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DES ARTS

Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

Winter • 2015

Full Circle

A PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE FOUNDATION

Aussi disponible en français

UK Tour connects students across the Atlantic

On October 28, during the NAC Orchestra UK Tour, students in the Colonel By Secondary School Senior Band in Ottawa take their audience back in time.

It is 1917, and a Canadian soldier is fighting for his country at Vimy Ridge. A series of honks and squeaks from the students' instruments, clapping, foot-stomping and percussion capture the sounds on the battlefield.

Across the Atlantic, in London, students of the Brent Youth Concert Band listen intently. The performance is coming to them in real-time through broadband videoconferencing. In a few minutes it will be their turn to play their composition—their chance to express through music what the First World War means to them.

"*ConneXXions* has been a signature event on NAC Orchestra tours for the past 10 years," says Geneviève Cimon, Director of Music Education and Community Engagement at the NAC. "We use next-generation technology to link youth together. It's a wonderful way for young people in Ottawa to have a musical conversation with students living in one of the cities on our tour."

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The Brent Youth Concert Band perform for students in Ottawa during the UK Tour.
Photo: Fred Cattroll

Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

Welcome to a brand new year and your first issue of *Full Circle* in 2015.

As you can see, *Full Circle* has a bold, new design which I hope reflects our vision of the National Arts Centre as a champion for the performing arts. It's a vision shared by the NAC Foundation and, I believe, by thoughtful donors like you. After all, it's your generosity that helps to fund performance, creation and learning and provide a national stage for the performing arts in every part of the country.

Your support makes an impact on Canada's stage and behind-the-scenes in rehearsal halls and classrooms across the country. You can read about the many accomplishments you were a part of last year in our enclosed Stewardship Report. The Report includes highlights we celebrated together in 2013–2014 as well as charts, facts and statistics.

Thanks to your support, the NAC Orchestra was able to offer over 50 educational opportunities during their UK Tour, including a very special *ConneXXions*. You also helped us launch *Music Circle* to introduce children with special needs to the magic of live music and made it possible for emerging dancers to learn from the masters.

You play a starring role in every educational program we offer; every opportunity we provide to young playwrights, composers and choreographers to create; every performance that leaves audiences inspired. On behalf of the many people who benefit from your generosity, thank you for your passion and your continuing support for the performing arts in Canada.

With best wishes,



Jayne Watson

P.S. You can ensure even more of your contributions go directly to vital performing arts programs simply by providing us with your email address at donorscircle@nac-cna.ca. You'll begin receiving future issues of *Full Circle* electronically, saving us administration and mailing costs. Thank you!



Jayne Watson
Photo by Ottawa's
Valberg Imaging

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From cover:

UK Tour connects students across the Atlantic

In keeping with the UK Tour's themes of remembrance and healing to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War, organizers at the NAC thought they'd try something a little different. Working with composers Tim Steiner in London and Abigail Richardson in Ottawa, the students were asked to create their own compositions in response to the War.

"Students were given the chance to explore what these soldiers, not much older than they are, experienced when they went off to war," says Geneviève. "They learned how important it is to reflect on the sacrifice of these people and what it meant for our nations and our identity today."

In advance of the performance, students at Colonel By met with Abigail to brainstorm ideas about the story they would tell. "A piece can tell a story from beginning to end and I wanted to open up their imaginations to that possibly," explains Abigail. "One student, Tommy, shared his story and we all knew it would be the inspiration for our composition."

Tommy's great-grandfather, Thomas Williams, was 22 when he signed up to fight the Germans in 1915. Two years later, he was at Vimy Ridge, where a metal cigarette box changed his fate forever. Thomas was in action when he was shot in the chest. He should have died but thanks to the cigarette case which took the brunt of the impact, he suffered only some broken ribs. Thomas was sent to hospital and it was there where he met his future wife—one of the nurses who took care of him.

"Tommy's parents were in the audience in Ottawa," recalls Abigail. "His father told me he felt like his family's story was being remembered. It put the war in perspective for me too. I got to see the living legacy."

Meanwhile, the Brent Youth Concert Youth composed their own response to the War. "Working with Tim Steiner, and members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the students pieced together a big improvised score," says Geneviève. "Because it was improvised, it changed

slightly every time they played it and the tension caused by the unknown somehow made their creative response to the First World War that much more palpable."

Students and audience members on both sides of the Atlantic were inspired by the event and grateful for the experience. "I can't express enough how essential music education is to the continuing existence of our music scene," says Abigail. "Every engagement is so important and will create our future audiences."

Geneviève agrees and credits NAC supporters with making opportunities like this one possible. *ConneXXions* was one of over 50 educational projects connected to the UK Tour. "Educational events are a way for the NAC to thank the communities where we perform and advocate for what we feel is so important: Every child should have access to quality music education," she says. "It takes a team effort to put all this together and people who are committed to the role music plays in peoples' lives deserve our heartfelt thanks."

Students from Colonel By Secondary School Senior Band perform in Ottawa.

Photo: Andrea Thomson

ConneXXions 2014 gave students a focus to showcase their creative talent; engage in a cross-Atlantic dialogue; and, share what the First World War means to them today.

Geneviève Cimon, Director of Music Education and Community Engagement



Celebrating a Year of Giving:

The 2013–2014 Stewardship Report

As a generous supporter of the National Arts Centre Foundation, there are many reasons you can be proud of our 2013–2014 season. Through your generosity, you were there behind-the-scenes for every outstanding performance that brought audiences to their feet. You helped us fund inspiring new creations that will take its rightful place in the Canadian Canon. And you made it possible for us to educate promising new artists and introduce young people to the beauty of music, theatre and dance—helping to ensure our beloved performing arts will continue to thrive in Canada for generations to come.

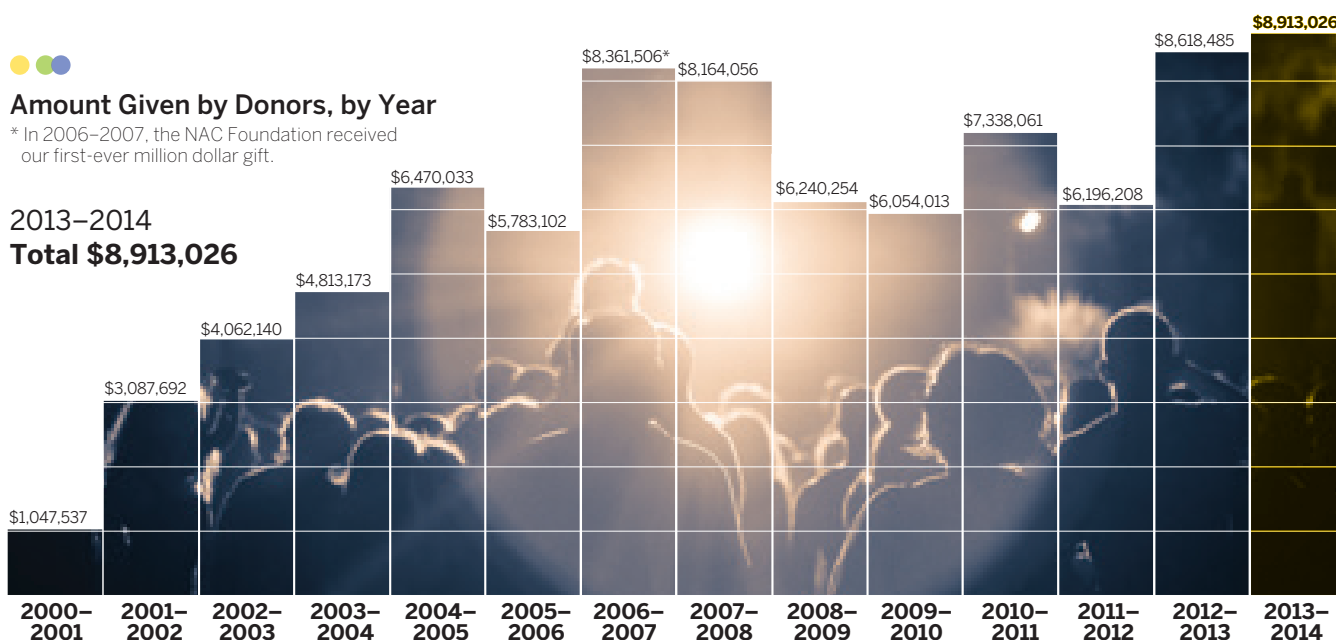
Together with you, the NAC is committed to serving as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning in every part of the country. We had so much to celebrate on Canada's stage last season because you had it in your heart to care. Thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, the National Arts Centre Foundation raised more than \$8.9 million in 2013–2014—making it our most successful fundraising year ever!

Your Incredible Record of Giving

It's been 14 years since the NAC Foundation came into being and first opened our doors to your generosity. What we've been able to accomplish together in so short a time is truly remarkable. With you by our side,

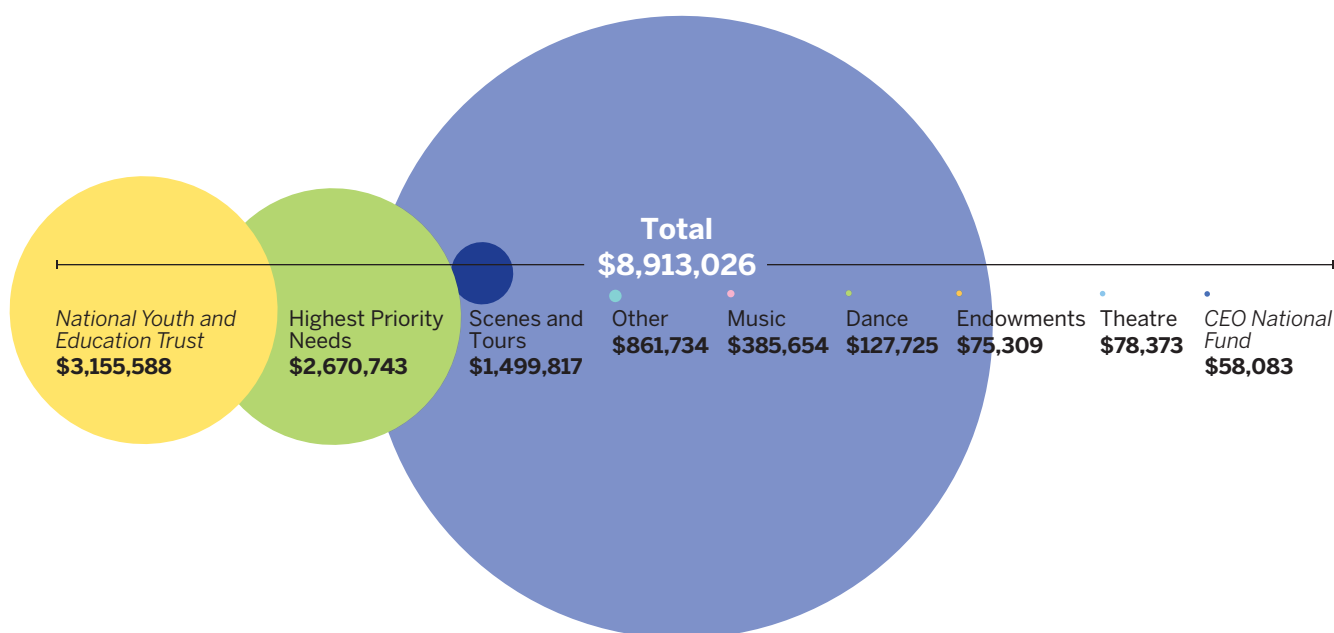
we've had the opportunity to be artistically adventurous and raise the curtain on unique and unforgettable performance on Canada's stage. We've provided a home for Canada's most creative artists. And, we've introduced countless children and youth to the enduring beauty of the performing arts. That's great news when you consider that a recent study by the Business for the Arts organization found that 83% of parents believe engagement in the arts is important to children's development.

None of what we have accomplished these past 14 years would have been possible without your support. To date, your donations and the contributions of our corporate sponsors have totaled close to \$85 million. Thank you! The performing arts have the power to transform lives and, through your generosity and passion, so do you.





Fundraising Total Gift Designations in 2013–2014



Where Giving Makes the Difference

Thanks to your passion and commitment for the performing arts, the National Arts Centre Foundation was able to invest over \$8.9 million in the NAC in 2013–2014. 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
- Donors and sponsors contributed \$152,176 for the *Share the Spirit* ticket program, creating wonderful experiences through the magic of live performance for deserving children and families who would not otherwise be able to attend a show at the NAC, be it for economic or health reasons;
- Many donors asked for their gifts to go where they're most needed. Almost 31% of gifts were designated to meet "highest priority needs," giving the Foundation flexibility to support the NAC's most urgent and compelling needs, such as leading-edge artistic performances, new creation and valuable education programs; and
- Our Annual Fund Donors donated a total of \$1,405,106 in support of our mission to develop and promote the performing arts.

In 2013–2014:

- 35% 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;

By the numbers 2013–2014

- The National Arts Centre presented more than **1,301 performances**;
- A total of **11,471 students and teachers** attended NAC Orchestra student matinee concerts during the 2013–2014 season;
- More than **270 teacher study guides** and **2,400 student newspaper guides** were distributed during school matinee performances at the NAC;
- Over **225 participants** took part in Dance masterclasses at the NAC with artists from 10 visiting companies;
- NAC's **Music Alive Program** provided resources and visits from teaching musicians to more than **100 schools** in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba;
- 140 Ottawa students** benefitted from in-school workshops led by members of the English Theatre Ensemble throughout the season;
- Over **2.5 million education tools** were downloaded from **ArtsAlive.ca**, the NAC's award-winning education website, by teachers, students and arts enthusiasts across Canada and around the world.

The **Impact** of Your Giving

Canada is our stage. Looking at the impact your support for the National Arts Centre made in 2013–2014, you can see how true that is. People across Canada, and even in far-away places like China, had the chance to experience the impact of your support through breathtaking performance, thought-provoking creation and countless learning opportunities. To this day, the impact of your giving can be felt on stages across the country, in hundreds of classrooms and in countless hearts.

Here are just some of the ways your giving made an impact in the 2013–2014 season.

THE NAC ORCHESTRA CHINA TOUR: ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE AND SHOWCASING THE BEST OF CANADIAN ORCHESTRAL CREATION AND PERFORMANCE

From October 4 to 21, 2013, the NAC Orchestra undertook its first tour of mainland China in its 44-year history, raising the profile of Canada as an international leader in the performing arts. Over 18 days, the NAC Orchestra performed 8 major concerts in 7 cities and delivered 80 educational events reaching more than 4,500 school children, youth and young artists. The Tour also showcased music by Canadian composers John Estacio and Alexina Louie, both of whom accompanied the Orchestra on Tour.

NAC FRENCH THEATRE PROVIDES SCHOOLS WITH TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

In order to ensure as many students as possible can attend matinee performances of their Enfance/jeunesse program, the NAC French Theatre offers a transportation assistance program in the Ottawa-Gatineau region and outlying areas. Helping to alleviate the cost of school bus transportation means more children and teenagers will have the opportunity to learn from the thought-provoking French-language theatre performed on the NAC stage.

THE COLLABORATIONS TAKES ENGLISH THEATRE TO WHERE THE STORIES ARE

In 2013–2014, English Theatre at the NAC made good on its commitment to support theatrical creation across Canada. As collaborating partners, English Theatre placed different aspects of its resources into the hands of strong creative talent found in all corners of the country, giving new works the chance to germinate on its own soil. One of these *Collaborations*, an adaptation of *Tartuffe*, opened the NAC English Theatre 2013–2014 season and was a tremendous success. Artistic Director Jillian Keiley hopes many other NAC *Collaborations* will also contribute to the inspiring and evolving Canadian Canon of theatrical work.

CO-PRODUCING ALLOWS THE NAC TO BE A LEADER IN THE CREATION OF DANCE

NAC Dance is proud to present Canadian work. But it also has a long history of co-producing with Canadian dance artists and actively partnering in the creation and development of new work. In the 2013–2014 season, NAC Dance co-produced seven works including one that brought Anne Plamondon to the stage in a co-production of *Les mêmes yeux que toi*—a stunning solo portrayal of mental illness.

SHARE THE SPIRIT BRINGS THE MAGIC OF LIVE PERFORMANCE TO DESERVING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, more than 2,000 complimentary tickets were given to our community

partners to pass along to deserving clients, children and their families last year. Not everyone can attend a show at the NAC, be it for economic or health reasons. We're very grateful to our supporters for sharing their giving spirit with people in the Ottawa-Gatineau area for a fifth season.

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR ONE MAN; AN ENDURING GIFT FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

It's a birthday gift former Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, will never forget and neither will the rest of the country. In celebration of Mr. Clark's 75th birthday, his wife, Maureen McTeer, commissioned a piece by one of Canada's most celebrated composers. The work will be written by Edmonton-based composer John Estacio and will be premiered by the NAC Orchestra in the 2015–2016 season.

SUMMER MUSIC INSTITUTE CONTINUES TO SET THE STAGE FOR ASPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS

The 16th edition of the NAC's **Summer Music Institute** brought 75 students from Canada and 15 other countries to the NAC for an intensive learning experience this past summer. Since it began in 1999, the SMI has benefitted over a thousand young musicians and conductors, giving them the opportunity to work with teachers at the highest level, learn from their talented peers and perform on Canada's national stage. Today, many of the SMI's past participants are entertaining and touching hearts of people all over the world.

Our Annual Donors:

Helping the NAC serve as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning in every part of the country

The Donors' Circle

Stand up and take a bow! Our devoted Donors' Circle supporters played a starring role in every accomplishment we celebrated at the NAC in 2013–2014. Because you had it in your heart to support the performing arts and the NAC so generously, hundreds of the world's finest artists moved audiences to tears and laughter in a year of awe-inspiring performance. You helped to give established and emerging artists the opportunity to create and showcase brilliant works of art on Canada's stage. And you reached out to thousands of students with education programs designed to foster a deep and abiding love for the arts. On behalf of the audiences, artists and youth who benefitted from your support last year, thank you for giving the NAC

the chance to be a champion for the performing arts in Canada.

- Your annual donations last year totaled \$1,405,106 representing 16% of all funds raised by the National Arts Centre Foundation in 2013–2014.
- Your gifts came in many sizes, ranging from \$1 to \$10,000 and more.
- Gifts under \$500 added up to \$751,534. Gifts of all sizes make a difference in the areas of performance, creation and learning.

The Corporate Circle

The National Arts Centre Foundation applauds the generosity of local businesses and professionals for helping to keep the performing arts flourishing in Canada.

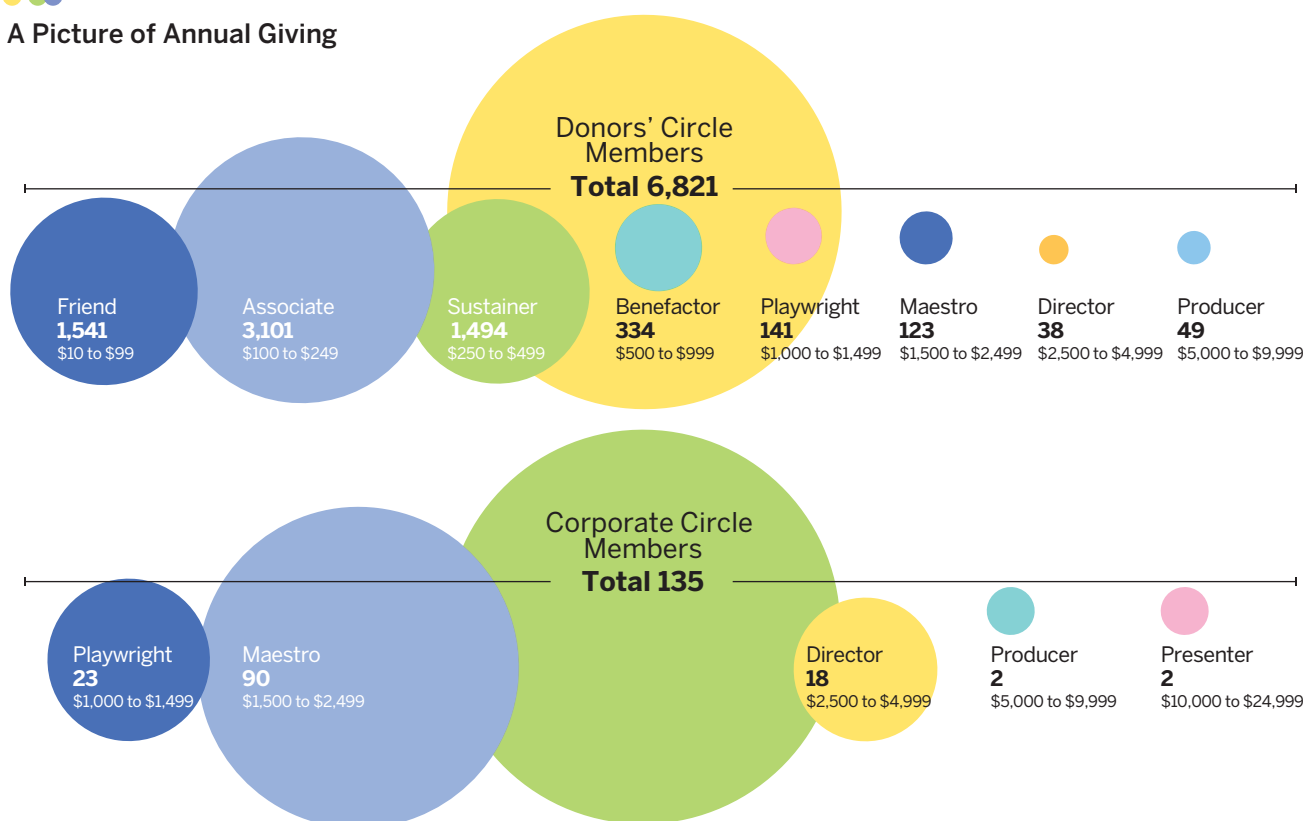
We are sincerely grateful to the thoughtful 135 members of our Corporate Circle for helping us bring the best of performance to Canada's stage; invest in promising new artists and creation; and offer dozens of education programs to help ensure a long future for the performing arts in Canada.

Planning for the Future

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of some very special Canadians, the performing arts in Canada will continue to transform lives for generations to come. Members of our Emeritus Circle have pledged future gifts to the National Arts Centre valued at more than \$4.4 million, through bequests, gifts of life insurance and other planned giving arrangements, with \$80,000 realized this year.



A Picture of Annual Giving



Harvey and Louise Glatt give audiences of the NAC Orchestra

“the chance to take home what they love and experience it again and again”

When Harvey and Louise Glatt took their seats in Southam Hall that evening in 2013, they had no idea they were about to make the NAC Orchestra a very generous offer.

Maestro Pinchas Zukerman played flawlessly that evening. The Orchestra opened with Handel, and continued with Bach. But it was the Telemann Viola Concerto that moved the Glatts so deeply they rushed backstage after the concert.

“Have you ever had a moment that speaks to you?” explains Louise. “We literally ran backstage. Christopher Deacon, the Managing Director for the NAC Orchestra was there and Harvey said, ‘this music has to be recorded. It has to be preserved’.”

And, if Harvey said it, it must be true because Harvey knows music. Considered the grandfather of Ottawa’s music scene, Harvey and Louise opened the first Treble Clef music store in the 1950’s. Harvey successfully promoted and managed the early years of Canadian folk artists and launched the radio station, CHEZ-FM in 1977. Now here were Harvey and Louise at the NAC offering to fund two recordings by Pinchas Zukerman and the NAC Orchestra.

“The Glatts’ gift is amazing because it chronicles a key step in the artistic journey of the NAC Orchestra—a musical coming of age,” says Christopher. “It lays down a milestone, for future artistic leaders, musicians and administrators that says ‘this is what Pinchas did’.”

Harvey agrees. “Pinchas has been here for 16 years. These recordings will capture him and the end of an era for the NAC Orchestra,” he says. “And for audiences, it will be something special they can listen to for all perpetuity.”

The Glatts’ donation will fund two recordings. The first is Brahms’ Symphony No. 4 which was recorded in November and Brahms’ Concerto for Violin and Cello, which will be recorded in February. The second will include the Telemann Viola Concerto and other Baroque repertoire and will be recorded in a later season.

“I urge anyone who cares about the NAC Orchestra or who is passionate about symphonic music beautifully performed to buy these CDs,” encourages Christopher. “They are a permanent record of the joy and sweeping musical passion Pinchas brought to us night after night.”

Pinchas Zukerman
conducts the NAC
Orchestra.
Photo: Fred Cattroll



Full Circle coming soon to your inbox

If you haven't yet had the chance to let us know your email address, now is the time.

In the very near future, the NAC Foundation will send out *Full Circle* electronically to all of our valued supporters who have provided us with their email address. This is a great way to reduce our mailing costs and still provide you with the latest news about the performance, creation and learning programs you help to fund with your support.

If we already have your email address, watch for *Full Circle* to land in your inbox soon. Otherwise, please provide us with your email at your earliest convenience at donorscircle@nac-cna.ca and be one of the first to receive the newly-designed electronic version of your donor newsletter. Of course, if you don't have an e-mail address, you'll still continue to receive *Full Circle* in the regular mail.

Music Circle: A musical experience for children with special needs

A young boy sits on a bench at the Lotus Centre for Special Music Education, tears running down his face. You see, the boy with autism doesn't want to go home yet. He isn't ready for the workshop to be over. His mom is amazed. She hasn't seen her son cry in over three years.

Music Circle—a series of workshops designed to introduce children on the Autistic Spectrum to live music—got its start last year. “The National Arts Centre approached us and proposed this education program for six- to 12-year-old kids with special needs and their parents,” recalls Erin Parkes, President of the Lotus Centre. “Within two hours of opening up registration for the workshops, we

had a waiting list. The fact that this was the NAC had a lot to do with that.”

Over three workshops, Elizabeth Simpson, French horn player with the NAC Orchestra, played classical music, had the children clapping and conducting, and introduced brass instruments they could hold and play. “The kids loved touching the instruments. They were really curious,” says Liz. “One child made a sound on the brass instrument and then dived into his mom's arms with pure joy.”

The workshops culminated in an interactive concert at the NAC—an opportunity Erin says many parents want for their child but never thought possible. “Parents of kids with autism are afraid to go to the NAC because they don't want to be disruptive,” she explains. “But they know how much

their child would love to attend a concert if it was presented in the right way. The concert and every part of **Music Circle** was very carefully planned.”

In fact, the **Music Circle** pilot-project was so successful it's been expanded during the 2014–2015 season. With help from donors like you, Liz will continue to work with elementary children at the Lotus Centre as well as with high school students at Ottawa Technical Secondary School and with adults at the Young Challengers organization.

“I would love for donors to see the joy these kids are experiencing,” says Elizabeth. “Anyone who values and supports the performing arts can understand that everyone can appreciate music no matter what their abilities are.”

I am grateful to supporters of the NAC for the joy they're bringing to children with autism and their families.

Erin Parkes, President of the Lotus Centre for Special Music Education



Kyle enjoys his success after making a sound on the tuba during a **Music Circle** workshop.
Photo: Marnie Richardson

Andrea Nann will perform during *Ontario Scene* as part of a mixed dance performance, *From There To Here*, May 4, 2015.
Photo: Chris Randle

A sneak peak at Ontario Scene

The Toronto Symphony Orchestra will be here. So will Canadian classical music group, the Gryphon Trio. And Daniel Lanois, one of the world's most legendary music producers, will be here too.

From April 29 to May 10, the NAC will shine a spotlight on 600 artists at **Ontario Scene**. Established and emerging actors, musicians, dancers, choreographers, visual and media artists, filmmakers, writers and master chefs will infuse theatres, concert halls, museums, clubs, and galleries with their creative energy.

"Ontario has a richness of artists and art forms, and if anything, we're spoiled for choice," admits Heather Moore, Producer and Executive Director for **Ontario Scene**. "There will be performers you've heard of but we also want to challenge people's perception of what they think they know about Ontario."

Heather says audiences can expect events that combine art forms such as contemporary dance and music. There will be a focus on Northern Ontario and First Nations artists as well as an emphasis on world music. "Ontario's population is so diverse culturally. We have so many incredibly fine musicians from around the world living and working here that we want to showcase," she explains.

On the theatre side, Heather hints there will be a range of shows from the Ontario many of us don't know. "Audiences can expect to see plays from bright, young playwrights to more senior figures from Canada's theatrical scene presenting new work."

The biennial festival, produced by the NAC, is a golden opportunity for artists to perform on Canada's stage. "It's a launching pad for many of them," says Heather. "We bring in presenters or 'talent scouts' from across Canada and around the world which can lead to tours and bookings at major festivals and concert venues."

The full festival line up will be announced on March 2. In the meantime, you can get the latest news by signing up for the e-newsletter at ontarioscene.ca.

Masterclass fuels young dancers with passion

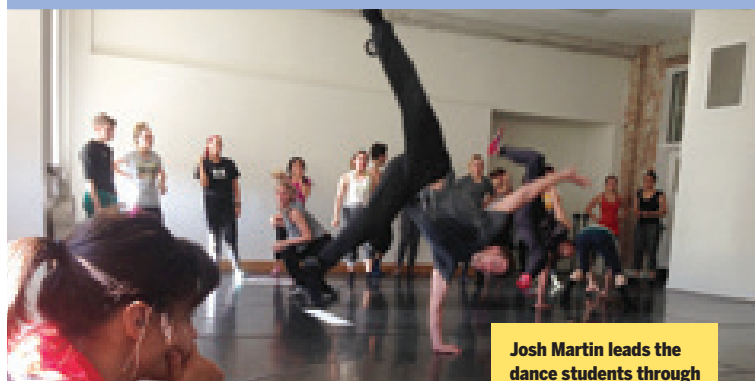
Marie-Michelle Darveau, a recent graduate from the contemporary dance program at The School of Dance in Ottawa, is feeling inspired. She's just attended an NAC Dance masterclass with Amber Funk Barton and Josh Martin, performers and choreographers of **Hero & Heroine**.

"We did a lot of floor work which isn't something we did a lot of at school," says Marie-Michelle. "Amber and Josh brought a different flavor to the class. Meeting and working with professional dancers is a great opportunity. It's so motivating."

Including Marie-Michelle, 18 dancers and two contemporary teachers attended the class at The School of Dance last October. It was a class that challenged the participants to use various techniques as well as improvisation.

"Masterclasses give young dancers the opportunity to learn from incredible artists, to open the body and the mind to new techniques," explains Siôn Watkins, Education Associate and Teaching Artist, Dance at the NAC. "They fuel passion and inspire dancers to pursue their dreams."

As a dancer herself, Siôn hopes there will always be generous people willing to support dance education in Canada. "You are doing something of the utmost importance with your support. You are inspiring the world's future dancers and helping to create future artists for the stage."



Josh Martin leads the dance students through part of the masterclass under Funk Barton's watchful eye.

Photo: Siôn Watkins

The more I create
the more I understand how
important it is that we pass
on what we have been given
to others.

Amber Funk Barton, Performer and choreographer of **Hero & Heroine**



Claire Watson Fisher
Photo submitted

Donor Profile: Remembering Claire Watson Fisher

Passing on a passion for music
for years to come

Claire Watson Fisher grew up in a music-loving family. Her father was instrumental in the founding of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in 1934. Her mother never missed a Saturday broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera from

New York City. "Claire and I were often taken to concerts where our love of music began," recalls Claire's sister, Louise Watson Slein.

The love of music followed Claire and her husband to Ottawa, where she had the opportunity to attend the NAC and enjoy concerts and other programs, says Louise.

A lifetime of passion for the music inspired Claire to give back to the art form that brought her so much joy. Motivated by Pinchas Zukerman's commitment to training young musicians, Claire left a bequest for the development of outstanding musical talent. Her generous gift will provide funding for 10 exceptional musicians to participate in the NAC's *Summer Music Institute (SMI)*.

Each year the *SMI* brings dozens of talented young artists from around the world to the NAC and gives them 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.

"Claire's Memorial Celebration included a string quartet of talented young musicians," Louise shares. "It would be her wish that such lovely music will be made in the future by the recipients of the awards made possible by her bequest."

Making Giving Easy:

How your gift of securities today can make
a big difference tomorrow

As a caring supporter of the NAC, there's a good chance you want to share your passion for the performing arts with future generations. A gift of securities (stocks, bonds and mutual funds) is a wonderful way you can do just that and save tax dollars in the process.

By choosing to transfer your securities with appreciated capital gains directly to a charitable organization like the NAC Foundation, you won't pay capital gains tax on the appreciated value. You'll also receive a tax receipt for your donation so you save in two ways.

At the Foundation, we sincerely appreciate any amount you can give through a transfer of securities.

In fact, we're increasingly seeing more people give amounts of \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$2,500. Some of our donors have started using their contribution of securities as their annual gift instead of making a cash donation.

Whatever the value of the securities you wish to transfer, your gift will result in the same benefits for you. You'll still be able to take advantage of tax savings and you'll be contributing to a long and successful future for the performing arts in Canada.

When you donate a gift of securities with accumulated capital gains directly to the NAC Foundation, in whatever amount you choose, everybody wins.

For more information, please contact **Barry Bloom** at 613 947-7000, ext. 314.

Five Minutes with Andrew Moodie

A Q&A with a member of the 2014–2015 NAC English Theatre Ensemble



Andrew Moodie
Photo submitted

Raised in Ottawa, actor and playwright, Andrew Moodie is no stranger to the NAC stage. He played the part of Alan in English Theatre's production of **thirsty**, and was also the **Playwright in Residence** for his work, **A Common Man's Guide to Loving Women**. We recently caught up with Andrew during a rehearsal break from English Theatre's production of **Alice Through the Looking-Glass** and spoke to him about what it means to him to be part of this season's Ensemble.

Q: When and how did you know you wanted to be an actor?

A: When I was in Grade 3 or 4, I was in a class production of **Tom Sawyer**. I was one of the kids painting the fence. The audience laughed when I wiggled my bum and that was it, I was hooked on acting.

Q: What does the opportunity to be part of an ensemble of diverse Canadian actors mean to you as an artist?

A: When walking through the halls at the NAC, you pass by pictures of past performers from all over the world. They remind you that this is a place of excellence. There's nothing else like it in Canada. I'm blessed to be here.

Q: What do you hope to gain from this experience?

A: I'm hoping to learn. Jillian has mandated that every day one of the cast members has to teach something to the Ensemble. It builds a real bond between us and reminds me that everyone has knowledge I don't have. It gives me a great respect for the people I work with.

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

A: This organization is not only important to Ottawa but to Canada. Your support is crucial to maintain its level of excellence and to foster the love of the arts in all Canadians.

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

Calendar of Events

DATE AND TIME	EVENT/ SPECIAL INFORMATION	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCERS	DIRECTORS	MAESTROS	PLAYWRIGHTS	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES
February 26, 2015	Corporate Circle Reception <i>Classic FM: Four Decades of Radio Hits</i>	•							
March 22, 2015 14:00 Le Salon	NAC Orchestra Bursary Benefit Concert Tickets available at the door		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
March 26, 2015 18:45	Donor Preview–English Theatre <i>Take Me Back to Jefferson</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
April 9, 2015 13:15	Donor Open Rehearsal–Dance National Ballet of Canada		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
April 21, 2015 18:45	Donor Preview–French Theatre <i>Richard III</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
May 6, 2015 9:45	Donor Open Rehearsal–NAC Orchestra <i>Tchaikovsky's Fourth</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
May 14, 2015	Emeritus Circle Tea	•							
May 25, 2015 13:00 Studio	NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition Finals Free admission (no tickets required)		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
June 17, 2015 19:15	Donor Open Rehearsal–NAC Orchestra <i>Beethoven's Ninth</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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

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