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Winter • 2017

Full Circle

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE FOUNDATION

Aussi disponible en français

NAC Presents Heather Gibson in her brand new role as Executive Producer

Heather Gibson knew it would have to take something pretty special to get her to make a move.

After all, the award-winning Executive Director of the Halifax Jazz Festival, and founder and Artistic Producer of the In the Dead of Winter Music Festival had called Halifax home for 24 years. But when the position of Executive Producer for *NAC Presents* came along, Heather didn't hesitate to apply.

"The position was on my radar," Heather explains. "It embodies some of the work I've been passionate about for the last couple of decades."

Heather took over the helm of the National Arts Centre's successful music series on September 20, 2016 where she will lead a team to program more than 50 concerts per season dedicated to established and emerging Canadian singer-songwriters.

"The number one thing I'm most looking forward to is introducing audiences to new artists," Heather says. "I've spent a lot of time in small venues and music conferences to keep abreast of what's new and I've seen many tremendous singer-songwriters from across the country. I'm excited to introduce them to audiences here in Ottawa."

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Heather Gibson,
Executive Producer
of *NAC Presents*

Photo: Timothy Richard

Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

As we celebrate the beginning of a brand new year, I'd like to thank you.

We had so many reasons to be proud of our National Arts Centre in 2016 and caring supporters like you helped make it possible. Together, we brought some of the best artists from Canada and around the world to Canada's stage. We supported the creation of new works and gave emerging artists the opportunity to advance their careers. We gave young people across the country the chance to take the performing arts into their hearts.

Last year, we also ramped up the renovations to our beloved NAC. When completed, our new building is going to be breathtaking. In the meantime, I'm very grateful for your patience and understanding as the construction continues.

Along with your first *Full Circle* of the year, I'm delighted to enclose our annual *Stewardship Report*. It offers a look back at the many accomplishments we achieved in 2015–2016. As you read it, I hope you'll share my pride knowing you were part of every highlight and achievement.

Your commitment to the performing arts is very important to us. Today, I want you to know that every supporter, every donation, makes an impact. We couldn't do what we do without your support. I look forward to all we will accomplish at the NAC in 2017 with you by our side.

With gratitude,

Jayne Watson




Jayne Watson
Photo: Ottawa's
Valberg Imaging

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From cover:

NAC Presents Heather Gibson

in her brand new role as Executive Producer

Heather says she is equally excited to bring well-established artists to Southam Hall. "There's no reason we can't get on the radar of some popular artists," she says. "In fact, I've already been offered some interesting shows that we may see at the end of the 2017–2018 Season. These are significant acts that people will be excited about."

Heather is pleased that the NAC and our supporters share her commitment to giving opportunities to fledgling musicians. One way she plans to do that with *NAC Presents* is by pairing a lot more shows. This season, audiences attending a show at Southam Hall might have the chance to see a promising new artist opening for the well-known performer.

"It gives the emerging artist the opportunity to perform for a larger audience as well as making an important connection with the person they're sharing the stage with," Heather explains. "It's the NAC's responsibility to develop artists, whether that's by increasing their market, performance ability or their network."

In fact, in November, Heather moved country singer-songwriter Jessica Mitchell from the Back Stage to the Studio to perform with the well-known musician, Del Barber. "The two artists spent time after the show talking about how they might tour together," Heather confides. "An opportunity like that is very important for an artist."

Another one of Heather's goals for *NAC Presents* is to attract more young people to the performances. "Young audiences are the key to growing an

artist's career," she says. "We know they're often the ones who will try new things and they're extremely loyal. If they come to the NAC and have a good experience, there's a good chance they'll be back. They're the future of the NAC."

Of course, donor support is incredibly important to the continued success of *NAC Presents*. As Heather says, "When we're dealing with emerging artists we ensure they have a professional show and are paid a reasonable fee. At the same time, we try to keep ticket prices low enough to attract audiences who are willing to try something new. Whether it's *NAC Presents*, Orchestra, Theatre or Dance, the NAC needs the generosity of our donors to continue to develop artists' careers and be part of creation. Our supporters are an integral part of everything we do here."

Heather Gibson

Photo: Alexandra Campeau



"I am excited to build on the success of *NAC Presents* developing a larger audience for Canadian music. Canadian artists are amongst the best in the world, and showcasing them on a national stage will be very rewarding."

Heather Gibson, Executive Producer of *NAC Presents*

Celebrating a Year of Giving:

The 2015–2016 Stewardship Report

As a caring supporter of the National Arts Centre Foundation, you gave us many reasons to celebrate our 2015–2016 season. Thanks to your support, hundreds of music, theatre and dance performances captured the hearts of delighted audience members. And your generosity was just as important behind-the-scenes.

You were part of brilliant new creation across the genres, sure to take its rightful place in the Canadian Canon. You gave promising artists across the country the chance to pursue their passion on Canada's stage. You gave many young people the opportunity to experience the performing arts, some for the very first time.

Everything we accomplished at the NAC last season is because of your generosity. With you by our side, we can honour our commitment to serve as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning across Canada. That's why we're so proud to share this report with you. Thanks to the support of our valued donors and sponsors, the NAC Foundation celebrated its best fundraising year in our history – raising more than \$12 million in 2015–2016.

Your Incredible Record of Giving

It's now been 16 years since the NAC Foundation opened its doors and officially welcomed our very first donors. With your support, we've certainly come a long way in that time – investing millions of dollars in bringing the world's greatest performers

to our stage, funding thought-provoking creation, and giving young people here in Ottawa and in some of the remotest parts of Canada the chance to discover and embrace the arts.

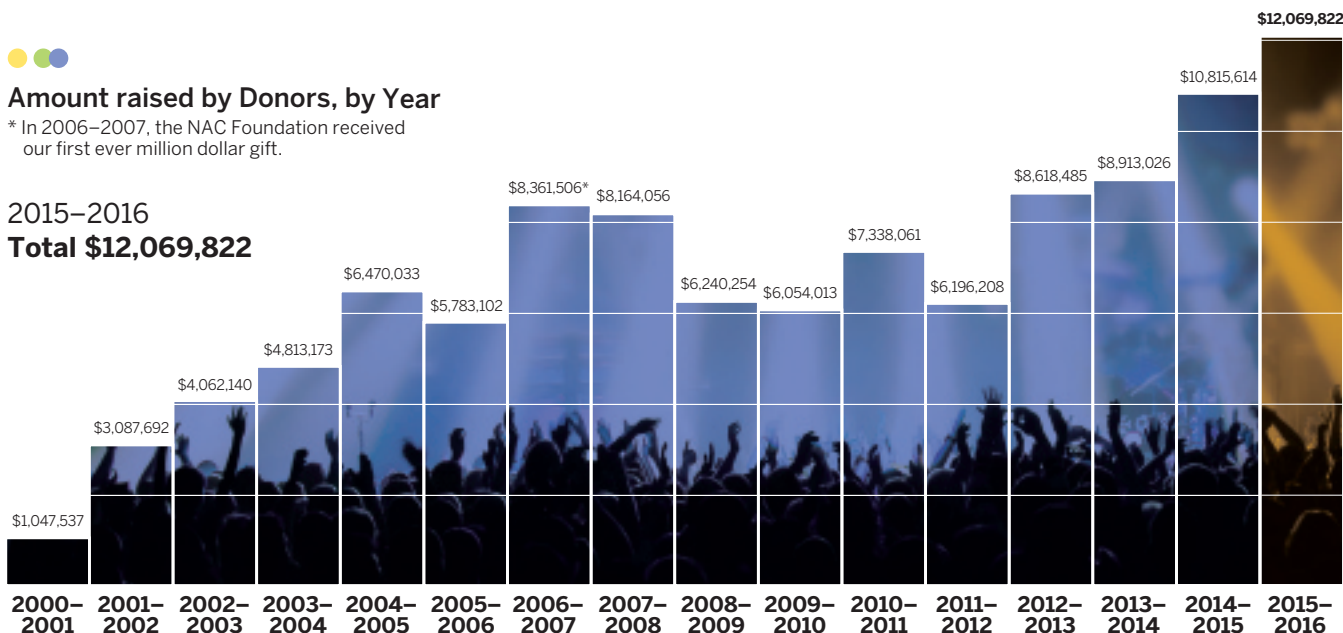
Dedicated supporters like you have been with us every step of the way as we work to transform lives through the magic and beauty of the performing arts. Every performance we've presented over the years, every remarkable career we've helped to launch, and every young heart we've opened to the performing arts, we did together with you. To date, your donations and the contributions of our corporate sponsors have totaled more than \$108 million. Thank you for sharing your passion for the performing arts with us and giving so many others the chance to discover a passion of their own.



Amount raised by Donors, by Year

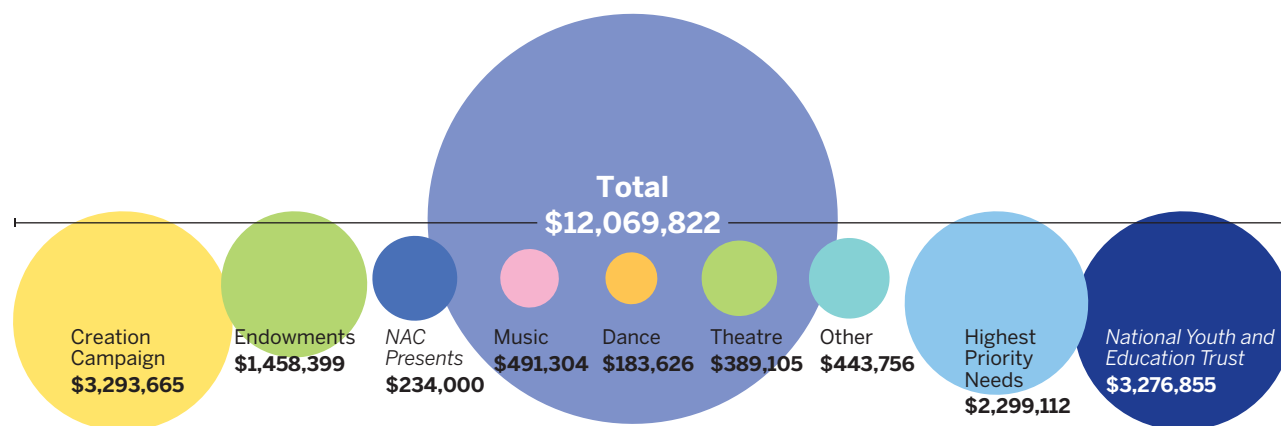
* In 2006–2007, the NAC Foundation received our first ever million dollar gift.

2015–2016
Total \$12,069,822





Fundraising Total Gift Designations in 2015–2016



Where Giving Makes the Difference

Together with your generous support, the National Arts Centre Foundation was proud to invest **over \$8 million** in the NAC in 2015–2016. Your support helped the Centre achieve its mission to develop and promote the performing arts by:

- Establishing the NAC as the pre-eminent showcase for the performing arts;
- Acting as a catalyst for the performing arts nationally; and
- Nurturing and supporting artists and arts organizations in communities across the country and funding new creation that will stand the test of time.

In 2015–2016:

- 27% of your NAC gifts were designated to the *National Youth and Education Trust* (NYET). The NYET funds performing arts initiatives, impacting the lives of thousands of children across Canada;
- Many donors asked for their gifts to go where they're most needed. 19% of gifts were designated to meet "highest priority needs," giving the Foundation flexibility to support the NAC's most urgent and compelling needs, such as leading-edge artistic performances, new creation and valuable education programs; and
- Our Donors' Circle and Corporate Circle donors donated a total of \$1,439,377, toward our mission to develop and promote the performing arts.

By the numbers 2015–2016

- The National Arts Centre staged **1,170 performances**;
- French Theatre student matinees attracted **2,044** young people aged 2 to 18 and their teachers. **Eleven** schools availed themselves of the transportation assistance program which lowers the cost of school bus transportation to schools. As a result, **708** students were able to attend one or more of our matinees;
- *Music Alive Program* (MAP) Nunavut supported a wide variety of initiatives in **eight** Nunavut communities and in Ottawa. Over **3,400** students, teachers, young artists and community members participated in MAP Nunavut-related activities;
- A total of **1,500** students and teachers attended NAC Dance educational workshops and masterclasses;
- English Theatre artists conducted **18** student workshops for **487** students, both at the NAC and in-schools;
- In its third year, the free, hands-on *Music Circle Workshops* program was expanded to reach over **50** children, youth and adults with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disorders.

The **Impact** of Your Giving

Through your generous support of the NAC Foundation, you are a catalyst for performance, creation and learning across Canada.

Here are just some of the highlights you made possible with your support in the 2015–2016 season.

LIFE REFLECTED TAKES CREATION AND MUSICAL PRESENTATION AT THE NAC INTO EXCITING NEW TERRITORY

Life Reflected, the most ambitious commissioned work ever undertaken by the NAC Orchestra, was a phenomenal success when it premiered on Canada's stage in May 2016. With the support of generous friends like you, the ambitious project combined music, narration, photography and film to tell the story of four important Canadian women, Alice Munro, Rita Joe, Amanda Todd and Roberta Bondar. "This isn't just a new piece, it's a new everything," said Donna Feore, Creative Producer and Director of *Life Reflected*. What we have is unique and special."

NACO REMIX GIVES DELIGHTED STUDENTS THE CHANCE TO SHINE IN OTTAWA'S WEST END

Your generosity helped give over 380 students from 10 schools in Ottawa the opportunity to perform with NAC Orchestra Music Director Alexander Shelley and members of the NAC Orchestra in an unforgettable concert entitled "Life Reflected in Ottawa's West End". The students spent six weeks working with local artists to create the new compositions as well as a spoken-word piece, a dance video and visual artwork.

NAC ENGLISH THEATRE OFFERS FREE INDIVIDUAL AUDITION COACHING TO PEOPLE FROM UNDER-REPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

NAC English Theatre introduced a new program in 2015–2016, matching students planning to audition for post-secondary theatre training who self-identify

as members of under-represented communities with established NAC artists for audition coaching and mentorship. Fifteen students from across Canada benefitted from the two one-hour sessions with their mentor that happened over Skype or similar technology. Early results from the program have been very encouraging with much positive feedback from both students and coaches.

FRENCH THEATRE PROUDLY SHINES THE SPOTLIGHT ON NEW CREATION WITH EIGHT AWE-INSPIRING CO-PRODUCTIONS

Thanks to your support, NAC French Theatre had the chance to co-produce eight exciting new works in the 2015–2016 season. *Septembre*, by d'Evelyne de la Chenelière; *À quoi ça sert d'être brilliant si te'éclaires personne* by Lisa l'Heureux and Gabriel Robichaud and *887* by well-known French Canadian playwright Robert Lepage are just some of the eight brilliant co-productions you helped bring to the NAC stage.

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN AND THE NAC ORCHESTRA CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF THE BAROQUE ERA'S GREATEST COMPOSERS IN MASTERFUL NEW ALBUM

Fans of Pinchas Zukerman and the NAC Orchestra will want to purchase *Baroque Treasury*, a magnificent album recorded in 2015–2016. The album features Pinchas leading the orchestra and performing as a soloist in the beautiful harmonies of some of the Baroque's era's greatest composers. The recording also features Amanda Forsyth, one of North America's most dynamic cellists and the NAC Orchestra's principal oboist Charles Hamann.

MUSICAL ADVENTURES IN MY SCHOOL BRINGS MEMBERS OF THE NAC ORCHESTRA INTO OTTAWA CLASSROOMS AND AUDITORIUMS

One of the major objectives of the NAC is to develop and expand programs for young audiences. One way you helped us accomplish this is through your support for the *Musical Adventures in My School* program. Last year, 31 performances took place in classrooms and auditoriums across Ottawa, featuring NAC Orchestra musicians. Over 4,000 students and teachers also learned about the string, brass and percussion sections of the NAC Orchestra and what it means to be part of a professional orchestra.

ASPIRING YOUNG DANCERS BENEFIT FROM INSPIRATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOPS AND MASTERCLASSES

In 2015–2016, NAC Dance once again offered exclusive masterclasses and workshops led by world-class artists performing at the NAC. A total of 1,500 students and teachers were inspired by classes taught by premiere artists including Caroline Gruber of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet; Eric Beauchesne of Kidd Pivot; award-winning choreographer Joanna Kotze; and Jonathan Rennet of the National Ballet of Canada.

Our Annual Donors:

Helping the NAC champion the performing arts across the country

The Donors' Circle

What a difference you make!

Our dedicated Donors' Circle supporters played a starring role in every success we celebrated in 2015–2016 – both on stage and behind-the-scenes. Your generosity brought some of the best performers in the world to Canada's stage while giving many emerging artists the chance to develop their talent. You made it possible for Canadian choreographers, composers and playwrights to create brilliant new works to share with appreciative audiences. You helped fund dozens of learning programs, giving young people in every part of the country their very first taste of the performing arts and the beauty it can bring into their lives. Thank you for supporting the NAC.

- Your donations last year totaled \$1,439,377 representing 13% of

all funds raised by the National Arts Centre Foundation in 2015–2016.

- Your gifts came in many sizes, ranging from \$1 to \$10,000 and more.
- Gifts under \$500 added up to \$723,624. Gifts of all sizes make a difference in the areas of performance, creation and learning.

The Corporate Circle

The National Arts Centre Foundation applauds the generosity of local businesses and professionals for helping the NAC provide a national stage for the performing arts across the country. The 144 members of our Corporate Circle played a meaningful role in the work of the NAC last season – helping to showcase breathtaking performance, fund compelling new creation, and open young

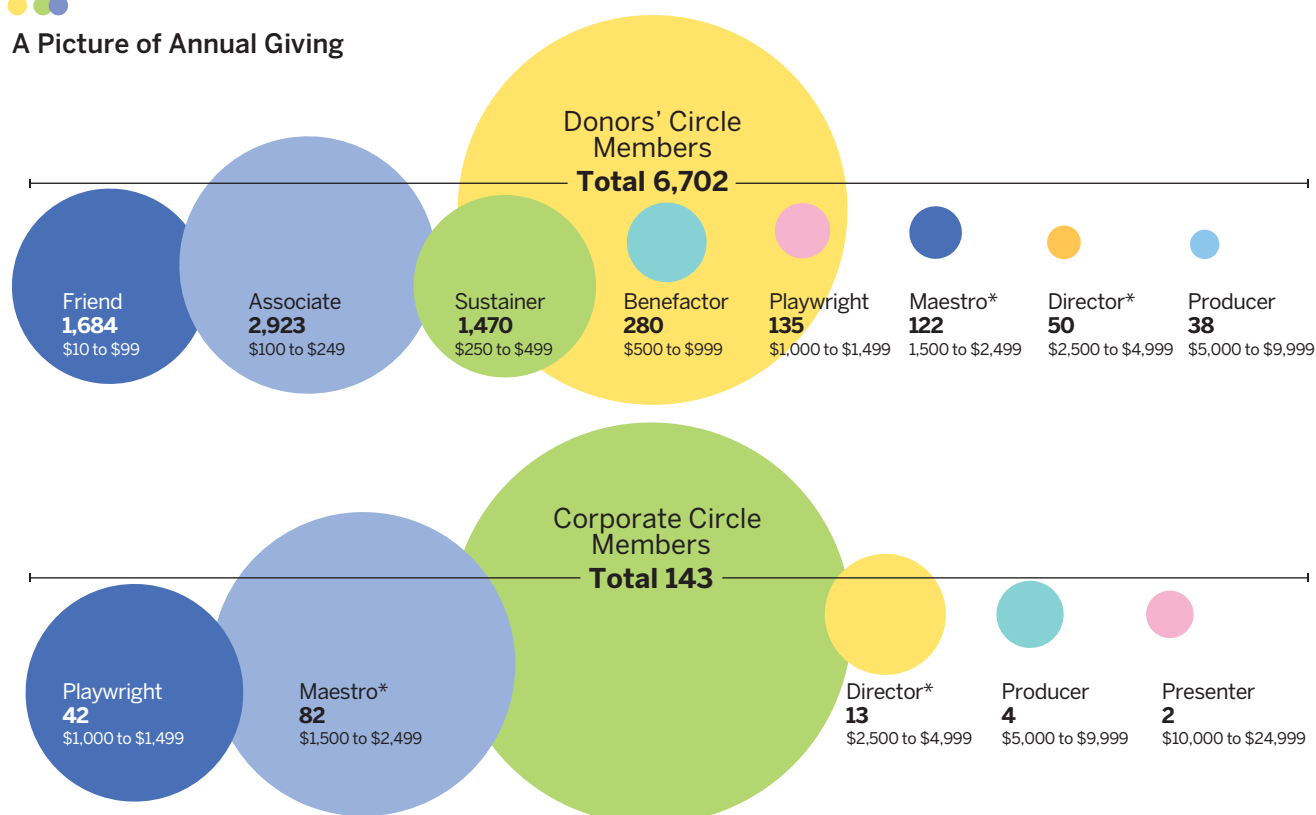
hearts to the magic of the arts. On behalf of the many lives you help to transform, thank you for your passion and generosity.

Planning for the Future

Thanks to the profound generosity and vision of a very special group of supporters, the performing arts in Canada will continue to thrive for generations to come. Esteemed members of our Emeritus Circle have pledged future gifts to the National Arts Centre valued at more than \$5.2 million through charitable gifts in their Wills, gifts of life insurance and other planned giving arrangements. Your foresight and investment will benefit countless artists, audiences and students and help ensure a bright future for the performing arts in Canada.



A Picture of Annual Giving



* Maestro and Director giving levels changed beginning in fall 2016 to \$2,000 to \$2,999 and \$3,000 to \$4,999 respectively

Vigilante: Thrilling Canadian rock musical benefits from collaboration

Jonathan Christenson, Canadian director, playwright and composer, remembers the conversation well. It was shortly after Jillian Keiley had assumed the role of Artistic Director of English Theatre at the NAC.

"Jillian wanted to support the development of original Canadian productions *after* their premieres," recalls Jonathan. "As someone who continues to hone my productions as they tour nationally and internationally this made perfect sense."

At the time, Jonathan had no way of knowing that one of his productions would benefit from Jillian's vision, now called *The Collaborations*. As soon as she and Associate Artistic Director Sarah Garton Stanley saw a workshop production of *Vigilante* in Fort McMurray in 2013, they knew they wanted to be a part of it.

"Through *The Collaborations* Sarah worked closely with me as Production Dramaturg to ensure we stayed true to the essence of the work while moving toward greater clarity in the storytelling," Jonathan explains. "I never would have experienced this rich creative partnership if not for *The Collaborations* and *Vigilante* would have been the lesser for it."

This spring, Ottawa audiences can see the result of this collaboration when *Vigilante* is presented as part of the NAC English Theatre 2016–2017 Season. *Vigilante* is musical theatre like you've never seen before," Jonathan explains. "It's raw, dark, visceral and angry. It's about a part of who we are as Canadians and it ain't polite, apologetic or nice."

Jonathan is deeply grateful to NAC supporters. "By supporting *The Collaborations*, you're playing a critical role in evolving Canadian theatre and bringing our stories to the national and international stage."

Vigilante opens in the NAC Theatre on March 29.



Jonathan Christenson
Photo: Ryan Parker

"To have *Vigilante* presented on the NAC stage is to become part of the story of the National Arts Centre – a story that's long been about supporting and championing artists from every part of Canada. It's a story I'm honoured to be part of."

Jonathan Christenson, Director, Playwright, Composer of *Vigilante*



Shauna Seeteenak, Godson and Nelson Tagoona celebrate Hip Hop Week in Baker Lake, Nunavut
Photo submitted

"Thank you for supporting the NAC. With your help, I hope to reach more northern communities that need a bit of brightening up."

Godson (Aaron Hernandez), Hip-Hop Artist

Music comes alive for youth in Baker Lake, Nunavut during Hip-Hop Week

Hip-hop star Godson (Aaron Hernandez) walks into the school in Baker Lake, Nunavut and is immediately surrounded by students, shaking his hand and asking him to sign their t-shirts.

"Their excitement was pretty special," says Godson.

Godson was in Baker Lake for Hip-Hop Week – an annual event held in conjunction with the NAC's *Music Alive Program*. He was joined there by throat boxer Nelson Tagoona and Baker Lake native and hip-hop artist Shauna Seeteenak.

"Performers do workshops with the local kids and perform for the community," explains Natasha Harwood, Manager, NAC *Music Alive Program*. "It's an opportunity for youth to express themselves through music and meet role models from their community."

Godson helped students write a song and make a music video. Each student came up with a few lines which Godson recorded and mixed together. "When they heard their song for the first time their faces lit up," says Godson. "Many discovered they're not as shy as they thought they were."

That was exactly the reaction Natasha was hoping for.

"Self-expression through the arts is valuable for everyone, and it can be especially helpful for kids who may feel isolated or who may be dealing with challenges at home or at school. All kids need opportunities to express themselves, and writing and performing their own rap song is a great creative outlet."

For this reason, the event focused on a theme of youth mental health. Youth outreach workers attended the workshops and helped shape the focus. "The artists shared their stories for the kids who might be struggling with similar things," Natasha says.

For the 400 people who attended Hip-Hop Week's culminating performance, it was a wonderful chance to gather and celebrate the arts in their community. "It was one of the best concerts I've ever done," Godson says. "There was so much energy in that room."

Watch the video created by Godson and the students of Jonah Amitnaaq School in Baker Lake at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9iG4S5zT-8w



Anne Thériault and Evelynne de la Chenelière star in *La fureur de ce que je pense* inspired by the work of Nelly Arcan, directed by Marie Brassard. Photo: Caroline Laberge

Inside Nelly Arcan's head

Six outstanding actresses and one talented dancer. Monologues, songs and choreography inspired by the writings of Nelly Arcan, directed and sublimated by Marie Brassard in *La fureur de ce que je pense*. Premiered in April 2013 at Espace GO in Montreal, the show has been remounted by Marie Brassard's company Infrarouge in co-production with several partners, including NAC French Theatre.

"I was struck by the breathtaking power of Nelly Arcan's writing," says Marie Brassard, who was particularly affected by *Putain* (published in English as *Whore*) and *Folle*. "Arcan writes with great intelligence, and it was an immense privilege to adapt her words in my own way, together with Daniel Canty. What a challenge! But most of all, what a gift!"

Sexuality, suffering, madness, love, death, the body, and religion—these are some of the themes explored on stage by the seven performers, who contributed their ideas, suggestions and artistic talent to the creative process.

"Nelly Arcan's novels often deal with women's rivalry," Marie points out. "The creative process was an experience of solidarity and sharing, and I'm very proud of that. The actresses grew very close; they helped each other, loved each other, and they've become friends."

Hailed internationally for solo shows such as *Jimmy, creature de rêve* and *Peepshow*, Marie Brassard is well known to NAC audiences.

"My connection with the NAC goes back to my first joint project with Robert Lepage while he was artistic director of NAC French Theatre (1989–1993)," she recalls. "*La fureur de ce que je pense* is my first large-scale show, and I'm very proud that once again the NAC has helped finance the production. This play will not only demonstrate my work as a director, but highlight the work of an artist who died tragically and whose writings deserve to be more widely known."

La fureur de ce que je pense will be presented at the NAC from May 24 to 27, 2017.

NAC Dance masterclass

opens the world of tap to dancers

As soon as the woman heard about the masterclass with award-winning tap choreographer, Michelle Dorrance, she went straight to her closet. Reaching to the back of a shelf, she dragged down her tap shoes and brushed off the cobwebs. Then she launched herself into the class offered by NAC Dance in collaboration with Ottawa Rhythm Initiative (ORI).

"The woman told me her story after the class," says Carole Anne Piccinin, Artistic Producer for ORI. "She was able to reconnect with a passion and have access to the best in the world."

She isn't the only one. Last October, 32 tap dancers from across Canada attended the tap class at *allsaints* Ottawa. "The class sold out in less than a week," says Siônèd Watkins, Education Associate and Teaching Artist, Dance at the NAC. "The participants were so excited to have a vibrant master in tap share her incredible moves and techniques."

The masterclass was followed by a talk which Carole Anne called an inspiration. "Michelle is such a down-to-earth person and really enabled the students to see the spirit of the dance form. She helped the dancers understand that the connection to tap is really accessible for them – there are no barriers between artist and performer."

Carole Anne is grateful to NAC supporters who help make opportunities like this one possible for emerging dancers. "It's about being inspired by the world's best," she says. "Michelle is on a world tour and there she is standing right in front of the students, opening the world of tap to them."

Michelle Dorrance
leads tap Masterclass
at *allsaints* Ottawa
Photo: Siônèd Watkins



Resident Artist helps to strengthen

the music program in Ottawa's schools

The Grade 4 students are spellbound. Most have never seen a real live musician before, now here he is standing right in front of them. Then Donnie Deacon, former violinist with the NAC Orchestra and the NAC's new *Resident Artist in the Community*, does something unexpected. He introduces the theme song from the movie, *Frozen*.

"There were gasps of excitement when they recognized the song," Donnie recalls. "I invited them to sing along and they just let it rip. That was a great moment."

The *Resident Artist in the Community* program is one of the NAC's newest outreach initiatives. Donnie's role is to visit schools in Ottawa's underserved communities and see how the NAC can help strengthen their music program. He conducts coaching workshops for school and community music groups and often helps prepare students before they attend a student matinee concert with the NAC Orchestra.

kids have never been to a live performance," says Donnie. "I want them to have as many musical examples as possible, exposing them to a variety of genres of music and instruments."

Donnie has already seen the impact. He's received letters from many teachers who share how grateful they are to the NAC for creating this position. In turn, Donnie is grateful to supporters like you who help make it possible. "I wish you could come into the schools with me and see the look on the kids' faces when they hear a piece of music. It's priceless what your contributions can accomplish," he says.

Donnie Deacon, the
new *Resident Artist
in the Community*
works with students
and young musicians
Photo submitted





Michel and Anju Collette
Photo: Sunny Kaura

Donor Profile: Michel Collette

A family's love of the arts
leaves a lasting legacy

The NAC holds a special place in the hearts of Michel Collette and his family.

"My wife Anju and I had our first date at the NAC," Michel recalls. "Anju and I attended the donor preview of English Theatre's presentation of *Salt Water Moon* — a romantic comedy." The play ended and their love story began.

After attending numerous performances and galas, Michel couldn't think of a better place than the NAC to propose. After the donor preview of the play *Seeds*, the seed was planted in Michel's heart and he got down on one knee. "Happily, she said 'yes'."

Since then, Michel, Anju and their two children Roman and Angelica, have spent countless hours enjoying world-class performances on Canada's stage.

"As a nation, Canada is most often defined by its beautiful landscapes, its natural resources and is cherished by all Canadians for its freedom" Michel says. "What really defines our great country is our ability to create — we are truly an Arts Nation."

As a way to show his family's enduring support and love of the arts, Michel recently named four seats in Southam Hall in their honour.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that means the world to us," Michel says. "The NAC is a national treasure. I want to leave a legacy where my children and future generations can continue to enjoy the beauty of the arts."

Making Giving Easy:

How you can use your retirement funds to support what's important to you

As a generous supporter of the NAC, the performing arts are important to you. And chances are you'd like to see the arts continue to thrive in Canada so others can be enthralled by them too.

There are many ways you can support the arts you hold so dear while also saving tax dollars. One way is through a donation of retirement funds — RRSPs, RRIFs and TFSA's.

Here's how it works:

When you name a charitable organization like the NAC Foundation as the beneficiary of your retirement fund(s), your estate will avoid paying probate fee(s) on these assets because the funds pass directly to your designated charity. Your estate will receive a tax receipt which can be used to offset the taxes from the distribution of the fund. What a wonderful opportunity to make a lasting impact on the performing arts you love while also maintaining your personal security during your retirement years.

Naming a charity as the beneficiary of your retirement fund(s) is ideal for donors without dependents or who can provide for their family through other assets. And, it's easy to arrange. After consulting with your financial advisor simply contact the firm that holds these assets and ask for a beneficiary form.

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.

Five Minutes with Nikki Chooi:

A Q&A with the Concertmaster for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra

Long before Nikki Chooi joined the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra as Concertmaster in 2016, he attended the NAC's *Young Artists Program*. We asked the award-winning violinist what he gained from that experience and why the *Young Artists Program* is important for young musicians.

Q: How does it feel to be the Concertmaster for the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra?

A: It's an absolute honour and a dream come true to be part of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to sit as concertmaster.

Q: What did you gain from your experience with the *Young Artists Program* and why was it so important?

A: Besides the excellent classes and coaching I received, the most important experience I gained was the camaraderie and friendship among the participants who

hail from all parts of the world. It gave me world-class mentorship and an opportunity to learn from others in a friendly and nurturing environment.

Q: What message would you like to send to NAC supporters who help make programs like the *Young Artists Program* possible?

A: The *Young Artists Program* is a gem. Having attended the program in my mid-teens, it played a role in shaping me as a person and a musician throughout my years in college and even today. It's one of those experiences I appreciate more and more as the years go by.



Nikki Chooi
Photo: Simon Darby

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

Calendar of Events

DATE AND TIME	EVENT/ SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
February 15, 2017 10:45	Donor Open Rehearsal – NAC Orchestra: <i>Imagined Italy</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
March 1, 2017 19:15	Donor Preview – French Theatre: <i>La bonne âme du Se-Tchouan</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
March 30, 2017 19:15	Donor Preview – English Theatre: <i>Vigilante</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
May 6, 2017 14:45	Donor Open Rehearsal – Dance: Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, Minus One		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
April 20, 2017	Emeritus Circle Tea	•							
April 21, 2017	Corporate Circle Reception – ENCOUNTERS	•							
May 14, 2017 Studio 14:00	NACO Bursary Finals <i>Open to the Public</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
May 16, 2017 19:15	Donor Open Rehearsal – NAC Orchestra: <i>Mozart's Requiem</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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

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