

SPRING 2010

Full Circle



Summer Music Institute: A stepping stone to success

Summer is just around the corner and for students across Canada and around the world that means a break from their studies. Unless, of course, they've been accepted into the prestigious Summer Music Institute (SMI) at the National Arts Centre, then their learning and development is about to enter a whole new level of intensity.

"The SMI is a fantastic experience," says Jan Lisiecki, a young pianist from Calgary, Alberta and 2009 participant of the SMI's Junior Strings Program. "I learned a lot about myself as a musician. I was able to see how other people practice, perform and rehearse and how some of them can be great colleagues."

Like many of the talented young artists at the SMI, Jan has since enjoyed his first taste of success as he stands at the brink of what will surely be a brilliant career. In January, the 15-year-old won the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal Standard Life Grand Prize and to date, he has shared the stage with Yo-Yo Ma, Pinchas Zukerman, James Ehnes and Emanuel Ax. "I've seen so many students come through the SMI and launch really strong careers," says Christy Harris, Manager of the Summer Music Institute. "It's an exceptional training program, drawing some of the world's best and helping them to develop and grow."

Speaking of growth, it's hard to believe the SMI began 11 years ago with just 10 students, studying for five days. "Last summer we had 88 students from Canada and around the world, coming together for 3.5 weeks," says Christy. "Over the years, we've added a Pre-College Division (formerly known as Juniors Strings), a Conductors Program and a Composers Program. We know education is the key to generating interest in the younger generations to perform classical music and so we work to keep evolving, to make the SMI better each year."

For Yaniv Dinur, the SMI and the many benefits it holds for young artists can't get much better than it already is. Four years ago, the 28-year-old Israeli-born conductor entered the program and was given the opportunity to work with Kenneth Kiesler, Director of the Conductors Program at the SMI.

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Summer Music Institute students receive one-on-one training from the NAC's elite staff, including Maestro Pinchas Zukerman (below), who founded the program in 1999.
Photo by Fred Catroll



message

from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

As a young girl growing up in Lachute, Quebec, I loved the performing arts. Whether I was engrossed in a new piece for the piano, off to church for choir practice or stepping into the spotlight during my high school's latest Broadway production, the arts inspired me to dream big.

Little did I know at the time that my passion for the arts would literally shape my future. When I came to work at the National Arts Centre nine years ago, I quickly realized how much this place means to people.

Over the past 40 years, countless audiences have been moved by the thousands of magical performances on our stages. And thanks to your generous support, the Centre has grown into a vibrant hub of performance, creation and learning.

As we come to the close of our 40th anniversary season, we've been especially grateful for your dedication. On behalf of Gail O'Brien, the Chair of the NAC Foundation Board, and everyone on our team, thank you for your generosity. It represents a solid investment in shaping the future of Canada's performing arts and we're proud to be the trustees of your donations. As we look back over this past year, it was filled with so many memorable moments on stage—from the bubbly *Drowsy Chaperone* and the rousing Mariinsky Orchestra to the surprise appearance of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who received "a little help from his friends" during the NAC Gala.

We were also very pleased with the overwhelming response we received to our new *Share the Spirit* campaign. Thanks to your generous support, we were able to inspire hundreds of deserving children and their families with the magic of live performance during the holiday season.

As the CEO of the NAC Foundation, I also get to see the real impact your support makes each day. Thanks to our wide range of educational programming, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of artists, students and teachers here in Ottawa and across the country.

As you'll read in this issue of *Full Circle*, your support continues to provide unique opportunities in the performing arts. From the incredible success stories of our Summer Music Institute alumni to motivational workshops and awards in music, dance and theatre, I'm sure you'll be proud to hear how we're changing lives together and inspiring others to dream big!



Jayne Watson
CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation

NAC Foundation

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Summer Music Institute: A stepping stone to success

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“After the summer, I followed Ken to the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance where he teaches,” says Yaniv. “The program literally changed my life because it gave me the opportunity to keep studying with Ken.”

Now in the third year of his doctoral program at the university, Yaniv recently won a special prize in the fourth Eduardo Mata Conducting Competition, held in Mexico City. “That was really exciting,” he says, crediting the Conductors Program at the SMI for playing a role in his success.

“Watching Pinchas Zukerman work with the students is so inspiring. Suddenly you realize what’s possible and what you can aspire to.”

There’s no doubt the SMI fills a need for promising artists across Canada and around the world. “It’s a gift for young performers,” agrees 28-year-old Joyce El-Khoury, who grew up in Ottawa and participated in the vocalist component in 2007. “The SMI bridges



Yaniv Dinur in action during an SMI concert.
Photo by Fred Catroll



Jan Lisiecki thanks donors at the 2009 Round of Applause.
Photo by Mike Pinder

the gap between studies and a career. I came from a background of performing in a student setting. In the summer, I was able to apply what I learned among professionals. The SMI gave me the opportunity to use all my tools and collaborate with the best of the best. It was a huge stepping stone for me on the road to a fulfilling career in music.”

That road to success has recently led Joyce to the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, where she is a member of the Young Artist Development Program. This season, the promising young soprano made her debut at the Met Opera house with roles in *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Suor Angelica* and *Simon Boccanegra*. “I know I

wouldn’t be a young artist at the Met today without the SMI and its supporters,” says Joyce. “Without you, this important stepping stone wouldn’t exist. You’re giving people the chance to live their dream.”

Public Events for the 2010 Summer Music Institute June 17–29

Young Artists Chamber Concerts

June 17 and 22 – 12 p.m., Canadian Museum of Civilization

Presented in collaboration with the Canadian Museum of Civilization, free with museum admission

Young Artists Program Masterclasses

Noon-time concerts:

June 12, 18 and 24 – 12 p.m., Freiman Hall, Pérez Music Building, University of Ottawa

Tickets: Free

Evening concerts:

June 19, 21, and 22 – 7:30 p.m., Freiman Hall, Pérez Music Building, University of Ottawa

Tickets: \$5 each

Friends of NAC Orchestra Membership Drive/Young Artist Program Appreciation Concert

June 20 – 6:30 p.m., Tabaret Hall, University of Ottawa

Tickets: \$10 non-members, \$4 students, free for Friends of NACO and new members

Young Artist Program Chamber Music Concerts

June 23, 24 and 26 – 7 p.m., Tabaret Hall, University of Ottawa

Tickets: \$10 per concert /\$15 for two concerts /\$21 for three

Composers Future Classics Concert

June 28 – 7:30 p.m., NAC Theatre

Tickets: \$15

National Arts Centre Conductors Program Concert

June 29 – 7:30 p.m., NAC Southam Hall

Free tickets may be picked up in person at the NAC Box Office

Tickets available at the NAC Box Office, Ticketmaster or at the door. For a full listing of SMI Public Events, go to www.nac-cna.ca

To read about Laurent Côté, another SMI success story who uses his musical talents to raise money for orphanages in Cambodia, turn to page 6.

Teaching the Teacher : Rave reviews for English Theatre's Professional Development Workshops

Carol-Ann Maskrey is exhilarated as she scribbles furiously in her notebook, pausing only to stretch her cramped fingers. By the end of the day, she's taken 26 pages of notes and her brain is buzzing with new knowledge, but Carol-Ann isn't your average student.

She's an ESL teacher at a French language high school in Aylmer, Quebec looking for new, exciting ways to bring the performing arts to her own students. This past January, Carol-Ann was one of 20 teachers to participate in the NAC's Shakespeare Professional Development Workshop, taught by English Theatre Artistic Director Peter Hinton.

"I needed a refresher on how to help my students appreciate Shakespeare and his genius," Carol-Ann explains. "Peter Hinton showed us how to bring *The Comedy of Errors* to life for the kids and gave us lots of great tips and strategies we can use in the classroom. I'll definitely be attending more workshops in the future."

Carol-Ann won't be the only one. The NAC's Shakespeare workshop consistently sells out and enrolment for our Aboriginal workshop, offered in the fall, is expected to increase. There's no question that this opportunity for professional development in theatre is meeting a real and growing need in our schools.

"The workshops allow teachers to feel more confident teaching drama—a subject they may not be that familiar with," says Martina Kuska, Education and Outreach Coordinator at the NAC. "Sadly, the arts are facing some of the biggest cuts in schools today. There used to be a drama specialist in every school, but now



Peter Hinton,
the NAC's Artistic
Director of English Theatre.
Photo by Andree Lanthier

classroom teachers are teaching it. With no significant training, this can be quite a challenge."

Carol-Ann agrees. "The arts are always on the chopping block at our school and we're always fighting to save them. Students need and deserve to be exposed to the live theatre experience."

In April, Carol-Ann brought her students — all 180 of them—to a student matinee performance of *The Comedy of Errors*. Prior to the big event, she used information and strategies from the workshop to fire up the kids and get them excited about the experience they were about to have.

With your support for the NAC, you help us offer such inspiring workshops for teachers and help ensure our young people have an experience they'll never forget.

"In an era that's all about the 10-second sound bite, it's rare for young people to attend live performance," admits Martina. "I often hear students after a performance say, 'Wow, I've never seen anything like that before.' Thank you for your continuous support and for helping us bring the arts to thousands of students each year."



Local teacher Carol-Ann Maskrey brought her students to see Peter Hinton's modern vision of William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* (cast members seen here) after attending an English Theatre's Professional Development Workshop at the NAC.
Photos by Yanick MacDonald

The NAC Award:

Ensuring Canadian repertoire takes centre stage

It was an announcement that will forever change the lives of three prominent Canadian contemporary composers.

Late last year, John Estacio, Peter Paul Koprowski and Ana Sokolovic were each selected to receive the prestigious NAC Award—an honour that includes a series of commissions and residencies valued at \$75,000.

“The NAC Award gives each of these composers the opportunity to think big and create works of lasting importance that can have an impact nationally and internationally,” says Christopher Deacon, Managing Director of the NAC Orchestra.

Creating a catalogue of Canadian music that may very well live forever is truly what the award is all about. Each composer will be commissioned to create three new music works for the NAC Orchestra over the next five years. “This is a long-term project and that’s exciting,” admits Ana. “When we work with orchestras we are often limited for time. Having this longer relationship will allow me to try some new things.”

The NAC has a proud history for developing and showcasing Canada’s composers. With the support of

our loyal donors, the NACO has commissioned 82 Canadian works, all of which have been performed in hundreds of concerts at the NAC, across Canada and around the world.

In addition to creating new work for the Orchestra and its ensembles, the three talented artists will also teach students during the NAC’s Summer Music Institute. “The composers will add their voices to the excellent faculty we’ve built for training young artists,” says Pinchas Zukerman, Music Director of the NACO. “This program continues to reinforce the Orchestra’s commitment to creation, performance and learning.”



From top, clockwise: Peter Paul Koprowski, John Estacio and Ana Sokolovic.
NAC File Photos

“This award is about new possibilities, new directions and exciting challenges.”

—John Estacio, composer and winner of the NAC Award

Lessons From a Legend: A dance masterclass opens minds

Christopher House is far more than a dancer and choreographer. He is a dance visionary, but he is one without airs. Case in point: When Christopher, the Artistic Director of Toronto Dance Theatre, sat down recently with dance students from three Ottawa high schools at the NAC, the discussion was open, dynamic and fascinating.

The chat was reminiscent of old friends exchanging ideas. The students had had the opportunity to view Christopher’s work *Dis/(sol/ve)r*, and he was just as eager to hear their interpretations of his work as he was to share his creative vision.

“Now more than ever, I feel it’s important for young people to have an experience of ‘live’ performance—one that they make a

commitment to when they sit in their seats in the audience,” said Christopher.

Bringing young audiences and dance professionals together is part of the NAC’s Youth and Education program. On this occasion, Toronto Dance Theatre’s creative team also got in on the fun by offering master classes to groups of 20 to 40 students following the open discussions with Christopher.

Students took to the NAC’s Theatre stage with Rehearsal Director Rosemary James and Dancer Pulga Muchochoma, and they held nothing back. These young dancers brought every bit of youthful energy and training to the class just to keep pace. Combinations were



introduced in rapid succession and students got a real taste of a professional class.

Renata Soutter, the NAC’s Dance Outreach Coordinator, says that she hopes they’ll be able to create more opportunities like this one. “Our first ‘Dance Morning at the NAC’ was an exhilarating day of learning on stage, behind the scenes and directly from one of our finest Canadian choreographers,” she says. “It’s not every day that young people in Ottawa have a chance to be inspired by the calibre of artistry we have at the NAC.”

Five Minutes with Laurent Côté:



Laurent Côté
NAC File Photo

A Q&A with a proud SMI alumnus and award-winning humanitarian

Last November, past NAC Summer Music Institute (SMI) participant Laurent Côté received the Ottawa Association of Fundraising Professionals Outstanding Youth Award for his works with Kids Helping Kids—a charity he founded at age 13 to support orphaned children in Cambodia. We caught up with the busy 17-year-old and asked about his experiences at the SMI, his passion for music and why he's devoted to making a difference.

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

A: I was only four years old so the decision was made by my parents. They encouraged me to keep going until I reached an age when I learned to appreciate it for myself.

Q: Who is your biggest musical influence?

A: Pinchas Zukerman is a bit of a God-like figure in Ottawa and rightly so. He produces fantastic, amazing music on the violin, which is especially relevant to me. Living in Ottawa, I am very fortunate to listen to him so often.

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

A: The NAC is the heart of the classical music scene in Ottawa. It offers incredible opportunities like the SMI which encourages us to keep working and gives us a taste of what life is like as a professional musician. I spend a year working on my music, then I am able to come to the SMI and really fly.

Q: How does the NAC/SMI help “fill the gap” and give you an education and experiences you may not otherwise have?

A: The SMI is one of the most exciting periods of the year for me. The improvement I can make in two and a half weeks is not offered to many students in other places in the world. Without the NAC, I don't know where I'd be. I owe a huge amount of my violin education to the NAC.

Q: Where did you get the idea for Kids Helping Kids?

A: My aunt works for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). She came back from a mission in Cambodia and told me about two orphanages, doing great work. I thought, “What can we do in Ottawa to help?”

Q: Can you briefly describe the charity and why it's so important to you?

A: Peaceful Children's Homes care for about 160 orphans. These kids participate in tasks and are given adult responsibilities at a very young age. They become leaders in their community. The charity isn't just important to me. We're a big team now of 12 musicians brought together by our gratitude for what we have here in Ottawa and by the opportunities we've been given by the NAC. We want to give back.

Q: How do you use your talent as a violinist to raise funds for Kids Helping Kids?

A: We organize annual fundraising concerts in Ottawa to raise funds for the orphanages. We've raised \$17,000 in five years. The funds are being used to buy a great deal of rice (\$800 is enough to feed every orphan for one month) and agricultural tools and seeds as the orphanages move toward greater self-sufficiency.

Q: What are your hopes and dreams for the future and how might the NAC play a part in these goals?

A: Despite the many hours I devote to music, it's not the only career I want to pursue. The violin and the NAC has helped me develop passion, perseverance and a work ethic that can be put to use in whatever career I choose for the future.

Q: What would you like to say to NAC donors who help support programs like the SMI?

A: Thank you, thank you and thank you again. I feel so very grateful for your support. The NAC is truly a fantastic organization. I can't say enough about they've done for me.

Q: Why are donations from generous individuals so important to organizations like Kids Helping Kids and the NAC?

A: Both organizations have worthy goals—goals that can't be reached without the support of generous individuals. Both organizations have wide effects that reach far beyond their mission statements. In many ways, Kids Helping Kids is a by-product of the NAC, founded by kids who have been inspired by the NAC.

For more information about Kids Helping Kids, go to www.khk-es.ca.

Donor Profile:



Photo submitted

Wojciech and Maria Remisz

Proud Corporate Club members 'since day one'

A plaque with the NAC logo hangs in the front office of REMISZ Consulting Engineers Ltd. Granted by the NAC Foundation in recognition of the company's membership in the Corporate Club, it generates much pride in the hearts of the firm's 10 employees. "It shows our employees that they're part of something meaningful in our community," says business owner Wojciech Remisz. "Like Maria and I, they're proud to support the performing arts in Canada."

In fact, Wojciech and his wife, Maria, have been supporting the NAC through the Corporate Club since it began in 2006. "We've been members since day one," he says. "As soon as the Foundation started organizing it, we were among the first recruits."

For Wojciech, the Corporate Club is an ideal way to give back to the community. "I want to help because at one time someone helped me," he says. "In whatever small way I can give to the NAC to support world-class arts, I'm happy to do so."

Maria admits she likes knowing their generosity makes a difference in the lives of younger generations. "We see more and more young

people attending performances and that's wonderful. We'd like to encourage even more of this by supporting programs like student matinees and subsidized tickets because I believe love for the arts starts when you're a child."

Of course, the Corporate Club also offers many benefits for its members. Maria says she really enjoys the annual social evenings with other small business owners. "You meet other people who have the same goals. You talk together and share what you love about the arts."

Both Maria and Wojciech agree the Corporate Club is a unique way for business owners to show their appreciation for their clients, suppliers and employees. "For a small amount of money, you can encourage employees to take part in the NAC, offer them tickets and share an interest in activities beyond business," explains Wojciech. "We took our employees to see the Kirov Ballet Company perform Swan Lake and they just loved it."

For more information about the Corporate Club, please contact Barry Bloom at the NAC Foundation at 613-947-7000 ext. 314.

Ask the Expert: Let your support flow

The Facts about Flow-Through Shares

If you have an active interest in the stock market and a high risk tolerance, there is a way to make a significant contribution to your National Arts Centre and save considerably on your taxes. We asked NAC Senior Development Officer Barry Bloom to explain how flow-through shares can work for your portfolio.

Q: What are flow-through shares?

A: Flow-through shares are issued by oil and mineral exploration companies who pass the tax breaks of exploration onto their investors. The tax deduction for the cost of these shares can be applied against your income for a significant savings.

Q: What are the benefits of donating flow-through shares?

A: When you donate your flow-through shares to a non-profit organization like the NAC, you receive a tax credit for your

donation. This tax credit is in addition to your tax break on the initial purchase of the shares, making your savings two-fold.

For example, let's say an investor in the 45% tax bracket purchases \$10,000 in flow-through shares. The tax benefit is estimated at \$4,500 on the stock purchase. Assuming the shares have held their value after a holding period, and the investor decides to donate them, they will receive a tax credit on their donation for an additional \$4,500. For a cost of \$1,000, the investor has made a donation worth \$10,000 and received a tax savings of \$9,000. If the shares have lost value, the donation will be lower; hence the tax receiptable portion of the donation will be less.

Q: What are the risks?

A: Flow-through shares aren't for everyone. If you're familiar with the Canadian oil/mining sector, you know this market has a tendency to be volatile. There is also a holding period of at least several months and up to 18 to 24 months in some cases before you can

donate, during which time the shares may rise or fall in value. The purchaser should also consider flow-through shares as an investment first and not a way to avoid tax.

Q: How do you get started?

A: If you are interested in donating flow-through shares to the NAC, we recommend you speak with your tax and investment advisors.* As always, we appreciate your interest and your ongoing commitment to making a lasting impact on the NAC and helping shape the future of the performing arts in Canada. For more information, contact Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000 ext. 314.

** This information should not be taken as financial advice. It is an illustration only and not intended to be a definitive analysis of tax law. We recommend that you obtain financial and tax advice specific to your situation before making any investment and donation decisions.*

Simply the Best: Honouring a Jazz Giant

Have you ever wanted to sit next to a legend? You'll have that chance this summer when a commemorative sculpture of Canadian piano virtuoso Oscar Peterson is unveiled at the NAC.

The Oscar Peterson National Committee, led by Peter A. Herrndorf, President and CEO of the National Arts Centre, has commissioned prominent Canadian visual artist, Ruth Abernethy, to create the bronze statue. It will feature the jazz legend seated at his grand piano, and visitors will be able to sit next to the much-lauded musician to "play a duet."

The sculpture will be unveiled at the National Arts Centre on June 30, 2010 as part of Canada Day celebrations.




"There is beautiful wisdom in placing Oscar in Ottawa, and the perfect site seemed to be already in place; steps from Parliament Hill and featuring the NAC façade as an astonishingly uncluttered backdrop," says Ruth.



NAC File Photo

We invite you to contribute to this monument in honour of such a remarkable Canadian legend. Donations to the Oscar Peterson sculpture can be made online at www.nac-cna.ca/oscar. For more information, please contact Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000 ext. 314.

Calendar of Events

| DATE AND TIME | EVENT/ SPECIAL INFORMATION | INVITATION ONLY | PRODUCERS | DIRECTORS | MAESTROS | PLAYWRIGHTS | BENEFACTORS | SUSTAINERS | ASSOCIATES |
|--|--|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| June 10, 2010 9:15 a.m. Southam Hall | Donor Open Rehearsal – Schumann and Mozart  | | | | | | | | |
| June 29, 2010 7:30 p.m. Southam Hall and Terrace Tent | "A Round of Applause" Donor Appreciation Event  | | | | | | | | |
| July 1, 2010 | NAC Foundation Canada Day Thank-You Party  | | | | | | | | |
| July 18, 19 and 20, 2010 Shaw Festival | Friends of English Theatre Attend the Shaw Festival with the Friends of English Theatre and receive discounts on tickets. For further information: 613-726-9330 Email: franny@magma.ca | | | | | | | | |
| August 27, 28, 29, 2010 Stratford Festival | Friends of English Theatre Attend the Stratford Festival with the Friends of English Theatre and receive discounts on tickets. For further information: 613-726-9330 / Email: franny@magma.ca | | | | | | | | |
| September 26– October 4, 2010 London Theatrical Experience | Spend eight days and seven nights in the heart of London. Attend shows in the West end, at the National Theatre and the Globe. Deadline for booking is May 31 st . For further information: 613-726-9330 / Email: franny@magma.ca | | | | | | | | |

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

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