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Full Circle

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Aspiring musicians benefit from *Close Encounters* with the NAC Orchestra

In front of a sold out audience in Southam Hall, Peter Perez lifts his clarinet and begins to play the solo in *Gabriel's Oboe*. It's an experience the *OrKidstra* student and Ottawa Youth Orchestra clarinetist will never forget.

"I got to play right at the front of the stage accompanied by two great orchestras. It felt so amazing to perform for such a large audience on such a wonderful stage at the NAC," Peter recalls.

Xander Sen, a young dancer from Canterbury High School couldn't agree more. While Peter played, Xander performed a dance solo. "Together we created something memorable," says Xander. "The performance went perfectly and the roaring applause filled me with joy."

There was roaring applause that evening last November when the NAC Orchestra and the Ottawa Youth Orchestra joined forces for the first time in history for *Close Encounters*. The 140 musicians led by Alexander Shelley performed selections from Beethoven, Borodin, and Kabalevsky.

Alexander Shelley conducts the Ottawa Youth Orchestra and the NAC Orchestra

Photo by Robert S. Vibert

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Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

Have you been to your National Arts Centre lately?

Many of you have braved the recent construction to attend open rehearsals, masterclasses and performances. I believe I speak for everyone at the NAC when I say thank you for your patience.

We made the decision to stay open during the renovations because we felt it was important to continue to offer great music, theatre and dance to our patrons during the construction process. I'm so grateful you've chosen to stay with us as we've gone on this journey together.

We're coming to the end of the first phase of construction and I hope you'll mark July 1 on your calendar. Not only will we be celebrating Canada's 150th birthday, we're also cutting the ribbon to the NAC's new grand entrance. There will be special guests to help us recognize this momentous occasion along with great activities, including two concerts by the wonderful NAC Orchestra. The NAC will be in the heart of the action and I invite all of our donors to celebrate with us.

July 1 is a symbolic and important date because of Canada's 150th, but leading up to that, starting in June, the NAC is proud to welcome more than 1,000 artists from across the country. I hope you'll get a chance to attend *Canada Scene* and get a head-start on

celebrating Canada's birthday through the performing arts.

Thank you again for staying with us during this important time in our history. When you get your first look at our rejuvenated NAC, I'm sure you'll agree the journey has been well worth it. And, I hope you'll always know how grateful I am for your generosity. There are many creative Canadian stories that need to be told. Your support puts them on our stage and makes them available across the country. That's something we can celebrate every day.

With gratitude,



Jayne Watson



Jayne Watson
Photo by Ottawa's
Valberg Imaging

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From cover:

Aspiring musicians benefit from *Close Encounters* with the NAC Orchestra

"The audience was buzzing with excitement," says Donnie Deacon, NAC's Resident Artist in the Community. "It's the first time they've seen anything like this."

But even the biggest audience reaction couldn't compare with the excitement of the youth orchestra members themselves. *Close Encounters* was the chance for the 80 young artists to sit side-by-side with and perform with musicians they look up to. "They were all imitating their mentors, basking in the presence of their heroes," says John Gomez, Music Director of the Ottawa Youth Orchestra Academy (OYOA).

It was a night to remember but this close encounter between the two orchestras actually began over a year ago at the OYOA campus.

"When Alexander Shelley became the Music Director I invited him to visit the academy," John recalls. "He saw our classes and was impressed with our students. Soon after that visit I got a call saying they'd like us to work together. The students were thrilled."

John calls the concert "electrifying" and says the benefits to his orchestra will extend well beyond one magical evening. "This was a collaboration that had a maximum affect. It gave the students the chance to work with an international conductor. It deepened their understanding of how important what they're learning is in the world of professional performance."

Both orchestras look forward to performing together again in the future. "The first thing NAC Orchestra members said to me was they want to do it again and make it bigger," shares Donnie. "It was a positive experience for everyone."

It was certainly a positive experience for Peter and Xander and both are grateful to the generous donors who help fund learning opportunities like this one. "I'd like to thank the NAC supporters who helped make this evening possible," says Xander. "I encourage them to keep supporting the arts because when aspiring artists are given the opportunity to perform, it gives them inspiration to keep going and share their talents."

**Alexander Shelley
and Peter Perez**
Photo by Robert S. Vibert



"NAC supporters allow young artists to have beautiful experiences, experiences that we will remember for the rest of our lives."

Peter Perez, *OrKidstra* student and Ottawa Youth Orchestra clarinetist

Building Brilliance: Your NAC renovation update

It's official. The NAC has a new address:
1 Elgin Street.

That's not the only sign we're making progress on the NAC's massive make-over. Construction crews have been working around-the-clock to prepare for the July 1 opening of the new building.

Here's what's been done so far:

- The installation of the glass exterior has been completed.
- The main structural work for the new Panorama Room and Fourth Stage is finished and work has begun inside.
- Construction on the walkway linking the existing Southam Hall mezzanine and the new Elgin Street Atrium entrance has begun.
- More than 2,000 seats in Southam Hall have been replaced. The new wooden seats and hardwood floor give the room a much brighter sound for orchestral music.

The new NAC will open in three phases beginning on July 1 with the opening of the Elgin Street entrance and part of the Atrium. Phase 2, which includes the Fourth Stage, will be completed in October. The Panorama Room, part of Phase 3, will open in the spring of 2018.

We look forward to welcoming our donors and patrons to our brilliant new NAC this summer. In the meantime, please continue to attend performances and be part of all the NAC has to offer.

**Looking up
into the new
NAC lantern**
Photo by
Roy Grogan



**Join us for the grand re-opening
of the NAC on July 1, 2017**
Drawing by Diamond Schmitt Architects

Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday and the public opening of the new NAC

Imagine 150 people lining Elgin Street, a bright ribbon in their hands. On cue, they'll cut the ribbon, officially opening the NAC's brand new entrance.

This ceremony will be the first of many events taking place on July 1, 2017 at the NAC. Dignitaries, well-known Canadians and special guests will help us celebrate and we are inviting our generous supporters to be with us too.

"Everyone will be welcomed into the NAC where they'll find children's activities, performances, dance workshops and music," says Rosemary Thompson, Director of Communications for the NAC. "There will be two free concerts by the NAC Orchestra, hosted by extraordinary Canadian, Chantal Petitclerc. It's going to be a really special day."

There will be much to do at the NAC on July 1 but perhaps the biggest highlight of the day will be your first look at the stunning changes to the NAC. "On behalf of those of us who have had the benefit of walking through the new spaces I can say they are truly spectacular," says Rosemary.

Inside the new space, guests will be treated to a performance by Indigenous artists. A choir of 100 singers will perform from the beautiful new staircase, and a dance performance, representing the four corners of Canada, will capture hearts in the new Atrium with its breathtaking view of the Capital.

As we prepare to celebrate Canada's 150th along with the opening of this exciting new chapter in the NAC's history, it's important to recognize the generosity of our donors.

"Thank you to everyone who has supported us for the last 48 years," says Rosemary. "The donor community has made so much of what makes the NAC great possible. You've also gotten behind our new building and I encourage you to come and see it for yourself."

For more information about our Canada Day programming, please visit our website at nac-cna.ca.

Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show— a diversity of voices that recount a fascinating saga in Canadian history

The conversation over the phone had barely begun when Yvette Nolan couldn't suppress her enthusiasm for *Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show*, an ambitious collective work about Métis history, identity and exile that will have its world premiere at the National Arts Centre's French Theatre on October 18, 2017.

To write about the Métis people's struggle for their rights in western Canada beginning in 1885, 10 authors banded together, the core group consisting of Jean Marc Dalpé, Alexis Martin and Yvette Nolan. For the past two years, they worked together unearthing the history of Louis Riel's right-hand man, Gabriel Dumont, who later joined *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* show in the United States.

"History is often written by the victors," pointed out Yvette, who was born in Saskatchewan to an Algonquin mother and an Irish immigrant father. "Some episodes are often hidden, forgotten and buried in the past. However, all of us did an enormous amount of

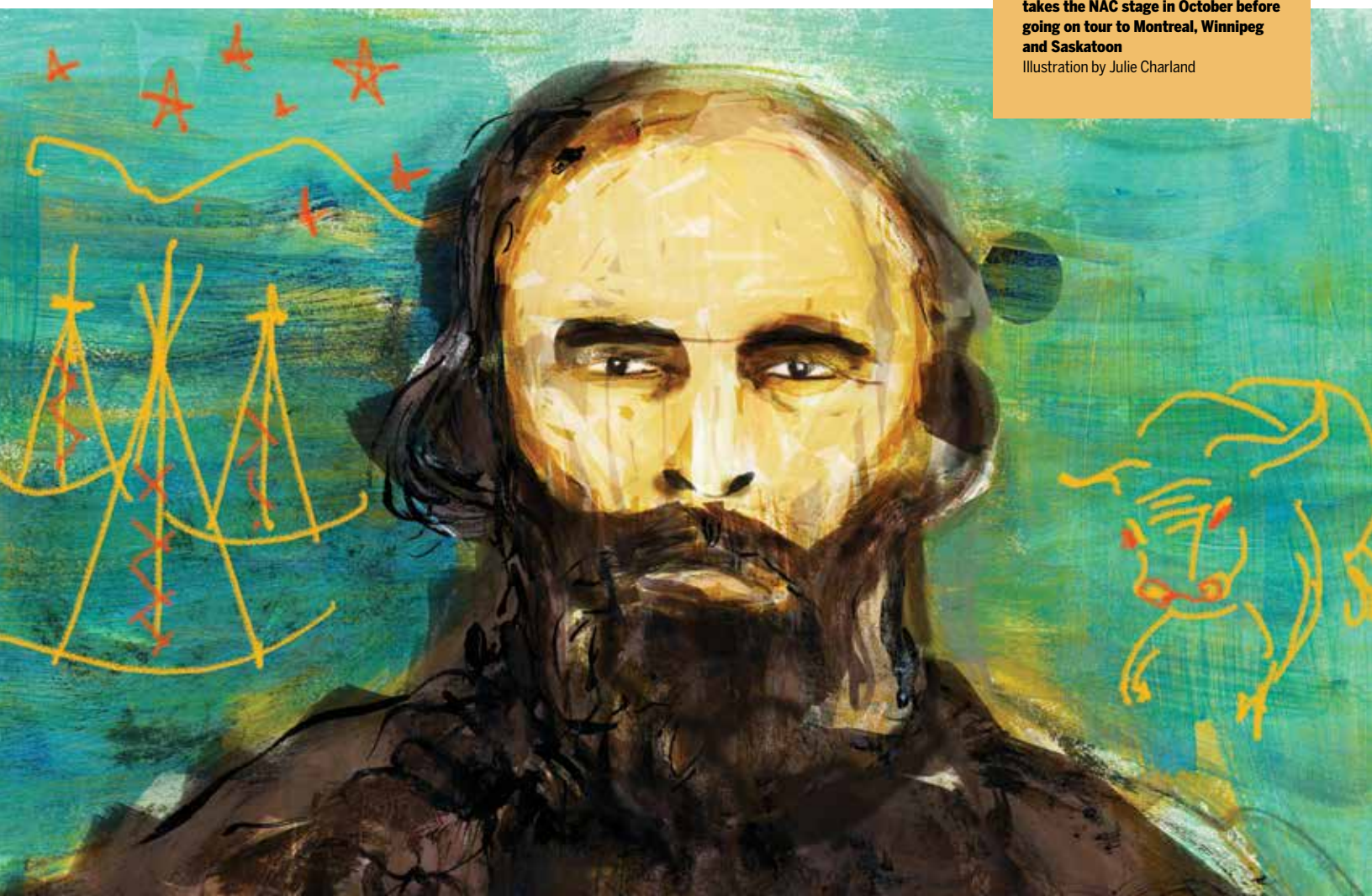
research, especially by combing Louis Riel's personal diaries. Are we going to rewrite history? Well, we're certainly going to take a fresh and illuminating look at it."

Directed by Mani Soleymanlou, the show features Francophone, Anglophone and Indigenous artists each of whom when on stage powerfully expresses the particular languages and perspectives of these three groups. In the creative process, everyone learned a lot about colonization, the Canadian Pacific Railway, their own origins, and, last but not least, about Gabriel Dumont, an iconic figure of the Métis Nation.

"This show is visionary in the sense that it faithfully reflects Canada's cultural diversity," explained Yvette. "The NAC should be commended for being so inclusive and encouraging a diversity of voices, including those who prick our conscience. Isn't the freedom to express one's cultural, artistic or other identity a goal that we should all be striving for?"

Following its run at the NAC from October 18–21, 2017, *Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show* will go on tour to Montreal, Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

Gabriel Dumont's Wild West Show takes the NAC stage in October before going on tour to Montreal, Winnipeg and Saskatoon
Illustration by Julie Charland





Oscar with Love, celebrating the jazz legend, is just one of the many performances marking *Canada Scene* at the NAC from June 15–July 23
Photo by Edward Gajdel Inc. 2016

“Your support gives artists a chance to build their careers and gives audiences the opportunity to know their country through the performing arts.”

Heather Moore, Producer and Executive Director for *Canada Scene*

Canada Scene celebrates artists from across the country

It's been done before—seven times to be exact—but *Canada Scene*, a culmination of the NAC's biennial showcase of music, theatre, dance, visual and media arts, film, and culinary arts will be something special.

“It's like discovering your whole country right in your own backyard,” says Heather Moore, Producer and Executive Director for *Canada Scene*. “What better way to know Canada than through our artists and their stories and their work.”

Canada Scene, featuring more than 1,000 artists, will take place over six weeks from June 15 to July 23 and will give Canadians much to celebrate in addition to Canada's 150th birthday. “Many of our artists are telling interesting stories that are especially fitting to be presented in the Nation's Capital at this historic time,” says Heather. “There will be special works including a celebration of fiddlers from all over Canada, featuring Natalie MacMaster, and a performance by Buffy Sainte-Marie who is a real hero in this country.”

Other highlights include a unique tribute concert celebrating Oscar Peterson featuring seven renowned pianists and close friends of the famous jazz musician, and a new production of

Harry Somers' classic opera *Louis Riel*, a co-production with the Canadian Opera Company.

Heather promises there will be many opportunities to see unique shows at *Canada Scene*. “If you want to learn about history, you can see *Café Daughter*, a play by Kenneth T. Williams based on the life of Senator Lillian Eva Quan Dyck. For pure entertainment, there's Montreal's circus collective Les 7 doigts de la main.”

Canada Scene also has a lot to offer the artists. “Every artist we've featured in the Scenes tells us what an incredible privilege it is to perform on the national stage,” says Heather. “It's also a great opportunity for emerging artists because we bring in people who program music, theatre and dance across Canada and around the world which can lead to tours and bookings. It absolutely launches careers.”

Heather hopes every arts lover and supporter will get a chance to enjoy the festival. “*Canada Scene* is a full celebration of our nation and artists. Come out and be entertained and see the artists you know, or stretch out and learn something new about our country.”

For a full list of *Canada Scene* performances please visit our website at nac-cna.ca/en/canadascene.



Tara Shannon (Renaud)

Photo by M. Ross
Photography

Donor Profile: Tara Shannon

Proud to give back to the community and the arts through the Corporate Circle

Tara Shannon (Renaud) says there's nothing like the feeling she gets moments before an NAC performance starts. "The anticipation—the expectation of being brought into another world," Tara explains. "I always get butterflies in my stomach when the lights go down."

Of course, as a performer herself, Tara relishes every moment the artist(s) is on stage, transporting her to another world. "Going to performances is what feeds my soul," she says.

Tara is a musician but she is also a business owner in Ottawa. She and her husband own and operate TIF Group of Companies, a company with 55 employees. As big believers in supporting their community, they were looking for opportunities to give back. Becoming a supporter of the NAC Foundation's Corporate Circle was the perfect fit. "We want to support organizations that we feel personally connected to. The performing arts are such a big part of our world, that's what motivated us to join," Tara says.

In addition to the many donor benefits, including reserved parking and access to the Concierge Service and Donor Lounge, Tara enjoys sharing her passion for the arts with her employees and clients. She gives tickets to her employees as a bonus for great work and uses them to introduce clients to the magic of the performing arts.

As Corporate Circle supporters, Tara and her husband join business leaders who generously support performance, creation and learning at the NAC and across Canada. It means a lot to Tara to know she's making an impact and she encourages other companies to do the same.

"Business is about connecting people and so are the arts which are about connecting people through an emotional reaction," she says. "By virtue of a business investing in the arts, it elevates its value in our community."

Tara's new country/soul album, Unfinished, is available for purchase on iTunes and all digital streaming platforms.

Making Giving Easy:

Help the performing arts in Canada thrive through a gift of retirement funds.

There's nothing quite like the anticipation that comes when you take your seat at the NAC. Whether it's a concert, play or dance performance you know you're about to be moved beyond words, captivated by the stories and artists you'll see and hear on the stage.

Many of our supporters tell us they want to give others the chance to experience this joy for themselves. They wonder what more they can do to support the NAC and help the performing arts thrive now and in the future.

One way supporters like you can make a lasting difference is by using your RRSPs or RRIFs to make a lifetime gift.

If you've already accumulated more money than you'll need for retirement or if you have other forms of income like a pension or real estate, you can withdraw money from your RRSP or RRIF to donate to the NAC. Of course any funds you withdraw from the account are fully taxable but the donation credit you receive will offset the tax. This could put you in a position to make a larger donation than you'd normally give and do even more to share your passion for the arts with others right now.

Making a gift of retirement funds is easy and can be arranged through your financial advisor.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss donating retirement funds to the NAC Foundation please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000 ext. 314.

Going “Gaga”:

Dancers and non-dancers benefit from movement workshop that is accessible to all.

“You should sign up for this workshop right away...”

That was the message Liz Winkelaar received from Renata Soutter, Artistic Director at Propeller Dance Company. And as soon as Liz read more about the Batsheva Dance Company’s movement workshop she understood why.

A paraplegic since 18, Liz has been training with Propeller, an integrated dance company, for 10 years. She’s attended a lot of dance workshops but never anything like Gaga—an expressive and dynamic movement language developed by Ohad Naharin, Batsheva’s long-time artistic director.

“Normally, when I attend workshops, I have to adapt what I’m learning but with Gaga it’s a whole other vocabulary,” says Liz. “It’s an inclusive way of moving that automatically worked for me. I think it works for everybody.”

Siônéd Watkins, Education Associate and Teaching Artist, NAC Dance was thrilled that Batsheva Dance could offer this rare opportunity to dancers and non-dancers

alike. “It was an hour of non-stop movement, accessible to everyone,” she says. “There was a feeling of unity among the participants that was strong and solid.”

In fact, she wants to help program more dance and movement classes suitable for everyone. “Lots of people in the community want to move. We should help make more opportunities available,” she says.

That would come as welcome news to Liz who says the Gaga workshop was transformative and opened her up to more possibilities in her own work. “It’s unusual to find accessible, valuable dance training,” she admits. “I’m very appreciative to NAC Dance and their supporters for making it possible.”

“Thank you for helping to give dancers and the public at large the opportunity to experience the healing, dynamic and ever-changing power of movement.”

Siônéd Watkins, Education Associate and Teaching Artist, NAC Dance

Participants of the movement and dance workshop with Batsheva Dance at the NAC
Photo submitted



Calendar of Events

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

DATE AND TIME	EVENT/ SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
July 1, 2017	Canada Day at the NAC, Ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Elgin Street entrance! Everyone welcome.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
July 5-7, 2017	Attend the Shaw Festival with Friends of English Theatre*. See only shows you choose. Stay at Queen’s Landing at special rate of 60% off.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
September 8-10, 2017	Attend the Stratford Festival with the Friends of English Theatre*. See only shows you choose. Stay at the Arden Park Hotel.		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

* Friends of English Theatre is an independent membership driven group that supports English Theatre at the National Arts Centre. For information call 613 726-9330 or email: franny@pearl01.ca

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