and her teacher in Montreal watched live on screen. And not only did the 24-year-old land the job, but she also reached new levels as an artist.

"The facilities made it possible for me to move ahead with my career as a musician," she says. "To musicians, this type of technology offers endless possibilities for education, auditions, even collaborative work and offers a new way to make music on an international scale."

The Next Generation Takes Centre Stage: National Theatre School students to star in *Romeo & Juliet*

Instead of participating in *The Ark* at the NAC, as these National Theatre School students did last year, members of this year's graduating class will appear in Peter Hinton's production of *Romeo & Juliet* this October.
Photo: NAC Files



The young actors may experience a few butterflies in their stomachs, but that's to be expected. After all, it's not every day that they get the chance to perform in front of a live audience on the national stage. But they'll be ready. Peter Hinton, Artistic Director of the NAC's English Theatre department, has prepared them well.

In celebration of the National Theatre School's (NTS) 50th Anniversary, members of the 2011 English Theatre graduating class have been invited to open the NAC's English Theatre season alongside our English Theatre Company in Peter's production of *Romeo & Juliet*.

"Every show with Peter is very rich in its visual interpretation," says Nancy Webster, Managing Director of English Theatre at the NAC. "It's extraordinary what he can do with a large group of actors on one stage. He's able to bring out the best in his actors."

Simon Brault, Chief Executive Officer of the NTS, agrees and says this is an incredible opportunity for this group of up-and-coming actors who still have a full year of training to complete

"When you combine youthful energy with the wisdom of our elders, that's a really winning combination."

—Nancy Webster, Managing Director of English Theatre

before stepping out as professionals. "Our students see this as an exciting chance and a huge challenge. Peter is a major force in English Theatre and can open doors for them."

In the performance, the students will play the younger roles, including the characters of *Romeo and Juliet*, while the NAC's English Theatre Company will portray the older characters. "The interaction between the generations will be intense and rewarding from the audience perspective," promises Simon. "We have the energy of our youth who are fresh and very physical, sharing this experience with the Company."

The relationship between the NAC and the NTS goes back many years. Since 2006, the two organizations have partnered on *The Ark*, which brings together student and professional actors to explore an aspect of our theatre history that culminates in an evening of readings and songs.

"*The Ark*, along with this production of *Romeo & Juliet*, is a reflection of the truly national mandate we try to achieve. We want to be representative of the acting community from across the country," explains Nancy. "Another main focus is on education both for the students and our own professionals. With this show, we have access to a team of coaches and other experts from the NTS, providing our actors with high-level professional development."

Of course, none of it would be possible without the generosity of caring donors like you. "Your continued support made it possible to reinstate our English Theatre Company," says Nancy. "Your on-going commitment will help us build on that and develop the next generation of actors."

Romeo & Juliet will run from October 19-November 6, 2010 in the NAC Theatre.



Donor Profile:

David and Josie Finestone

'Monthly giving makes it easy to give a little bit more'

Photo submitted



Like every member of the NAC Orchestra, David Finestone treats his instruments with the utmost care. He cleans and checks them regularly and makes sure everything is in pristine condition before going on tour.

But David isn't a musician – although he loves classical music. As a physician, he works with instruments of a different kind. Since 1995, David has been traveling with NACO, looking after their medical needs. "It's a labour of love," he says. "It's fun to be behind-the-scenes and see all the hard work the Orchestra does performing concerts and especially the teaching. The amount of time and energy they put in is incredible."

Josie, his wife, also joined him on his very first tour with NACO and found it to be a memorable experience. "I asked if there was anything I could do. I wanted to help in any way I could," she recalls.

Josie immediately got involved with Friends of NACO, a volunteer organization that helps to promote the Orchestra. "We do everything from selling CDs to building relationships with the diplomatic community to raising funds for education," explains Josie, who has been President of the Friends for the past seven years. "Wherever NACO steps in that's where our role is."

It's that same dedication to music that inspired the Finestones to become monthly supporters. "The beauty of monthly giving is it's painless," says David. "When your contributions come out in 12 monthly payments, you don't notice it. It feels like it doesn't cost you anything to make a difference."

The Finestones have been long-time supporters of the NAC Foundation and joined our Monthly Giving Program as soon as it became an option. "The NAC can't operate without the support of donors," says Josie. "It's vital for us to contribute to the running of Canada's National Arts Centre."

Josie and David are also impressed with the convenience of making automatic donations each month. "The Foundation makes it very easy. We don't have to do anything. With so many benefits, it's natural for us to continue our involvement this way," says David.

Their very special relationship with the NAC will also continue in other ways – as physician and 'Friend.' And, of course, they'll be in the audience when their beloved orchestra performs. "When the Orchestra tunes up and plays the National Anthem, we still get shivers," says David. "Our love and passion will always stay strong."

Ask the Expert: Our Monthly Giving Program

Your support for the NAC tells us how much you love the arts. We're deeply grateful you've chosen to share your passion and help shape the performing arts in Canada. And today, you have an opportunity to take your commitment one step further by becoming a monthly supporter.

Monthly giving is convenient and affordable. Each month, you make a modest donation in the amount of your choice to the NAC Foundation through your chequing account or credit card. There are no cheques to write or forms to fill out every year – monthly giving happens automatically.

Monthly giving makes supporting the performing arts you love more manageable. Because you give 12 times a year, it doesn't feel like a lot. But those gifts really add up. When you receive your tax receipt in February for the total sum of your donations, you'll realize just how much you've contributed.

Monthly giving helps reduce the cost of fundraising. This means more of your gifts can go directly to supporting vital NAC programs. Plus your monthly support provides the Foundation with a steady, dependable stream of revenue, helping us plan throughout the year.

Please consider monthly giving today. You'll continue to enjoy all the privileges which come with membership. And you can change, increase or even cancel your support at any time by calling the Foundation Office. For more information on how you can make a difference every day, contact Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000 ext. 314.



Five Minutes with Jessica Linnebach:

A Q&A with NACO's new Associate Concertmaster

Jessica Linnebach
Photo by Fred Cattroll

Jessica Linnebach was just seven years old when she performed as a soloist with the NAC Orchestra (NACO) in 1990. Later, she joined the Orchestra on a tour

of Europe and the Middle East and participated in the NAC's Young Artist Program before earning a place in NACO's first violin section. Currently on tour in South America with the Zukerman Chamber Players, Jessica took a few minutes to chat with us about her career and world travels.

Q: When and how did you get interested in the violin?

A: My father is a pianist so, of course, he wanted me to play the piano. However, when I was two years old, I remember hearing a violinist play a concert and knew right away that was what I wanted to play.

Q: Tell us about your solo debut. What was it like standing on the national stage at age seven?

A: I still remember the feeling I had while playing the Bruch Violin Concerto with the NAC. I was so excited to play, and loved all the sound coming from around me. I knew immediately I was going to be a musician.

Q: What were your first thoughts upon learning you'd been named NACO's Associate Concertmaster?

A: I was just ecstatic. I feel like I have grown up with this orchestra... I have known most of the members since I was seven! I feel like it was meant to be for me to play in NACO and can't imagine making music with a more wonderful group of musicians. It is really such an honour!

Q: How has the NAC played a role in your development as a violinist?

A: The NAC has helped me build and nurture my career in so many ways over the past 20 years. I have learned so much because I was exposed to all different aspects of music making, from soloist, to chamber musician, to orchestral player. These are all invaluable skills and I am grateful to the NAC for making it possible for me to experience them all.

Q: Since you get to travel around the world, which place is your favourite and why?

A: A truly memorable trip for me was when we traveled to Petra, Jordan to play a concert outside in Little Petra. There was something unbelievably spiritual and "un-real" about it. After that, my sister, Nadja, and I travelled throughout Lebanon and Syria. The food, culture, architecture and customs... it was a trip I will always remember.

Q: What would you like to say to NAC donors who share your passion for the performing arts and help to provide opportunities for young artists?

A: I can't even begin to thank you enough for all your kindness and support. Without your dedication and love for the arts, it would be impossible for young artists to pursue their dreams and make music. Music is an art we can all share together and communicate with each other. It is invaluable! Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

Calendar of Events

DATE AND TIME	EVENT/ SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
October 21, 2010 1:15 p.m.	Donor Open Rehearsal— Dance: <i>Mixed Repertoire</i> , National Ballet of Canada		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
October 21, 2010 6:45 p.m.	Donor Preview— English Theatre: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
November 18, 2010 9:15 a.m.	Donor Open Rehearsal— NACO: <i>Stravinsky's Firebird</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
November 23, 2010 6:45 p.m.	Donor Preview— French Theatre: <i>Le Fusil de chasse</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
December 9, 2010 6:30 p.m.	Corporate Club Reception: <i>Music of Motown</i>	✓							
January 13, 2011 6:45 p.m.	Donor Preview— English Theatre: <i>The Year of Magical Thinking</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
January 20, 2011 9:15 a.m.	Donor Open Rehearsal— NACO: Dvořák's "New World"		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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

National Arts Centre Foundation

53 Elgin Street, P.O. Box 1534, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1P 5W1

www.nac-cna.ca/donors • donorscircle@nac-cna.ca • 613-947-7000, ext. 315

