

SPRING 2014

# Full Circle

A publication of the  
National Arts Centre Foundation

## The Tale of a Town: A tale of collaboration

Lisa Marie DiLiberto and  
Charles Ketchabaw of FIXT POINT  
head out across Canada in their  
storymobile recording booth  
Photo by Tony Lombardo



*“Thanks to the generosity of NAC Foundation donors, we can work with artists and theatre companies across Canada and support premieres of work on stages in home towns. Donors can feel proud about investing in The Collaborations as over time new work can really flower.”*

—Sarah Garton Stanley, Associate Artistic Director, NAC English Theatre

Members of the 2013–2014 Ensemble have played many roles on our stages. But none of them compare to the role they played this past winter. For two weeks, they got to play themselves.

It's all thanks to *The Collaborations* and NAC English Theatre working with Toronto theatre and media company FIXT POINT on their

production *The Tale of a Town*. In this phase of development, FIXT POINT had the Ensemble interviewing each other – based on precepts developed by the artists – as part of a workshop they're developing for actors across the country.

“We spent time with the Ensemble, testing out our workshop and getting feedback. We used them as guinea pigs,” admits

Lisa Marie DiLiberto, Artistic Director for FIXT POINT.

So what exactly is *The Tale of a Town* and why is this workshop so important to its success? Lisa Marie, and Managing Director Charles Ketchabaw, describe the production as “a transmedia storytelling initiative.” Setting out in their storymobile recording booth, they gather main street stories through

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Aussi disponible en français

# message

## from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

Canada is our stage.

When it comes to our National Arts Centre, caring supporters like you know just how true those words are. Whether it's the NAC Orchestra touring to Canada's North, English Theatre collaborating with artists and companies across the country, or children in rural Saskatchewan benefitting from a school visit from a professional musician, the NAC has always been committed to serving as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning in every part of the country.

At the Foundation, we're very proud of the role the NAC plays in championing the performing arts in every corner of Canada. And we're delighted the NAC is getting its message out there to all Canadians through our new brand. Soon artists and prospective audience members everywhere will discover what donors like you have known for a long time: not only is the NAC a home for Canada's most creative artists, it also provides a national stage for the performing arts from coast to coast to coast.

You'll find evidence of that inside this issue of *Full Circle*. In our lead story, we bring you a tale of collaboration. Even as I write,

English Theatre is busy serving and supporting theatrical creation across this great country through *The Collaborations*. Meanwhile, our *Summer Music Institute* (SMI) continues to welcome the most promising national and international artists to the NAC for a few weeks of intense learning. There are two articles about the SMI and its power to transform lives in this issue.

As always, when I get an opportunity to write, I want to thank you for supporting the performing arts. If Canada is our stage, then donors like you are the set designers, helping to build something truly meaningful that is a source of pride for all Canadians.

With gratitude,



Jayne Watson



Photo by Ottawa's  
Valberg Imaging

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# The Tale of a Town: A tale of collaboration

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Getting ready to record main street stories for *The Tale of a Town*

Photo by Thomas Franks

interviews with residents and present them back to the community through a performance and podcast. The interviews are conducted by local, professional artists, hence the need for the workshop.

“Working with this diverse group of artists from across Canada gave us perspective on how to connect with actors all over the country, to think about how we’ll do this in northern Manitoba or Nunavut,” explains Charles.

Giving companies like FIXT POINT access to the time and talent of the Ensemble is just one way NAC English Theatre is serving and supporting theatrical creation across the country. With *The Collaborations*, English Theatre is placing their resources into the hands of creative talent found in all corners of Canada.

“Our goal is to invest in the great work already being created and give it the opportunity to grow,” says Sarah Garton Stanley, Associate Artistic Director, NAC English Theatre. “*The Collaborations* allows us to have a broader reach of what we can produce. Right now, we’re collaborating on 20 projects. It’s taking us across Canada. Not only is Canada’s presence being felt back at the NAC, the NAC’s presence is being felt all over the country.”

Lisa Marie agrees. “NAC English Theatre is really making an effort to reach out. It’s the buzz in the theatre community that the NAC is approachable and building personal connections with the artists. It means a lot,” she says.

The chance to collaborate with FIXT POINT means a lot to Sarah too. “Our decision to invest comes from whether something is far-reaching,” she explains. “*The Tale of a Town* challenges our notion of how and where we present theatre. It allows us to be involved in something meaningful without limiting ourselves to what we can immediately program on our stages.”

Armed with their improved workshop, FIXT POINT will tour every province and territory over the next two years. Altogether, these site-specific stories will become part of Canada’s oral history, and inspire



the creation of a multi-media performance of *The Tale of a Town – Canada*, slated to tour theatres from coast to coast in 2017, in celebration of Canada’s 150th anniversary.

“At the end of this, Canada will forever have a rich resource from these oral histories we have formed into stories,” says Charles.

There’s no question that *The Collaborations* generates an interest in supporting distinct, unique creation. “When the NAC says they are supporting a project, it’s easy to leverage that support to get other support,” says Charles. “It’s like having a big, beautiful magnifying glass on your project.”

Of course, creating a national stage for productions like *The Tale of a Town* would not be possible without donor support. As Lisa Marie says, “Your support has made a big difference in the development of our company. It’s connected us with other partners, and given the project the national perspective it needs. It’s a dream come true.”





Summer Music Institute alumnus, Jan Lisiecki, will perform at the NAC with the Orchestra on June 11–12  
Photo by Mathias Bothor

# How the *Summer Music Institute* helped set the stage for Jan Lisiecki

When Jan Lisiecki first performed at the NAC, he was only 10. But there are things about that day he still remembers: the maze-like backstage, how the conductor expressed surprise at his hair, and the helpful, friendly nature of the NAC Orchestra. “They were so kind and professional,” recalls Jan. “They let me know my young age didn’t matter, it was all about making music.”

Two years later, Jan was back at the NAC, this time as an eager student in the Young Artist Program of the *Summer Music Institute* (SMI). It was an unforgettable experience for the promising classical pianist. “We had great teachers at the highest level,” says Jan. “I had the opportunity to work with different people on solo repertoire as well as chamber music. The SMI had an incredible impact on how I play on my own as well as with an orchestra. The encouragement and support I received at such a young age inspired me in ways I can’t describe in words.”

Every year, talented young artists from across Canada and beyond come to Ottawa for a few weeks of intense learning. More than 1,000 participants from 39 countries have benefitted from the program since it first began in 1999.

“The SMI is unparalleled in Canada,” says Jan. “In my opinion, there’s no need for our young musicians to go to American summer camps, not when there is so much talent, fantastic teachers and great facilities here.”

Today, the 19-year-old Jan is busy touring the world and completing a Bachelor of Music at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto on full scholarship. And he continues to be appreciative of the place and the people who were so instrumental at the start of his luminous career.

“I can’t thank NAC supporters enough,” Jan says. “I’m enormously grateful to you for making it possible for me to study music at such a high level in a beautiful city – to come away with having had an extraordinary experience and many wonderful memories.”

## The proud legacy of the *Summer Music Institute*

Jan Lisiecki is one of many talented artists to benefit from his time at the *Summer Music Institute* (SMI). Today, many of the SMI’s past participants are entertaining and touching the hearts of people all over the world.

Three of our SMI alumni are now valued members of the NAC Orchestra including Jessica Linnebach, Associate Concertmaster; Jethro Marks, Principal Viola; and Sean Rice, Second Clarinet. Here’s a look at what some other brilliant artists are doing now:

- Bryan Wagorn (2001–2005), pianist, is now on staff at the Metropolitan Opera Company as Assistant Conductor. Bryan was also a faculty member of the SMI from 2006–2013.
- Robert Uchida (2001–2002, 2004), violinist, received an appointment as Concertmaster with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra in the summer of 2013, following his tenure as Concertmaster with the Nova Scotia Symphony.
- Adrian Anantawan, violinist (2004–2007), was a member of the SMI Pre-College

Faculty from 2008–2013. Adrian currently at the Music Director at the Conservatory Lab Charter School in Boston.

- Estelle Choi (2009–2010), cellist, is a member of the award-winning Calidore String Quartet, formed at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles in 2010.
- Jesús Reina (2003–2005 & 2007–2010), violinist, and Anna Margrethe Nilsen, violinist (2007–2010) co-founded the Malaga Clasica International Chamber Music Festival in May, 2013. The Festival is held in Malaga, Spain.

# NAC Dance Masterclasses open new horizons for students

It's only 10:30 on a Saturday morning but a group of eager dance students have already worked up a sweat. The students are in the middle of a masterclass at the NAC with Pierre Lapointe, principal ballet master with Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, and he's really putting them through their paces.

"Pierre Lapointe took an interest in each and every dancer," says participant Madelaine Saginur. "His exercises were easy to learn but challenging. He made us really work."

The opportunity to work hard and learn from the best is a big part of the reason hundreds of dancers sign up for dance workshops and masterclasses at the NAC each year. And there are other benefits as well.

"It's a chance for students to learn outside of their own studios and be inspired by different dancers and different styles of teaching," explains Kirsten Andersen, former Education and Outreach Coordinator for Dance at the NAC.

Virtually every student who participates in a masterclass at the NAC has also seen the company perform on our stage. In fact, Kirsten says, the class often offers excerpts from the show's choreography. "The class is a link to the incredible artistry the students see on stage. They can then approach the choreography with their own artistry."

It's an opportunity you help make possible with your support and one more way you help the NAC serve as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning. "Working with critically acclaimed artists like Pierre Lapointe is so important for artist development," says Kirsten. "These masters give direction into what it takes to be a professional dancer. They inspire, show what is possible, and open horizons for students who are looking to them for their future."

Dance students learning choreography  
from Pierre Lapointe of Les Grands  
Ballets Canadiens de Montréal  
*Photo by Kirsten Andersen*



Orchestra members, Marjolaine Fournier, Joanna G'froerer and Susan Rupp during their travels on the NAC Orchestra China Tour  
*Photo by Fred Cattroll*

## Aeroplan Beyond Miles: An easy way to support your NAC

As a loyal supporter and dedicated friend of the performing arts, you might wonder if there are other ways you can support the NAC and the arts in Canada. If so, we have good news for you. You can now donate your Aeroplan Miles to the NAC Foundation.

Donating your miles won't cost you a dime but it will literally mean the world to us. As a national arts organization, we do a lot of travelling. Members of our staff journey to meet new artists, source dance and theatre companies, and make sure education programs in places like Nunavut and Saskatchewan are up and running smoothly. Then there is our NAC Orchestra, taking their talent into schools and concert halls across Canada and beyond.

The Aeroplan Beyond Miles Program gives the NAC the ability to access the miles you donate and redeem them for flights, hotels and car rentals. Your generosity will help us cut our travel costs and dedicate more of your contributions to bringing the best and brightest to our stages, investing in new creation, and supporting vital education programs.

To donate your miles, please visit <http://beyondmiles.aeroplan.com/eng/charity/423> and follow the prompts to donate as many miles as you wish.



# The *Kinderconcert* Series:

## Reaching out (even further) to our youngest fans

Sitting together on mats in the NAC Panorama Room, the kids are giggling. In front of them a young Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is getting in trouble with his sister. The kids, and more than a few parents, find this hilarious.

“The kids were drawn into the Mozart character. They were laughing and cheering him on,” recalls Geneviève Cimon, Director of Music Education at the NAC. “At other times, they were so entranced you could have heard a pin drop.”

Geneviève is talking about *Mozart’s Flights of Fancy*, one in a series of *Kinderconcerts* performed at the NAC for children aged three to eight. The series, a co-production with Jeunesses Musicales of Canada, features musicians playing chamber music and bringing it alive through storytelling and dramaturgy. The kids love it and so do their parents. *Kinderconcerts* have consistently sold out ever since they were developed 11 years ago.

“Children can interact throughout the performance and discover new instruments,” says Geneviève. “In fact, the artistry and storytelling of the *Kinderconcerts* often spark children’s curiosity and inspire them to want to learn an instrument themselves.”

And now, the magic of the *Kinderconcerts* will reach even more children throughout the 2014–2015 season with performances taking place at the Shenkman Arts Centre in Ottawa’s east-end and CentrepoinTE Theatres in the west.

“Families can’t always come downtown to the NAC especially with young children,” explains Geneviève. “So we’re excited to offer these presentations in other parts of the city.”

The addition of the new venues is convenient for parents and means more children will be delighted by the storytelling and musical magic of the *Kinderconcert* series. “We hope it will introduce children who have never before experienced live music to the arts,” says Geneviève. “We also hope it will inspire families to attend the TD Family Adventures series and come see the entire orchestra at the NAC.”

***“Thank you for investing in a brighter future for the performing arts; for the role you play in reaching out to children and exposing them to the joy of making and experiencing music.”***

—Geneviève Cimon, Director of Music Education and  
Community Outreach, National Arts Centre



Children watch one of the NAC's  
*Kinderconcerts* with rapt attention  
Photo by Michel Dozois

# Making Giving Easy

## Monthly Giving: A cost-effective way to support the performing arts

At the NAC Foundation, we strive to keep our administrative costs as low as possible so we can put more of your donations toward vital programs. And caring supporters like you can help. For example, with the increase to postage costs, one way you can help us keep our costs down is to provide us with your e-mail address.

Another way is to join our monthly giving program.

As a monthly supporter, you'll receive fewer mailings from us, saving us money on postage and administration. Plus your gift each month provides the Foundation with a steady, dependable stream of revenue, helping us plan more effectively.

There are also many benefits for you. Monthly giving is convenient and affordable. Each month you make a donation in the amount of your choice to the NAC Foundation through your chequing account or credit card. No more cheques to write or forms to fill out. And you can change the amount of your gift, or even stop at any time with a simple phone call, e-mail or letter.

Please consider monthly giving today. You'll continue to enjoy all the privileges that come with membership, while supporting the performing arts you love – all while helping us reduce our costs.

*For more information or to join us as a monthly supporter, please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000 ext. 314.*

## Your e-mail address can mean more money for the performing arts!

With the sharp increase to postage costs this year, providing us with your e-mail address has never been more important. The more we can communicate with you through e-mail,

the more we can save on postage and administration costs. And that means more of your hard-earned donation dollars can go toward vital programs.

Please take a moment to send your e-mail address to [donorscircle@nac-cna.ca](mailto:donorscircle@nac-cna.ca).

*Thank you!*

## Donor Profile:

### Jean Gauthier and Danielle Fortin

#### Honouring the importance of music and the arts in their lives

Coming to the National Arts Centre to see the Orchestra play wasn't always easy in those early years. After all, during the 1980's, Jean Gauthier and Danielle Fortin were raising four children. "Family expenses were the prime outlay for any funds coming in," Danielle admits. "But there was always money for a performance here and there."

That's because music was a passion – especially for Jean who grew up in a musical family. Jean began learning the piano when he was seven and at one time even considered making it his career. "Music and the piano have always had a calming effect in our house and our lives," he says.

That same passion is what inspires Jean and Danielle to support the NAC financially, with a special emphasis on the *Summer Music Institute*

(SMI). "We need to develop the artists of tomorrow and give them the opportunity to learn from the masters," says Danielle. "The SMI offers this with a touch of "internationalism" which allows the student to discover how other cultures shape music interpretation."

The reward for their generosity is received every time Danielle and Jean take their seats in Southam Hall. "Whenever we attend a NAC Orchestra performance, we feel we'll be taken out of our seats and shown a new world," shares Jean. "At the NAC, there have been so many memories, all good but not all easy to accept, like the night my mother cried listening to the Orchestra playing her late husband's favourite piece. Other evenings are just like a fairytale."

Jean and Danielle believe education programs like the SMI are critical to the



Jean Gauthier and Danielle Fortin  
*Photo submitted*

future of the performing arts in Canada. And, like so many of our supporters, they're committed to giving the artists and audiences of tomorrow the opportunities to embrace the arts just like they have.

"Attending a NAC performance allows us to enjoy the great interpreters of today," Jean explains. "Supporting the SMI provides us with the opportunity to discover and help nurture the great names of tomorrow."



Annabel Soutar  
Photo by Vivian Doan

*Recently, NAC English Theatre presented Annabel's docudrama, **Seeds**, here on our national stage. Annabel is currently collaborating with English Theatre on her most recent work, **The Watershed**, and talks to us about the importance of the collaboration.*

## Five Minutes with Annabel Soutar:

### A Q&A with Canada's acclaimed playwright

**Q: Your play, *Seeds* was recently performed on the NAC stage. What did this opportunity mean to you as a Canadian artist?**

**A:** It was a huge, summital moment. I had never seen my play performed to such a large audience before. This opportunity will open so many doors in the form of exposure.

**Q: How did your collaboration with NAC English Theatre begin on your next project *The Watershed*?**

**A:** Sarah Garton Stanley, Associate Artistic Director, NAC English Theatre came to see *Seeds* in Montreal in 2012 and was impressed. She told me the NAC was interested in developing new projects across Canada. She liked that *The Watershed* had a national scope and told me she would like to help me strengthen the piece. To support the play both financially and with an artistic outside eye is a huge opportunity for me.

**Q: How is NAC English Theatre's commitment to collaboration supporting theatrical creation across Canada?**

**A:** When the NAC says they're going to get in on the ground floor with you, it's a wonderful step to developing your work. It makes artists feel like the NAC cares about our work and are interested in the process. By reaching out a hand, they're saying they value you as an artist and that's very encouraging.

**Q: What message would you like to send to NAC supporters who help make first-rate theatre performance and creation possible at the NAC and across the country?**

**A:** I'd like to send a huge message of gratitude for your leap of faith in the arts. With our work, we're trying to create a space for conversation and contemplation for what's happening in Canada today. Thank you for thinking of the arts as something that promotes a healthy society.

## 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, 2014	NAC Foundation Canada Day Thank You Party		✓	✓	✓				
July 4–6, 2014	Attend the Shaw Festival with the Friends of English Theatre and receive discounts on tickets.*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
September 5–7, 2014	Attend the Stratford Festival with the Friends of English Theatre, make your own selection of shows.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mid October 2014	Friends of English Theatre visit London, UK. Discounts on tickets for the National Theatre, Royal Festival Hall and London's West End.*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

\* Friends of English Theatre is an independent membership driven group that supports English Theatre at the National Arts Centre. For further information call 613-726-9330 or email: [franny@magma.ca](mailto:franny@magma.ca)

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

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