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Full Circle

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A new NAC: Re-imagining Canada's home for the performing arts

On Canada Day 2017, the curtain will rise on a transformed National Arts Centre.

There will be a magnificent new glass entrance, public areas for education and events, and improved accessibility for people with mobility challenges. We want to take this opportunity to give you an update on the project and let you know what you can expect from your new NAC.

"The project is in the design development phase where we make critical decisions about what's specifically going where. For example, how are we going to recognize donors, with what kind

of space and where is that space going to be," explains David McCuaig, Director of Operations and Project Director for Architectural Rejuvenation at the NAC.

"On the construction front we're in the process of choosing a construction manager, not just to build but to help us design and manage the project."

If you've seen images of the NAC rejuvenation, you know that the key design decisions have been made. Principal Architect Donald Schmitt of Diamond Schmitt Architects, whose firm designed the re-imagined NAC, has exciting changes in store, including moving the entrance.

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The new entrance of the NAC will embrace the nation's capital

Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

Spring is a time for celebration. It's the time to reflect on how much we've accomplished at the National Arts Centre, thanks to the vision and hard work of many extraordinary individuals.

Pinchas Zukerman is one of these individuals. In June, Pinchas will complete the journey he started with the NAC Orchestra in 1998. As a tribute to the Maestro, we've asked those closest to him to share a special memory of their time with Pinchas. You can read their contributions on page 6.

My own favourite memory of Pinchas happened on the last night of the NAC Orchestra's *China Tour* in 2013. We were in Shanghai and the Orchestra had just finished a breathtaking performance. The audience jumped to its feet. I clapped so hard I bruised my hands!

Pinchas took the violin of one of the students from the *Institute for Orchestral Studies* (IOS) and began playing *Brahms's Lullaby*. Everyone in the audience sang along, some in English, others in Mandarin. Many of us were moved to tears.

That memory will always stay with me. I'm sure the students from the IOS will remember it too. After all, Pinchas has a close relationship with the students he's mentored over the years and is revered as one of the greatest teachers of his generation. You can

read more about the IOS and the impact it has made in the life of one young musician on page 5.

Spring is a time for renewal and our lead story updates you on our plans to revitalize the NAC. As a loyal supporter, you play a starring role in the performance, creation and learning that takes place within our walls and across the country. We are thrilled to offer you a preview of the many improvements to Canada's home for the performing arts.

Thank you for your support and passion. This spring, I wish you the opportunity to make many special memories of your own as you take your seat at the NAC.

With gratitude,



Jayne Watson



Jayne Watson
Photo by Ottawa's
Valberg Imaging

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From cover:

A new NAC: Re-imagining Canada's home for the performing arts

"First and foremost was the opportunity to open this building to the city, Elgin Street and Confederation Square—to convey the activity of this organization beyond the city, and really think about its context Canada wide," says Donald.

David agrees. "The project is about breathing new life into the NAC. We want to be open to everyone in the city. When the building opened in 1969, the performing arts were thought of as elitist. The performing arts are for everyone. With the new entrance, we're embracing that environment. The NAC will open up to the city versus being a fortress of culture."

As for the construction itself, David says they will start some work this summer, making structural upgrades underground, but the major construction will begin in spring 2016. Rest-assured, the majority of performances will run as normal throughout the process.

"One condition I put on the project right out of the gate is we're not closing," says



David. "Although construction might have an impact on matinees and rehearsals during normal work hours, every night contractors will vacate the site, leaving the NAC open for business," he says.

So what can donors expect when the new NAC opens its doors? "It's going to be more spacious, open and lighter. It will be more accessible for people with mobility

issues," promises David. "We don't know yet what the Donors' Lounge will morph into but it will be bigger and nicer and serve the needs of donors better than it does now."

Please visit nac-cna.ca/nac2017 regularly for updates throughout the rejuvenation process.

The Mezzanine level of the new Atrium

As architects, we ask ourselves how we can bring the work of great producers of music, theatre and dance to a broader audience outside the constraints of this fantastic building and invent and find a new future for the NAC. This really is a building that belongs to the nation and how do we make that connection.

Donald Schmitt, of Diamond Schmitt Architects, principal architect for the NAC rejuvenation project



The English Theatre Ensemble Development Project gives artists the chance to create and share their stories

Tawiah M'Carthy, actor, playwright and member of the NAC's 2014–2015 English Theatre Ensemble, is feeling inspired and grateful. He and his co-creators have just finished presenting their new work, *Black Boys*, to Tawiah's fellow Ensemble members. He can't wait to hear what they have to say.

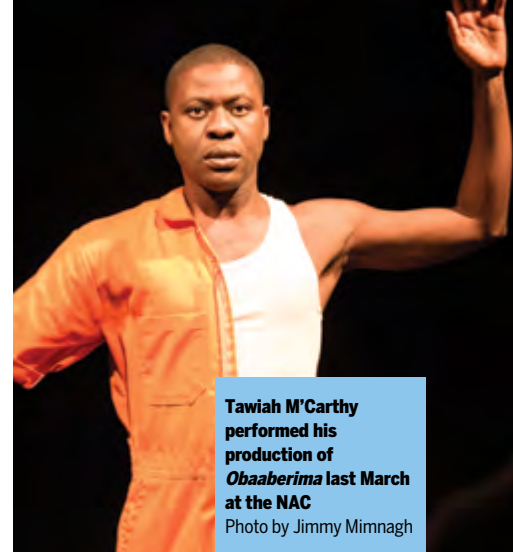
"For all these people, who are also creators, to be in the same room and listen to the work is important because they give feedback from an outside eye," says Tawiah.

Sarah Garton Stanley, Associate Artistic Director NAC English Theatre, is delighted to help Tawiah and other members of the company with the development of new creation. In fact, that's the purpose of the English Theatre Ensemble Development Project.

"So many Ensemble members are also writers and directors looking for opportunities to access the resources we have at the NAC for their own projects," Sarah explains. "We want to give them a fully-rounded experience and something to bring back to their own communities following their time with us."

Tawiah approached Sarah last fall. He was having difficulty meeting with the other members of the *Black Boys* team—Stephen Jackman-Torkoff, Thomas Olajide, Virgilia Griffith, and Jonathan Seinen—and was looking for a space where they could unite to work on their play.

"It was invaluable for us to have the time, the space, to create and experiment together," Tawiah says. "If that hadn't happened we probably wouldn't have been able to go back to the work."



For playwrights, like Tawiah, the resources provided through the Ensemble Development Project are vital and so is the acknowledgement that comes with the NAC getting behind their work.

"In theatre, there needs to be more encouragement to create, explore and hear more stories. The Ensemble Development Project does that," Tawiah admits. "I'm very grateful to the NAC and its supporters. With your support, you opened doors for me. And that is the biggest gift an artist could ever have—the chance to have my story shared."

You can support the Ensemble Development Project and help artists like Tawiah develop new creation by designating a gift to the NAC Foundation.

Samantha Michael
Photo submitted



Donor Profile: Samantha Michael

Forever honouring the healing power of music

It was a passion that began in childhood.

During the holidays, Samantha would visit her aunt and uncle in Toronto. "There was always classical or opera music playing in the house," Samantha recalls. "It gave me an appreciation for the arts. Music has been part of my life ever since."

But it was in 1991, after she suffered a serious brain injury in a car crash, when Samantha discovered how big of a role music could actually play. She began meditating to music, letting the vibrations take her to a place of deep relaxation. And, she began to recover.

"Music has a wonderful effect on my well-being," Samantha says. "It's very healing and has given me so much."

As an adult, Samantha wanted to give back. She began volunteering in our Donors' Lounge. And, she made an

important decision to leave a gift in her Will to the National Arts Centre. "Music has helped me and I want to give future generations the chance to experience its healing power for themselves," she says. "The gift is also for my loved ones. If I were to leave them behind, they could go to a performance at the NAC, listen to the music, and remember me."

Samantha admits she encourages other supporters of the NAC to make a gift in their own Wills. "It's so meaningful to leave a gift," she says. "You have to think ahead and ensure you take care of the people and the things that are important in your life."

Samantha has published a memoir about her experience. Visit her website at anaid.org for more information or to purchase, "The Beauty of My Shadow: A Story of Strength".

Institute for Orchestral Studies: Pinchas Zukerman's "brainchild" an investment in young musicians



Sean Hawthorne, IOS student, warming up backstage during the UK Tour with the NAC Orchestra
Photo by Fred Cattroll

Thank you to everyone who helped make my experience with the *Institute for Orchestral Studies* (IOS) possible. I am a better musician and a better person after being a part of the NAC Orchestra.

Sean Hawthorne, cellist

Sean Hawthorne, cellist and apprentice with the NAC's *Institute for Orchestral Studies* (IOS), feels his anticipation grow. He knows that in a moment, NAC Orchestra Music Director Pinchas Zukerman will play Max Bruch's *First Violin Concerto*.

"Hearing him play the *Bruch Concerto* every night of the *UK Tour* is my favourite memory of Pinchas," Sean explains. "Every night, he brought a different energy to it."

The *Bruch Concerto* may be Sean's favourite memory, but it was the Tour itself that was the biggest highlight of his apprenticeship with the NAC Orchestra. "It was an amazing experience to spend time with the musicians and get to know Pinchas and his work better," Sean says. "I really felt like I was part of the Orchestra."

That's the purpose of the IOS. Designed to prepare highly talented young musicians for successful orchestral careers, the IOS was established under the guidance of Pinchas Zukerman.

"The IOS was Pinchas' brainchild," says Douglas Sturdevant, Manager of Artist Training and Outreach at the NAC. "As a conductor, Pinchas knows what it takes to play at the highest level. He wanted to bring young, talented musicians to the NAC and help them develop their musical sensibility and skills as full members of the orchestra. It's the only program of its kind in North America."

Sean says being part of the IOS was a life-changing experience. "I quickly learned that you have to be aware of everything that's going on in every moment or you'll fall behind," says Sean. "Those skills are essential for orchestral musicians and you can only acquire them by involving yourself in such a process."

Douglas agrees. "The IOS gives apprentices the opportunity to put everything they've learned into practice and then learning beyond that. Pinchas would say it's an investment in the future of music. With your contributions, you are supporting and sustaining the health and quality of the art form."

[Click here](#) for more information on the *Institute for Orchestral Studies*.

Dreaming Theatre, One Bus at a Time

"As we speak, some 700 young people are attending a performance of *Richard III*," said Robert Gagné, administrator of the NAC French Theatre. "Adolescence is a critical age, a time of soul-searching, of establishing one's identity. It's a time when everything seems possible for them, when they dream of remaking the world. Access to the arts and culture is fundamental during that period."

Nowadays that access depends on a very simple but indispensable means—bus service. Thanks to the support of donors, since 2012 French Theatre has been offering a transportation assistance program for schools in the Ottawa-Gatineau region and outlying regions.

"It's a small program that gives big results," he noted. "With all the recent cutbacks in education, many schools find that transportation has become an obstacle to cultural outings, and we're starting to feel the effect. Thanks to these funds, we are able to maintain attendance levels. Year after year we organize between 30 and 40 school matinées. Last season, 1,180 students benefited from the program."

French Theatre thus provides financial assistance to help alleviate the costs of transportation, using a reimbursement rate based on distance. The farther away the school is, the higher the reimbursement rate.

"This initiative is aimed at schools located with a radius of 105 km, which means we can support institutions in Alexandria, Ontario and Papineauville, Quebec. It has been very successful. As a national institution, the NAC must do what it takes to remain a leader in terms of access to culture."

Students attend matinees for French Theatre, including *Richard III*
Photo by Yves Renaud



Memories of the Maestro

In this, Pinchas Zukerman's ultimate season, we asked some of those closest to him at the NAC to share a special memory of the man who brought us so much enjoyment over the years. Here's what they had to say:



Pinchas Zukerman sharing his passion for the next generation of musicians
Photo by Fred Cattroll

For me, every occasion I hear Pinchas perform, it's a special gift. I've also been lucky to watch him teach, as I learn so much. He works with some pretty talented kids, who've already had some pretty good instruction. But to witness their transformations in just a couple of years work with him is remarkable.

Douglas Sturdevant, Manager, Artist Training and Outreach

'Your form is your bank account.' That's what Pinchas always says. And in a whimsical way it's a bit dry yet realistically it's true. Thanks Pinchas!

Jethro Marks, NAC Orchestra Principal Violist

One of my favourite memories of Maestro Pinchas was the opportunity to discuss music education with him. My wife and I will remember his spark when he discussed the Caracas program for the youth and the social and educational values of working with youngsters. Personally I will cherish our chat on the difference between the old and new ways of playing. The old way stood for the mood music generates in you while the new way calls for the colours you see when you play specific pieces of music.

Jean Gauthier, NAC Foundation Donor

When Pinchas accepted the post here in 1998, the NAC owned three aging pianos. Unlike violins, pianos don't get better with age. Pinchas called a contact in New York who bought and leased the very best Hamburg Steinway pianos and convinced him to send his best three to the NAC. We essentially "test drove" the best pianos in the world then picked one we wanted to buy. It's just one example of how Pinchas brought the best of classical music to Canada during his time here.

Christopher Deacon, Managing Director, NAC Orchestra

Five Minutes with Stewart Goodyear

A Q&A with the internationally acclaimed piano soloist

In a special homage marking the 60th anniversary of Glenn Gould's recording of Bach's **Goldberg Variations**, Stewart performed his own interpretation of the piece on Glenn's beloved Steinway at the NAC during **Ontario SNAcene**. The accomplished pianist talks to us about his history with the NAC and his thoughts about this opportunity.

Q: You made your first appearance at the NAC at age 11. What was that experience like for you?

A: It was my first time performing in front of such a large audience. It was also my

first time performing with the NAC Orchestra. To have the opportunity to collaborate with the body of musicians I grew up listening to was a thrill for me and a highlight of my childhood.

Q: How does it feel to be back at the NAC?

A: I feel exactly like I did when I was 11. I always feel like I'm coming back to my second home when I come to Ottawa and entering the NAC gives me a wonderful feeling.

Q: How do you feel about the opportunity to play Bach's *Goldberg Variations* on Glenn Gould's piano?

A: It's a very personal concert for me. I grew up listening to recordings of Glenn Gould. His recorded legacy is always exciting. I remember listening to the 1955 and 1981 recordings of *Goldberg Variations*. Those two recordings are dear to me and this performance is a variation of being up close and personal with Glenn Gould.

Q: What message would you like to send to those who support performance, creation and learning at the NAC?

A: You make music come alive. You make creativity and inspiration possible.

Stewart Goodyear
Photo by Anita Zvonar

Making Giving Easy:

Express your love for the arts by making a gift in your Will

The next time you attend a performance at the NAC, take a look around. The seats are filled with people just like you—people who love the performing arts and can't wait for the curtain to rise.

Many of these like-minded people have chosen a special way to celebrate the importance of the arts in their lives by leaving a gift in their Will for the NAC.

Making a legacy gift is easy. You can advise your lawyer to add a clause to your Will. You can leave a lump sum or a percentage of your estate to support the NAC and the performing arts. Many people prefer to leave a percentage because it enables them to take care of their family first. You can also choose to honour a beloved friend or family member by making a memorial gift to the NAC Foundation in your Will.

However you choose to express your passion for the arts, just imagine how much leaving a gift in your Will can accomplish. It will inspire new compositions, plays and choreography, while keeping the magic of the performance alive on Canada's stage. It will give children the chance to enjoy what is so important to you.

The next time a performance makes you laugh or moves you to tears take a look around at the people sharing this experience with you. By making a gift in your Will to the NAC Foundation, you'll help create that same experience for future generations.

For more information about leaving a gift in your will, please contact Barry Bloom at 613-947-7000 ext. 314.

NAC Dance shines the spotlight on accomplished choreographer,

Tedd Robinson's new creation

Tedd Robinson in his new coproduction with NAC Dance, *FACETS*
Photo by Rod MacIvor

FACETS, Tedd Robinson's latest work, which made its world premiere as part of the NAC Dance season and *Ontario Scene*, began with a conversation over coffee.

After all, that's how the majority of Tedd's past five NAC co-productions got their start. "Cathy (Levy) and I would go for a coffee or a walk and I would tell her what I was planning," says Tedd, NAC Associate Dance Artist, choreographer, educator and Ottawa favourite. "She might then see if she can produce it and support it financially."

To have their work supported by the NAC is a huge benefit for dancers and choreographers like Tedd. "Partnerships with producers are something artists rely on," explains Cathy, Executive Producer, NAC Dance. "It's not easy to find sponsors and they need our support to help pay the dancers, make the costumes, commission the music and bring it all together."

To have the financial support of the NAC is crucial to the development of a new work and the ability to bring it to Canada's stage, but the recognition goes even deeper than that, says Tedd. "The NAC has one of the most all-encompassing dance series in the world. To be part of that is really prestigious," he says. "When the NAC supports your work, it means a lot to your sense of value and your perceived value by the public."

For that reason, Tedd is "tremendously grateful" to the supporters who help make co-productions possible. "If the arts are going to survive in Canada, it's important for people to support new creation. Thanks to their generosity, artists can continue to present current ideas to the audience, to provoke and pull something out of them in a different way."



Donors can be proud they've contributed to the work of creative artists in Canada, particularly the work of an accomplished, well-respected choreographer.

Cathy Levy, Executive Producer, NAC Dance

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, 2015	NAC Foundation Canada Day Thank You Party		•	•	•				
September 1-3, 2015	Attend the Stratford Festival with the Friends of English Theatre, 3 days, 4 plays (of your choice)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mid October 2015	Join Friends of English Theatre and visit Montreal to see <i>Metamorphoses: Rodin</i> at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts and <i>Funny Girl</i> at the Segal Theatre *		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

* 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@pearl01.ca

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

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