

Full Circle



Sharing the Arts

Making the performing arts accessible to *everyone* in the community

You can hear their excited whispers throughout the concert hall. Their teachers do their best to "shush" the eager students, but the NAC Orchestra does it better. With the first opening notes the students fall silent, captivated by the beautiful music, like so many generations before them.

Every person in our community deserves to have an experience like this one. And yet, sadly, thousands of people – from children to seniors – don't have the financial means to attend a performance at the National Arts Centre. That's why we are so excited about **Sharing the Arts**. Together with our community partners and generous supporters like you, we are able to literally open our doors and share the arts with those who might not otherwise have the chance.

Sharing the Arts brings the magic of the performing arts to children and adults in various ways. One very important way is by distributing free tickets to United Way Ottawa. They, in turn,

reach out to thousands of people through their member agencies, such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Disabled Persons Community Resources, Family Services Ottawa, and the Good Companions Senior Centre. These agencies understand the need better than anyone and can quickly put tickets into the hands of interested families and individuals – providing an unforgettable experience.

"Our seniors don't often get the opportunity to experience the theatre and are often quite isolated," explains a spokesperson for the Wabano Friendship Centre. "The opportunity to visit the NAC and see the Margaret Atwood play, *The Penelopiad*, really lifted their spirits. We gratefully appreciate the NAC for reaching out to us."

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Sharing the Arts opens the door to a lifetime of performing arts appreciation.

Photo: Fred Cattroll



message

from the
National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

I am very pleased to introduce myself to you today as the new Interim Chief Executive Officer of the NAC Foundation. It is a privilege to serve such an outstanding organization and I welcome the many opportunities ahead.

For almost four years, I've been fortunate to work at the National Arts Centre as the Foundation's Chief Development Officer. And today, as Interim CEO, I look forward to having the opportunity to meet you, our valued supporters, and thank you personally for the incredible difference you make.

Your support represents a solid investment in the future of the performing arts and means so much, especially during these turbulent economic times. While it's likely that we'll continue to face financial uncertainty and difficult decisions this year, I'm confident we can pull together and emerge stronger thanks to your commitment.

I like to think that the National Arts Centre – and all that transpires on our stages here in Ottawa and across the country – has an even greater role to play in times like these. Whether it's the sweet sound of a concert piano, the first lines of a soliloquy, or the breathtaking movement of choreographed dance, all have the power to take us far away from our troubles. For a few unforgettable hours, we are able to come together and celebrate the human spirit.

It's also thanks to your continued support that we are able to nurture and inspire not only members of the artistic community at the National Arts Centre, but also countless students and teachers here in Ottawa and across Canada. We are extremely proud of the impact our many education and outreach programs make by bringing the joy and optimism of the performing arts into the lives of as many young people as possible. An increasing number of Canadian schools and students will rely on our affordable programs in the coming year for what may be their only chance to experience the arts first-hand.

For these reasons and many more, I am deeply grateful for your generous support. As you'll read throughout this issue of **Full Circle**, your donations are hard at work enriching the lives of at-risk students, giving emerging artists their chance in the spotlight, and providing audiences of all ages with an experience they won't soon forget.

Thank you again for enabling us to look forward with optimism as we enter the National Arts Centre's 40th year. We have many exciting events planned in the coming months to commemorate this anniversary milestone and we look forward to sharing them with you.



Jane Moore
Interim CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation

NAC Foundation

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Our March Break-Through



16 high school students spent their March Break at the NAC in a week-long English Theatre training program exploring themes of identity and culture. *Photo: Michel Dozois*

While many kids spent the last morning of March Break 2009 sleeping in, 16 enthusiastic teens from eight Ottawa-area schools had slightly more vigorous plans.

They proudly invited friends and family to attend an open class at the National Arts Centre that capped off an intensive week-long theatre training program. The class featured the powerful performance of a vulnerable and honest series of works that the talented students had crafted during the school holiday.

Each year, the NAC's March Break Theatre Program brings together young people, ages 14 to 19, who might not otherwise have access to theatre arts training. In fact, the program, which celebrated its eighth season, is especially designed for students considered to be "at risk."

Interestingly, that label became the focus of this year's program in conjunction with English Theatre's 2008-2009 International Season. This dynamic group of young people took a hard and honest look at the brands others use to describe them in society – labels that can prevent us from seeing each other for who we are. As a result, the works they presented explored themes like home, identity, and culture.

The fortunate observers of the open class were struck by the honesty and vulnerability displayed by the students. In just one short week the students had come a long way, demonstrating a deep trust and solidarity within their group.

"The idea of collective creation is that they really work as a group, as a chorus, as one, so there's no star," says Martina Kuska, NAC Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Actor/educator nisha ahuja led the group through a creative process of writing, improvisation, storytelling, movement, voice, and text.

"I think theatre is about blending community with stories that don't always get told," she explains. "I think this group found power in their individual voices."

Students who are passionate about theatre are recommended for the program by their social workers, guidance counselors or teachers. They then go through an interview process at the NAC where the final selection is made.

This year's students all agree they couldn't have spent a better, more inspiring March Break. "This week helped me get energized and excited. I'll bring that energy back to my school," says 14-year-old Jessica Laurin. And 18-year-old Ricardo Cargill-Anderson admits, "I learned some new techniques and how to focus better."

It is the generosity of our sponsors along with the support of our donors that gives us the opportunity to offer this free program to deserving students. And you only have to hear the pride in their voices to know what an impact it's making in the young lives of the participants. "I learned everybody has something to contribute," says 16-year-old Matae Watson.

This program is made possible in part by the generosity of donors who support the NAC Foundation's National Youth and Education Trust, through the Youth Theatre Program of Theatre Ontario, and with the support from the Ottawa Branch of the English Speaking Union and Friends of English Theatre. To learn more about this program or other education initiatives in English Theatre, please contact Martina Kuska, Education and Outreach Coordinator at 613-947-7000, ext. 522.

Summer Music Institute

Making young dreams come true



NAC Maestro Pinchas Zukerman instructs Summer Music Institute students. Photo: Fred Cattroll

“This year I saw magic . . . I saw wonderful things and lived great experiences that went directly to my heart. I feel grateful for all you have done for me . . . and for giving me one of the best years of my life.” Reynaliz Herrera Martinez, Young Artists Program, 2005

They come from across Canada and all around the world to experience intensive world-class instruction and new-found friendships. They come to learn in an environment that nurtures their incredible talent and helps it grow.

“The students who attend the Summer Music Institute (SMI) are highly talented and want a serious music career,” explains Christy Harris, SMI Manager. “Every year the level of talent continues to grow.”

Interest in the SMI has certainly grown in the 10 years since the National Arts Centre’s Music Director Pinchas Zukerman founded the Young Artists Program (YAP) with just 10 students. Today, the SMI has become a world-renowned magnet for the best young Canadian and international musicians, conductors, and composers. Ninety students attended the SMI last summer.

“This year we’re drawing more interest for the Junior Program and we’re drawing a higher caliber of performer,” says Christy. “Applications

for the program have increased by 24% over last year. Word is getting out. The kids are realizing what a fantastic opportunity this is.”

It is the support of a very special group of people that makes this opportunity possible.

“Donors can feel proud that they’re helping to launch the talent of people who deserve to develop,” says Christy. “Their support is helping to pay for world-class instruction, while it also gives students the opportunity to network with peers at the same level. It opens so many doors for them.”

Our SMI students couldn’t agree more. Many are now living their dreams and have made a career out of their life’s passion, including Catherine Carignan, who attended YAP in 2005 and 2006.

“I sincerely feel that the learning experience I lived at the Young Artists Program has greatly helped me in obtaining this first position with the Victoria Orchestra,” says Catherine. “I thank you many, many times for everything!”

Donor Profile: Leading by Example

For eight memorable years, the National Arts Centre Foundation was most fortunate to have had Darrell Gregersen at its helm. During her tenure as the Foundation's President and CEO, Darrell created avenues for donors to support exceptional programs, performances, and learning at the NAC and across Canada.

So it seems only fitting that upon leaving the NAC in January to become President and CEO for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Foundation, Darrell has left a legacy that reflects her passion for the performing arts. Her goal was to give a gift that would demonstrate her immense respect for the work of the NAC.

"I wanted to do something important for the NAC, while still considering my own young family's financial needs," says Darrell.

The NAC team worked closely with Darrell to find a solution that would address both goals. The result was a combination of a life insurance policy worth \$25,000 and a bequest of \$25,000. With this generous and affordable gift, the Darrell Howard Gregersen Choir Fund was born.

This new fund supports performance opportunities for choirs at the NAC and across the country in conjunction with the National Arts Centre Orchestra. It is an open fund, meaning anyone can contribute to it. This makes Darrell's gift an ideal opportunity for other choir lovers to lend their support.

Darrell's love of choir performances stems from her family's active involvement in church choirs. Her mother, grandmother and other family members have participated as organists, choir directors and choir members. Over the years, Darrell herself has been a member of several choirs. "Choral singing can be a glorious way to express excitement about life," she reflects.

Darrell is delighted to have the opportunity to leave a lasting gift to the NAC in recognition of her family. "This gift is a fitting tribute to my mother and an ode to my grandmother," she says. "It is a gift I can really feel good about."

If you would like to learn more about the Darrell Howard Gregersen Choir Fund, or discuss how you can make a legacy gift, please contact Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000, ext. 314.



"I wanted to do something important for the NAC, while still considering my own young family's financial needs."

Photo: Jim Dawson / FOTOWORK

Making Giving Easy: Insuring a bright future for the Performing Arts

As a vibrant hub for performance, creation, and learning, the National Arts Centre is committed to being a leader and innovator in the performing arts. That's a legacy many of our generous donors are proud to support. In fact, supporters like you have told us it's the reason they give to the NAC. They want to help shape the future of the performing arts in Canada.

A planned gift of life insurance is an easy and beneficial way you can ensure your passion for the performing arts is passed on to future generations. You simply purchase a policy, make the NAC Foundation the owner and beneficiary, and pay the premiums. Each year, we will provide you with a tax receipt for the sum of your premiums.

A gift of life insurance is remarkably affordable. It enables Canadians in all income brackets to make a substantial gift at a reasonable cost. Here are some options:

1. You can purchase a policy that is best suited to your means and stage of life. For example, if you are in your 50s, you can select a plan and finish paying premiums by the time you retire.
2. If you already have a policy, you can choose to donate it to the NAC Foundation, and we'll give you a tax receipt for the cash surrender value of the policy.
3. To ensure your children are looked after, you can make a bequest to the NAC and

take out an insurance policy for the same value of the bequest, making your children the beneficiaries. The insurance benefit, which your children will receive tax-free, replaces the assets in your estate.

A planned gift of life insurance is an affordable way you can help keep the performing arts alive in Canada and in the hearts of Canadians for generations to come. For more information, please contact Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000, ext. 314, or speak with your financial advisor about an option that is right for you.

The Governor General's Performing Arts Award Mentorship Program

Honouring our best, investing in our future

Crystal Pite's performance at last year's Governor General's Performing Arts Award (GGPAA) Gala was described as "dynamic," "innovative," and "the highlight of the evening." Many people of national prominence were there to witness and celebrate Crystal's success, but none could so proudly share the moment as Canada's own Veronica Tennant, the legendary prima ballerina, filmmaker, 2004 GGPAA laureate, and *mentor*.

Last year, Veronica and Crystal were the first pairing in an exciting new component of the award show – the GGPAA Mentorship Program. It provides a unique and priceless opportunity for professional artists like Crystal to rise to their full potential. While many programs exist to support emerging artists, talented professionals often find themselves in need of an infusion of creative guidance and could benefit from a national showcase opportunity. The new mentorship program was created for just this purpose and it's off to a spectacular start.

"Crystal Pite's work epitomizes everything the Governor General's Awards stand for:

she is daring, creative and innovative," says Veronica. "I am honoured to be connected with Crystal through this initiative."

This year, distinguished jazz legend Oliver Jones chose to mentor Dione Taylor, an extraordinarily talented young singer. Like Crystal, Dione received coaching and career advice from her mentor, culminating in a showcase performance at the GGPAA Gala on May 9, 2009.

"I'm so happy to work with Dione and offer what guidance I can to such a sparkling young talent," says Oliver. "I feel honoured to have this chance to work with her and to perhaps play some small part in the growth of her career."

Dione is equally delighted by the opportunity to work with one of the world's best.

"Mr. Jones has contributed so much to the music industry and is part of such a wonderful tradition that I so deeply respect," she says. "It is an honour to be recognized in this way."

Dione Taylor and her mentor Oliver Jones performed together on the Southam Hall stage at this year's Governor General's Performing Arts Awards Gala.

Photo: Mike Pinder



Sharing the Arts

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With the help of our supporters, **Sharing the Arts** also provides subsidized tickets to children at Ottawa schools that have been identified as having students with the highest need for increased learning opportunities. In fact, we make reduced-price tickets available to all local school boards so every class can attend student matinees without parents bearing the full cost of an NAC performance.

Imagine the difference this opportunity can make in the life of a young person who has never seen a dancer move gracefully across a stage or been brought to tears by a monologue delivered flawlessly by a gifted actor. Imagine the inspiration and hope a live performance can bring to someone who dreams of becoming an artist one day.

"It is a pleasure to offer subsidized tickets to schools whose students would otherwise not be able to attend performances at the NAC," says Andrée Larose, Youth Programs Coordinator for English Theatre, French Theatre, and Dance. "I hear first-hand the results of anonymous generosity: *'Thank you to the NAC for letting us see the amazing performance . . . One day I hope I can play as well as the NAC Orchestra musicians.'* It is truly rewarding for me to hear this positive feedback."

It is caring friends like you who help make these experiences possible. With your generosity, the NAC Foundation *shared the arts* with more than 20,000 individuals this season. With your continued support, we can do even better this year. We can ensure valuable partnerships between the National Arts Centre and our local community will continue to grow and thrive. We can reach into the hearts of thousands of community members and enrich their lives with theatre, music, and dance.

Play creation in English Theatre: *Giving life to our Canadian voice*



Last fall, participants of English Theatre's *The Ark* performed the culmination of their three-week long exploration of Bertolt Brecht's plays. *The Ark* is a product of a partnership between the NAC English Theatre and the National Theatre School of Canada in which students and seasoned theatre artists explore a period in theatre history – a creative training experience! Photo: Andrée Lanthier

The NAC's Playwrights in Residence program has taken a new twist this year with its showcase of Kwantlen First Nation playwright Joseph A. Dandurand. As one of our two Playwrights in Residence, Joseph will do a reading of his play on the reservation he calls home in British Columbia's Fraser Valley.

"We're thinking of it as 'Playwright on the Rez' since we're going to feature Joseph in the place he calls home and we'll share it with schools on the reservation," says Paula Danckert, Company Dramaturg and Artistic Associate for English Theatre at the NAC. "For the Playwrights in Residence Program, we ask ourselves what do the playwrights need and how can we best support them. We have to be incredibly creative to support the writing, to get the playwright to the public, and to create the direct relationship within their community."

Joseph will also create an ongoing blog that includes his plays and poems, while Carol Cece Anderson, our other Playwright in Residence, will continue to work on her new play, *Swan Song of Maria*.

Playwrights in Residence, as well as two other play creation and development programs,

The Ark and *Atelier*, play an important role in English Theatre at the NAC and across Canada.

"New work tackles ideas about how we want to live our lives in the present world," explains Paula. "We cannot only depend on Shakespeare and Shaw to do our thinking and talking for us."

Every year, *The Ark* brings second-year acting students from the National Theatre School to Ottawa to work with a company of professional actors from across Canada. We also invite directors, historians, scientists, theatre designers, and musicians to share their knowledge of a particular subject or period in time. The three-week intensive workshop culminates in an evening of readings and music that are shared with an audience.

"The professionals come for their development. They each bring what they know and what they have. It's an incredible workout," says Paula. "For the students, *The Ark* is a great eye-opener to the demands of the life of an actor. It's a great mentorship program. People have been transformed by the experience."

Paula, who dreams of taking the program to cities across the country, says that attending

The Ark is also an inspiring experience for the audience.


"It gives them an insight into what research and development means to an artist. The audience walks away extremely stimulated by what they have learned."

The Atelier is a similar research and development event, one that focuses specifically on an important new Canadian work for the theatre. After a week-long workshop with a full cast, designer, and director, the playwright will use the knowledge to put the finishing touches on his/her work.

Paula says creation and development programs, like *The Atelier*, which focus on Canadian work, are needed to bring our own Canadian perspective to the public platform.

"Our voice must be heard in the global discourse regarding how we view our place in the world," she says, adding that is why the continued support of our donors is so vital. "Without support for education research and development there is no product. The playwright and our Canadian voice disappear from the table."

Calendar of Events

DATE & TIME	EVENT/SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES	EVERYONE
June 26 to 28, 2009 Stratford Festival	Friends of English Theatre Attend the Stratford Festival with the Friends of English Theatre and receive discounts on tickets.*									
July 1, 2009	NAC Foundation Canada Day Thank You Party 									
September 11 to 13, 2009 Shaw Festival	Friends of English Theatre Attend the Shaw Festival with the Friends of English Theatre and receive discounts on tickets.*									

* For more information call 613-726-9330 or email franny@magma.ca

What's in a name? The opportunity to make a *lasting* difference

His name is Ashton Lim and he plays the cello. Like many ambitious young musicians, 20-year-old Ashton dreams of a career in music where he can share his gift with audiences worldwide.

Last year, Ashton took a big step closer to reaching his goal by attending the Summer Music Institute at the National Arts Centre. But he didn't get there alone. This incredible opportunity was made possible thanks to a named endowment established by a generous donor.

Named endowments are established within the NAC Foundation through a gift or pledge of \$50,000 or more from one or more contributor. They can also be established with an initial contribution during a donor's lifetime and augmented through their estate or funded through an asset such as a charitable remainder trust and/or gift of life insurance.

Named endowments are a wonderful way to help advance an artist's career, give underprivileged individuals the chance to experience the performing arts, support artistic growth and development, or nurture the creative talents of young people. The contributor determines how the funds are used – making each endowment unique and personal.

As an important benefit, the contributor has the opportunity to see their generosity at work. Although the capital is held in perpetuity and invested by the Foundation, a portion of the income earned is expended for the purpose outlined by the contributor. The balance is re-invested in the fund to ensure that both the capital and the annual disbursement keep pace with inflation.

The NAC Foundation is ready to work with you, your family and advisors to explore a variety of endowment options. Please contact Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000 ext. 314 to learn how your name can always be associated with a passion for the performing arts.

Currently, the National Arts Centre Foundation stewards the following legacy gifts:

Cairine and Norman Wilson Young Performers Endowment

Claire Marson - Performing Arts For All Endowment

Daugherty and Verma Endowment for Young Musicians

*Huguette and Marcelle Jubinville Endowment
for The Performing Arts*

*Jean E. McPhee and Sylvia M. McPhee Endowment
for the Performing Arts*

*Kenneth I. McKinlay Legacy for the Next Generation of Artists
Leighton Talent Development Endowment*

Marion and Hamilton Southam Music Endowment

Mitchell Sharp Endowment for Young Musicians

Morris and Beverly Baker Young Musicians Endowment

NACO Trust Fund - Endowment

The Poole Family Endowment

Samantha Michael Endowment Fund

Suzanne Marineau Endowment for the Arts

Tabl Family Endowment

Wrenshall Family Endowment

For further information, please contact:

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