

WINTER 2010

Full Circle



Musicians in the Schools Hit the Right Note

One by one, the students file into the school gymnasium. You can see the anticipation on their faces as they watch the two musicians assembling their instruments on stage. "They wonder what they're going to hear," explains Jonathan Wade, percussionist with the National Arts Centre Orchestra and leader of the duo, Bangers and Smash.

And so, to grab the attention of their young audience, the duo begins with a drum roll. It's an approach that works every time. "As the drums roll faster and faster, their eyes get really big and they turn to each other in disbelief," chuckles Jonathan.

It's been over 20 years since Jonathan first stepped onto a makeshift stage in a school gym and began performing with the NAC's *Musicians in the Schools Program*. The program itself has been running since 1971 – reaching an average of 20,000 to 25,000 students every season.

"*Musicians in the Schools* brings various ensembles of musicians to Grade K-12 schools across Ottawa," says Kelly Abercrombie, Education Associate, Schools and Community Programs at the NAC. "For schools that can't afford the transportation costs of bringing students to the NAC, this may be their only opportunity to benefit from a live performance."

Introducing children of all ages to live music is what the program is all about. *Musicians in the Schools* is designed to both instruct and entertain young people about the many aspects of music performance – hopefully igniting a spark and a love of music that will last a lifetime. And judging from the overwhelming response and large number of thank-you letters the NAC receives each year, the program is hitting just the right note with the audience.

"We were extremely fortunate to have such high caliber musicians entertain us," writes Heather Lance, a music teacher at South Branch Elementary School. "Many thanks for a thoroughly entertaining concert. The students loved it."

And a student at Our Lady of Mount Carmel writes, "I love your instruments and the music you play. I hope you come again next year and make other kids happy."

Feedback like this means the world to Donald Renshaw, the principal trombone player with the NAC Orchestra and the leader of both the Rideau Lakes Brass Quintet and the

Inside

Message from the CEO	2
Theatre Criticism	3
The 2008–2009 Stewardship Report	4
A Light in the Darkness	8
Donor Profile	9
Ask the Expert	9
Website Makeover	10
Did You Know?	10
Five Minutes with Daniel Parker	11
Calendar of Events	12

For some children, a *Musicians in the Schools* performance is the first time they've experienced live orchestral music.
Photo: Michel Dozois



continued on page 3



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

Aussi disponible en français

message

from the
National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

Power and passion – those are two of the things I find fascinating about the National Arts Centre. There’s nothing more exciting than combining the power of creativity with the passion of performance. Whether it’s a love of classical music, a desire for dance, or the thrill created by live theatre, there’s something about the performing arts that continues to stir our souls.

This passion for the arts is also what makes my job so fulfilling. Since taking over the helm of the NAC Foundation five months ago, I continue to be amazed at how passionate our donors are about the NAC’s arts education activities and the programming on our stages. I love hearing all of your wonderful stories about your favourite performances over the years and debating who really hit the highest note ever in Southam Hall.

It’s this enthusiasm and keen sense of ownership that keeps us working hard as we deliver the best in performance, creation and learning at the NAC. As trustees of your donations, we also feel a special obligation to ensure you understand where your money is going and the good it’s accomplishing. That’s why this issue of *Full Circle* features our annual Stewardship Report. It delivers a complete overview about the impact of your gifts in 2008–2009 through detailed charts, statistics and descriptions of important milestones.

Your support makes such a difference in the lives of so many people and this past year has been full of such heart-warming examples. I’m still overwhelmed by the response we received to our *Share the Spirit* campaign during this past holiday season. Thanks to your help, we were able to work with our local partners to bring deserving children and families to witness our holiday performances at the NAC. As a parent who has been fortunate to share a *Nutcracker* “Sugar Plum Fairy” experience with my own daughters, it’s such a great feeling to help others give their children similar experiences that will become cherished memories for years to come.

This issue also shares powerful stories about the people who continue to be impacted by your gifts. From the dedicated instructors of our *Musicians in the Schools* program and last year’s *NACO Bursary* winner to the playwright developing a new creation for our upcoming season, I’m sure you’ll be impressed by all of the passion at the NAC!

Best wishes in the New Year!



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CEO, NAC Foundation

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Musicians in the Schools Hit the Right Note

continued from page 1

Ambassador Trio. From the first blast of his instrument and throughout the hour-long concert, he and his fellow musicians work hard to engage the students.

“One of the last pieces we play is the Can-Can,” says Donald. “The students start clapping along. They can’t help themselves. It’s a good feeling to unleash their passion for the music we’re playing.”

Donald, who has been involved with *Musicians in the Schools*

since 1987, feels the program helps fill a need in Ottawa schools. “Many schools have no music program to speak of,” he admits. “And yet, there are so many reasons why music is important in our lives. This is a great opportunity to introduce students to music they may not hear on the radio.”

Jonathan agrees. “The young people of today are mostly exposed to electronic music – the pop world they hear on CD, the stereo, and television. They need to see real instruments being played by real people. This program is the first step. If we want people in our concert hall 20 years from now, we need to expose them to music and the orchestral world early on.”

That’s why, with your support, the NAC remains deeply committed to local education programs like *Musicians in the Schools*. We’re also very proud of national initiatives like our *Music Alive Program*, which sends teaching musicians to 100 schools in Alberta and Saskatchewan each year.

“One of the major objectives of the NAC is to develop and expand programs for young audiences,” explains Kelly. “Youth and education continues to be a core activity of the NAC. And as such, we are committed to raising awareness and understanding of music in the classroom in order to enrich the lives of young Canadians.”

Meanwhile, for musicians like Jonathan and Donald, the enrichment flows both ways. “The program offers us something special as well. I am so honoured to go into schools and have this precious time with the kids,” says Donald. “Hopefully the next generation will grow up with the knowledge and love of music I had. I am very grateful to the NAC supporters who help us offer that chance through this important program.”



Photo: Michel Dozois

I Review, Therefore I Am: Theatre criticism with Robert Lévesque

What goes on behind the scenes at the National Arts Centre is often just as vibrant and exciting as what appears on our stages. In fact, it’s the backstage activity and exciting programming from which this passion and energy often stems.

The *Laboratoires du Théâtre français* are a case in point. Introduced in 2002, these masterclasses bring together internationally recognized guest artists and 10 to 12 theatre professionals chosen from across Canada.

This year’s theme, “Theatre criticism as an agent of progress and protest,” is the brainchild of well-known French Theatre critic Robert Lévesque. He earned a reputation for his willingness to be controversial and take a stand about the plays he reviewed during his many years at Montreal’s *Le Devoir*.

Robert believes deeply in bringing a historical perspective to one’s work as a critic, and will be encouraging participants to be well read. He brings his taste for the provocative to a group of theatre journalists and theatre professionals in three sessions throughout this year.

During the course of the workshops, participants will attend a play (this season: *Hedda Gabler*, *Woyzeck*, or *Ciels*), and write a review. In keeping with the theme, they will be strongly encouraged to reflect and take a stand. They will then discuss and support their views. Extensive reading is also part of the workshop agenda.

According to Robert, “Criticism requires independent thought: you can’t just go with the prevailing flow. As such, it is an act of commitment. Engagement. Resistance.”

The NAC French Theatre gratefully acknowledges the Theatre Section of the Canada Council for the Arts for providing funding assistance for workshop participants from outside Ottawa-Gatineau.

To learn more about this program, listen to the podcast featuring a discussion between Robert Lévesque and Wajdi Mouawad at <http://www.nac-cna.ca/fr/multimedia/podcasts/TFcna.cfm>

Celebrating a Year of Giving:

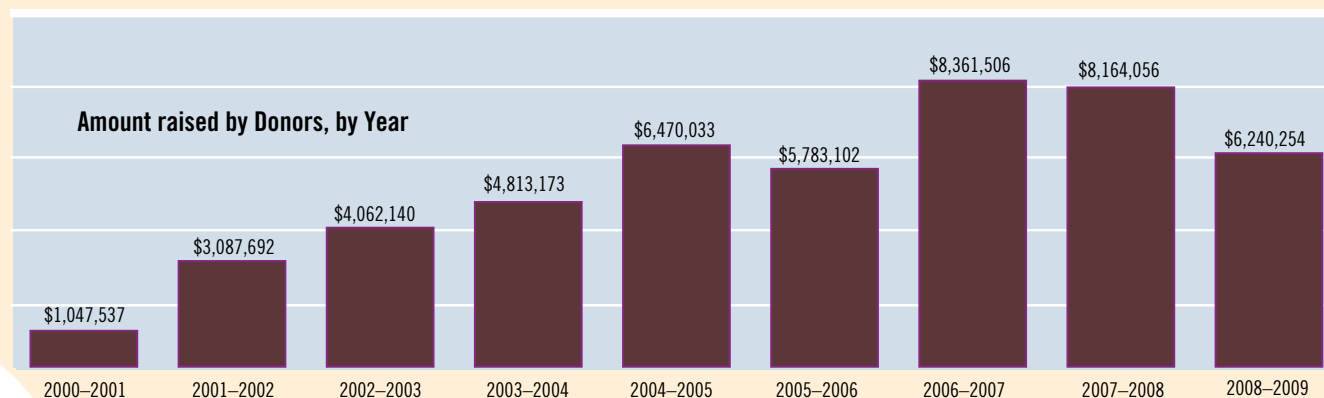
The 2008–2009

*What a year it's been at the National Arts Centre! We gave thousands of talented artists their chance to shine in dazzling displays of **performance**... we gave composers, playwrights and choreographers the chance to create and share their sparkling new scripts, compositions and choreography with audiences at the NAC and across Canada... and we provided **learning** opportunities to students from coast-to-coast, introducing the next generation to the performing arts and hopefully sparking a passion that will last a lifetime.*

Everything the NAC accomplished this year – every production mounted, every artist mentored, and audience enthralled – we did together with you! Thanks to our donors and sponsors, the National Arts Centre Foundation raised more than \$6.2 million in 2008–2009!

Your Incredible Record of Giving

This year marks the ninth anniversary of the National Arts Centre Foundation. For nine incredible years, dedicated supporters like you have shown your passion for the performing arts in a huge way. To date, your donations and the contributions of our corporate sponsors has reached more than \$47 million – enabling the NAC to sustain, enrich, and expand its artistic and educational programming.



* In 2006–2007, the NAC Foundation received our first ever million dollar gift.

Stewardship Report

Where Giving Makes the Difference

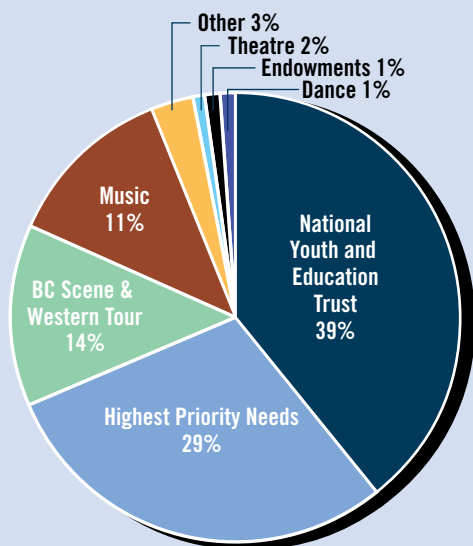
Thanks to your extraordinary generosity, the National Arts Centre Foundation raised \$6.2 million in 2008–2009 and has been able help the NAC achieve its mission to develop and promote the performing arts by:

- Establishing the NAC as the pre-eminent showcase for the performing arts
- Acting as a catalyst for the performing arts nationally
- Nurturing and supporting artists and arts organizations in communities across the country

In 2008–2009:

- ▶ 40% of your gifts to the NAC were designated to the National Youth and Education Trust, which funds the NAC's wide array of performing arts initiatives for young audiences, young artists and schools.
- ▶ Donors and sponsors contributed \$113,944 for the *Sharing the Arts* subsidized ticket program, which provides access to live performing arts for school children.
- ▶ The NAC Foundation received 59% of fundraising revenue from donors and sponsors in the National Capital Region and 41% from supporters in communities across Canada.
- ▶ Many donors asked to direct their gift to go where it's needed most. Almost 30% of gifts were designated to meet "highest priority needs," giving the Foundation flexibility to support the NAC's most urgent and compelling needs, such as leading-edge artistic performances and arts-accessibility programs.
- ▶ Our Annual Fund Donors raised a total of \$1,159,922 for the performing arts.

Fundraising Total Gift Designations in 2008–2009 \$6,240,254



National Youth and Education Trust	\$2,410,771
Highest Priority Needs	\$1,785,661
BC Scene & Western Tour	\$860,194
Music	\$675,442
Other	\$218,834
Theatre	\$99,655
Endowments	\$88,471
Dance	\$69,120
	6,208,148
Investment income	32,106
Total	\$6,240,254

By the numbers 2008–2009

- Throughout the year, the National Arts Centre presented more than 900 performances.
- More than 100,000 young people across Canada took part in the National Arts Centre's education programs.
- More than 13,000 students enjoyed student matinee performances at the National Arts Centre in theatre, dance and music at a fraction of the ticket price.
- The *Musicians in the Schools* Program made 54 visits to local schools.
- The NAC's National Youth and Education Trust funded more than 20 priority performing arts initiatives that nurture and develop the creativity of young people in all regions of Canada.
- ArtsAlive.ca, the NAC's award-winning interactive educational website, received an average of 6,500 visits per day.

The Impact of Your Giving

Every day your support for the National Arts Centre makes an impact on our stages; in the hearts of promising artists; and in the lives of young people across the country.

With friends like you leading the way, we had much to celebrate in 2008-2009. From the classroom to the concert hall, from the rehearsal studio to the main stage, here are some ways your gifts made a difference in the areas of performance, creation and learning.

The NAC Orchestra's Western Tour: A resounding success

For three memorable weeks in the fall of 2008, the NAC Orchestra's Performance and Education Tour touched lives and stirred hearts in Western Canada. The tour featured 13 orchestral concerts in 10 cities, giving thousands of Canadians an experience they won't soon forget. The tour also included 140 educational activities ranging from masterclasses, instrumental clinics, private lessons, in-school ensemble performances and much more in 27 western Canadian communities.

Making the (BC) Scene: The fourth biennial festival draws largest crowds to date

Spanning 13 days in April and May 2009, *BC Scene* showcased more than 600 emerging and established artists from British Columbia in more than 90 performances. *BC Scene* was the fourth biennial festival in a series designed to shine a spotlight on the arts and culture of every region across Canada. It attracted the largest turn-out of audiences, politicians, partners and donors to date, making it the ideal model for future festivals, including *Prairie Scene* in spring 2011.

Music Alive Program: Bringing orchestral music to life for elementary students

With your help, our professional musicians visited 116 elementary schools in rural communities across Alberta and Saskatchewan and introduced more than 10,000 students to the joy of music. The *Music Alive Program* continues to garner rave reviews from educators and students, prompting us to examine new ways to benefit more students. With additional funding, we hope to expand the program into Baffin Island, Nunavut in the coming year.

The March Break Theatre Program inspires at-risk students

The NAC's March Break theatre program is designed to bring together a group of young people, ages 14 to 19, who might not otherwise have access to theatre arts training. In its eighth year, the program welcomed 16 students for an intensive week of learning, creation, and performance. The week was capped off with an open class, giving students the opportunity to invite their friends and family to see what they had achieved.

The Governor General's Performing Arts Award (GGPAA) Mentorship Program: Honouring our best, investing in our future

In the program's second year, distinguished jazz legend Oliver Jones chose to mentor Dione Taylor, an extraordinarily talented young singer. Dione received coaching and career advice from her mentor, which culminated in a showcase performance at the GGPAA Gala in May 2009. The Mentorship Program was created to bring together past Governor General's Lifetime Artistic Achievement Award recipients and talented mid-career artists, helping the latter develop their work and think about their art in new and challenging ways.

Summer Music Institute provides an intensive season of learning

They came from across Canada and all around the world to experience first-class instruction in an environment that nurtures their talent and helps it grow. This year, 88 students from 14 countries attended the 11th edition of the NAC's *Summer Music Institute* for an intensive learning opportunity that is sure to open doors to a promising future.

Play creation in English Theatre gives life to our Canadian voice

Playwrights in Residence, *The Ark* and *The Atelier* continued to play an important role in English Theatre at the NAC and across Canada in 2008-2009. These three play creation and development programs inspire new Canadian works by giving talented artists the opportunity to create in a nurturing, supportive environment. And Canadian audiences at the NAC and beyond are given the chance to hear a voice that is distinctly their own.

New Steinway piano strikes the perfect key

After an intensive selection process that began with a visit to a piano dealer in New York City and ended with guest performers and the NAC's own pianists selecting between two pianos, there is a brand new Hamburg Steinway at Southam Hall. Thanks to on-going support for the NAC's Piano Fund, our artists now have three brilliant pianos to choose from – each with a different sound to complement a soloist's personal style and the repertoire being played.

World-class masterclasses for dance students

It's every dance student's dream to learn firsthand from some of the most exciting choreographers and artists in the world. In 2009, 340 students and teachers from the Ottawa area were given this opportunity. Participants of the 12 NAC classes and workshops were instructed by many visiting artists, including Robert K. Brown and members of the National Ballet of Canada.

Our Annual Donors:

Ensuring a Strong Presence, Building a Shining Future for the Performing Arts in Canada

The Donors' Circle

Give yourself a standing ovation. Once again, our 5,522 Donors' Circle members took a lead role in every achievement the National Arts Centre celebrated in 2008–2009. Thanks to committed arts enthusiasts like you, there was dancing in the streets during *BC Scene*, the pure magic of performance on our stages at the NAC, and the exhilaration of learning in the faces of students across the country. On behalf of the many performers, audiences and young people you reached with your support, *thank you!*

- Your annual donations last year totalled \$1,159,922, representing 17% of all funds raised by the National Arts Centre Foundation in 2008–2009.
- Your gifts came in many sizes, ranging from \$10 to \$10,000 or more.
- Gifts under \$500 added up to \$549,201. Every gift makes a difference in the areas of performance, creation and learning.

The Corporate Club

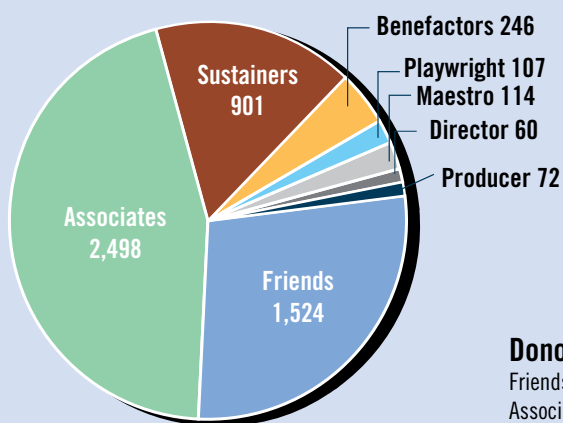
Investing in the performing arts at the local level and across Canada makes good sense for Ottawa's business community. The National Arts Centre Foundation is extremely grateful to the 130 members of our Corporate Club for the huge role they play in helping us showcase performance, mentor emerging artists and introduce Canada's young people to the very best in music, theatre and dance.

Planning for the Future

The National Arts Centre Foundation applauds a special group of donors dedicated to sharing their passion for the performing arts with generations to come. Members of our Emeritus Circle have pledged future gifts to the National Arts Centre valued at more than \$3.8 million, through bequests, gifts of life insurance and other planned giving arrangements, with \$30,000 realized this year. We sincerely appreciate the foresight of these donors who will help shape a glowing future for the performing arts in Canada.

A Picture of Annual Giving

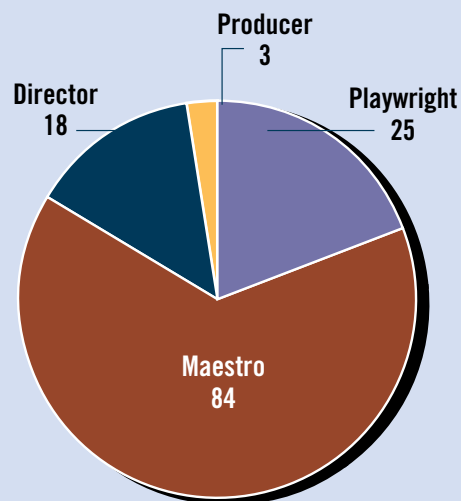
Donor Circle Members



Donor Levels:

Friends:	\$10 to \$99
Associates:	\$100 to \$249
Sustainers:	\$250 to \$499
Benefactors:	\$500 to \$999
Playwright's Circle:	\$1,000 to \$1,499
Maestro's Circle:	\$1,500 to \$2,499
Director's Circle:	\$2,500 to \$4,999
Producer's Circle:	\$5,000 and above

Corporate Club Members



A Light in the Darkness: *Night* evolves with help from NAC supporters



Playwright Christopher Morris, seen here with *Night* actress Abbie Ootova in Nunavut this spring, says he is thrilled to bring this unique Canadian story to the NAC's national stage.

Photo: Human Cargo

Six years ago, Canadian playwright Christopher Morris had the idea to create a play about darkness in winter in the Arctic and its affect on people. But rather than sit down at his computer and begin writing, he decided to take the creation process a big step further. "I thought it would be interesting to go to the North in winter, meet with local actors, and all work on the theme together," explains Christopher, who is also the artistic director for Human Cargo, a Toronto-based theatre company. "I wanted to get their perspective on the dark."

Night, which premiered at the National Arts Centre on January 4, is the result of this collaboration. Created over three Arctic winters in Iceland and Nunavut, it tells the story of a Toronto anthropologist and a 16-year-old Inuk who cross paths during 24 hours of darkness in Pond Inlet, Nunavut. Abbie Ootova, who plays the leading role of young Piuyuq, is a Pond Inlet resident and she feels a strong affinity with the character she helped to create. "Piuyuq is a lot like me. She loses her best friend to suicide and I can relate to that experience on a personal level. I can play this role because I've been through it," Abbie confides.

Bringing real experience to his play was exactly what Christopher was striving for when he made the decision to workshop his evolving script with the actors. On his most recent visit to Pond Inlet, he was also joined by Peter Hinton, Artistic Director of English Theatre at the NAC and Paula Danckert, Company Dramaturg and Associate Artist. "I wanted them to get a glimpse of the work we were creating," explains Christopher. "They were there to offer their help and expertise."

In fact, these artistic leaders from the NAC have been committed to the development of *Night* from day one. "I met with Peter to explain the play and he was very interested in it. He recognized the potential of the idea and has completely supported it," says Christopher. "Peter has a strong vision for ideas. From the very beginning, he and Paula have nurtured what we're doing."

Now, after years of hard work, research and creation, *Night* will get its moment in the sun as part of English Theatre's Studio Stage Series. "I'm absolutely honoured the play will premiere at the NAC," says Christopher. "It means a lot to me that Inuktitut will be spoken on the national stage by a young girl

from Nunavut. *Night* is a Canadian story and I can't imagine it premiering anywhere else, especially since the NAC had such a strong hand in nurturing it along."

As for Abbie, she is grateful for the opportunity to show Canadians what is happening in her community, where drugs, alcohol and suicide are taking a devastating toll on the lives of her peers. "A lot of teenagers in Pond aren't doing well," she admits. "I want Canadians to know we have to stand together. It's very important to me."

It is a gratitude Christopher shares. He recognizes the huge role the NAC and our supporters have played in bringing *Night* and its illuminating Canadian message to the stage. "Every NAC donor has had a hand in the creation of this production. As a developing writer, I'm very thankful to have my voice nurtured. We always need those moments, especially early in our careers, to have strong support and guidance. This has been one of those moments for me."

Night appears on our Studio Stage from January 4-16, 2010.

Donor Profile:

Robert and Marion Bennett:

Two of our original audience members proudly make a difference

To understand Robert and Marion Bennett's lasting commitment for the performing arts, you need to look back 40 years. The National Arts Centre had just opened its doors and was presenting its very first English Theatre performance: *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*. Robert and Marion were sitting in the audience.

"Prior to that day we had been attending arts events at the best venues in Ottawa of the time," notes Robert. "But the NAC brought theatre and the orchestra into much wider perspective for us. One of the really wonderful things about the new Centre was its ability to mount more elaborate productions than we'd seen before."

Robert and Marion have been regular patrons of the NAC ever since. Each year they attend about eight orchestra performances, a handful of dance rehearsals and everything English Theatre has to offer. They were delighted to once again be in the audience when *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* returned to our stage last spring in celebration of the NAC's 40th anniversary.

This passion naturally led to a desire to support the performing arts financially, which the Bennetts have been doing as proud members of the Donors' Circle. "When we started making contributions, we wanted to help the Centre flourish and maintain the quality, variety and scope

of the work they were doing," says Marion.

The couple also has another important reason for giving. Both had parents who were educators and promoters of music and theatre in their schools. "When we go to a concert or a play, there is an overall feeling of participating and enjoying the performance and learning something. The performing arts enhance the way one sees life and we want to encourage that through the NAC's educational programming," Marion explains.

The Bennetts' membership in the Donors' Circle enables them to do just that. In fact, not long ago, Robert was working as a volunteer mentor in an elementary school math class and he found himself with two extra tickets to a dance performance at the NAC. "I offered the tickets to two bright girls whom the teacher and I felt would find the concert a totally new and valuable experience," Robert recalls. "They were enthralled and so appreciative."

We are very grateful to Robert and Marion Bennett for their commitment and loyalty. With their support for the NAC, they are indeed enriching lives, just as their lives have been enriched for the past 40 years.



For Donors' Circle Members Marion and Robert Bennett, supporting the NAC helps them enrich lives through the performing arts.

Photo supplied

Ask the Expert:

Taking stock: Giving the gift of securities

All of us at the National Arts Centre are very grateful for your commitment. With your annual support, you keep the performing arts going strong here at our Centre and across Canada. And today, you may want to consider another way to give – to demonstrate your passion for music, theatre and dance while enjoying a welcome break on your taxes.

The elimination of capital gains tax on donations of publicly traded securities (stocks, bonds and mutual funds) is a great opportunity for caring supporters like you – especially as the markets have started to make a come-back. If you've reinvested in

the market since last March, you may have made some gains or you may have long-held securities that have accumulated gains. If that's the case and you're looking at rearranging your portfolio, now is a good time to remember your commitment to the NAC by making a gift of securities and taking advantage of the additional tax break.

When you transfer securities directly as a donation to a charitable organization like the NAC Foundation, the taxable amount is zero per cent of the capital gain. This benefit applies to estates as well. Making a bequest in the form of securities instead of cash will result in greater tax savings. That

means more money will be available to distribute among your loved ones and the charities closest to your heart.

If the coming days find you taking stock of your investments, I hope you will keep in mind your dedication to the NAC Foundation. A gift of securities is the perfect way to save on your taxes while supporting the performing arts you love.

For more information on making a gift of securities, please contact Barry Bloom at 613- 947-7000 ext. 314.

The NAC Foundation Website Gets a Makeover

In celebration of our 10th anniversary, the National Arts Centre Foundation's website has a bold new look that provides easy access to engaging information about all of our fundraising activities.

Launched this past December, the new look includes a freshly redesigned home page that has bold imagery and compelling photographs. The website provides clear information about how you can make a difference with the NAC Foundation's projects and priorities, fundraising events, giving opportunities and much more.

There is also a special "Success Stories" section that shares personal insights into the different ways your donations have made an impact in the lives of so many Canadian artists, students and educators.

"We're excited about the website's new look and features because it's much more user-friendly and has plenty of new information," says Rebecca Campbell, Development Officer, Special Projects, at the NAC Foundation. "We feel it's important to give donors, who are online, the information they need in the quickest way possible."

With the new website, you will have 24-hour access to the latest news about NAC local and national programs. You'll also find it easier to get up-to-

date information about our exciting fundraising events and be able to make on-line donations.

"We love to see you in our Donors' Circle Office, but we know that it's not always convenient," adds Rebecca. "Now the NAC Foundation website will give you the same level of service, where you can send us an email to take advantage of your Donors' Circle concierge privileges to book parking, reserve tickets and make reservations at Le Café."

This engaging new look and feel is only the first step. As Rebecca says, supporters will continue to notice changes and improvements as the year progresses.

For that reason, if you have any suggestions or comments, she encourages you to contact the Foundation through the website. Please take a moment to check out our new look at

www.nac-cna.ca/foundation

*Did You Know...
Celebrating 40
Years at the NAC:
Why does the NAC use a
hexagon as its logo?*

The NAC's unusual hexagon motif was first used in the building design by its architect, Fred Lebensold, who was inspired by the 60-degree angle at which Rideau Street intersects the Rideau Canal. He designed the NAC to reflect the landscape – appearing as though it emerges from the rock, both massive and graceful at the same time.

The interlaced symbol of three hexagons that comprises the NAC logo was created by the Montreal firm Design Collaborative. It not only captures a reflection of the architect's design element, but also represents the original three theatres in the NAC and the three performing arts disciplines of music, theatre and dance.



Five Minutes with Our 2009 NACO Bursary Winner:



Photo: Michel Dozois

Daniel Parker describes his typical day, biggest inspiration and the most exciting moment in his musical career

It was a day 16-year-old Daniel Parker will never forget. On May 19, 2009, the Ottawa cellist was named the winner of the \$7,000 National Arts Centre Orchestra Bursary. The competition is open to students from the National Capital Region who are interested in pursuing orchestral careers.

We were delighted to chat with the Grade 12 student recently about his life, his plans for the future and what this extraordinary achievement means to him.

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

A: I was four years old. My mom was a violin teacher who wanted me to learn a strings instrument. My dad was very enthusiastic too. I liked the sound of the cello and have loved it ever since.

Q: What is your typical day like?

A: I go to school and get home around 3:30. From 3:30 on, I practice the cello – about two hours a day – and do my homework. I make sure to have a bit of fun as well.

Q: What has been the most exciting moment in your musical career so far?

A: The announcement that I had won the NACO competition. It was a complete surprise and the most exciting moment of my life.

Q: How did it feel to perform in the NACO competition?

A: At first, I was very nervous on the stage. My hands were shaking. By the end of the performance, I felt very good. The audience was very supportive.

Q: What went through your mind when you learned you had won?

A: My first thought was, “Did they really say my name?” My mother was there with me and she said she almost fainted.

Q: How will the bursary make a difference in your life?

A: It will certainly help a lot this year and in upcoming years at university. It will help pay for lessons, summer music camp, travel to auditions and applying to universities across North America.

Q: What would you say to other young musicians who are starting to pursue their dream?

A: There are a lot of ups and downs, but keep going with it. Keep following your dream.

Q: What is your biggest wish for the future?

A: I hope to get a great education with many great teachers. I’m not sure what aspect of music I’ll pursue yet – teaching or performing – but I definitely love the orchestra.

Q: Who is your musical inspiration?

A: I particularly like the composers Dmitri Shostakovich and Gaspar Cassado. Pinchas Zukerman is always a great inspiration as well. My teacher, Paul Marleyn, has been extremely influential to my development as a musician. This is my fifth year with him.

Q: What other types of music do you enjoy?

A: My taste in music varies quite a bit. I enjoy everything from folk to metal. One of my favourites is a band called Apocalyptica, famous for playing Metallica with four cellos.

Q: Besides music, what do you like to do in your spare time?








A: I like to play on the computer and enjoy hanging out with friends, biking and other outdoor activities.

Q: What would you like to say to NAC donors who helped make this award possible?

A: Thank you so much for this award. Pursing a musical career is expensive and this bursary is such a godsend.

For more information about the 2010 NACO Bursary Competition, see page 12.

Calendar of Events

DATE AND TIME	EVENT/ SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
February 10, 2010 6:45 p.m. Theatre	Donor Preview— French Theatre: <i>Woyzeck</i> 								
February 17, 2010 Details TBD	Emeritus Circle Tea 								
February 17, 2010 6:45 p.m. Theatre	Donor Preview—English Theatre: <i>Mrs. Dexter and Her Daily</i> 								
February 27, 2010 8:00 p.m. concert Southam Hall	Black & White Opera Soiree Tickets available through the NAC Box Office and TicketMaster								
March 18, 2010 6:30 p.m.	Corporate Club Reception Cocktail reception for Corporate Club members, followed by a performance of <i>Mysterioso: "Music and Magic"</i> 								
March 21, 2010 2:00 p.m. Le Salon	NAC Orchestra Bursary Benefit Concert Tickets available through the NAC Box Office at \$15 each								
April 7, 2010 6:45 p.m. Theatre	Donor Preview—English Theatre: <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> 								
May 1, 2010 TBD Southam Hall	Donor Open Rehearsal— The Governor General Performing Arts Awards Gala Rehearsal 								
May 1, 2010 8:00 p.m. concert Southam Hall	The Governor General Performing Arts Awards Gala — Tickets available through the NAC Box Office and TicketMaster								
May 10, 2010 7:00 p.m. Studio	NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition Finals Free admission (no tickets required)								
June 10, 2010 9:15 a.m. Southam Hall	Donor Open Rehearsal—NACO: <i>Schumann and Mozart</i> 								

Open Rehearsal and Previews

Enclosed with your newsletter, you will find your new calendar of events for the Open Rehearsal and Previews available this winter 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, 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 winter! For more information about the Open Rehearsals and Previews, please call the Annual Fund office at 613-947-7000 ext. 315.

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

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