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Winter • 2018

Full Circle

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Aussi disponible en français

English Theatre takes the smash hit *Tartuffe* home to Newfoundland

Andy Jones's folklore workshop at Riverwood Academy in Wing's Point, Newfoundland isn't over yet, but already the Canadian actor and playwright knows he wants to come back one day.

"I got a special feeling as soon as I walked in the door," Andy recalls. "I remember thinking I'll gladly come back to this school anytime."

During the workshop, Andy tells stories and teaches elementary and high school students about the oral tradition, told in kitchens across Newfoundland until the 1950's. The students sit riveted, surprising their teachers by how attentive they are.

"In a world where everything comes from a screen, kids aren't hearing a lot of stories told in the old tradition these days," says Andy. "They invested in the stories in an overwhelming way."

Riverwood Academy was just one stop on NAC English Theatre's two-week *Tartuffe* tour to Newfoundland last fall. In addition to performances in five communities, the tour included an incredible 54 individual workshops for teachers, students and community groups. For many of the 19 teaching artists, including Andy, the outreach and education events were the highlight of their time in Newfoundland.

continued on page 2

English Theatre's *Tartuffe* tour was a resounding success with actors Greg Malone, Robert Joy, Alison Woolridge
Photo: Richard Blenkinsopp



From cover:

English Theatre takes the smash hit *Tartuffe* home to Newfoundland

“It was very rewarding,” says Andy. “The tour went to some hard-to-reach places. It was great to have all these artists on one bus travelling across the province, reaching out to students and communities.”

Along with Andy, the *Tartuffe* tour company also included two other original members of CODCO—a Canadian comedy group from Newfoundland best known for their sketch comedy series which aired on CBC in the late 1980’s/early 1990’s. Robert Joy and Greg Malone taught comedy workshops to theatre groups and students. Meanwhile, other artists offered workshops in everything from creative writing to stage management. They brought their talent and expertise to Memorial University, schools, community centres, and even three correctional centres. Everywhere they went, the company received a warm welcome.

“We are one of the few performing arts groups touring through

Newfoundland’s Arts & Culture Centres to offer a full slate of education and outreach events alongside performances—it’s almost unheard of,” explains Judi Pearl, Artistic Projects Coordinator for NAC English Theatre. “Everyone who participated was grateful to have this exposure to arts education events. It was so valuable for us to create bridges between the artists, students and communities in Newfoundland, especially outside of St. John’s.”

Andy agrees. “As a national institution, it’s important for the NAC to do more and more outreach across Canada. It helps people feel like they’re part of the whole country. It’s great to go into schools and talk to the kids and encourage people to come out and see a professional production—something they don’t often get to see in a place like Gander Bay.”

Andy’s adaptation of Molière’s comedy classic, *Tartuffe*, which he set in 1939 Newfoundland, was a big

success when it premiered at the NAC in 2013. But Judi says its reception in Ottawa still can’t compare to the one it received while on tour.

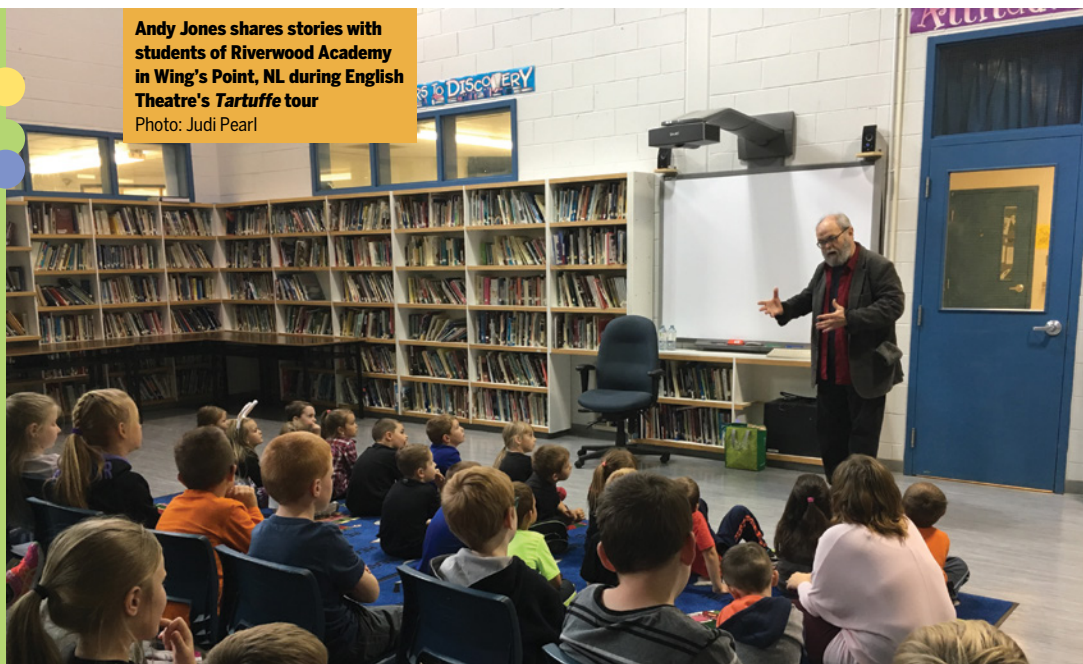
“In Corner Brook, I watched the audience watch the show. There was a special feeling in the room as they recognized themselves on the stage. It was a celebration of who they are as Newfoundlanders. It was a privilege for me to witness the pure joy and love for each other that was visible on their faces,” says Judi.

In the end, it is the education and outreach events that Judi cherishes most. Both she and Andy are sincerely thankful to NAC supporters who helped make the tour possible. “The opportunity to bring these artists to remote communities in Newfoundland is something I will treasure all my life,” she says. “I’m very grateful to donors for helping to make it possible.”

“As soon as I was asked to adapt Molière’s *Tartuffe*, it was my dream to tour Newfoundland, to make this a Newfoundland story.”

Andy Jones

Andy Jones shares stories with students of Riverwood Academy in Wing’s Point, NL during English Theatre’s *Tartuffe* tour
Photo: Judi Pearl





Jayne Watson

Photo: Ottawa's Valberg Imaging

Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

A new year is upon us—a time to reflect and be thankful for all that is good in our lives.

There is much to be thankful for at the NAC and supporters like you are a big part of the reason why. Thanks to your generosity, promising artists are given a chance to learn and perform on Canada's stage. Brilliant new works are being developed and premiering in front of audiences. And young people are getting their first taste of live music, theatre and dance through education and outreach programs.

All of us at the NAC are grateful for your support. I'm delighted to enclose our annual *Stewardship Report* giving you the opportunity to look back on the achievements we celebrated together last season.

For example, the NAC Orchestra's *Canada 150 Tour* touched thousands as it celebrated the 150th anniversary of Confederation through music. In June, our *Canada Scene*

festival presented 1,500 artists from the Atlantic to the Arctic to the Pacific.

And the brilliant legacy project *ENCOUNT3RS*, the NAC's landmark commission pairing three composers with three choreographers will be performed on stages for years to come.

Of course, 2017 was the year we opened our rejuvenated NAC. Since July, thousands of patrons and visitors have delighted in our stunning new spaces.

The beginning of a new year is the ideal time to reflect on our past achievements. It's also a time to look forward to the year ahead. With you by our side, I can't wait to celebrate the joy 2018 will bring.

With gratitude,

Jayne Watson

Come and enjoy free programs in the NAC's new public spaces

It's early Monday morning—rush hour. But the people gathered on the new Glass Thorsteinson Staircase at the NAC are feeling anything but rushed. They're here for the free *Movement in Meditation* class led by NAC Dance Education and Teaching Artist Siõned Watkins.

Movement in Meditation is just one of many free programs the NAC is offering in our new public spaces. There is also *Toddler Tuesdays* and Wednesday afternoon programming especially for seniors. All of the programs are arts based.

"With 70,000 square feet of additional space, we wanted to follow up on NAC President and CEO Peter Herrndorf's vision of becoming Canada's living room for the arts," explains

Heather Gibson, Executive Producer of *NAC Presents* and Variety and Community Programming at the NAC.

Visitors to the NAC can watch a local choir rehearse on the Glass Thorsteinson Staircase or listen to the English Storytellers share stories in the Rossy Pavilion. "We recognize there is a lot of art that goes on in the community. We want to be part of that and host these groups. This is as much their space as it is any other artist's in the community," Heather says.

All community members and visitors to the Nation's Capital are encouraged to visit the NAC and enjoy the free programming. A list of programs is available on our website.

Come explore free programming at the NAC, including **Toddler Tuesdays**
Photo: Luther Caverly



Heather also urges you to bring your children and grandchildren. "As arts programs get cut in schools, as kids have less exposure to the arts, an institution like ours can fill in the gaps," she says. "That requires us to create opportunities for families to come for free."

Celebrating a Year of Giving:

The 2016–2017 Stewardship Report

Thank you!

Your thoughtful support for the National Arts Centre Foundation made a big impact in the 2016–2017 season, here in Ottawa and across the country. With your generosity, you helped bring hundreds of breathtaking performances to Canada's stage, enriching the lives of arts lovers, students and artists alike.

But the impact of your support was also felt beyond the stage. Thanks to dedicated donors like you, we were able to support brilliant new creation such as *ENCOUNT3RS*. And we were proud to announce our new *National Creation Fund* that will surely lead to many more timeless works of music, theatre and dance.

Then there is the learning you helped make possible. Your support gave countless young people the chance to embrace the performing arts, igniting an appreciation

that will last a lifetime. It also provided emerging young artists with opportunities to develop their talent, create and perform.

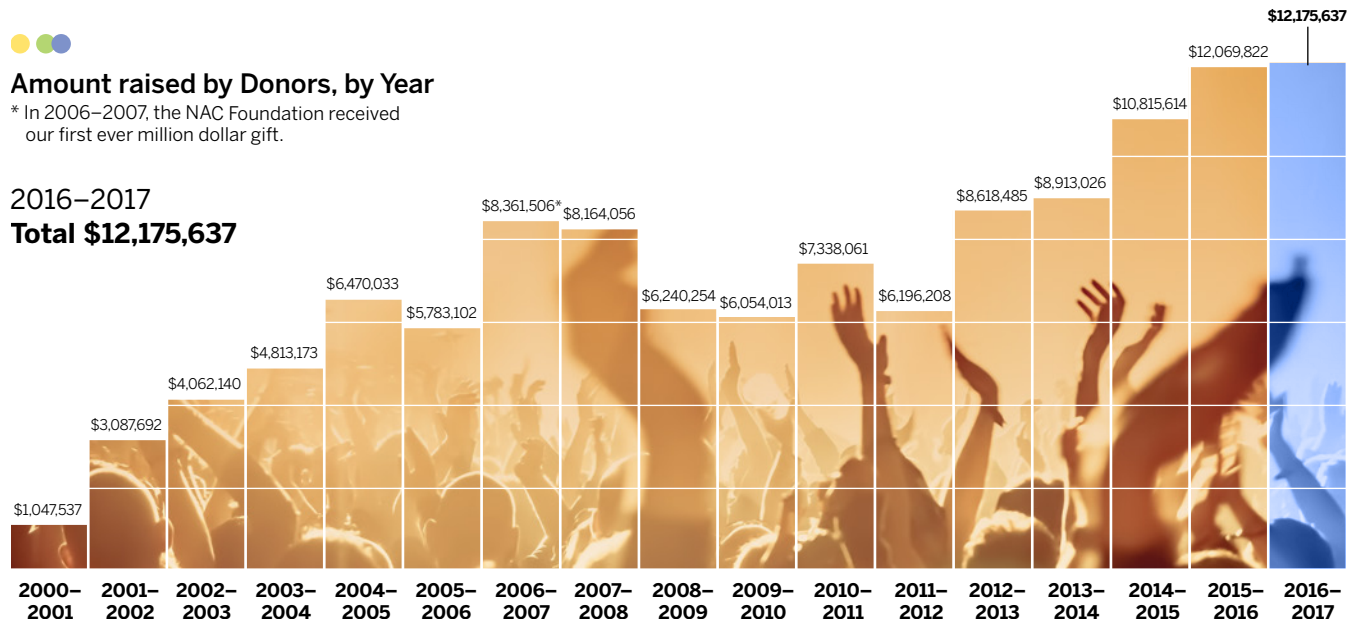
With your generosity, 2016–2017 was a memorable year for performance, creation and learning. It will also be known as the year we opened the doors to our brand new National Arts Centre thanks to the generous support of the Government of Canada. Thank you for staying with us during the renovations. And thank you, so much, for giving us so many reasons to celebrate.

Your Incredible Record of Giving

In 2016–2017, we proudly recognized that it's been 17 years since the creation of the NAC Foundation. From the day we first

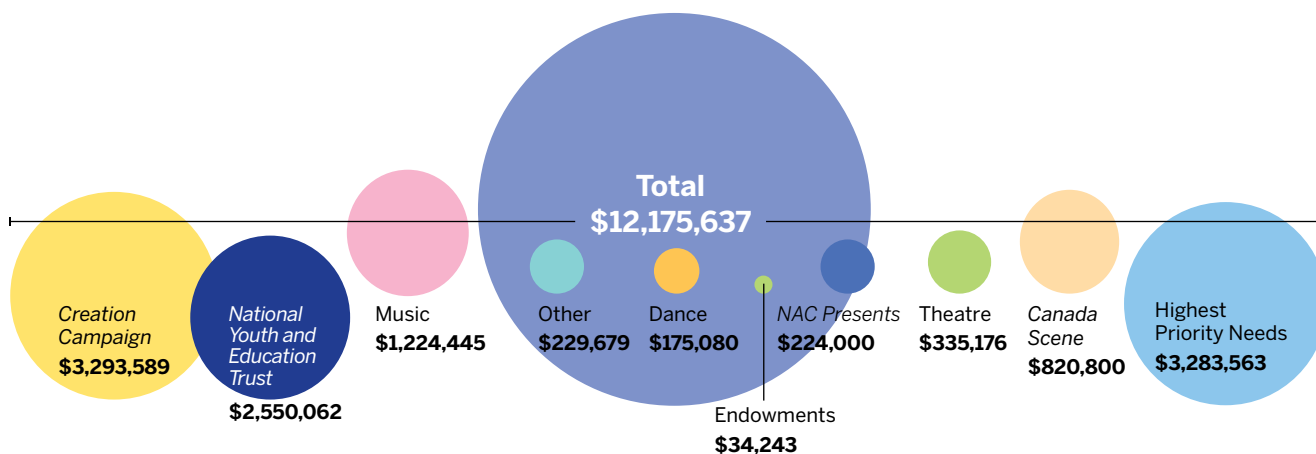
opened our doors our donors have inspired us with your generosity and passion for the arts. By working together, you've contributed millions of dollars to the Foundation which we've used to educate promising artists, fund new creation, and keep the arts thriving on stage and in the hearts of countless Canadians.

Thank you for being part of the journey. To date, your donations and the contributions of our corporate sponsors and foundations have totaled more than \$140 million. The true value of your support is immeasurable to the many artists, audience members and students who have benefited from your generous heart.





Fundraising Total Gift Designations in 2016–2017



Where Giving Makes the Difference

Your thoughtful support enabled the National Arts Centre Foundation to proudly invest **over \$7.7 million** in the NAC in 2016–2017. 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 throughout Canada
- Nurturing and supporting artists and arts organizations in communities across the country

In 2016–2017:

- 21% of your gifts to the NAC 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. 28% 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
- 129 donors—93% of whom are from the Ottawa area—named a seat in Southam Hall by making a special gift of \$5,000 payable over five years in support of performance, creation and learning.

By the numbers 2016–2017

- The National Arts Centre staged **1,349 performances**;
- Off-site NAC Orchestra and French Theatre matinees reached **6,755** students at Centrepont Theatre, La Nouvelle Scène, the University of Ottawa's Academic Hall, and AXENÉ07 Gallery;
- **Six** schools made use of the transportation assistance program which lowers the cost of school bus transportation. As a result, **439** youth attended one or more of French Theatre's matinees;
- NAC Orchestra Music Director Alexander Shelley conducted **1,300** high school students from **25** local schools in a massed band concert called *Music ignites*. The event was organized with *Ottawa 2017* as part of Canada's 150th birthday celebrations;
- A total of **1,548** students attended one of the **11** music and dance workshops held in schools;
- More than **7,700** students and teachers benefitted from a live performance through NAC's *Musical Adventures in My School* series. **Eight** different chamber ensembles gave a total of **42** performances in elementary and high schools in Ottawa.

The **Impact** of Your Giving

With your thoughtful support for the National Arts Centre Foundation, you are a champion for the performing arts in Canada. Here are just some of the highlights you made possible with your generosity in the 2016–2017 season.

PAVING THE WAY FOR A NEW MODEL OF CREATION WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL CREATION FUND

On December 1, 2016, the NAC announced the *National Creation Fund* to invest in the development of new work—the crucial research, residencies and workshopping that ideally takes place long before a show opens. With your help, the fund will invest up to \$3 million a year in the development of 15 to 20 compelling and ambitious new Canadian works in theatre, dance and music.

ENCOUNT3RS COMBINES DISCIPLINES AND FOSTERS BRILLIANT NEW CREATION

ENCOUNT3RS, a landmark NAC commission that your support helped make possible, paired three of Canada's outstanding choreographic talents with three of the country's most exciting composers. Premiering in April 2017, *ENCOUNT3RS* was an opportunity for six talented artists to experience a transformative creative "encounter" as they collaborated and contributed to the richness of the performing arts in Canada. As an added benefit dance companies can include this work in their repertoire and perform it for their own audiences.

THE NAC ORCHESTRA BEGINS ITS CANADA 150 TOUR AND HERALDS THE EXPANSION OF THE MUSIC ALIVE PROGRAM INTO THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES

Last spring, the NAC Orchestra began its *Canada 150 Tour* in the Atlantic Provinces. The Tour celebrates the 150th anniversary of

Confederation through music. In all four provinces, the Tour united the musicians of the Orchestra with students, educators, community leaders and artists through a total of 100 education and community events. Thanks to your generosity, the Tour also heralded the expansion of the *Music Alive Program* (MAP) into the Atlantic Provinces. MAP offers free music education workshops in schools to encourage active participation in the arts.

THE NAC WARMLY WELCOMES KEVIN LORING AS OUR FIRST EVER ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR INDIGENOUS THEATRE

In June 2016, the NAC was delighted to announce that Kevin Loring will head up Indigenous Theatre set to launch in 2019–2020. The accomplished Canadian playwright, actor, teacher and winner of the 2009 Governor General's Award for English Language Drama has already taken up his post and we look forward to seeing the riches of Indigenous theatre he will help to develop and bring to our stage.

CANADA SCENE CELEBRATES OUR COUNTRY'S HEROES AND INSPIRES US WITH A NEW GENERATION OF VOICES AND IDEAS

For six weeks last summer, the *Canada Scene* festival took over the nation's capital, presenting 1,500 artists from across the country in more than 150 events. *Canada Scene* was the culmination of the NAC's biennial showcase of dance, music, culinary and visual arts and was, by all accounts, an overwhelming success.

ENGLISH THEATRE'S THE SECOND CYCLE: CHANGING THE SHAPE OF CANADIAN THEATRE

The Second Cycle brought together more than 100 artists with the lived experience of being Deaf, disabled or identifying as Mad to discuss the idea of inclusion. Launched by the NAC English Theatre in 2016, *The Second Cycle* concluded in June 2017, when artists, leaders and students gathered to explore the compendium of Deaf, disability and Mad art from across the country, and explore modes of inclusive performance creation practice. *The Second Cycle* culminated with *The Republic of Inclusion*, a multi-day presentation and conversation event which aimed to participate in changing the shape of Canadian theatre and the processes by which it is made. For more information about *The Second Cycle* visit www.nac-cna.ca/en/cycle/inclusion

NACO REMIX: ENCOUNTERS IN OTTAWA'S WEST END

For the second year, your generosity helped Alexander Shelley and the NAC Orchestra bring students together from four Ottawa schools to "encounter" each other through music. During *NACO Remix 2017*, four school bands from the west end performed in a side-by-side concert with 20 wind, brass and percussion musicians from the NAC Orchestra at Woodroffe High School. Students from two schools also worked with Sióndé Watkins, NAC Dance Education Associate to choreograph and dance to three pieces on the program.

Our Annual Donors: Helping the NAC serve as a catalyst for the performing arts across Canada

The Donors' Circle You make so much possible.

The generous contributions we received from our dedicated Donors' Circle supporters was a big part of the reason we had so much to celebrate in 2016–2017. Together, we showcased stunning performance on stages here in Ottawa and across the country. We invested in unique and timeless new creation as well as in the talents of many promising artists. We reached out to young people from coast to coast to coast and shared our passion for the performing arts through a variety of learning opportunities. Everything we accomplished at the National Arts Centre in 2016–2017, we did together with you. Thank you for helping to keep the performing arts thriving on Canada's stage and in the hearts of Canadians.

- Your annual donations last year totaled \$1,475, 211 representing 13% of all funds raised by the National Arts Centre Foundation in 2016–2017.
- Your gifts came in many sizes, ranging from \$1 to \$10,000 and more.
- Gifts under \$500 added up to \$713,166. Gifts of all sizes make a difference in the areas of performance, creation and learning.

The Corporate Circle

The National Arts Centre Foundation is sincerely grateful for the support of local businesses and professionals. The 137 members of our Corporate Circle played a key role behind-the-scenes in 2016–2017, helping to transform many lives through the magic of

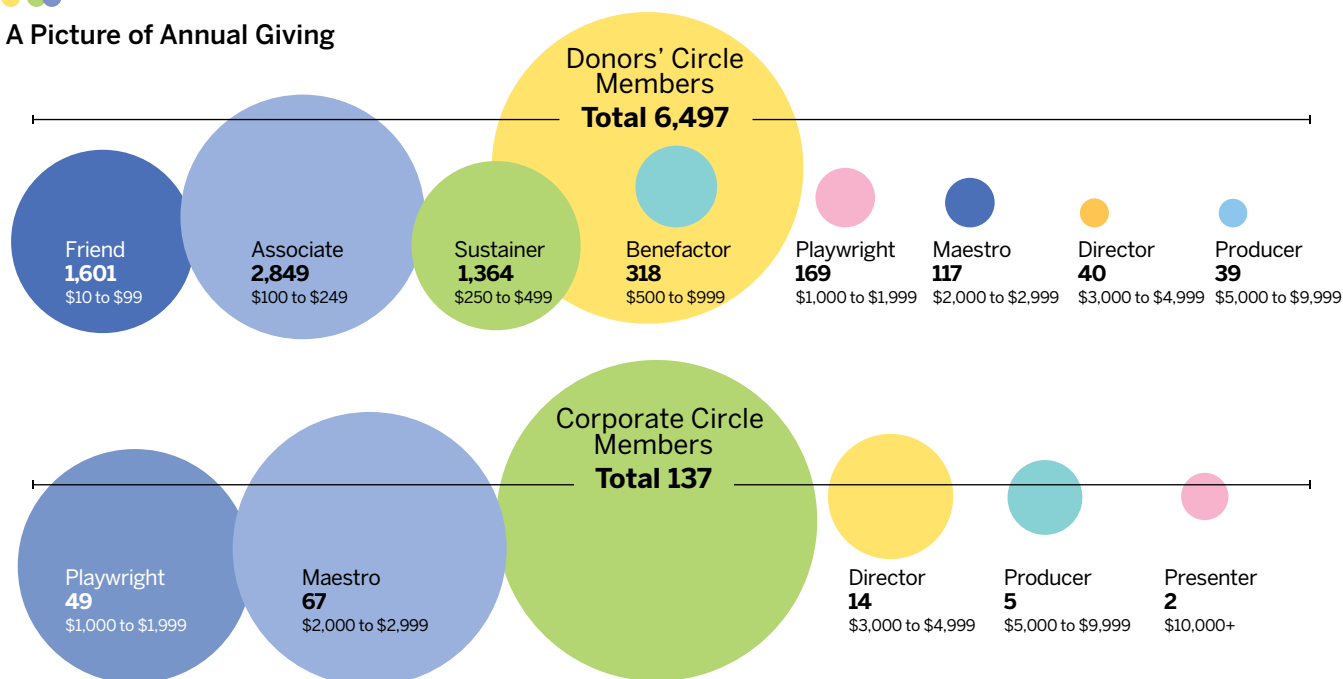
the performing arts. On behalf of artists, audience members, and the many students who are taking the arts into their own hearts due to the opportunities you helped to fund, thank you for your generosity and unwavering passion.

Planning for the Future

Last year, a group of supporters showed their commitment to the NAC in a very special way. Esteemed members of our Emeritus Circle have pledged future gifts to the National Arts Centre valued at more than \$5.8 million, through gifts in their Will, gifts of life insurance and other planned giving arrangements. Your vision and profound generosity will make a lasting impact, helping to ensure a bright future for the performing arts in Canada for generations to come.



A Picture of Annual Giving



Music Circle expands to reach more participants

With excitement shining in his eyes, a 17-year-old student holds the trumpet in his hands. He does his best to blow but no sound comes out. Finally, he looks up and says two words, “Help, please.”

“The boy’s teachers were amazed,” recalls Elizabeth Simpson, French Horn player with the NAC Orchestra and facilitator of the NAC’s *Music Circle*. “At the Ottawa Technical Secondary School Autism Program, up until this point the student had been non-verbal.”

Inspiring moments like this are a big part of the reason *Music Circle*, which is run in collaboration with the Lotus Centre for Special Music Education, has been expanded to reach even more children and adults living with autism and other developmental challenges. There is also a huge need. As Elizabeth says, there are very few music programs like this one out there, especially for adults.



Andrew discovers the trombone at a *Music Circle* workshop with the NAC’s Elizabeth Simpson
Photo submitted

“Parents and caregivers have expressed a need for this program. Without it, many people with special needs can’t fully enjoy something that comes so naturally—listening to live music,” Elizabeth explains. “The main goal of the *Music Circle* is to help prepare the participants to come to concerts. In some cases, they also have the opportunity to perform for their families and friends.”

The program begins with a series of workshops designed to familiarize participants with a family of instruments. Youth and adults get a chance to hold and play the instruments. The workshops culminate in a special concert at the NAC in a space where participants can feel comfortable since many people living with autism have a difficult time in a new, noisy or crowded environment.

“The field trip to the NAC gives participants the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the building so they can feel more at home here in the future,” explains Elizabeth. “Ideally, we want concerts for everyone. Music brings calmness and enjoyment into our lives.”

That’s why Elizabeth is so pleased that the *Music Circle* is expanding. In 2016–2017, over 120 youth and adults with special needs took part in this free, hands-on program. And, she is grateful to NAC supporters who help make it possible. “It’s a gift to be able to offer this program,” says Elizabeth. “I’m thankful to everyone who is a part of it.”

Tea with a Ballerina inspires young dancers

In the Atelier Shenkman Smith at the NAC, the aspiring ballerinas sit spellbound. They watch in awe as Svetlana Gileva, Principal Dancer with Semperoper Ballett Dresden demonstrates how she puts bubble wrap inside her pointe shoes.

“The participants gasped,” recalls NAC Dance Education and Teaching Artist Siõned Watkins. “They couldn’t wait to try this technique for their own blistery feet.”

Eighteen young dancers, ages 11 to 18, came to share a cup of tea and conversation with Svetlana. “Many participants had watched the prima ballerina in *Swan Lake* the night before. They were nervous to be in such close proximity to a ballet star,” says Siõned.

It wasn’t long before the participants relaxed and listened while Svetlana shared stories about returning to the stage



Eager young dancers have tea and a chat with prima ballerina Svetlana Gileva of Semperoper Ballett Dresden
Photo: Siõned Watkins

after an injury and what it’s like to raise a daughter while working. “The young dancers benefitted from Svetlana’s knowledge,” says Siõned. “She gave them hope for their careers and alleviated their fears around injuries.”

“I want to thank NAC supporters for making *Tea with a Ballerina* possible,” says Siõned. “Your support provides invaluable opportunities for young dance students on their creative paths.”



A touching moment with actors Ben Caplan and Mary Fay Coady during Hannah Moscovitch's new play *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*
Photo: Stoo Metz Photography

“By supporting the NAC, you help build our national culture. I think our culture is meaningful and beautiful and the world should have the chance to experience it.”

Hannah Moscovitch,
Canadian playwright

***Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story* wins hearts and accolades at Canada Scene**

The Azrieli Studio at the NAC was packed with people. They were there to see *Old Stock: A Refugee Love Story*, a new play by Hannah Moscovitch produced by Halifax's 2b theatre. Hannah was gratified by the large audience but there was one man in attendance she was especially happy to see: her father.

“It was the first time my father saw the play about his grandparents,” Hannah says. “In the narrative, I quickly flip through history and bring us to the present day with my son's birth. My dad gets to hear his grandfather and father in the show be proud of his accomplishments. After the performance, he told me he was proud of me.”

This was a huge moment in a young life that's already been filled with big moments. Hannah grew up in Ottawa and attended French and English Theatre at the NAC. And now, in the past year, the playwright has had two plays, *Old Stock* as well as *Infinity*, presented on our stage.

“I feel like the NAC is a beacon for Canadian culture so it's nice to be recognized and included there,” Hannah says. “You hope your work is adding to the national culture so to have it be included in *Canada Scene* means more than I can ever express.”

To be part of *Canada Scene* also had another benefit for Hannah and hundreds of other Canadian artists: the festival attracted presenters and talent scouts from across Canada and abroad. *Old Stock* is now booked around the world until the summer of 2019 and includes stops in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Hannah is grateful to the NAC for co-producing her play and giving new creation like *Old Stock* a chance to find an audience. “I'm aware that the NAC and their supporters are putting money into developing the arts across the country,” says Hannah. “You allow artists like me to have a second or third production of our work and that's incredibly important in terms of us being able to stay in the arts,” she says.

The *Institute for Orchestral Studies* a “humbling, rewarding opportunity”

Alexander Volkov is nervous as he lifts his violin and begins to play at the mock audition. He knows there are members of the NAC Orchestra behind the screen. He also knows that in two days, he'll be auditioning for real.

“After the mock audition I received advice from several members of the Orchestra. I also spent over two hours with Elaine Kimasko (violinist) covering every excerpt for the real upcoming audition with the Orchestra,” recalls Alexander. “Thanks to the lesson I was able to advance to the second round.”

The opportunity to do a mock audition is one of many benefits Alexander received as one of five young artists selected to take part in the *Institute for Orchestral Studies* (IOS) this season. The apprenticeship program prepares musicians for orchestral careers. For six weeks, Alexander was mentored by NAC Orchestra musicians and performed in every concert.

“The opportunity raised my bar of performance and work ethic to a whole new level,” says Alexander. “I have a higher and more professional outlook of the responsibilities outlined for any orchestral artist.”

Alexander describes the experience as a “mesmerizing and challenging” one. The apprentices prepared three different programs in one week. “To the seasoned professionals this was nothing new. But to us IOS students, it

was a good challenge,” he says. “We managed to play 13 concerts in the six weeks.”

To adapt to the immense workload, Alexander learned a system of efficiency he says he couldn't have otherwise discovered. He now has a personal standard of preparation. “The program doesn't just give you a glimpse of performing in a professional orchestra; it drops you straight onto the battlefield,” Alexander explains. “I was always learning and adjusting. The trust of playing in the NAC Orchestra came with a ton of responsibility and it felt great.”

Alexander says it took him less than five minutes of the first rehearsal to realize he wanted to become a member of the NAC Orchestra in the future. Thanks to the experience, which you helped make possible with your support, the young violinist also wants to give other emerging artists opportunities like this one.

“When it becomes my turn, I want to help out in a program like the IOS because the value of what it teaches cannot be mirrored anywhere else in North America,” he says. “It truly is inspiring.”

“To NAC supporters, you've awarded me with the energy to push even harder into making fantastic music with phenomenal artists.”

Alexander Volkov,
Institute for Orchestral Studies apprentice

Shining a light on young artists of the *Institute of Orchestral Studies*: Grace Sommer, Alisa Klebanov, Gabrielle Bouchard, Talia Hatcher and Alexander Volkov
Photo: Fred Cattroll



Making Giving Easy:

Helping to ensure a bright future for the NAC and the performing arts in Canada may be more affordable than you realize

A Will is a declaration of whom and what is important to you. It gives you the opportunity to provide for the people you hold dear as well as the charities that play an important role in your life—organizations like the NAC.

As a supporter, chances are you've enjoyed many performances on our stages and would like to share your joy with younger generations. Of course, you also want to remember your loved ones and ensure they are cared for.

There is a way you can do both by making a residual bequest in your Will to the NAC Foundation.

Here's how it works:

You choose to donate a percentage, for example 1%, 2% or 5%, of what remains in your estate after all other provisions to your family and loved ones have been made. Your gift also generates a tax receipt to help offset taxes.

A charitable gift in your Will to the NAC Foundation, however large or small, is truly powerful. It gives you the opportunity to acknowledge all the pleasure the arts have brought into your life and allows you to share that pleasure with others for years to come.

If you would like more information or would like to discuss making a residual gift in your Will to the NAC Foundation please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000, ext. 314.

Donor Profile: Michel and Nicole Drapeau

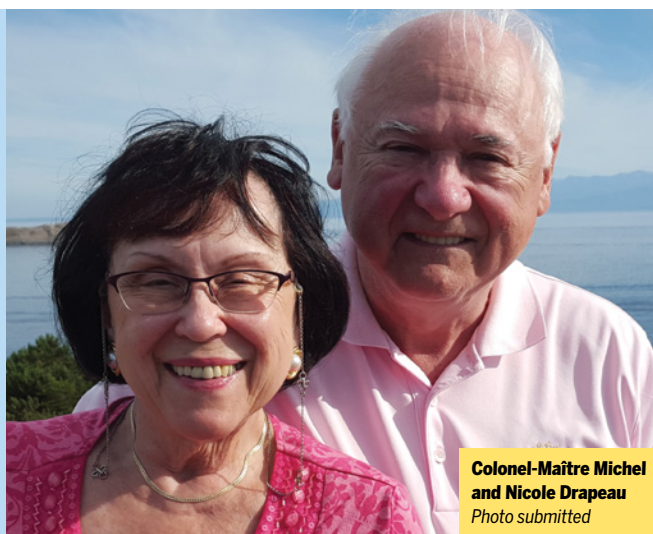
Sharing their passion for the performing arts with a younger generation

Michel and Nicole Drapeau know it's going to be a special evening. With anticipation, they lead the youngsters into Southam Hall for *The Nutcracker*.

"It's fun to see the expressions on their faces when they first enter the room," says Michel. "Most have never been at the NAC before. They're so impressed by it all and I hope it will have a lasting impression."

Bringing their friends' children and grandchildren to the NAC is one way Nicole and Michel are sharing their passion for the performing arts. Another way is through their generous support for the NAC Foundation. Their contributions help fund vital education and outreach programs—exposing youth to the arts they hold so dear.

"We'd like to see more young people develop a taste for the performing arts but we recognize that can't happen unless they have the opportunity to attend performances



Colonel-Maitre Michel and Nicole Drapeau
Photo submitted

or participate in workshops," explains Nicole. "It's up to us to give them that opportunity."

Michel and Nicole also feel it's important to give back in return for the hours of enjoyment they find at the NAC each year. "The arts are nourishment for the soul," says Michel. "We attend performances on a Friday and it's a nice way to end the week—relax, enjoy and experience an artistic interlude."

The desire to give back is also the reason the Drapeaus named a seat in Southam Hall and encourage others to support the NAC. "You give and you receive so much in return. It allows you to develop an intimacy with the NAC. It's no longer the Centre, it's your Centre. You go there and feel at home," Michel says. "Donating to the NAC Foundation doesn't make you poorer, it makes you richer."

Five Minutes with Gabrielle Shonk:

A Q&A with the emerging singer/songwriter who is winning hearts at the NAC

Quebec singer/songwriter, Gabrielle Shonk, has performed at the NAC three times in the past year and she'll be back again in February. We asked the emerging young musician how it feels to perform on Canada's stage.

Q: How would you describe your first experience performing at the NAC?

A: It was great. I opened for Hannah Georgas in the Azrieli Studio and I fell in love with that room. It felt so intimate and the audience was so receptive. Nobody really knew me but they were open to what I was doing.

Q: What was it like to be one of the first to perform at the re-opening of the Fourth Stage?

A: I felt very honoured. It told me the people at the NAC have faith in me. They believe in the potential of my show and it's nice to have that support.

Q: Donors help give emerging artists the chance to perform on Canada's stage. Why are these opportunities so important?

A: For me, playing live is the reason I make music. To have the opportunity to perform and put my music out there and connect with an audience is so important. Thanks to donor support, emerging artists get a chance to build more of a following and a foundation for our career.

Q: You will be performing your own concert at the NAC in February. What does this opportunity mean to you?



Gabrielle Shonk
Photo: Norman Wong

A: It's very exciting to have the chance to play my whole record and have my own show in such a special space.

Q: Is there a message of thanks you'd like to share with supporters who provide performance opportunities for emerging artists?

A: I have so much gratitude. It's nice to know people are passionate about new music and committed to helping emerging artists get our music out there.

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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 winter Open Rehearsals and Previews.

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

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