News from the Donors' Circle and Corporate Club
The National Arts Centre Foundation's Annual Giving Clubs

WINTER 2014

Full Circle



The China Tour: From an apprentice's perspective

"The experience of touring with the NAC Orchestra gave me the opportunity to bring a higher level of performance to the audience and for that I am so grateful."

—Nathanial (Nate) Martin, Apprentice of the 2013–2014 *Institute for Orchestral Studies*

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ou could feel the tension as the bus inched its way toward the Tsinghua University Concert Hall in Beijing. Traffic was a nightmare and there was a concern that the 70 musicians from the National Arts Centre Orchestra wouldn't make it on time.

"Instead of arriving two hours before the concert to warm up, we got there 15 minutes before the show was scheduled to begin," recalls Nate Martin, bass player and apprentice with the NAC's *Institute for Orchestral Studies* (IOS). "That experience really made me appreciate the professionalism of the Orchestra. There's something special about musicians who work at such a high level that they can literally show up moments before a concert and perform amazingly well, just like they always do."

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Nate Martin, IOS apprentice, poses backstage at Fuling's Grand Theatre Photo: Fred Cattroll



message

from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you.

Your generosity and passion for the performing arts continues to make a difference here at the NAC and across the country. Every time we give a playwright the chance to create; expose a new generation of young people to the beauty of dance; and an entire country to the world-class talent of our NAC Orchestra, you are there behind-the-scenes making it possible.

But there's no need to take my word for it. You can read all about the impact your support made last year in our enclosed annual Stewardship Report. The Report includes many of the highlights you were a part of in 2012–2013, as well as charts, facts and statistics.

One highlight was the NAC Orchestra China Tour. I had the opportunity to travel with the Orchestra and it was the trip of a lifetime. What a privilege it was to see the NAC Orchestra perform in unique settings and act as ambassadors for the NAC and Canada, bringing the best in classical music to the world stage. Standing ovations are not usual in China but they happened night after night on the Tour. By the time

we came home after 18 unforgettable days, our Orchestra had planted a flag for artistic excellence in China.

Every time our Orchestra travels outside of Ottawa, I'm reminded that our plan to live up to the "national" in our name isn't possible without your generosity. Your support gives us the chance to stretch our wings and achieve our vision of a national arts centre.

Photo by Ottawa's Valberg Imaging

I hope you enjoy this issue of *Full Circle* and our annual Stewardship Report. Every year we take stock and we are thrilled with the scope of performance, creation and learning we can achieve with your contributions. We saw your support in action in China and we see it every day on stages and in classrooms all across our country.

With best wishes for the new year.



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The China Tour: From an apprentice's perspective

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For Nate and the other four apprentices who joined the NAC Orchestra China Tour last October, the learning opportunities greatly enriched the stellar education they receive at home through the IOS—an apprenticeship program designed to prepare highlytalented musicians for successful orchestral careers.

"The Tour was an eye-opening experience for the apprentices to perform in the great concert halls of China as well as to engage with young audiences in schools," says NAC Orchestra Tour Manager, Nelson McDougall. "They ran the gambit of what the life of a professional musician is all about. Part of the experience is being on the road, understanding how to perform at the highest level no matter what your environment, location or the stresses of travel."

Nate agrees. In fact, the 25-year-old bass player says the Tour gave him a glimpse of the future he can have with a lot of hard work. "Touring is a learning experience no conservatory can prepare you for. It's trial by fire," he explains. "I saw firsthand how hard it is to get off a plane, go through security, then pull on your work clothes and get down to business."

For 18 days, Nate says he was inspired by the focus and professionalism of the musicians. During the first week of the Tour, there were three concerts plus rehearsals and education and outreach events. "It was hard to get used to that level of intensity," Nate admits. "The focus required of me to be part of the ensemble was exhausting. But it was also very powerful. I learned this is the work you have to do to be a professional musician, but it's worth it."

Bringing the IOS apprentices on tour also serves another purpose. It gives the NAC the chance to showcase its excellent education programs made possible with donor support. "Touring is a great way to promote programs like the IOS internationally. It builds awareness and says to young Chinese musicians, come to the NAC and work with the Orchestra," explains Nelson. "After all, we want the IOS to be a rich program and attract the most promising musicians from around the world."

Nate is sincerely grateful for the opportunity to have been part of something so unforgettable, "I never expected I'd ever get a chance to do anything like this," he says. "It's inspiring to know that people thought this would be a great experience for me and made it possible with their generosity. I see myself as the next generation of musicians to bring music with all its power to people around the world. Your support gives me the opportunity to do it the best I can."



Nate Martin, IOS apprentice, Gail Asper, Foundation Chair and Stefani Truant, Associate Artistic Administrator visit the Great Wall, Beijing Photo: Fred Cattroll

The China Tour by the numbers

- The Tour lasted 18 days.
- The NAC Orchestra performed
 8 concerts in 7 cities, including
 Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Chongqing,
 Beijing and Shanghai.
- Over **12,000 people** attended the concerts.
- The Orchestra reached another
 4,500 people through education and outreach programs.
- 65 orchestra members and5 apprentices went on the Tour.
- **85 instruments** were flown to China, everything from flute to timpani.
- Each musician took 5 flights in total and travelled 32,000km.

Celebrating a Year of Giving:

The 2012-2013

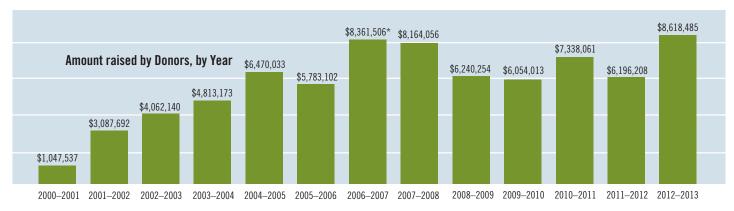
Here at the National Arts Centre, we have a lot to be grateful for. Thanks to caring supporters like you, 2012–2013 was a year of breathtaking performance, inspired creation and countless opportunities for learning. Together, we celebrated Brigitte Haentjen's first season as Artistic Director of French Theatre. We watched with much pride as the NAC English Theatre Ensemble starred in a passionate production of *Pride and Prejudice*. And we thrilled at the grace and beauty the NAC Dance co-production of *The Tempest Replica*, staged by multi-award-winning Canadian dance phenom Crystal Pite, brought to our stage. Our own NAC Orchestra was also front-and-centre this year. In addition to wowing audiences in Ottawa and across Northern Canada, the Orchestra premiered two commissions by NAC Award composers: *Podhale* by Peter Paul Koprowski and *Ringelspiel* by Ana Sokolovic.

Performance is what many Canadians think of when they hear the words 'National Arts Centre', but our supporters know the NAC is about so much more. With your generosity, playwrights, composers, and choreographers are given the chance to create brilliant new works that will live on for generations. And promising new artists, as well as classrooms of students across the country are given opportunities for learning they might not otherwise have.

Looking back on the year that was, we have a lot to be thankful for. Performance to entertain us...creation to inspire us...and learning to sustain the performing arts for years to come. Most of all, we are thankful for friends like you who help make it all possible. Thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, the National Arts Centre Foundation raised more than \$8.6 million in 2012–2013.

Your Incredible Record of Giving

It's hard to believe that it has only been 13 years since the NAC Foundation first gratefully welcomed the support of devoted arts enthusiasts like you, especially when you consider all we have accomplished together. With you by our side, we've raised the curtain on unforgettable music, dance and theatre performances. We've supported the development of many new plays, compositions and dance choreography. And we've inspired a whole new generation to take the performing arts into their hearts through dozens of education programs. To date, your donations, and the contributions of our corporate sponsors, have totaled more than \$76 million. Thank you for keeping the performing arts going strong in Ottawa and across the country.



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

Stewardship Report

Where Giving Makes the Difference

Thanks to your passion and your commitment to the performing arts, the National Arts Centre Foundation was able to raise over \$8.6 million for the NAC in 2012–2013. Your support helped the NAC 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;
- Nurturing and supporting artists and arts organizations in communities across the country.

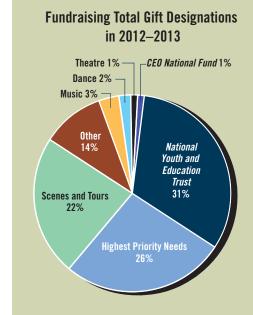
In 2012-2013:

▶ 31% 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 tens of thousands of children across Canada;

- ▶ Donors and sponsors contributed \$184,651 for the *Share the Spirit* subsidized ticket program, creating wonderful experiences through the magic of live performance for deserving children and families:
- ▶ Many donors asked for their gifts to go where they're most needed. 26% 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;
- ▶ Our Annual Fund Donors donated a total of \$1,362,428 in support of our mission to develop and promote the performing arts.

By the numbers 2012–2013

- The National Arts Centre presented more than 1,387 performances;
- The NAC Foundation received 59% of fundraising revenue from donors and sponsors in the National Capital Region and 41% from supporters in communities across Canada;
- The 6th annual *Institute for* Orchestral Studies trained five
 apprentices who performed
 with the NAC Orchestra;
- 44 young ballet students had tea with three ballerinas from the Alberta Ballet and the National Ballet of Canada;
- 24 Musical Adventures in My School performances took place over the 2012–2013 season, reaching over 6,600 school children;
- ArtsAlive.ca, the NAC's award-winning interactive educational web site received between 4,500 and 5,000 unique visits per school day.



\$2,662,045
\$2,244,254
\$1,887,601
\$1,190,517
\$291,587
\$149,112
\$100,348
\$92,953

The Impact of Your Giving

he incredible impact of your support for the National Arts Centre can be felt here in Ottawa as well as in cities, towns, and communities across Canada and beyond. It can be felt in the hearts of delighted audience members, promising new artists, and eager young students experiencing their first taste of the performing arts. The impact of your giving is nothing short of extraordinary, enriching the lives of countless Canadians every single day!

Here are just some of the ways your giving made an impact in the 2012–2013 season.

The Year of the North: The NAC Orchestra's Northern Tour makes beautiful music in Canada's North

In October/November 2012, the NAC Orchestra embarked on a 10-day performance and education tour to Canada's awe-inspiring North. More than 6,000 delighted concert-goers and students in three communities in Nunavut, Yukon and the Northwest Territories enjoyed performances by the Orchestra and benefitted from 68 education and outreach events. One of the highlights of the Tour, which celebrated Northern artists, language and tradition, included performances of composer Alexina Louie's Northern-themed piece, *Take the Dog Sled*.

Making the (*Northern*) *Scene*: The sixth biennial festival showcases the arts and culture of Canada's North in 78 events

From April 25 to May 4, 2013, Ottawa and the NAC played host to the largest gathering of artists from Canada's North ever held outside the region. Over 350 established and emerging artists from Yukon, the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut took part in *Northern Scene*. The popular festival gave thousands of arts lovers the chance to sample music, theatre, dance, visual and media arts, film, storytelling, fashion and food and get a glimpse into a world they might not otherwise have a chance to experience. *Northern Scene* also attracted presenters and talent scouts in search of new artists to book for their audiences across Canada and around the world.

Aspiring young dancers benefit from world-class dance workshops and masterclasses

In 2012–2013, the Dance department once again offered exclusive masterclasses and workshops led by renowned artists performing here at the NAC. NAC Dance organized 43 exceptional learning opportunities for young aspiring dancers including 21 masterclasses and workshops for students, professionals and dance teachers. Highlights of the masterclasses included an open National Ballet of Canada public ballet class taught by Jonathan Renna; a Flamenco masterclass led by Flamenco legend, María Pagés; and

a masterclass by Steven Woodgate, Ballet Master with the Houston Ballet, attended by 33 pre-professional/professional ballet dancers and advanced ballet students.

English Theatre presents the world premiere of *thirsty*

Thanks to donor support, poet/playwright, Dionne Brand, was given the opportunity to bring the scenes and characters she created in her book of poems, *thirsty*, to life on the NAC stage. Dionne was the *Playwright in Residence* during the 2009–2010 season where she was given the time and guidance to adapt her book into a play. Last year, English Theatre took things one step further, making the decision to debut the new play in a world premiere during the 2012–2013 season with Peter Hinton as director.

Share the Spirit brings the magic of live performance to deserving children and families

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and community partners, more than 1,800 children and families in the National Capital Region were able to enjoy the performing arts free of charge at the NAC last year. Performances included *The Nutcracker* and Handel's *Messiah*. Not everyone can attend a show at the NAC, be it for economic or health reasons. So, for a fourth season, we're very grateful to our supporters for sharing their giving spirit with deserving children and families.

Conductor Mario Bernardi receives permanent recognition at the NAC

In honour of Mario Bernardi's extraordinary contribution as Music Director for the NAC Orchestra from 1971 to 1982, the NAC has set out to pay tribute with two initiatives. A bronze bust by Canadian artist Ruth Abernethy has been unveiled and is on permanent display in the Southam Lobby. In addition, the NAC has commissioned a new full-length orchestral work by Ana Sokolovic which will receive its world premiere by the NAC Orchestra in a future season.

Summer Music Institute celebrates an important milestone

The 15th edition of the NAC's *Summer Music Institute* marked a banner milestone with more than 1,000 participants from 39 countries benefiting from the program since it first began in 1999. Last summer, 71 students from Canada and six other countries gathered at the NAC for an intensive learning experience. Thanks to this program and donor support, the talented young artists had the opportunity to work with a world-renowned faculty, perform with their peers, and take their skill and passion for music to the next level.

Our Annual Donors:

Giving our beloved performing arts the chance to thrive on stages, in classrooms, and in grateful hearts, across the country

The Donors' Circle

You deserve a round of applause! In 2012-2013, our dedicated Donors' Circle supporters starred in every accomplishment we celebrated at the NAC. Thanks to your support, delighted audiences were treated to world-class performances and had access to some of the greatest performers on our stages. Established and emerging artists were given the opportunity to showcase their talent, as well as create exciting new works to add to the Canadian Canon. And thousands of school children in Ottawa, and all across the country, were exposed to the performing arts we hold so dear. From a memorable orchestral tour to the North, to play development spanning the entire country, to the creation of stunning new choreography, you played a leading role in it all.

- Your annual donations last year totaled \$1,363,428 representing 16% of all funds raised by the National Arts Centre Foundation in 2012–2013.
- Your gifts came in many sizes, ranging from \$1 to \$10,000 and more.
- Gifts under \$500 added up to \$976,691. Gifts of all sizes make a difference in the areas of performance, creation and learning.

The Corporate Club

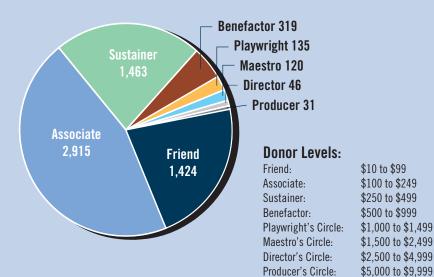
The National Arts Centre Foundation applauds the generosity of local businesses and professionals for their commitment to the performing arts in Canada. The 149 members of our Corporate Club play an integral role in helping to keep the arts thriving. On behalf of countless audience members, artists and students who benefit from your support, we are deeply grateful for your investment in the best of performance, creation and learning.

Planning for the Future

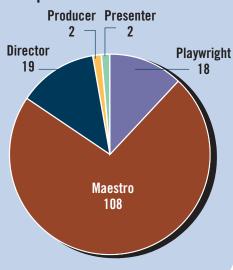
We are sincerely thankful to the Canadians who are shaping the future of the performing arts with their foresight and generosity. Members of our Emeritus Circle have pledged future gifts to the National Arts Centre valued at more than \$4.5 million, through bequests, gifts of life insurance and other planned giving arrangements. The generosity of these donors will ensure the performing arts will continue to flourish in Canada for generations to come.

A Picture of Annual Giving

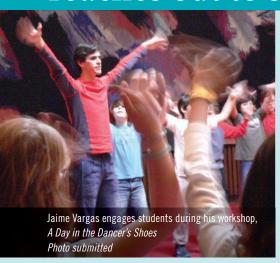
Donors' Circle Members



Corporate Club Members



Ballet Master shares his experiences and reaches out to students in Ottawa



aime Vargas, Ballet Master and former leading man with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB), begins his presentation with a video of himself dancing. The students watch in awe as Jaime leaps across the stage.

After the video, Jaime tells the students a story about a young man who was told by the Director of a well known Professional Dance School he would never be a dancer. Of course, the young man is Jaime himself. "I decided I would never let someone tell me what I can or can't do. If you have a dream you follow it no matter what people tell you," he says.

That empowering message is at the heart of *A Day in the Dancer's Shoes*—an outreach event specific to NAC Dance. Last December, while the RWB was at the NAC to perform *The Nutcracker*, the Ballet Master reached out to hundreds of students in eight schools across Ottawa. "I show them the process we go through as professional dancers and how we apply it to our daily activities," explains Jaime. "I also talk to them about bullying. I use my dance experience to talk about the same things parents and schools teach

them, but I approach it from a different perspective."

Jaime has had enough feedback to assure him his perspective is resonating with students. Recently in Ottawa, he was approached by a fifth grader with a speech impediment. "He came up to me and said, 'I really relate to your story because people laugh at me and say I'll never be a singer. And I want to sing.' I was touched by that," says Jaime. "I crouched down, looked him in the eye and told him to follow his heart."

Jaime says the main goal of his outreach program is to give kids the tools they need to deal with everyday situations. "My hope is to connect with them and show them how they can turn a negative situation into a positive one. That's one of the things dance provides you. It helps you shape your brain so you have a more positive outlook on life."

English Theatre Ensemble: A true Canadian mosaic of culture

Petrina Bromley and Sheldon Elter, as Elsa and Max in *The* Sound of Music Photo: Andrée Lanthier

hey come from across Canada and represent various backgrounds.
And Sheldon Elter, one of 10 members of the 2013–2014 NAC English Theatre Ensemble, couldn't be happier.

"We show a true Canadian mosaic of culture," he says. "What could be more Canadian than to have people of different cultures and regions together on one stage?"

Sheldon says creating relationships with this group of actors has been a great opportunity. From day one, English Theatre Artistic

Director, Jillian Keiley, made ensemble building an essential part of the process. "Every day, before rehearsal, one of us teaches the others a skill that is useful for that production. During *Tartuffe*, I taught a comedy exercise," Sheldon recalls. "It makes it easy to build trust."

Sheldon also appreciates the chance to work on a wide range of work and believes it's a golden opportunity for audiences to see the range of the Ensemble. "We get to stretch our creative muscles," he says. "And by seeing us in three very different plays, the audience gets to know us better."

The true highlight for Sheldon has been to work with actor and playwright, Andy Jones on *Tartuffe*. "At the end of the run, Andy told me I was a great comedian. I was giddy with excitement," admits Sheldon. "For such an amazing pillar of Canadian comedy to pay me this compliment was a huge highlight."



Sheldon credits generous NAC supporters for giving him this opportunity. "As part of the Ensemble, I get to sharpen a new set of skills and brush off some old ones. I'm happy I get to create a presence of my work in the nation's capital," he says. "I am grateful for this chance to do what I love."

Introducing Maestro Alexander Shelley, the NAC Orchestra's Music Director-designate

"I believe the Music Director works as a servant to composers and, of course, to audiences. It is my responsibility to bring the music closer to you."

—Maestro Alexander Shelley



Maestro Shelley's debut as the NAC Orchestra's Music Director-designate Photo: Fred Cattroll

At the beginning of the 2015–2016 season, the NAC Orchestra will warmly welcome their youngest-ever conductor to the helm. And the 34-year-old maestro is thrilled by the opportunity to work with what he calls "a world-class orchestra".

"I first met the NAC Orchestra five years ago and found them to be not only very good, but open to new ideas," says Maestro Shelley. "I've been back many times since then and each time it feels like our relationship has deepened and grown. I believe there's a lot we can achieve together. There's a mutual interest in where this opportunity is going to lead us. It could lead us somewhere very special in the future."

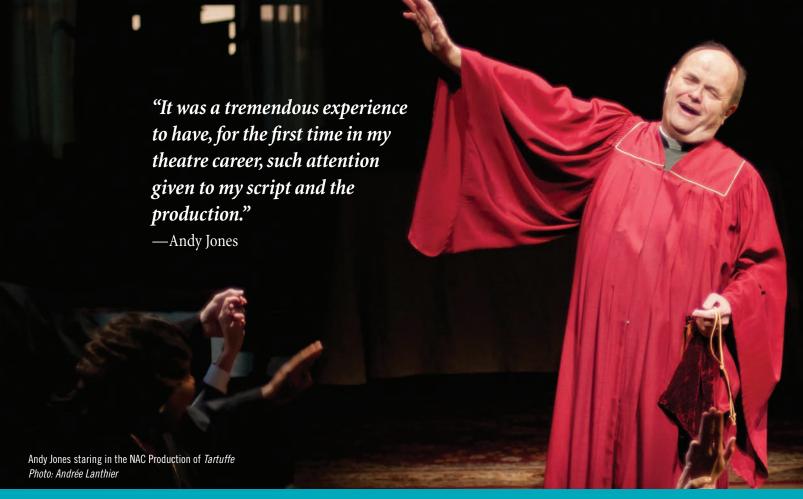
Maestro Shelley, who is currently the Music Director of the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra in Germany, will replace the legendary Pinchas Zukerman—an artist he has admired since he was a boy. "I grew up listening to and loving his recordings," Maestro Shelley admits. "And now, I hope I can continue to build on the phenomenal foundation Maestro Zukerman has laid with the Orchestra."

As with all talented and ambitious conductors, Maestro Shelley has many ideas of what he hopes to accomplish as Music Director.

He believes there is room to explore different repertoire avenues, including introducing repertoire that will suit young audiences. And he wants to commission new works, supporting and developing Canadian artists. "Composers need a safe forum where they can get feedback from audiences," says Maestro Shelley. "As a national orchestra we can give them that forum in Ottawa and across the country."

In fact, the mandate of leading a national orchestra is one of the benefits that attracted Maestro Shelley to the position. "The role of a national representation of the arts is a fascinating one," he says. "I'm very much looking forward to developing that role with the Orchestra."

Maestro Shelley is also looking forward to meeting you—devoted audience members and supporters of the NAC Orchestra. "I want to thank you for your support and let you know I am here for you," he says. "I want to meet every one of the Orchestra's generous donors and hear what you like and what you want more of. After all, the performing arts are of fundamental importance to a cultivated, growing society. Investing in the arts reaps a great reward."



Tartuffe proves play development is alive and well at the NAC

n some days, Canadian playwright and actor, Andy Jones only managed to write 100 words.

That's not surprising when you consider the magnitude of his project. The playwright was busy adapting Molière's comedy classic, *Tartuffe*, setting it in 1939 Newfoundland. And, just like Molière, he was writing it in rhyming verse. "At the end of the day, my brain was fried from making everything rhyme," Andy admits. "But writing this play was a fantastic experience."

Andy explains he never would have had the experience if not for the vision of NAC English Theatre Artistic Director, Jillian Keiley. Before Jillian came to the NAC she had an idea to get Andy Jones working on this project. Once at the NAC, Jillian, along with her associate Sarah Garton Stanley, created *The Collaborations*, supporting theatrical creation across this great country; *Tartuffe* was the first success story out of the gates.

"Jillian called me and asked me to rewrite a third of the play which I'd already adapted once for another theatre company. She came to a table reading and must have liked what she heard.

Because, the next thing I know, she's telling me to finish this version of *Tartuffe* so the NAC can open the season with it."

In addition to adapting *Tartuffe* for the NAC stage, Andy was also given the starring role. For four weeks, he and the English Theatre Ensemble worked together on bringing the characters to life. And then, suddenly, it was Opening Night. "I was bursting with joy," Andy recalls. "My wife told me later she could see everything I was feeling written on my face. Thankfully, there was a lot of laughter from the audience."

Andy is grateful for the opportunity given to him by the NAC and supporters like you. "The fact is Canadian playwrights need encouragement. The potential for funding is so small and the path through financial life so perilous, we need to hear that what we're doing is worth it. And it is. Canadian play development is important to the whole culture of our country," he says. "This is the most positive experience I've had in theatre in my whole life. And it's the donors who have given it to me."

You can find out more about all of our collaborations by visiting our website nac-cna.ca/en/englishtheatre/collaboration

Donor Profile: Marjorie Goodrich

Marjorie Goodrich *Photo submitted*



That was the first of many live performances Kathryn attended with her mother, Marjorie Goodrich, over the years. "We subscribed to the ballet. We went to see the NAC Orchestra. It was my mother who introduced me to classical music. That's where my love for music came from," says Kathryn.

Kathryn isn't the only child Marjorie introduced to the beauty of live music and performance. As a teacher, she believed exposure to the performing arts is an important part of a well-rounded education. And so, she generously supported vital education programs at the NAC, including the *Summer Music Institute* and the *Music Alive Program* in her home province of Saskatchewan which aims to support and inspire learning in elementary schools.

"My mom grew up in a small town in the Prairies. She loved classical music and was actually a very talented pianist. But in

rural Saskatchewan there
weren't many opportunities for
her to hear live music," explains
Kathryn. "She wanted to give kids the
opportunities she never had. She loved
children and music. This gave her the chance
to bring her two passions together."

For this very reason, Marjorie made the decision to leave a generous bequest to the NAC. Sadly, Marjorie passed away on June 17, 2013, but, thanks to her foresight, her passion for the arts will live on in future generations. "She would be so pleased to know her support for the NAC and the arts will continue for many years to come," says Kathryn. "The NAC was very near and dear to my mom's heart. I'm so happy she has this legacy."

In fact, Kathryn is very proud of her mother's generosity and she hopes it inspires other NAC supporters to make a bequest of their own. "When the financial means are there, it's our responsibility to be the stewards of the performing arts for future generations and our own kids and grandchildren," she says. Your bequest will make a lasting difference in countless lives and hearts just like Marjorie's has.

Making Giving Easy: A legacy of love and passion for the performing arts

arjorie Goodrich had a vision of what she wanted to accomplish during her time on earth and well beyond her lifetime. In this vision, she saw generations of young people sharing her love and passion for the performing arts. She saw children and youth in some of Canada's most remote places being exposed to the beauty of live classical music. By leaving a bequest in her Will for the National Arts Centre, Marjorie set about turning this vision into reality.

You too can choose to make a similar lasting impact on the future of the performing arts by creating a legacy of your own. Sharing your love and passion for the arts is easy. After first taking care of your family and the people you love, you can leave a lump sum or a percentage of your estate to support the NAC Foundation. With your generosity, you'll give future generations the gift of the performing arts, just like Marjorie has done. You'll ensure your own vision of a strong future for the arts in Canada can become reality.

To discuss leaving a bequest for the NAC Foundation in your Will, please contact Barry Bloom at 613 947-7000, ext. 314.

Five Minutes with Paul Wells

A Q&A with a member of the selection committee for NAC's new Music Director

Canadian journalist and columnist for Maclean's, Paul Wells, also has a passion for classical music. A loyal NAC donor, Paul began attending NAC Orchestra performances 12 years ago. He also leads pre-concert talks. Recently, Paul was part of the team responsible for choosing a new Music Director and he talked to us about this experience.

Q: You were selected to represent the community in the selection of a new Music Director for the NAC Orchestra. How did this opportunity come about?

A: When I heard Pinchas Zukerman was leaving I approached CEO, Peter Herrndorf, and told him, 'If you're looking for someone

in the community to sit on the search committee, I would sure like to do it.' He told me my name had already come up. I put my hand up to volunteer and they were already picking me.

Q: What was the experience like?

A: We had meetings every few months to discuss candidates and what qualities a good Music Director should have. In between meetings, I did a lot of research.

Q: What cemented your decision to select Alexander Shelley?

A: The musicians deserve a strong working relationship with their conductor. Maestro Shelley's evaluations from the Orchestra were consistently through the roof. As for the role of the Music Director off the podium, nobody else came close. Maestro Shelley has

Paul Wells Photo submitted

demonstrated he can be imaginative about reaching new audiences and the community. He's the total package.

Q: What message would you like to send to donors who help make a world-class orchestra possible?

A: I'm eager for donors to see what good hands Maestro Zukerman is leaving the Orchestra in. At the earliest opportunity, I encourage you to come and see for yourself the difference your donations make. We're at the beginning of a new era for the Orchestra.

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
March 23, 2014 2:00 p.m. Le Salon	NAC Orchestra Bursary Benefit Concert Tickets available at the door at \$20 each			/	/	/	/	/	/	/
March 27, 2014 1:15 p.m.	Donor Open Rehearsal – Dance Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, <i>Rodin/Claudel</i>	Give Cart. Hand		/	~	/	/	~	~	/
March 27, 2014 6:45 p.m.	Donor Preview – English Theatre Seeds	Give Hand		/	~	/	/	~	~	~
April 3, 2014	Corporate Club Reception All That Jazz		/							
April 30, 2014 6:45 p.m.	Donor Preview – French Theatre Albertine en cinq temps	Give Cata Hand		/	~	/	/	~	~	~
May 15, 2014 6:45 p.m.	Donor Preview – English Theatre Oil and Water	Give Cata Hand		/	~	/	/	/	/	/
May 21, 2014	Emeritus Circle Tea	Give Hand	/							
May 26, 2014 1:00 p.m. Studio	NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition Finals Free admission (no tickets or registration required)			~	/	~	/	/	/	/
May 27, 2014 7:15 p.m.	Donor Open Rehearsal – NAC Orchestra Fauré's Requiem	Give Charles Hand		/	/	/	/	~	/	~

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

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