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Winter • 2016

Full Circle

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Aussi disponible en français

Dear Life: Taking creation and musical presentation at the NAC into bold new territory

Early on, during the world premiere of *Dear Life*, Southam Hall is plunged into darkness.

Under that blackness, the curtain is drawn and Alexander Shelley, NAC Orchestra's Music Director, walks out to the podium. The opening notes of Canadian composer ZoshadiCastri's music begins and the first image comes up on the shimmering 50-foot screen.

"There was a gasp from the audience," recalls Christopher Deacon, Managing Director of the NAC Orchestra and Executive Producer of *Dear Life*.

"They are no longer in a symphony orchestra concert. We have transported them into a world they are very excited about and want to enter."

Dear Life, the most ambitious commissioned work ever undertaken by the NAC Orchestra, was a phenomenal success when it premiered last September. Alexander Shelley, Christopher Deacon and Creative Producer and Director Donna Feore created an immersive, visual experience with the NAC Orchestra front and centre as storyteller.

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The exciting world premiere of the NAC's commissioned work, *Dear Life*, featuring the stunning photography of Larry Towell
Photo: Dwayne Brown

Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

There's much to celebrate at the National Arts Centre and beyond. The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to look back at what we accomplished in 2015 with caring supporters like you. It's the perfect time to let you know how grateful I am.

Thanks to your generosity, the NAC continued to excel in its role as an ambassador for the performing arts in Canada. Together, we brought the very best of performance to Canada's stage, supported exciting new creation across the disciplines, and gave thousands of students the chance to develop their own passion for the arts that are so dear to our hearts.

I've enclosed our annual Stewardship Report to remind you of the many accomplishments we celebrated in 2014–2015. As you read the highlights from last season, I hope you'll take pride in the vital role you played in making them possible with your commitment to the arts.

As I'm sure you agree, 2014–2015 was a memorable season for music and the NAC Orchestra. By all accounts, the UK Tour was a huge success, beautifully honouring the themes of remembrance and healing to commemorate the centenary of the start of the First World War. It was also Pinchas Zukerman's ultimate season and the Orchestra did Pinchas and all of us proud as they recognized the man who contributed so much to music and education.

*Ontario Scene... the Summer Music Institute... Dance masterclasses with some of the greatest performers in the world... English Theatre's *The Study* and *The Repast*... the list of highlights goes on and on. And, with your support, you are part of every single one.*

I hope you enjoy our annual Stewardship Report and your look back at what we accomplished. And, I hope you enjoy this issue of *Full Circle* and reading about projects that will surely be counted among next year's highlights. Whether we're looking back at the year that was or moving passionately forward into this season, you give us much to celebrate.

With gratitude,



Jayne Watson

P.S. By the time you read this, renovations to your NAC are well underway. Please see page 8 to see how the construction will affect you.



Jayne Watson
Photo by Ottawa's
Valberg Imaging

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From cover:

Dear Life: Taking creation and musical presentation at the NAC into bold new territory

Dear Life is a fully immersive piece, combining different art forms—the orchestra with narrators and a film element, explains Donna. “We wanted the artists, beginning with the composer, to bring to the piece their own interpretation of the source material and what it says to them. What we have is unique and special.”

To understand how such an innovative project got its start, we have to go back to a time right before Alexander Shelley was announced as the Orchestra’s new music director. “As a gift, I gave Alexander a book of short stories, *Dear Life*, by Canadian author, Alice Munro,” says Christopher. “A month later Alexander called to tell me he was captivated by the poem at the end of the book and said he would love to do a concert around it.”

At the same time, Christopher knew the NAC was embarking on a big commitment to creation. After many discussions, it was decided *Dear Life* would be the perfect showpiece. From there, it was a matter of

recruiting the right person to spearhead it.

“The project became 100 times more electrifying when Donna came onboard,” says Christopher. “The collaboration between Donna, Alexander and all the artists involved has been the most inspiring and energizing thing I’ve ever been a part of.”

And, *Dear Life* is just the beginning. The project actually includes four pieces, drawing inspiration from the powerful, personal stories of Alice Munro, Rita Joe, Amanda Todd and Roberta Bondar.

“This project reflects on four remarkable women finding their voice,” explains Christopher. “There are breakthrough moments in each of their lives and we’re trying to capture that with brand new commissioned music and imagery.”

Donna agrees and one of her goals for the project and new creation in general is to shine the spotlight on Canadian stories and the talent of our artists. “We need

our voice on the international stage to be even bigger than it already is,” she says. “These pieces are far-reaching in their subject matter. All of Canada should see it.”

The next piece in the series, *I Lost My Talk*, which was commissioned for the National Arts Centre Orchestra to commemorate the 75th birthday of The Right Honourable Joe Clark, P.C., C.C., A.O.E. by his family, premiered at the NAC in January. Then all four pieces will be performed together on Canada’s stage in May. “I encourage supporters to see something new,” says, Donna. “This isn’t just a new piece, it’s a new everything. Come out and see the NAC Orchestra invest in this work. It’s heart-stopping to see how they go after this new music.”

The NAC Orchestra performs the powerful work composed by Zosha di Castri and inspired by Alice Munro’s, *Dear Life*
Photo: Dwayne Brown

NAC supporters are very sophisticated and looking for something that matters. What we’re saying with this project has to matter. If people leave at the end of the performance and keep the conversation going, we’ve succeeded.

Donna Feore, Creative Producer and Director of *Dear Life*



Celebrating a Year of Giving:

The 2014–2015 Stewardship Report

You do something amazing with your support for the National Arts Centre Foundation. You help us champion the performing arts across the country. You are the reason we can offer stellar performance on Canada's stage and beyond. Your support leads to thought-provoking new creation in music, theatre and dance. And, your generosity helps fund incredible opportunities for learning—both for promising new artists and for the thousands of students who will take the performing arts into their own hearts.

With much pride and gratitude, we bring you this report which includes some of the many highlights you helped make possible in 2014–2015. The NAC Orchestra's **UK Tour** touched countless hearts in Britain and here in Canada as it commemorated the centenary

of the First World War. English Theatre's **The Study/Repast** was an opportunity to acknowledge Indigenous theatre artists as an essential voice in Canada. And **Dance Masterclasses** gave thousands of aspiring dancers the chance to learn and be inspired.

With your generosity, you help us create a national stage for the performing arts we can all be proud of. Thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, the National Arts Centre Foundation had its best fundraising year ever—raising more than \$10.8 million in 2014–2015. On behalf of every person who will benefit, thank you!

by our side, we've served as a catalyst for performance, creation and learning in every part of the country. Together, we've raised the curtain on captivating music, theatre and dance performances. We've supported the development of new creation to add to the Canadian Canon. And, we've shared our passion for the performing arts with a new generation of arts lovers through dozens of education programs.

You made it all possible with your support. To date, your donations and the contributions of our corporate sponsors have totaled more than \$95 million. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to bring the best of the performing arts to Canada's stage, transforming many lives with its power and beauty.

Your Incredible Record of Giving

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the NAC Foundation and, thanks to friends like you, we have much to celebrate. With you

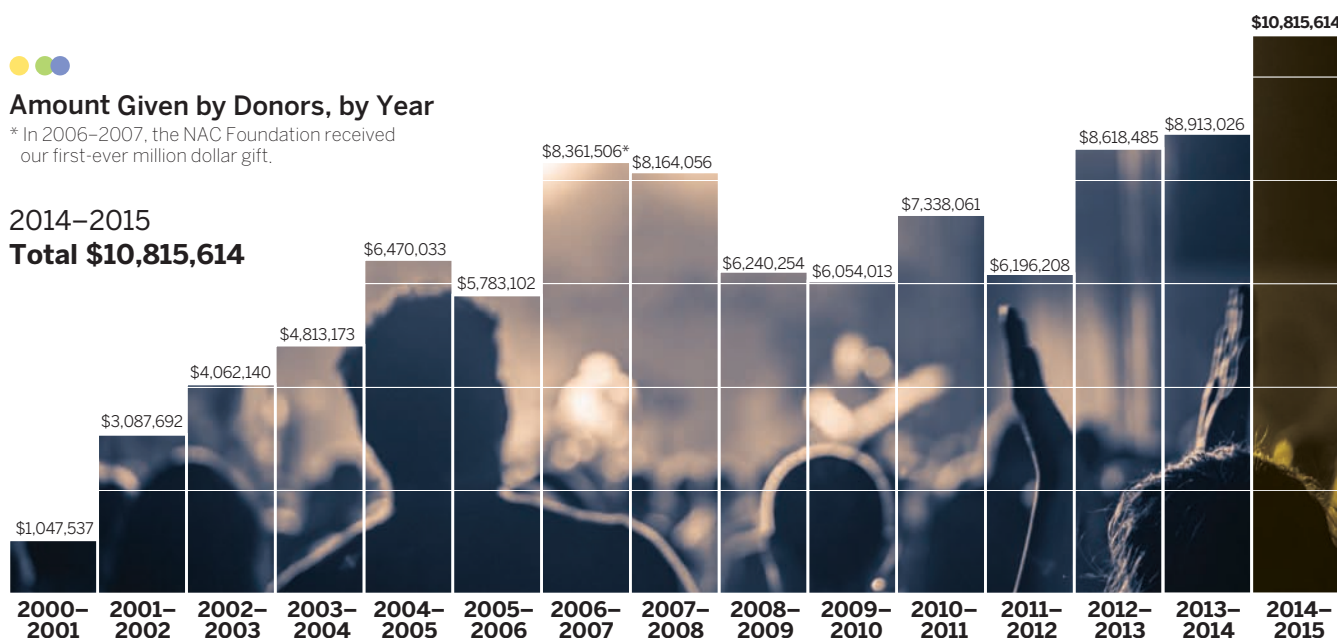


Amount Given by Donors, by Year

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

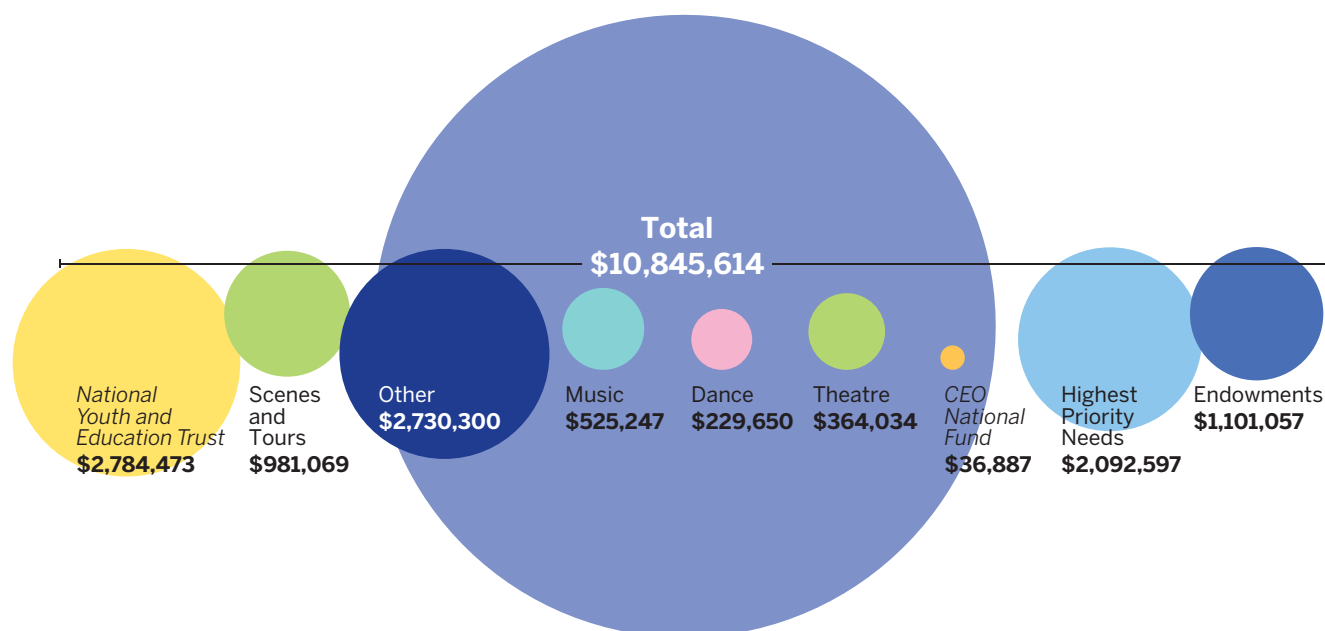
2014–2015

Total \$10,815,614





Fundraising Total Gift Designations in 2014–2015



Where Giving Makes the Difference

Your generosity and passion for the performing arts made it possible for the National Arts Centre Foundation to invest over \$10.8 million in the NAC in 2014–2015. Your support helped the Centre achieve its mission to develop and promote the performing arts by:

- Establishing the NAC as the pre-eminent showcase for the performing arts
- Acting as a catalyst for the performing arts nationally
- Nurturing and supporting artists and arts organizations in communities across the country

In 2014–2015:

- 26% of your gifts to the NAC were designated to the *National Youth and Education Trust* (NYET). The NYET funds performing arts initiatives, impacting the lives of thousands of children across Canada;
- Donors and sponsors contributed \$161,718 for the *Share the Spirit* subsidized ticket program, creating wonderful experiences through the magic of live performance for deserving children, families and other vulnerable populations 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. 19% 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 \$1,446,759, in support of our mission to develop and promote the performing arts.

By the numbers 2014–2015

- The National Arts Centre staged **1,357 performances**;
- The NAC welcomed youth age 2–18, some for the first time, as well as their teachers and parents, to hear the NAC Orchestra, see some of the world's best dance companies, and attend performances by English and French Theatre. Over **22,950 students and teachers** attended NAC student matinees;
- The 17th annual *Summer Music Institute* drew **67 young musicians from Canada and 9 other countries**;
- NAC Orchestra's Principal Youth and Family Conductor Alain Trudel gave workshops and clinics to **9 regional high school concert and jazz bands**;
- The NAC distributed NAC-created resources, including **275 teacher study guides and 3,126 student newspaper guides**, to teachers and students attending school matinee performances;
- Dance Masterclasses inspired **1,254 dance students**;
- The 4th season of NAC Presents offered **56 performances** by emerging and established Canadian artists;
- More than **2,000 complimentary tickets** were distributed to children and families through *Share the Spirit*.

The **Impact** of Your Giving

Your support for the National Arts Centre made quite an impact in 2014–2015. Your generosity was felt on Canada's stage, in classrooms across the country, and in the grateful and uplifted hearts of artists, audience members and students. Here are just some of the ways your giving made an impact in the 2014–2015 season.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE CANADIAN CANON THROUGH THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND ENTERTAINING NEW CREATION

With your support you were part of many new works created across the disciplines. NAC Dance co-produced *So Blue*, the first choreographic work by Louise Lecavalier/Fou Glorieux. English Theatre's *Collaborations* initiative invested in new projects including *Vigilante* by Catalyst Theatre and Citadel Theatre in Edmonton. French Theatre supported *Phèdre*, created and directed by Jérémie Niel. And, the NAC Wind Quintet gave the world premiere of the NAC-commissioned *Sinfonietta* by John Estacio during the UK Tour.

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

Your generosity helped make it possible for the NAC Orchestra to travel to the United Kingdom for an unforgettable 10-day Tour to commemorate the First World War Centenary. In addition to five major concerts, the Tour featured over 50 educational events, reaching more than 5,000 artists, young artists and families.

Meanwhile, *ConneXXions 2014*, co-produced by NAC New Media and the Royal College of Music (UK), linked students in London and Ottawa and gave them the chance to showcase their creative talent and share what the First World War means to them today.

ONTARIO SCENE CELEBRATES AND SHOWCASES THE TALENTS OF 650 ARTISTS

From April 29 to May 10, the NAC shone the spotlight on 650 established and emerging artists from Ontario. The popular biennial festival gave thousands of arts lovers the chance to sample everything from music

and theatre to dance and visual and media arts to fashion and food. *Ontario Scene* also attracted presenters and talent scouts in search of new artists to book for their audiences across Canada and around the world.

THE STUDY/REPAST: EXPLORING AND CELEBRATING THE INDIGENOUS BODY OF WORK

Thanks to your support, English Theatre had the chance to bring Canada's Indigenous Body of Work to light and give voice to these essential stories in a national context. *The Study* brought together over 100 leading artists, producers, institutions and students for two weeks last May, giving them the opportunity to explore Indigenous Work. *The Study* culminated in a two day show-and-share called *The Repast* that live-streamed on the NAC website.

FRENCH THEATRE REACHES OUT TO TEENAGERS AND GIVES VOICE TO THEIR CONCERNS

Teens and their worries around social pressure, the environment, their place in today's society and school stress was the focus of French Theatre's one-of-a-kind public events. The project, which involved 60 youth from the Ottawa-Gatineau region, included three signature events: two of which put teenagers on stage at the NAC, and an *Action-Creation-Cell* which filled the NAC with surprising interactive installations and activities. The events gave the young people the chance to show family and friends the world through the prism of adolescence.

PINCHAS ZUKERMAN AND THE NAC ORCHESTRA CAPTURE THE BEAUTY OF BRAHMS IN A NEW ALBUM

The 2014–2015 season has special meaning for the NACO Orchestra and its devoted fans. It was Pinchas Zukerman's ultimate

season but his extraordinary talent and leadership as the Orchestra's Music Director will live on in perpetuity through a magnificent new album, *Brahms: Double Concerto, Symphony No. 4*. The recording, which also features Amanda Forsyth, is available to music lovers around the world and will make a welcome addition to every music lover's library.

MUSIC ALIVE PROGRAM EXPOSES HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS TO THE JOY AND IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC

With your help, students in 50 schools in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were given a taste of live, classical music, many for the very first time. The *Music Alive Program* (MAP) provided the students with specially created arts education resources and full-day visits from teaching musicians. The NAC also delivered the MAP Indigenous Resource, written in Cree/Dene to 33 schools across Alberta and Saskatchewan.

ASPIRING YOUNG DANCERS BENEFIT FROM WORLD-CLASS DANCER WORKSHOPS AND MASTERCLASSES

In 2014–2015, NAC Dance once again offered exclusive masterclasses and workshops led by renowned artists performing at the NAC. Three contemporary classes were held with respected dance artists: Quebec-based Frederic Tavernini and British Columbia-based Amber Funk Barton and Josh Martin. In February, South African dancer and choreographer Vincent Mantsoe shared his personal approach to performance and aspiring dancers. Ballet students were also offered four masterclasses with the Alberta Ballet, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Miami City Ballet and Aspen Santa Fe.

Our Annual Donors:

Helping the NAC create a national stage for the performing arts

The Donors' Circle

You deserve a big round of applause!

In 2014–2015, our devoted Donors' Circle supporters starred in every achievement we celebrated at the NAC. Your generosity brought some of the finest artists to Canada's stage in a year of exhilarating performance. You helped ensure brilliant new works were created to take their rightful place alongside the classics we hold so dear. And, you helped us invest in many education programs, giving promising young artists their own chance to shine in the spotlight and sharing your love of the arts with a new generation. Thank you for supporting the NAC and helping us continue in our role as an ambassador for the performing arts, and of Canada.

- Your annual donations last year totaled \$1,446,759 representing 13% of all funds raised by the National Arts Centre Foundation in 2014–2015.
- Your gifts came in many sizes, ranging from \$1 to \$10,000 and more.
- Gifts under \$500 added up to \$724,323. Gifts of all sizes make a difference in the areas of performance, creation and learning.

performance, new creation, and learning opportunity we support at the NAC. On behalf of artists, audience members and students from coast-to-coast, we sincerely appreciate your investment in the performing arts in Canada.

Planning for the Future

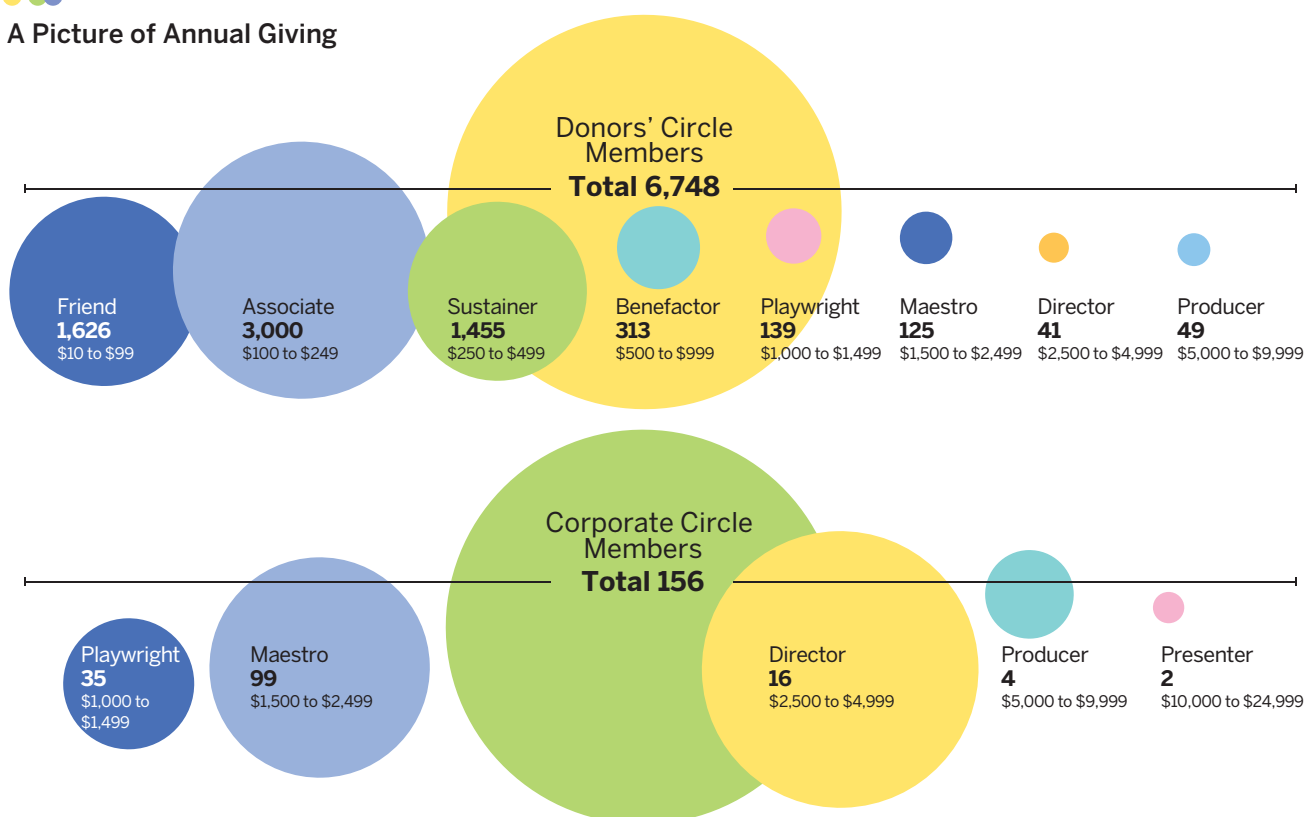
We'd like to extend a special thank you to the Canadians who are shaping the future of the performing arts in Canada with their foresight and generosity. Members of our Emeritus Circle have pledged future gifts to the National Arts Centre valued at more than \$4.3 million, through gifts in their Will, gifts of life insurance and other planned giving arrangements. Your generosity and passion will help ensure the performing arts can continue to transform lives for generations to come.

The Corporate Circle

The National Arts Centre Foundation is deeply grateful for the support of local businesses and professionals for giving our beloved performing arts the chance to thrive on stages, in classrooms and in grateful hearts across the country. The thoughtful 156 members of our Corporate Circle play an important role in every



A Picture of Annual Giving



Experimental theatre: exploring today for a better understanding of tomorrow

Théâtre du Nouvel-Ontario artistic director Geneviève Pineault claims that “Artists are supposed to question our world and our era. That is what experimental theatre (*théâtre de création*) is all about: exploring today for a better understanding of tomorrow.”

This is exactly what she had in mind when she worked with Alice Ronfard and Johanne Melançon on an adaptation of Jean Marc Dalpé’s debut novel, *Un vent se lève qui éparpille* (*Scattered in a Rising Wind*), for which he received a Governor General’s Award in the year 2000.

When reached by phone in the midst of a busy rehearsal schedule in Sudbury, Geneviève spoke about the work with infectious passion. Forbidden love, a love triangle, murder, poetry and images were all words that popped into the conversation as she described the storyline. “A relentless lurch from head to gut and back again, vicariously living the protagonists’ lives as they succumb to their desires, anger and fiery energy. The inevitability of it all is absolutely fascinating.”

There are six actors on stage. According to Geneviève, “Without the support of the NAC’s French Theatre, the project would never have got off the ground. Where we come from, the pool of creative people is limited—in fact, mounting a play with more than two actors is impossible because of a shortage of resources. That’s why everyone in Sudbury is extremely proud of this relationship with the NAC.”

The team benefited from the NAC’s expertise, particularly in set building, as well as from Brigitte Haentjens’ advice, both of which Geneviève feels were invaluable transfers of knowledge. As she puts it, “The NAC is supporting our artistic approach, placing their confidence in us and above all, helping us live our dream. Nothing looks impossible now.”

Geneviève Pineault
Photo: Alexandre Mattar

The new NAC will include improved performance spaces, public areas for education and events
Rendering: Diamond Schmitt Architects



Renovations to the NAC have now begun. What do they mean for you?

Just like the performances that take place under its roof, the new NAC is going to be breathtaking.

It will include improved performance spaces, public areas for education and events, full accessibility for people with mobility challenges; and a magnificent glass atrium with a glittering entrance on Elgin Street.

There will be times when the renovations, which began in December, may pose challenges to our donors and patrons. But, in the end, it will be well worth it.

Here’s how the construction will affect you:

- Evening and weekend performances will go ahead as planned. Some matinees will be cancelled.
- Construction will take place between midnight and 2pm on weekdays.
- Le café will remain open for dinner but will be closed for lunch.
- The NAC’s new Welcome Centre opens in March and will include the Box Office and the Donors’ Circle office. Come visit us from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday at 54 Elgin, at Queen – just across the street from the NAC. Members of the Concierge service team will be available to serve you as usual in person, by phone or email.
- Both pedestrian and vehicle access to the NAC remains unchanged at this time

As the construction progresses, stay tuned for more details as to how your donor benefits will be impacted. Please visit nac-cna.ca/nac2017 for updates.

An Inuit youth group follow Jaime Vargas' ballet moves during an outreach activity complementing the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's performances of *Going Home Star—Truth and Reconciliation*

Photo: Fred Cattroll

9



Your support for outreach at the NAC transforms into a great act of kindness, bigger than you can ever imagine. Your generosity makes the world a better place.

Jaime Vargas, Ballet Master
with The Royal Winnipeg Ballet
Music Education

CANADA IS OUR STAGE.

Ballet Master's outreach to Ottawa's Indigenous community to be a learning opportunity for every participant

Barely before he even got started, Jaime Vargas, Ballet Master and former leading man with The Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB) almost stopped dancing.

It was his first class and 14-year-old Jaime was put in with a much younger group of girls. "Nobody would dance with me. It made me feel bad and I was going to quit," recalls Jaime. "Then one day, one of the girls came to me and gave me her little hand. It changed my life."

This winter, Jaime shared this inspiring story along with many others when he reached out to the Indigenous community in Ottawa. The week of outreach complemented The RWB's performances of *Going Home Star—Truth and Reconciliation*, an NAC Dance Presentation.

Jaime is quick to point out that the inspiration will go both ways. "I feel Indigenous cultures have dances, rituals and traditions that make them connect with themselves and each other," he says, "I'm eager to learn more about these cultures. It is only by learning about each other that we can understand each other and have a partnership that is based on trust."

Siôned Watkins, Education Associate and Teaching Artist, Dance at the NAC, couldn't agree more. That's why she was so excited to book Jaime into the Inuit Children's Centre, Urban Aboriginal High School, Wabano Centre and other schools with a high Indigenous population.

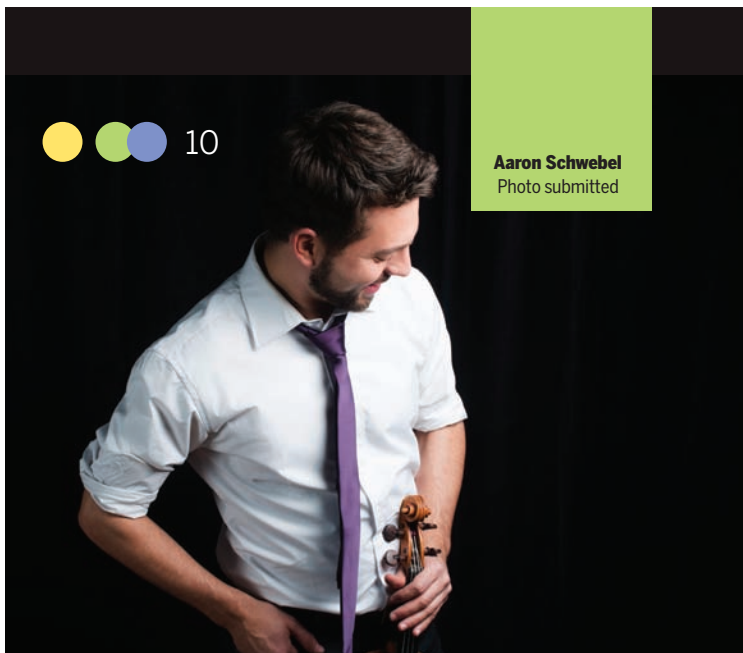
"We're hoping this is the first step to many cultural exchanges and we're opening the doors of discovery and curiosity for future projects," says Siôned. "After all, it's not just youth in need of outreach. We all have something to learn."

And so, as Jaime shared his stories and demonstrated his ballet moves, the Indigenous youth taught him and Siôned some of their incredible physical activities such as the "Inuit push up". "Outreach should be an exchange" says Jaime. "People learn more if they're giving something in return."

Through your support for the NAC Foundation, you help make outreach and cultural exchange possible. "It's important for donors to know their contributions matter," says Siôned. "Through outreach we can all grow as human beings. We can make connections that are healing."

"Anyone who values and supports the performing arts can understand that everyone can appreciate music no matter what their abilities are."

10

Aaron Schwebel
Photo submitted

Rising Stars: My First NAC shines the spotlight on promising Canadian musicians

He's performed at the NAC before – both as a participant in the *Summer Music Institute's* Young Artist Program, and as an apprentice with the *Institute for Orchestral Studies* (IOS) where he played with the NAC Orchestra. But this was the first time Aaron Schwebel had the opportunity to perform as a soloist on the Studio stage.

"I feel very at home at the NAC, so it was a joy to come play a recital on the NAC's *Rising Stars* series," says the young violinist.

Rising Stars – My First NAC gives exceptional next-generation artists like Aaron the chance to perform an afternoon recital for a discerning audience. It also offers them valuable experience as they work toward becoming a professional orchestral musician.

The series is hosted by NAC Orchestra's Music Director, Alexander Shelley. "It's interesting for the audience to hear about Maestro Shelley's experience with the composers," says Aaron. "It also gives the audience the chance to get to know him and the performers."

Aaron is deeply grateful for his apprenticeship with the IOS, which helped lead to this shining moment on Canada's stage. "My experience at the IOS was an ideal stepping stone for a career as an orchestral musician," he says. "It's a unique opportunity for young players to have their formative professional experience with an exceptional orchestra, to gain insight into the inner workings and dynamics of an orchestra, and to become part of a really nice community at the NAC."

Rising Stars – My First NAC featured a performance by flutist, Lindsay Bryden on February 14th and will continue with a performance with pianist, Xiaoyu Liu on April 3rd. Free tickets are available at the Box Office.

For your listening pleasure: Pinchas Zukerman, Amanda Forsyth and the NAC Orchestra capture the beauty of Brahms in a new album

NAC supporters and audiences across Canada and worldwide have the opportunity to revel in the beauty of Brahms' grandest concerto as Pinchas Zukerman, Amanda Forsyth and the NAC Orchestra, present their magnificent new album, *Brahms: Double Concerto, Symphony No. 4*.

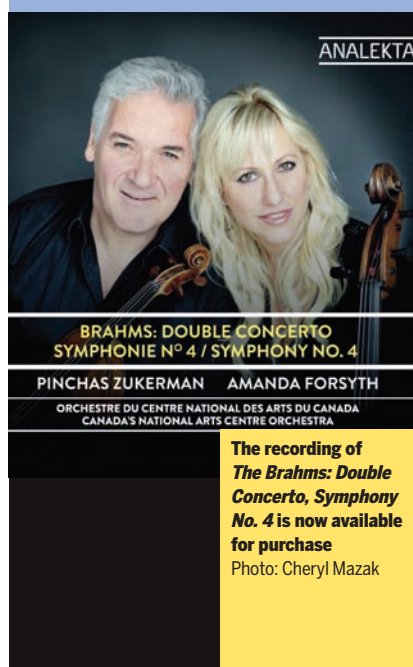
Made possible with the generosity of long-time NAC Foundation donors, Harvey and Louise Glatt, this is an album every fan of the symphony and the NAC Orchestra should have in their library. It features the talents of Pinchas Zukerman, a phenomenon on the music scene for over 40 years and Amanda Forsyth, one of North America's most dynamic cellists.

Written in 1887, the *Double Concerto* is regarded as one of Brahms' greatest achievements, due in part to its soaring melodies and sublime phrasing. Compositions for this combination of solo instruments, violin and cello are few and far between, but Brahms succeeds in integrating them into a concerto that showcases the tonal beauties of each.

"I am certain anyone who is passionate about beautiful symphonic music, brilliantly played, will love this recording," says Christopher Deacon, Managing Director of the NAC Orchestra. "It is a permanent record of the sweeping musical passion Pinchas brought to us night after night."

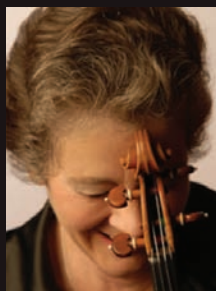
The *Brahms: Double Concerto, Symphony No. 4* album is released by Analekta and available for purchase on the Analekta website (www.analekta.com/en/album/?canadas-national-arts-centre-orchestra-brahms-double-concerto-symphony-no-4.1814.html).

It can also be purchased at the NAC during concerts, in record stores, and will be available on iTunes, Spotify and other digital platforms soon.



This recording
captures
something
special which
audiences can
listen to in
perpetuity."

Harvey Glatt, NAC Supporter



Lynne Hammond
Photo: Fred Cattroll

Donor Profile: Lynne Hammond

Supporting the next generation of orchestral musicians

Lynne Hammond knows how it feels to be a young instrumentalist aspiring to an orchestral career. After all, she was once one herself.

But things were different in the late 1960's when Lynne was preparing for an orchestral career—jobs were much easier to come by. In fact, Lynne hadn't even finished university when she was offered a contract with the newly-formed NAC Orchestra. She chose to finish school and eventually joined the NAC Orchestra in 1971. From that day forward, the young violinist never looked back.

"I played with the Orchestra for 43 seasons until I retired last year. It was a great job. I love performing and I loved the variety of what we did—performing the main subscription series as well as opera, ballets, kids concerts and Pops concerts," says Lynne.

When Lynne retired she started thinking about the next generation

of musicians and how she could help them with their careers. She decided to make a gift in her Will to the NAC Foundation specifically supporting the *NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition*.

"Becoming a classical musician is very expensive with university and music lessons compared to when I was going to school," explains Lynne. "Pursuing an orchestral career is a tough road to go down. It's a large field with hundreds of people competing for one position. Young musicians need the best training possible to get a job."

The *NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition* was created for this very reason. It is meant to provide recognition and financial support to help further the development of young musicians who have connections to the National Capital Region. "Everyone deserves a break," says Lynne. "I wanted to do something meaningful that would help the next generation."

Understandably, supporting musicians aspiring to an orchestral career is especially close to Lynne's heart. In fact, when it comes to leaving a gift in their Will, every donor has the option to direct their gift to their own passion or leave it undesignated.

"Culture enriches our lives. I would find it hard to live without it," Lynne says. "That's why it's so important that we support the arts in whatever form. Every donation is needed and makes a difference."

Lynne continues to keep in touch with her colleagues in the NAC Orchestra. She attends concerts, the ballet and theatre and has started bringing her nieces and nephews to the Kinderconcerts. "It's amazing how much is going on at the NAC," she says. "I'm so glad I came here and I'm so glad I stayed. The NAC has given me a good life."

Making Giving Easy: Designating a gift in your Will to what's important to you

As a professional musician, Lynne Hammond has a thorough understanding of what young instrumentalists are going through today. By leaving a gift in her Will designated to the *NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition*, Lynne has chosen to play a vital role in the lives of the next generation of orchestral musicians. She's chosen to share what she loves with others.

Lynn isn't the only one. Increasingly, more donors are telling us they want to direct their planned gift to a more specific purpose. The NAC Foundation is proud to offer our donors this option. We think it's wonderful our supporters wish to share what's so important in their lives with the next generation of musicians, actors, dancers or audience members.

Should you choose to make a designated gift in your Will, all we ask is for you to make it as broad as possible so we can put it to the best use. Making a gift too specific can become a problem if the program you wish to support is no longer available.

Of course, if you would like to make a gift in your Will to the NAC Foundation, you can also choose to leave it undesignated. By placing fewer restrictions on your gift, you give the Foundation the opportunity to direct it to where the need is greatest at the time.

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

Five Minutes with Bruce Dow

A Q&A with a member of the 2015–2016 English Theatre Ensemble

Bruce Dow not only starred in NAC English Theatre's production *Twelfth Night* this season, he also directed *I Am For You* for English Theatre last fall. We asked the actor/director how it feels to be a member of the Ensemble and what it's like being on both sides of the stage.

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

A: At the age of 7, I asked my mom if Batman on TV was really "Batman"? She explained the odd/sad/funny truth about acting—and I was hooked.

Q: How does it feel to be a member of the 2015–2016 English Theatre Ensemble?

A: When I accepted this job, I don't think I truly understood what it meant to be a part of this group of artists assembled from across the nation. Once I met the Ensemble and realized their breadth of professional experiences and talents, I was truly overwhelmed.

Q: Not only are you starring in *Twelfth Night*, you've also directed a play this season. What is it like to be a director as well as an actor?

A: All the prep in the world (as either actor or director) can only serve you so far—it's all collaborative play. The director's job is to shape the experience



Bruce Dow
Photo submitted

of that play for both actor and audience—which can be as terrifying as it may be satisfying.

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

A: As theatre artists, we explore what it means to be human and to share life experiences. Only through art can we try to understand what life is truly about—beyond the daily struggle to live. Art cannot happen in our culture without the support of patrons who understand the purpose of that exploration. Thank you.

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
March 1, 2016 14:00	Donor OpenRehearsal—Dance: Hong Kong Ballet: <i>Dancing with the Wind, Castrati, In Light and Shadow</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
March 13, 2016 Le Salon 14:00	NACO Bursary Benefit Concert Tickets available for \$20		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
March 16, 2016 17:30	Donor Preview—French Theatre: <i>Ça ira (1) Fin de Louis</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
March 30, 2016 14:00	Donor Open Rehearsal—NAC Orchestra: <i>Piano on Fire, Mozart & Strauss</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
April 27, 2016 18:45	Donor Preview—English Theatre: <i>Belle Soeurs: The Musical</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
April 28, 2016 18:30	Corporate Circle Reception <i>Night at the Cotton Club</i>	•							
May 22, 2016 Studio 14:00	NACO Bursary Finals <i>Open to the Public</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•
May 25, 2016 14:00	Donor Open Rehearsal—NAC Orchestra: <i>With Fresh Ears, Sibelius, Bach & Mozart</i>		•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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

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