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Fall • 2017

# Full Circle

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## **ENCOUNT3RS:**


Collaborative project  
combines disciplines  
and fosters brilliant new  
Canadian creation

As soon as their one-act ballet ended, composer Kevin Lau and choreographer Guillaume Côté sprang from their seats to take their bows on stage. So intent were they on getting there quickly they didn't see what was happening in the audience.

"Our piece was the last in the *ENCOUNT3RS* program and on opening night we didn't get a chance to see what the reaction was," Kevin admits. "We heard applause but it was dark. The next night we waited just long enough to see people pop out of their seats. It was very gratifying."

*ENCOUNT3RS*, a landmark NAC commission that paired three of Canada's outstanding choreographic talents with three of the country's most exciting composers, premiered last April. One of the goals of the unprecedented project, which marked Canada's sesquicentennial, was to provide a transformative creative "encounter" over an extended period of time. Composers Kevin Lau, Nicole Lizée and Andrew Staniland had the chance to collaborate with choreographers, Guillaume Côté, Emily Molnar and Jean Grand-Maitre for over a year before the pieces were played by the NAC Orchestra. Overall, each collaboration lasted for almost two years.

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**Dark Angels, a collaboration between composer Kevin Lau and choreographer Guillaume Côté, performed by the National Ballet of Canada**  
Photo: Michael Slobodian

From cover:

# ENCOUNT3RS:

Collaborative project combines disciplines and fosters brilliant new Canadian creation

**“The new is always going to be a challenge and that’s exactly the reason it has to be supported. Once in a while you’ll get a new piece of work that transforms the way we see the world.”**

Kevin Lau,  
Composer, *ENCOUNT3RS*



Kevin Lau  
Photo: Bo Huang

“Usually your rehearsal time and interaction with the performance is extremely limited. With this collaboration I felt at all times that we were working at a deep level,” says Kevin. “The Orchestra rehearsed many times between September and April and we were invited to sit in the room and watch the magic unfold. We were able to have long sessions to explore the artistic side in great depth. It was a real privilege and learning experience.”

It was a privilege for Music Director Alexander Shelley, too. As he says, “I think multi-disciplinary performances like this are very exciting, because in the best-case scenario, the two forms augment one another.”

Kevin, who was grateful for the opportunity to again collaborate with Guillaume (they previously collaborated on *Le Petit Prince*), agrees. “There’s something very satisfying about seeing music and choreography come together in this way,” he says. “I felt it was a passion project for everyone involved.”

*ENCOUNT3RS* was also an opportunity for six talented artists to contribute to the richness of the performing arts in Canada. “Creation is at the core of the NAC,” explains Cathy Levy, Executive Producer of NAC Dance. “One of the key things we’re trying to celebrate all the time is our Canadian artists.”

As one of those artists, Kevin stresses just how important these opportunities are. “It makes for a healthy culture when Canadian artists are allowed to flourish in this manner,” he says. “At any point in history the great pieces we think about were new and probably commissioned. Projects like *ENCOUNT3RS* are a way of encouraging artists to create, and out of that creation is where the magic happens.”

In fact, Kevin has been given the opportunity to create at the NAC before. In 2011, he attended the former Composers Program of the Summer Music Institute (SMI) where he had the chance to write a piece of music for chamber ensemble. “The

rehearsal process was very thorough,” Kevin recalls. “Imagine waking up each morning and having three hours of rehearsal and four hours of discussion with mentors and other young composers. It was the first time I had the chance to explore that process in depth and I came away completely energized and changed.”

It is donor support that makes these opportunities possible and also leads to new creation that Canada can contribute to the world stage. As Kevin says, “Projects like *ENCOUNT3RS* require an act of faith on the part of the donor to say: ‘This vision is something I believe in. I’m willing to support new creation because I believe artists should have the opportunity to collaborate and explore things in a space that encourages the maximum amount of artistic growth.’ From the bottom of my heart, I’m so very grateful.”

*For your listening pleasure, a recording of the three original scores from ENCOUNT3RS will be released on September 22, 2017.*





Jayne Watson

Photo: Ottawa's Valberg Imaging

## Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

Fall is always an exciting time at the National Arts Centre. There's a feeling of anticipation as we build up to the opening of a brand new season, similar to what children feel

when they go back to school in September. We can't wait to see what the year has in store.

But this fall is especially thrilling for patrons and subscribers who haven't yet had the chance to see the amazing new spaces in the building. The new Elgin Street entrance, City Room, O'Brien Atrium and Susan Glass & Arni Thorsteinson Staircase have drawn a lot of attention from tourists and visitors since they opened on July 1<sup>st</sup>. And, now that fall has arrived, the excitement is building among our dedicated donors as much for the physical elements of the NAC as it is for the world-class programming our artistic colleagues have planned for our stages this season.

For me personally, it was a privilege to attend the Opening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting on Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. We had 150 people cutting the ribbon to officially open the NAC including patrons, artists, architects, construction workers, NAC staff and members of the public along with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, His Excellency David Johnston, Mayor Jim Watson and other dignitaries. We were honoured to have His Royal Highness here and just as thrilled to have so many friends of the NAC who wanted to be part of such a special day.

As we raise the curtain on a new season, I hope you'll check out all our beautiful new spaces as well as see the breathtaking performance your support helps make possible. I also hope you know how grateful I am that you've chosen to come on this journey with us. The impact of your support can be felt here at the NAC as well as on stages and in classrooms across the country. It can be felt in the heart of everyone anticipating our exciting new season. Enjoy.

With gratitude,

Jayne Watson

## Phase 2: Architectural Rejuvenation Project Update

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 was a memorable day in NAC history as we officially opened the first phase of our spectacular Architectural Rejuvenation Project.

Patrons, subscribers, visitors and artists had their first glimpse of the new Elgin level of the north atrium with its gorgeous public spaces connecting to the original building. Phase 1 also includes a fully accessible Elgin Street entrance, a relocated box office and three times as many washrooms as we had before.

This fall you can anticipate many more exciting changes. Phase 2 will see the opening of the Terrace level of the north atrium, including beautiful public rooms that will be used as performance and event space, with some of the most stunning views of the capital.

The transformed Fourth Stage will also reopen, welcoming hundreds of Canadian artists this coming season through *NAC Presents*.

Please visit us soon. We look forward to sharing our newly rejuvenated NAC with you.



Visitors enjoy free community programming from the new Susan Glass & Arni Thorsteinson Staircase  
Photo: Monica Bradford-Lea

## Children's Theatre at the NAC: Thoughtful, Amazing, Engaging

"When I first saw *Ma petite boule d'amour*, I pictured parents cuddling their children as they watched the show together," recalls Mélanie Dumont, Associate Artistic Director of Youth Programming for NAC French Theatre. "With its intimate, welcoming atmosphere, the Alan & Roula Rossy Pavilion is the ideal venue for this show: it's like a cozy cocoon that envelops the audience in this story about fatherhood and adoption."

On October 28, 2017, French Theatre will inaugurate the new Alan & Roula Rossy Pavilion, a 70 seat multipurpose space, with this production by Montreal's Théâtre Bouches Décousues for children ages 3 to 6.

"With this play, writer and performer Jasmine Dubé begins a series she has affectionately nicknamed 'L'Enfaneluche' in honour of Kim Yaroshevskaya, star of the popular children's TV series *Fanfreluche*," Mélanie notes. "It reconnects with the joy of storytelling. Accompanied onstage by a musician, Jasmine narrates the touching tale of a gruff, lonely old bear who goes in search of an orphaned bear cub."

After a peripatetic year of shows performed in various nearby venues while the NAC underwent major renovations, Mélanie is thrilled to be "back home" to present a luminous season of plays for teens and children as young as 18 months.

"The theatre will always be a special place to take time out from the everyday," says Mélanie. "A place to think, be amazed and surrender to the experience. We're constantly looking for ways to surprise

our young audiences and appeal to their intelligence. The earlier they are introduced to this art form, the sooner they develop an alert and inquisitive approach to the world. It's also valuable for the parents who accompany their children. They may never have been to the theatre before, and a whole universe unfolds before their eyes."

*Ma petite boule d'amour* show dates are October 28 and 29, 2017, in the Alan & Roula Rossy Pavilion.



*Ma petite boule d'amour* will be presented at the NAC in October  
Illustration by Julie Charland



Myles A. Taylor and Sharon Bajer  
on stage at the NAC in *Kill Me Now*  
Photo: Dylan Hewlett

"If, through entertaining, we can open new avenues of thinking, that's the perfect blend. It's doing what the arts are meant to do."

Myles A. Taylor, Actor

## Disabled actor takes centre stage in *Kill Me Now*

Under the cover of darkness, Myles A. Taylor takes his place on stage for the opening scene of Brad Fraser's black comedy, *Kill Me Now*. This is his first professional theatre gig and Myles is both excited and nervous.

"It's probably the scariest thing I've ever done," admits Myles. "But it was fun to take all the work of putting together such a wonderful play and getting it up on its feet and finally feel like it had become a living, breathing thing."

In the play, the young actor plays Joey, a teenager with a severe physical disability cared for by his widower father. Myles, who has cerebral palsy, can relate to many of the challenges Joey faces.

"There's an authenticity for someone like me to bring to the role that an able-bodied person can't bring," Myles says. "But disabled actors shouldn't be passed over for the opportunity to read for any part and I shouldn't be hired just to meet a diversity expectation."

NAC English Theatre Artistic Director, Jillian Keiley agrees. "Over the past year NAC English Theatre has been deeply engaged with the question of presenting disability on stage. Myles has lived the experience of disability and he is also unquestionably one of the finest young actors I've seen in Canada over the past several years."

In turn, Myles says it was a "tremendous honour and opportunity" to perform at the NAC. He's thankful to donors who support English Theatre and help bring important works like *Kill Me Now* to Canada's stage. "I'm grateful there are people who give so that artists like me can do what we do to put on good shows that are entertaining and thought-provoking," he says.



# NAC Orchestra *Canada 150 Tour* brings music, poetry and healing to Eskasoni First Nation, Nova Scotia

It was a highlight in Kalolin Johnson's life.

The young musician from the First Nations community of Eskasoni has performed in many places including Ottawa. But Kalolin had never before sung to an audience of 2,000 students, elders and dignitaries in her own community.

At the concert, Kalolin performed *We Shall Remain* with the NAC Orchestra, a song she wrote with her father Tom Johnson and music teacher Carter Chiasson. "It was such an important opportunity because they know me here," says Kalolin. "This is my hometown and it made me feel really proud."

The orchestra also performed *I Lost My Talk*, a multimedia work based on the poem by Mi'kmaw poet and elder Rita Joe, about her experience at a residential school. "You listen to *I Lost My Talk* and you put yourself in the shoes of a residential school survivor," Kalolin says. "Bringing that song home to Eskasoni was really beautiful."

Kalolin is very familiar with Rita Joe's moving work. In 2016, her school took part in *The Rita Joe National Song Project*, funded by NAC supporters. The initiative inspired students in five communities across Canada to write and perform a song to express what the poem meant to

them. Kalolin and her fellow students at Allison Bernard Memorial High School were nominated for an East Coast Music Award for their song *Gentle Warrior*.

"Music education programs like the *Rita Joe National Song Project* are so important in our community because they show the potential of our kids. We see the gifts students have that we might not have seen if they weren't given these opportunities," Kalolin says.

The NAC Orchestra couldn't agree more. That's why the *Canada 150 Tour* included over 80 education and community engagement activities, uniting the musicians with 6,000 students, educators, community leaders and artists across the four Atlantic Provinces.

Kalolin is grateful to everyone who helped make the concert in Eskasoni possible, including generous supporters. "If it wasn't for your generosity we couldn't talk about topics like residential schools through music," she says. "Thanks to you, youth in my community had the opportunity to hear a live professional orchestra. That experience showed them something they can aspire to and gave all of us the chance to be touched by music."



Kalolin Johnson performs with the NAC Orchestra  
Photo: Fred Cattroll

**"Performing with the NAC Orchestra in my community was the best experience I've ever had in singing. It was such an honour."**

Kalolin Johnson, Musician



**NAC Presents artist William Prince will perform at the Regina Folk Festival and the Winnipeg Folk Festival as part of NAC Presents Across Canada**  
Photo: Mike Latschislaw

**“Your generosity allows us to expand our support of artists’ careers in a way that will truly develop musicians in this country from coast to coast to coast.”**

Heather Gibson, Executive Director of NAC Presents

## NAC Presents goes national

When Heather Gibson began her tenure as the new Executive Director of *NAC Presents* she had a meaningful conversation with Peter Herrndorf, President and CEO of the NAC. “Peter told me he wanted the NAC to have a greater presence nationally,” Heather recalls. “He wanted us to go farther to express the ‘national’ in National Arts Centre.”

Heather took that request to heart. She phoned her contacts and started traveling to other cities to see what they were doing. Her hard work paid off. In 2017-2018, the NAC will collaborate with partner organizations in support of the Canadian music scene. In fact, *NAC Presents Across Canada* will help support nearly 40 concerts in 10 Canadian cities.

These concerts will showcase Canadian musicians in all genres. “The local presenting organization will decide what they’d like us to be involved in,” Heather explains. “For example, we just agreed to do a couple of shows in Montreal

with artists who are new to the scene. Meanwhile, in St. John’s we’re going to have a very well-known act.”

By working together, the NAC and its partners will help emerging artists develop audiences across Canada, create touring opportunities and build national networks for both the artists and the organizations involved, says Heather. “If we can introduce the NAC to musicians in places like Yellowknife and Regina, we can one day get those artists to perform at the NAC and be part of the growth and development of their career.”

Ultimately, *NAC Presents Across Canada* will give more people the chance to embrace the arts and enjoy the best of Canadian music in their own community. And, your generosity helps make it possible. As Heather says, “Donors who believe in the mandate of the NAC can be proud to help fund a program that supports the development of the arts in every part of this country.”



# Donor Profile: Jenepher Hooper

Generous legacy gift in support of theatre will make a lasting difference

In the 1970's, Jenepher Hooper played a vital role behind-the-scenes at the National Arts Centre.

Employed in the Prop Shop, her work included property construction under the supervision of Peter Horne for the 1973 productions of *Oh What a Lovely War* and *The Tempest*.

Jenepher's love for the performing arts, specifically theatre, never wavered over the decades. When it came time to write her Will, Jenepher wanted to remember what had been so important in her life. "Jenepher felt the NAC was very deserving of funding," says Nancy Laws-Lepage, Jenepher's friend and Executrix of her estate. "She put a lot of time and thought into where she would leave her money."

Jenepher passed away on January 19, 2015 leaving a legacy that will make a resounding difference to future generations of artists. Her estate will donate \$2.5 million in support of education programs in English and French Theatre, as well as to the Indigenous Theatre Department, which will present its first season in 2019.

"Ms. Hooper's backstage contribution as a valued member of the NAC's production team is now matched by her amazing gift," says Peter Herrndorf, NAC President and CEO. "To receive a charitable gift in a Will like this is a great vote of confidence in the future of the NAC."

Nancy explained that Jenepher was deeply committed to doing "good works". She was very enthusiastic that part of her gift will be used to create an endowment for Theatre that will impact the lives of young people for years to come. "Jenepher wanted to support youth to do what they are passionate about," Nancy says. "She wanted to give them the opportunity to follow their dreams."

In acknowledgment of Jenepher's generosity, the NAC Prop Shop will be named for her. "She'd be thrilled by that," says Nancy. "It would have meant a lot to her."



**Jenepher Hooper**  
Photo submitted

## Remembering the NAC in your Will

Making or revisiting your Will can be a powerful thing. It gives you the opportunity to reflect on your life's passions much as Jenepher has done. You can remember and recognize your family, friends and the charities that hold a special place in your heart.

Of course, leaving a bequest for an organization like the NAC Foundation also has many financial benefits for you and your heirs. Every charitable gift in your Will to the NAC Foundation will result in a tax receipt for the full amount of the gift. This can be very important when you consider that the income your estate reports in your final year can be much higher than usual. You have to liquidate your RRIF's, sell open investments as well as property such as a cottage. As a result, your estate can end up paying a lot more taxes, as high as 53%, leaving less than you imagined for the people and causes you hold dear. Tax credits from a bequest can be used to offset these taxes.

Your estate administrator should also consider specifically donating securities with accumulated capital gains so you won't have to pay the capital gains tax. That means more money is available to distribute to your heirs.

Leaving a gift in your Will like Jenepher did is easy to arrange and can be deeply rewarding. It gives you the opportunity to make an impact and share what matters to you well into the future.

*For more information about making a gift in your Will to the NAC Foundation please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000 ext. 314.*

# Five Minutes with **Nicholas Richard:** A Q&A with the winner of the 2017 NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition

In May, bassoonist Nicholas Richard won the NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition, which provides recognition and financial support to help further the development of young musicians who have connections to the National Capital Region. Today, Nicholas talks about what the competition meant for his growth as a musician.

**Q:** What went through your mind when you learned you won the NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition?

**A:** When the results were announced I thought that I was so fortunate to have the circle of family, friends, colleagues and teachers who have never stopped inspiring and supporting me.

**Q:** What did the competition mean for your growth as an artist?

**A:** My experience in the competition was instrumental in my development as a musician. The competition's demanding audition environment

helped me learn a tremendous amount about how I approach musical preparation.

**Q:** How will the award help you achieve your goals?

**A:** My experience in the competition will serve as an important foundation for my future endeavors. I hope to use the funds to buy a new professional-level bassoon and to continue my studies at the University of Ottawa.

**Q:** What message would you like to send to NAC supporters who help make the NACO Bursary Competition possible?

Nicholas Richard accompanied by Fred LaCroix at the NAC Orchestra Bursary Final  
Photo: Colin Traquair



**A:** I want to express my gratitude for your generosity and advocacy for the arts. Initiatives such as the NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition are the building blocks on which young musicians like me can push ourselves in an intense manner, and ultimately develop a holistic skill set that is essential to 21<sup>st</sup> century careers in music.

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A special thank you to our Open Rehearsal and Preview sponsor, Rob Marland, Royal LePage Performance Realty.

Please see the enclosed Calendar of Events for our list of fall Open Rehearsals and Previews.

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

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