News from the Donors' Circle and Corporate Club The National Arts Centre Foundation's Annual Giving Clubs

**FALL 2008** 

# Full Circle



#### Remembering Hamilton Southam

"True Canadian patriot and cultural giant."

# anada Day at the National Arts Centre has always been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with our valued donors. This year, however, the festivities were tinged with poignancy as we celebrated the life and marked the passing of a great Canadian. Hamilton Southam, the NAC's founder, passed away on July 1st at the age of 91. NAC Director General Peter

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NAC Director General Peter Herrndorf announced Hamilton's passing to a crowd of about 350 donors on the NAC rooftop terrace.

"He was a war hero, a journalist, a diplomat, a performing arts legend who willed the NAC into existence 39 years ago," he said. "He was a proud and passionate Canadian."

"There would not be the NAC without Hamilton Southam," said Julia Foster, Chair of the National Arts Centre Board of Trustees. "Hamilton was the driving force in creating a national arts centre, and his passion for excellence inspired all who had the honour to work alongside with him."

> Hamilton's life was a testament to his pride in his country. Born in Ottawa to Henrietta Alberta Cargill and Wilson Mills Southam, he served in both the British and Canadian armies during World War II. He worked as a journalist in London, England before returning to Ottawa in 1946 to become an editorial writer for the Ottawa Citizen.

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Photo: © Estate of Yousuf Karsh



# from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

#### Performance. Creation. Learning.

hey've been part of our vision from
the beginning – ever since the charming
man with the commanding presence literally
"willed" the creation of the National Arts Centre in the 1960's.

Sadly, our founder, G. Hamilton Southam passed away this year at the age of 91. His wisdom and counsel will be deeply missed by the many people who continued to look upon him as a treasured mentor and advisor even after he left the NAC. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the entire Southam family.

Hamilton may be gone but he leaves behind a legacy that will continue to delight, entertain and educate Canadians for generations to come. The NAC would not exist if not for his vision. And today, as I unveil some of this season's highlights, I do so as a tribute to the man who helped pave the way for performing arts in Canada.

On the performance side, our NAC Orchestra led by Music Director, Pinchas Zukerman will embark on Western Canada Tour this fall – a tour which will include more than 60 educational events. The NAC is also proud to welcome America's National Ballet Company to our Centre for the first time since the 1960's. The American Ballet Theatre will perform, Giselle in February. And for theatre-lovers, we have *The Blue Dragon/Le Dragon bleu*, the jewel in this season's crown for both English and French Theatre.

Looking ahead to next spring, our series of biennial festivals continues with *BC Scene*. Showcasing the talents of 600 artists from all disciplines, the festival will present a vast living portrait of British Columbia here on our stages.

#### **NAC** Foundation

Darrell Louise Gregersen, FAHP Chief Executive Officer

Jane Moore Chief Development Officer

#### Annual Giving Staff 613-947-7000

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Vicki Cummings Development Officer, Corporate Gifts and Sponsorship

Cathy Pruefer Development Officer, Corporate and Major Gifts

Rachael Wilson Associate Development Officer, Annual Fund

Catini St. Pierre Coordinator, Annual Fund

Meanwhile, in a fusion of creation and learning, The Playwrights in Residence programme will continue this year. Carol CeCe Anderson and Joseph A. Dandvrand will spend 10 weeks at the NAC, working on their new scripts and participating in outreach activities with youth. And, we look forward to selecting among Canada's most promising young musicians, conductors and composers to join us for study and performance at the NAC 11<sup>th</sup> Summer Music Institute.

I've touched upon some of this season's highlights but there is so much more to experience every day at the NAC. As a valued supporter, you are always welcome to visit our Centre, attend our Open Rehearsals and Previews, and meet some of the students who benefit from your generosity. On behalf of all of us at the NAC, I encourage you to take a look at the open rehearsals and previews calendar you recently received, fill in the card and send it back to us to let us know when we can expect you.

Thanks to Hamilton Southam's vision, and your generous support, the NAC will always be a place where magical performances take centre stage; moving works of art are lovingly created; and young Canadians are given the chance to discover the performing arts and take their place in the spotlight.

Darrell Louise Gregersen

CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation

#### Remembering Hamilton Southam continued from page 1

On the move again when he joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1948, Hamilton served in Stockholm, Ottawa and Warsaw. In August 1962, he returned to Ottawa permanently and, in 1964, he was seconded to serve as leader of the NAC project.

"I've had a wonderful life. I've never done anything that I didn't want to do, which I didn't enjoy, and which I don't look back on with pleasure,"

Hamilton Southam

Hamilton spearheaded the National Capital Arts Alliance, a group of arts organizations in Ottawa, which commissioned a study that proposed the construction of the NAC. He presented the report to Prime Minister Lester Pearson who approved the project. The National Arts Centre triumphantly opened its doors to the public in 1969.

Fittingly, Hamilton Southam became the NAC's first Director General and served in that capacity from 1967 to 1977. During his tenure, the National Arts Centre became known as a centre of creativity. On the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its inaugural season, the National Arts Centre

Opera was renamed Southam Hall in honour of its charismatic founder. That same year, Hamilton and his wife Marion (who died in 2005) established a permanent endowment fund with the National Arts Centre Foundation, dedicated to supporting artistic growth and development in music.

Hamilton remained actively involved with the NAC until retiring from the Foundation Board of Directors in November 2004 and accepting an appointment as the Foundation's first Honorary Director.

Hamilton was also the force behind the new Canadian War Museum and the Valiants Memorial on Confederation Square, a collection of 14 bronzes of military heroes and heroines. Charles Belzile, a former commander of the Canadian army who worked with Hamilton on the Canadian Battlefields Foundation, was quoted as saying, "He would recruit a few of us, and the next thing you know, things happen. ...he was a visionary."

Hamilton leaves behind six children and a legion of grateful Canadians whose lives he has touched with his vision and commitment. "Hamilton Southam was a true Canadian patriot and a cultural giant," said Peter. "His spirit lives on in the building he created and through the performances, artists and audiences who will continue to come here in the future."

# Meet the Annual Fund Staff

You hear their voices on the phone and see their smiling faces at performances. But now it's time to take a "behind the scenes" look at the Annual Fund team.

Leading the group is Barry Bloom, who in addition to his annual fund responsibilities works closely with donors making bequests. What you may not know is that he's been the secret weapon in right field for the Oozbecks in New Edinburgh for 23 years!

Vicki Cummings works with corporate donations and sponsorships. She's a trumpet player who loves the creative energy at the NAC. We like to think that she contributes to that energy with her great sense of humour.

Catini St. Pierre hails from Zimbabwe. She deals with concierge line requests and provides support on many donor activities. She studied Theatre at the University of Ottawa. Catini delights in her on-going discovery of the many secret rooms and passages at the NAC!



If you received it in the mail, Rachael Wilson surely had a hand in it. She oversees direct mail and works with circles-level donors. She's been involved in theatre for years, having put behind her an illustrious synchronized swimming career. She once ranked 11th in Ontario. Don't challenge her to a breath-holding contest!

Feel free to call on them anytime at the Annual Fund Office.

Ine Annual Fund Team: (L-R) Vicki Cummings, Bai Bloom, Rachael Wilson and Catini St. Pierre *Photo: Andrea Thomson* 

#### National Youth and Education Trust

# Bringing the performing arts into the lives of a new generation

Thousands of young people gather on a national stage to play music... a child from an Ottawa school attends his first theatre performance for only \$3.00... students in a Saskatchewan First Nations school learn to play recorder...

he National Youth and Education Trust (NYET) provides an incredible opportunity for the NAC and our generous supporters to reach out to young people, nurture their love of the performing arts, and develop the talent of Canada's next generation of artists. With dozens of activities funded through the NYET each year, educational and outreach programmes abound at the NAC and across the country.

Sharing the Arts ensures children can experience the magic of music, theatre and dance. Subsidized tickets for under-privileged children, special student rates and matinees means no young person need miss out on a transforming experience that can take them beyond their world of commercial pop music, television and movies.



Over an eight-week period, children from Amishk elementary school in Mashteuiatsch, Quebec learned to play an excerpt from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons to sing and play on recorder. The recorder projects are supported in part by the NYET. Photo: Fred Cattroll

Of course, the NYET does more than encourage young people into our theatres, studios and concert halls – it also brings the performing arts into Canada's classrooms. For example, our **Music Alive Programme** (formerly known as the Music Ambassador Programme) from Saskatchewan and Alberta will visit 300 schools in those provinces over the next two-and-a-half years, sharing music with kids who may not otherwise get this kind of experience. And, students and teachers coast-to-coast can access a wealth of information with interactive modules in music, theatre and dance by visiting NAC's educational website **ArtsAlive.ca**.

For young Canadians with a dream, the NYET funds many opportunities to help budding artists take their place among the next generation of performers, playwrights, composers and choreographers. We foster the creation of new pieces of dance or theatre, offer master classes and scholarships, and give thousands the chance to perform on Canada's national stage.

We believe the opportunities for learning that we provide today will lead to outstanding new creations and performances tomorrow. Thank you for supporting the NYET and helping to enrich the minds and open the hearts of our young people.

Students at a local "Beacon" school (a school designated by the Ottawa school board to be in a financially challenged area), take part in a 5-week project to explore music and movement with NAC Orchestra musician Elizabeth Simpson (pictured) and NAC Dance Outreach Coordinator Renata Soutter. 
Photo: Michel Dozois

# Donor Profile: "We all benefit from exposure to the arts."

s a child, Laura Hayter studied dance and watched her parents attend regular NAC performances. This early experience showed her the immense value of the performing arts and when she heard about the NAC's Corporate Club, she knew just what to do.

"Joining the Corporate Club was an easy decision for me," says Laura, President of hmci hayter marketing communications inc. "We all benefit, both personally and as a community, from exposure to the arts."

Corporate Club membership offers business leaders many benefits. Laura especially enjoys the concierge service which allows her easy access to performance tickets. She also enjoys being able to take clients to the NAC. "You actually have time to talk about something other than business", she says.

Being able to direct her Corporate Club commitment to youth programs makes the program even more appealing. Laura strongly believes that exposure to the performing arts makes for "individuals who are well-rounded. It fuels their imaginations."



"Joining the Corporate Club was an easy decision for me."

Photo Credit: DRH

# Making Giving Easy: Welcoming Corporations to the Club

he National Arts Centre's Corporate Club gives local businesses and professionals a chance to show appreciation for the performing arts while providing opportunities to reward valued employees, clients and associates.

Membership to "the club" begins with an annual financial contribution of \$1,000 or more to the NAC Foundation. Your generous donation plays a vital role in the advancement of the Centre, helping to nurture artists; inspire young people and showcase the best in music, theatre and dance.

For many business leaders, dedicated to keeping the performing arts flourishing in Canada, this is reward enough. But to thank you for your generosity, we're pleased to offer our Corporate Club members many other benefits as well, such as our same-day Concierge Service offering ticket purchase with access to the best seats, no-fee ticket exchange, Le Café reservations and VIP parking. You'll also enjoy complimentary tickets to NAC performances; invitations to special events; recognition on our Donor Wall and so much more.

For more information on Corporate Club Membership, please contact Vicki Cummings at (613) 947-7000, ext. 586.

# New Listening System for all hearing impaired

fter hours of painstaking research, testing, and fine-tuning, it all comes down to this: the installation of the industry's best assistive listening system in North America. The new system offers the best sound quality available making it possible for patrons with impaired hearing to hear even the subtlest nuances of a performance through headphones.

"The system allows us to provide our patrons with a more accessible way to enjoy the audio portion of performances. I'm very pleased with the results," says David Ship, Manager, Production Services, who directed the installation of this system.

The system, already in place in the Studio and Theatre and coming this fall to Southam Hall, was made possible thanks to the generosity of Harvey and Louise Glatt. "It opens the door for people with hearing loss to come out and enjoy theatre," Harvey says. "It's important that people are aware of it and give it a try."

The new, state-of-the-art Infrared Assistive Listening System – which replaces outdated technology installed in 1983 – transmits sound in stereo, gives patrons the option to bring in their own headphones and is compatible with all types of hearing aids. The system is accessible by people with slight hearing loss to those with cochlear implants. "The stereo sound offers patrons a more immersive experience. If you close your eyes, you can hear someone walking across the stage and know in what direction they're moving," says David.

But will patrons with impaired hearing notice a difference? David recalls the reaction of one woman who was there to test the system at the last play of the season. "She told me she'd never been to a show before because of her hearing loss," he says. "She was so excited by how well the system worked she was practically bouncing off the ceiling."

All of us at the NAC are very proud of this system which will improve the quality of performance for many patrons.

For those suffering from hearing loss who would like to try the new system, receiver headphones will be available at the Theatre coatroom on a complimentary basis.

### MusicFest Canada 2008 Giving young performers their chance to shine

t's 6:00 am and the halls of the NAC buzz with excitement as the first band of the day checks in. These young performers are exactly where they want to be – representing their community in front of a live audience in the nation's capital. Hours

This year, over 10, 000 students came to the National Arts Centre to share their creativity and musical achievements Photo: Harry Tonogai

of practice, countless competitions and the distinction of being selected among Canada's best have all led to this shining moment.

These are the *MusicFest* Nationals, "an intense week of music with performances, clinics and workshops going on all day," explains Douglas ('Pace') Sturdevant, Manager, Artist Training and Outreach. Hosted by the NAC this year, over 7,000 youth, from as far away as Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon descended on Ottawa to play music and grow as musicians. Each band and orchestra had to qualify to take part in the event – making the experience even more profound.

*MusicFest* encourages students to challenge themselves, to learn and grow as performers. It's just one of the many ways your support helps us reach out to Canada's youth – a big part of NAC's mandate. Thanks to your generosity, the NAC funds many life-changing programmes like *MusicFest* through the National Youth and Education Trust. You need only to look at the huge smile on a young artist's face to know how much your donation is appreciated.

"Some kids end up with scholarships or awards," says Pace. "All come away with memories that will stay with them for life."

#### NAC Orchestra Western Tour A moving combination of performance and learning.

Before the last notes of the Largo Theme from Vivaldi's Four Seasons' Winter Concerto have died away, a wave of people jump to their feet, many with tears streaming down their faces. Proud parents are there, as are members of a local First Nations community. Then, along with brass players of the NAC Orchestra, it is the students' turn to listen – to the beautiful sound of thunderous applause washing over them.

his fall, the NAC Orchestra will head to Western Canada for its 2008 tour. The tour will include 13 orchestral concerts and over 60 education activities ranging from master classes to student concerts. "We're exposing thousands of young people to the music and musicians of the symphony orchestra by presenting concerts and educational activities to schools that don't have easy access to live performances or visits from orchestral players," explains Claire Speed, Director of Music Education.

But it is a 10-week project that integrates Aboriginal and Western cultural traditions and culminates with a community concert featuring elementary students and brass musicians of the NAC Orchestra – that is especially close to Claire's heart. In its 4<sup>th</sup> edition, "Music Connections" will involve 60 Grade 4-6 students from two inner-city Winnipeg schools. "This program gives Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students the chance to learn an



During the 2006 Quebec Tour, local children perform on stage with the NAC Orchestra at Domaine Forget. *Photo: Fred Cattroll* 



During the concert at l'Église Notre-Dame-Immaculée in Roberval, children are selected to demonstrate the homemade hose and funnel brass instruments. This performance was apart of the educational activities during the 2006 Quebec Tour.

Photo: Fred Cattroll

instrument – in this case, the Native American flute," says Claire. "It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate First Nations heritage with its very rich tradition in the arts alongside the music of the symphony orchestra."

It's also a wonderful opportunity that would not be possible without the support we receive from caring friends like you. Your donation supports important programmes like "Music Connections" and gives countless youth their chance to stand in the spotlight listening to the sweet sound of applause washing over them.

#### A legacy in the name of love Remembering Isobel Adey

sobel Adey was a private woman. When she passed away in November 2006, after a long and productive life, even those who knew her best were surprised by her significant bequest to the National Arts Centre Foundation.

Likely, it was Isobel's loyalty to her beloved husband that sparked her generosity to the NAC. Dr. Adey was a fervent music lover and a patron of the NAC. Isobel never forgot his passion and chose to honour her late husband with a bequest.

Albert's love of music is evident in his collection of 2,000 mostly classical records. After Isobel's passing, friends discovered this musical treasure in her home and have since donated the records to an Ottawa school, with funds going to help area students. Those close to her say Isobel would have approved. She was a woman deeply committed to helping those in her community.

Isobel dedicated time and energy to a variety of local organizations and was best known as the founder of the International Club of Ottawa, a club created to promote friendship between Canadians and Internationals living in Ottawa temporarily. In recognition of her efforts, Isobel was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal and was named Woman of the Year in 1992.

At the NAC Foundation, we are immensely grateful for Isobel's gift. Her foresight will influence the future of the performing arts and quietly make an impact for generations to come – the perfect legacy for a private and caring woman. This fall, the NAC Orchestra will perform a concert to celebrate Isobel's life and honour her memory.

Like Isobel, you too can help shape the future of performing arts in Canada by considering a bequest to the National Arts Centre Foundation. For more information about planned giving, please call Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000 ext 314.

### Calendar of Events

DATE & TIME	EVENT/SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
October	Black & White Opera Soiree Priority Ticket Window								
October 16, 2008 6:30 p.m. Le Salon	Corporate Club Reception Cocktail reception for Corporate Club members, followed by a performance of Cavanagh sings Billy Joel								
October 28, 2008 Time TBD Le Salon	Donor Open Rehearsal — Dance: Bangarra Dance Theatre								
November 29, 2008 7:30 p.m. Dominion Chalmers United Church Tickets \$20	The Ark: The Theatre of Bertolt Brecht Tickets on sale through the Box Office								
December 10, 2008 6:45 p.m. Fountain room	Donor Preview — French Theatre:  Cyrano de Bergerac  Give								
January 8, 2009 9:15 a.m. Le Salon	Donor Open Rehearsal — NACO:  Beethoven's Mighty Fifth  Give Grade Hand								
January 8, 2009 6:45 p.m. Le Salon	Donor Preview — English Theatre:  Buried Child  Give Grive Hand								
January 28, 2009 6:45 p.m. Le Salon	Donor Preview — English Theatre:  Belle Moral: A Natural History  Give Hand								

#### **Open Rehearsals and Previews**

Recently we sent you the calendar of events for the Open Rehearsal and Previews available this fall to Donors' Circle members. We hope you found the events exciting and have already mailed your response. You will receive a letter from us 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 fall! 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

> www.nac-cna.ca/donors annualfund@nac-cna.ca 613-947-7000, ext. 315