

SPRING 2013

Full Circle



In development: *Play Development* at the NAC's English Theatre moves in an exciting new direction

It's a good thing Jillian Keiley, Artistic Director for English Theatre at the NAC, and Associate Artistic Director, Sarah Garton Stanley like travelling because they'll be doing a lot of it.

In fact, at this very moment Jillian and Sarah might be in a small community in Eastern Canada, watching the premiere of a promising new play. Or, they could be in a major city on the other side of the country, talking to a renowned Canadian playwright about his new idea.

Wherever Jillian and Sarah are, their purpose is the same: to identify partnership opportunities between the NAC and theatres across Canada; to consider the plays they see for further development; to invest in projects

by Canadian theatre companies that are doing frontline development work and ultimately bring the best of those pieces to the NAC stage.

"We get about five pitches for new work every week," admits Sarah. "It's wonderful that there's so much activity happening across Canada."

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"Together with NAC supporters, we're investing in pieces we shepherd all the way to our stages. Our goal is to make a strong contribution to the Canadian canon."

—Jillian Keiley, Artistic Director of English Theatre



Jillian Keiley, Artistic Director of English Theatre
Photo by V. Tony Hauser

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NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
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message

from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

What would a national arts centre be without *performance*? Those magical moments when we're transported to another time and place. Or opportunities for *learning*? The responsibility we have to introduce young people to the performing arts and give promising new artists the chance to achieve their full brilliance.

But the NAC has another role to play and it's an important one. We must do our very best to commission new pieces, help develop a bigger repertoire of Canadian works, and support our talented composers, playwrights and choreographers. *Creation*, ensuring Canada continues to make its mark on the world's stages, is vital to the future of the performing arts.

That's why I'm so grateful for your loyal support. As you'll read in our cover story, your generosity is the reason Artistic Director for English Theatre, Jillian Keiley and Associate Artistic Director, Sarah Garton Stanley can travel the country, searching for the most promising plays to develop and bring to the NAC stage. It's the reason we can commission inspiring and unforgettable pieces by composers like Peter Paul Koprowski and Ana Sokolovic.

I'm reminded again and again of the great wealth of talent we have in this country. We owe it to ourselves as Canadians, and to future generations, to give these artists every opportunity to add their works of art to the Canadian repertoire. And that's exactly what your donations are helping us do. By working together, we're helping to create a legacy of new Canadian work.

I hope you enjoy this spring issue of *Full Circle*. Inside, you'll read about the many opportunities you help to provide everyone from excited student audiences to eager ballerina-hopefuls to aspiring young dancers and musicians.

And, I hope you'll help me welcome spring to our nation's capital. After all, like the creation you help us fund at the NAC and across the country, this is the season of new beginnings.

Best wishes for a happy spring and summer!



Jayne Watson



Photo by Ottawa's
Valberg Imaging

Staff Listing

Jayne Watson
CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation

Jane Moore
Chief Advancement Officer

Annual Giving Staff 613 947-7000

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

Barry M. Bloom
Associate Director

Julie Byczynski
Associate Director

Christina Hunter Cadieux
Associate Development Officer

Pauline Vanhonsenbrouck
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Brigitte Aubé-Harrison
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Andy Jones and Christine Brubaker star in *Tartuffe*, coming to the NAC in October 2013
Photo submitted

In development: *Play Development* at the NAC's English Theatre moves in an exciting new direction

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As for the type of investment the NAC is willing to make, Sarah says it depends on the piece and the relationship with the creators. "Someone might come to us with a seed of an idea and we make a small investment into the beginning of the work. On the other hand, we can look at a play already touring and invest in helping the creators make it stronger. Each project is as individual as the artist who is creating it."

Ultimately, with each new work, Jillian and Sarah ask themselves if the piece tells a story that is unique and engaging. "That question is our spaghetti-test," explains Jillian. "It ends up being a good moderator when we receive so many proposals."

Once a piece passes the spaghetti-test, and is deemed a contender for further development and a potential debut at the NAC, English Theatre will continue to support the creators as they refine their exciting works in a second and sometimes third ever more successful iteration.

Coming from a background of new work and development, Jillian knows that the gap between a great premiere production ultimately becoming a stronghold in the Canadian canon is helped immensely by a second full production. This second production takes what the artists learn from the premiere and provides them the opportunity to take a full critical look at the show again—exactly the opportunity English Theatre at the NAC is offering Canadian theatre companies from coast-to-coast, with a little help from our donors.

"With their generosity, NAC supporters are investing in promising new works in real time with us," says Sarah. "By the time a piece comes to the NAC, donors will feel familiar with their journey and will be able to experience a sense of ownership and pride in helping to make a home for them at the NAC."

Meanwhile, Jillian and Sarah promise an exciting new season for English Theatre. And, while audiences are enjoying the new season of theatre at the NAC, there will also be a lot going on around the country. "The NAC will be connected to projects that are being built and happening in communities all across Canada," says Sarah. "That's a huge contribution to our mandate. Our goal is to have these shows out there touring the world for years to come."

Play Development is supported by an anonymous donor, who encourages others to join them to and make these initiatives come to life. To learn how you can support Play Development please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000 ext. 314.

Honouring the Maestro:

Conductor Mario Bernardi to receive permanent recognition at the NAC

It's not the sort of place you expect to see members of the NAC Orchestra. But the Wind Quintet was at Villa Colombo, a retirement residence, that day for

a very special reason. They were there to visit Mario Bernardi, the founding conductor of the NAC Orchestra, and perform a concert in his honour.

"We presented Mario with his favourite repertoire and he was hugely appreciative," says Christopher Millard, principal bassoon. "He had a beatific smile on his face which was quite charming. I was glad for the chance to publicly thank him for everything he has done for me, everything he has done for both musicians and audiences."

Mario Bernardi's tenure at the NAC began in 1969 when the NAC Orchestra came into being. He became the Music Director in 1971, continuing until 1982. "Mario defined everything from the beginning," Christopher explains. "He set a standard for precision, accuracy and balance. Out of that came a certain tradition that has remained at the NAC. There are enough players who have survived the transitions over the years that the legacy of Mario's high standards has remained."

In honour of his extraordinary contribution, the NAC has set out to pay tribute to Mario Bernardi during his lifetime with two initiatives; a bronze bust by Canadian artist Ruth Abernethy, and a new full-length orchestral work commissioned by the NAC in his honour. The piece will be composed by Ana Sokolovic and receive its world premiere by the NAC Orchestra in a future season.

"When I was in my 20s and 30s, Mario was the pre-eminent Canadian conductor. We still have many patrons who remember him as music director," says Christopher. "With this tribute, I'm glad Mario will see that he is still honoured and loved at the NAC."

The NAC is currently accepting donations towards this permanent memorial and commission of a new orchestral work. Please visit our website nac-cna.ca/BernardiTribute or call 613 947-7000 ext. 315.



Maestro Mario Bernardi, C.C.
Photo by Malak Karsh

Tea with a *Ballerina*



Chelsy Meiss of The National Ballet of Canada has tea with local dance students
Photo by Kirsten Anderson

Many arrive with their hair up in a bun. They sit in a circle, shyly sipping tea from china cups. Most of the young ladies are quiet at first. After all they've never had tea with a real live ballerina before.

And then Chelsy Meiss of The National Ballet of Canada starts talking, sharing her journey and describing the hard work, sacrifices, and the many joys of reaching this point in her career. The participants listen in awe, their tea forgotten.

"The young people are so excited," says Kirsten Anderson, Education and Outreach Coordinator for Dance at the NAC. "The opportunity to sit with a professional dancer and learn about what life is like in a dance company is a dream come true."

Many of them hope to be professional dancers themselves one day. "I feel that I have learned so much from this experience," says, participant, Tatiana. "It has inspired me to become a better dancer and work harder after seeing what it is truly like to become a professional dancer."

After tea, there is a group discussion, a backstage tour and they watch a rehearsal. "It's an exciting glimpse into company life," says Kirsten.

Kirsten is grateful to NAC supporters who help make this program possible. "Thanks to your generosity I get to see these young people so excited and engaged," she says. "I get to witness these beautiful moments and see the impact we're making together."

"After having tea with a ballerina, my daughter wore her pointe shoes all over the house. This week, Sabrina signed up for her first audition for a pre-professional ballet summer program—something she had been reluctant to do. I believe having participated in the Tea with a Ballerina helped encourage her to step up and put herself out there."

—Angela Lau, Sabrina Wong's mother

Making Giving Easy:

One donor shares her thoughts on endowments

Dr. Kanta Marwah is deeply passionate about the performing arts. As she says, "I truly believe the arts give us a window into which we can see the values and culture of a country. It is of the utmost importance that a country as rich as Canada support the arts."

Some time ago, that belief and passion inspired Dr. Marwah to create an endowment in support of the NAC's English Theatre Company. And recently, the distinguished research professor and Professor Emeritus of Economics at Carleton University, set up a second endowment to support NAC's *Summer Music Institute*, specifically the Conductors Program and Young Artists Program.

"Setting up an endowment generates income in perpetuity," explains Dr. Marwah. "The NAC uses the income to fund a specific program while leaving the capital untouched. This way of giving becomes your legacy to something you believe in."

It's true. An endowment is a wonderful way to express your passion for a particular program at the NAC—creating a stream of revenue that can last for generations. Your endowment gift can take the form of a lump sum, a donation pledged over a period of years or a bequest in your will. And, because an endowment can have a name associated with it, it's perfect for honouring or celebrating the memory of someone special.

"The endowments I've created for the NAC are an immense source of satisfaction and joy," says Dr. Marwah. "It's very meaningful to see the difference your contribution is making and know that it will last well into the future."



To learn more about setting up an endowment for the NAC, please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000, ext. 314.

Dr. Kanta Marwah
Photo submitted

Lesson learned:

Student Matinees foster a life-long passion for the arts

It's almost lunch time but these kids aren't thinking about food. You can tell from the expression on their faces they have something much more exciting on their minds.

"You'll often see the students' smiles following an NAC Orchestra Student Matinee," says Kelly Abercrombie, Music Education Associate, Schools and Community Programs, at the NAC. "Sometimes I catch a student humming a tune they've just heard."

Of course, that's the goal of the Student Matinees. As Kelly says, the NAC believes introducing children to the performing arts at a young age is essential to developing a life-long passion. "The NAC strives to enrich the lives of our youth through music and the arts."

Alain Trudel, the NAC's Principal Youth and Family Conductor, agrees. "When you introduce young people to great music, you

create a lasting impact in their souls. You can see they're really turned on by the power of live music," he says.

The key word is "live". Students are exposed to music everyday but it doesn't compare to the real thing. "A recording is like a memory, pale in comparison to live music," Alain explains. "When you hear an orchestra play, and actually feel the music all around you, there's nothing like it. It's the difference between experiencing and simply witnessing."

Alain is quick to credit NAC supporters for helping to fund the matinees and introducing thousands of students to the



Maestro Trudel conducting the NAC Orchestra
Photo by Michel Dozois

magic of the performing arts. "We try to do our part to keep the arts alive," Alain says. "But everyone has to step up and take care of the next generation. I'm grateful there are generous people out there doing just that."

Repertoire work sets master class apart

Many would call it a chance of a lifetime.

Recently, 17 dance students had the opportunity to attend a master class with Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal (BJM), to learn actual company repertoire from a veteran dancer.

For these delighted young dancers, this was no ordinary master class. BJM, courtesy of company dancer Youri De Wilde, presented them with a non-traditional master class infused with choreography that had been performed on the NAC stage only hours earlier. The repertoire work allowed the dancers to experience a class similar to that which might be part of company work or auditions.

The class began with warm-up exercises that bypassed the barre—a mainstay for young dancers.

It was clearly a departure for many of the dancers who were much more accustomed to set exercises and a focus on performance.

"The class enriched me as a dancer and gave me the chance to better understand dance and explore how I see the world of performance," says local dance student Adam Awad, who has also danced in Toronto. "These opportunities are not available everywhere."

The support of NAC donors help make these learning opportunities possible. Your generosity enables the NAC to give young artists unforgettable experiences they can't find anywhere else.

Master classes like this are open to all dance students and are made possible in part by the National Youth and Education Trust.



Students participate in a master class with Les Ballets Jazz de Montréal
Photo by Kirsten Anderson

On-line Giving:

A safe and easy way to support the performing arts

Have you visited the NAC Foundation's website lately? If you have, you probably noticed the bright orange donate button on our homepage.

Many valued NAC supporters are choosing on-line giving to support performance, creation and learning at the NAC and for good reason. Making a gift through the Foundation website is easy and convenient. A simple click of a mouse takes you to our Donation page, where you can specify the type of gift you'd like to make—single, monthly, honour/memorial—and the amount.

On-line giving is a great option for those who aren't comfortable giving their credit card information over the phone. Every detail you provide on our secure website is protected. Making your gift on-line is also cost-effective. No processing fees or mailing costs to worry about.

All of us at the Foundation deeply appreciate your generosity and commitment to the NAC and the performing arts in Canada. We hope you'll visit us soon at nacfoundation.ca. Perhaps you'll even click on that bright orange button to make an on-line gift in support of the arts you love.

Donor Profile: Susan and David Laister

Susan Laister remembers it well. When she was a child, her father would go out into the garage and wind-up his old gramophone. "I would go out with him and listen to the music," she recalls. "That was the start of my love for classical music."

For Susan's husband, David, his passion for music began with the popular tunes. When he was in his teens, he even formed a pop band with some of his friends. It was David's mother who introduced him to classical music. "She bought me my first two LPs," he says.

An appreciation for music that began as youth in England has developed into a deep and abiding passion for the Laisters over the years. "If I didn't have music as an outlet, I don't know what I'd do," admits Susan. "It brings great joy to my life. Music is such an important part of our lives and the National Arts Centre has become our second home."

In fact, Susan and David have been coming to the NAC since 1971, the year they moved to Ottawa from Kingston, Ontario. "On our first trip to Ottawa, we came to the NAC to see Ian and Sylvia Tyson," says David. "When we moved to Ottawa we subscribed to the Orchestra and we've been coming regularly ever since."

The same passion that keeps Susan and David coming to the NAC—both as subscribers and dedicated volunteers—also sparked a desire to give back financially. After their son completed his Ph.D. the generous couple decided to help fund the learning of many others. "We agreed that the money we were giving to our son for his education, we would now give to the NAC's *Summer Music Institute (SMI)*," David explains. "We wanted to help enrich students' lives and their musical knowledge."

David and Susan both say giving back to the NAC has been a rewarding experience. "Knowing we're making a difference is very fulfilling," says Susan. "We're contributing so the music we love can carry on into the future and be in other peoples' lives as well."

"We all owe society some kind of debt and now it's our turn to give back," agrees David. "These talented, up-and-coming musicians are the orchestra players of tomorrow. Youth programs like the SMI are so important to the musical heritage of the NAC. We are investing in the future."

The Summer Music Institute has become a world-renowned magnet for the best young Canadian and International classical artists, providing world-class instruction for especially gifted young musicians, conductors and composers.

David and Susan Laister with SMI student, Richard Narroway
Photo by Fred Cattroll



Five Minutes with Aaron Schwebel

A Q&A with an emerging violinist and current apprentice with the *Institute for Orchestral Studies*

Aaron Schwebel, from Toronto, Ontario, has participated in the NAC's Summer Music Institute's Young Artist Program (YAP) and is proud to be an apprentice with the Institute for Orchestral Studies (IOS). We spoke with the talented musician about his experiences with the Orchestra and what this opportunity will mean for his emerging career

Q: You attended the NAC's Young Artist Program last summer at age 24. What was the highlight of the program for you?

A: I enjoyed the chance to work with teachers who are extremely knowledgeable about violin technique. The program gave me the opportunity to focus on the basics—the building blocks of violin playing.

Q: You were recently selected as an apprentice with the NAC's *Institute for Orchestral Studies*. What does this opportunity mean to you as an emerging musician?

A: As an apprentice, I'm surrounded by people who show so much commitment to their work and the music in front of them. It's also clear that they enjoy sharing their experience with the young musicians in IOS. When I'm playing with the NAC Orchestra, I'm working with people who take pride in what they do. Amidst all the hard work, seeing this certainly validates the dedication I have towards my own career goals, and gives me the hope that one day I'll be in the position to pass on the experience that the musicians in the NAC Orchestra are sharing with me.

Q: What message would you like to send to NAC supporters who help make programs like YAP and IOS possible?


A: Your support goes far past a gift to a single artist. It goes towards a better world of music, towards continuing the progress of music in our society. As long as people are encouraged to take an interest in music and the performing arts, it will foster a more human societal development.



Aaron Schwebel
Photo by Owen Egan

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
May 29, 2013 1:00 p.m., Studio	NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition Finals Free admission (no tickets required)		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
June 20, 2013	Corporate Club Reception <i>Those Glorious Hollywood Musicals</i>	✓							
June 25–27, 2013	Attend the Shaw Festival with the Friends of English Theatre and receive discounts on tickets.*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
July 1, 2013	NAC Foundation Canada Day Thank You Party 		✓	✓	✓				
September 18–20, 2013	Attend the Stratford Shakespeare Festival with the Friends of English Theatre and receive discounts on tickets.*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
October 20–28, 2013	Friends of English Theatre visit London, UK. Discounts on tickets for the National Theatre, Royal Festival Hall and London's West End.*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

* Friends of English Theatre is an independent membership driven group that supports English Theatre at the National Arts Centre. For further information call 613 726-9330 or email: franny@magma.ca

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
nacfoundation.ca • donorscircle@nac-cna.ca • 613 947-7000, ext. 315

