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**2014–2015
REPORT TO
SUPPORTERS**

Dear Donor:

Your continued generous support of the National Arts Centre's (NAC) *National Youth and Education Trust* (NYET) nurtures and develops the creativity of young people from coast, to coast, to coast. Your commitment also supports the educators and artists who challenge and encourage them.

Since 2001, the NYET has funded programs for young audiences that captivate imaginations and help to spark a lifelong love of the performing arts, including the *Music Alive Program*, student matinees, open rehearsals and subsidized tickets for dance, music and theatre performances. The Trust also provides much needed resources to teachers including study guides, teacher information nights, and online material found on the NAC's re-designed website www.nac-cna.ca/education and on www.ArtsAlive.ca.

The NYET also funds artist training, with programs that give unique and important opportunities to young artists, such as masterclasses and workshops, as well as longer-term studies through the internationally renowned *Summer Music Institute* and the *Institute for Orchestral Studies*.

This report describes a selection of NYET-funded arts education programs offered by the NAC in music, dance and theatre and how your contributions make a vital impact on the lives of students, teachers and young artists.

Whether you donate to the *Summer Music Institute*, Dance masterclasses, or support the NAC Gala, we hope this report gives you a deeper understanding of the invaluable arts education programs that are made possible because of your generosity. Thank you!

For more information about these NYET programs and many others, please contact the National Arts Centre Foundation at 613-947-7000 ext. 315 or visit www.nacfoundation.ca where you can read about the difference you are making in the lives of students and young artists every day.

Thank You!



**ENGAGING
YOUNG
AUDIENCES**

Music Circle Workshops

In its second year, the *Music Circle Workshops* program, which is run in collaboration with the Lotus Centre for Special Music Education, was expanded to reach even more participants. In 2014–2015, over 50 children, youth and adults with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disorders took part in this free, exciting and hands-on program.

The program enabled participants to:

- learn about orchestral brass instruments in a familiar environment;
- be engaged in creative group music-making and play brass instruments;
- take part in listening activities and participatory elements such as singing and rhythmic movement; and
- come to the NAC and hear the NAC Orchestra’s Rideau Lakes Brass Quintet perform live!

NAC Orchestra French horn player Elizabeth Simpson facilitated the workshops for elementary school children at the Lotus Centre in February and March 2015, as well as high school students from the Ottawa Technical Secondary School in November and December 2014. Elizabeth also arranged for adults with autism at Young Challengers to come to the NAC to listen to and meet with members of the Rideau Lakes Brass Quintet in March 2015.

“Thank you for such an absolutely amazing experience! From the lessons in the class to the finale at the NAC, our students enjoyed every minute. Some of the students would arrive early for class when they saw Liz. Liz you are wonderful with our students - naturally comfortable and so encouraging. I do hope we can do more of these sessions.”

Anne Villeneuve, teacher at OTSS Autism Program



Music Circle Workshop participant playing a brass instrument, in the NAC Salon

TD Family Adventures with the NAC Orchestra

The *TD Family Adventures with the National Arts Centre Orchestra* series introduced another generation of children to the beautiful world of classical music. **Over 11,643 children and family members attended TD Family Adventures concerts in 2014–2015!** Maestro Alain Trudel, along with other guest conductors, brought classical music to life in each of the Saturday afternoon concerts. Special guests like puppeteer Dean Bareham, actor Paul Rainville, Platypus Theatre and Magic Circle Mime Company members performed alongside the NAC Orchestra, helping to create lively and interactive concert experiences. The NAC Otron, a giant screen made possible by Rogers TV, offered up-close views of the Orchestra and the performers on stage.

Friends of the NAC Orchestra organized over 40 thematically linked interactive activity stations, known as *TUNETOWN*, prior to the start of each concert, helping to make the afternoon at the NAC fun for the whole family.



TD Family Adventures with the National Arts Centre Orchestra Beethoven Lives Upstairs. Photo: Paul Pement.

NAC Orchestra Student Open Rehearsals

The NAC Orchestra Student open rehearsals are a unique opportunity for school groups to experience a professional orchestra's rehearsal process. These rehearsals allowed students to meet some of the featured artists in person prior to the rehearsal. In the 2014–2015 season **over 1,100 students and teachers attended seven NAC Orchestra student open rehearsals.**



Open rehearsal: A full house of students and educators for an NAC Orchestra open rehearsal

French Theatre Outreach

Close to **9,000 audience members attended French Theatre youth programming productions** at the NAC in 2014–2015. These included 35 French Theatre student matinees and 25 family shows.

Eighteen schools also took advantage of the transportation assistance program for schools, which was established through the generosity of donors. The program, which provides discounts on school bus transportation costs, **helped 1,054 students attend one or more of the matinees.** Many of these children were attending a play for the first time.

Discovering Theatre through Reading

For the third year in a row, two sets of play scripts, one specifically intended for elementary school students and the other for high school students, were donated to the libraries of two schools whose students attended French Theatre matinees in 2014–2015.

Since words and stories can enrich the lives of every child, the French Theatre program introduced a “Reading Corner” in the NAC’s Studio foyer for all the family performances of children’s shows. This area was developed with the assistance of the Ottawa Public Library.



Reading Corner: Toddlers enjoy French Theatre reading corner in the NAC Studio's foyer.

Student Matinees in Music, Theatre and Dance

The National Arts Centre welcomed youth aged 2 to 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 be part of the audience for performances by the NAC's own English Theatre ensemble as well as some of the best performers in French Theatre from across the country.

Over 22,950 students and teachers attended NAC student matinees during the 2014–2015 season!

The NAC Orchestra welcomed 11,250 students and teachers to its student matinee performances and student open rehearsals, including:

- *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* (January 2015), an NAC Orchestra co-production with Classical Kids LIVE, featuring Canadian conductor Lucas Waldin and Ottawa actors Paul Rainville and Mathieu-Philippe Perras. Based on the world-famous and highly-acclaimed recording, *Beethoven Lives Upstairs* was a fun and imaginative way to introduce young students to the beauty of Beethoven's music and the torment of his deafness, told through excerpts from more than 25 of his best-loved musical works;
- *Latin Beats, Heroic Feats!* (February 2015), a brand new co-commission of the NAC Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. This dynamic performance had students dancing in their seats to the vibrant and energetic music of Piazzolla, Villa-Lobos, and Ginastera; and
- *From Jazz to Hip Hop* (April 2015), an exploration of the evolution of popular music from the turn of the 20th century to present day with Maestro Alain Trudel and the NAC Orchestra with help from award-winning guests. Special guests included members of the Nepean All-City Jazz Band, Canadian swing dance champions Swing Dynamite, and turntable and scratch extraordinaire DJ Paolo Kapunan. *From Jazz to Hip Hop* grabbed the attention and enthusiasm of the high school audience, something which often presents a challenge.



NAC Orchestra: A full house for the *From Jazz to Hip-Hop* student matinee.

French Theatre welcomed over 5,615 students and teachers to their student matinees, including:

- *Eaux* (November 2014), a show aimed at a toddler audience featuring two performers – a dancer and a bass player – who create a watercolour world on the banks of a shimmering landscape. This was a first-ever visit to the NAC for the young children who attended *Eaux*, who were charmed and mesmerized by the performance;
- *Listen to the Silence* (November 2014), an interactive theatre-concert aimed at students aged 5 and above, which combined acoustic juggling and visual acrobatics;
- *Les grands-mères mortes* (February 2015), a joyful tribute to all those who have left us, with a special nod and a wink to grandmothers who are right there, dancing in our hearts;
- *L’histoire du grillon égaré dans un salon* (February/March 2015), a play composed in a series of tableaux linked by a melodic theme, giving pride of place to the suggestive virtues of music. The soundscape sketches a world of many possibilities. A fascinating adventure that, in the spirit of the stories of Lewis Carroll, skillfully blends poetry with fantasy;
- *Nœuds Papillon* (April 2015), which tells the story of Amélie who has cloaked herself in a cocoon of silence to cope with the absence of her father. But inside that chrysalis lurks several stories. Through the metamorphosis that takes place, Amélie quietly re-establishes contact with the world. The show pays tribute to those who have gone before us as it sketches a portrait of rich possibilities;
- *Terrier* (May 2015), which was the result of a first-ever collaboration between Théâtre du Gros Mécano and Les Incomplètes. The play includes clowning, shadow theatre, comical noise machines and explores the challenges of friendship and of living together;
- *Richard III* (April 2015), the last part of a Shakespearian tetralogy, which tells the story of the extremely rapid ascension – and equally spectacular fall – of the Duke of Gloucester; and
- *Album de finissants* (May 2015), which included some twenty high school students on stage as part of *de plien pied* (see page 11).

Note: In some cases, artists also offered in-class workshops and presentations to prepare young audiences for the shows they were about to see (*Listen to the Silence*, *Les grand-mères mortes* and *Album de finissants*).

“When asked what she thought of *Listen to the Silence* – un voyage avec John Cage, a young girl came up with a new word to describe what she experienced: “**musi-coloured!**”

Mélanie Dumont, Associate Artistic Director, Youth Programming in NAC French Theatre

English Theatre welcomed 4,115 students and teachers to student matinees, including:

- *The Importance of Being Earnest* (October / November 2015) and *Alice Through the Looking-Glass* (December 2014) are both based on popular English books of the late 19th century and were a hit with students, who enjoyed the clever humor of Oscar Wilde’s writing and the whimsy of *Alice*;
- *Do You Want What I Have Got? A Craigslist Cantata* (November 2014), a wonderfully witty and just downright fun chamber musical exploring contemporary humanity through online classified ads. The students really enjoyed the eclectic mix of song and dance in the play;
- *The Queen of Paradise’s Garden* (February 2015), a wonderful new adaptation of a traditional Newfoundland folk tale with puppets! We followed the mischievous, big-hearted Jack on his journey to visit the Queen of Paradise. The young audience loved the humour, warmth, and sly wit of Andy Jones which has made him one of the island’s finest and best-loved storytellers;
- *The Great Mountain* (March 2015), a 50-minute play aimed at children in Grades 1-7 inspired by a traditional Northern Plains story;
- *Take Me Back to Jefferson* (March / April 2015), a vibrant theatrical adaptation of William Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*, featuring multiple narrators on a bare stage, a supremely versatile cast, and powerful movement-based physical theatre; and
- *The Double* (April / May 2015), an ingenious Molotov cocktail comedy filled with laughter, obsession, and original live music. This Dora Mavor Moore Award-winning dark satire features the dazzling prose of Dostoëvsky, over-the-top physical comedy, and outrageously entertaining performances by a brilliant cast of three.

Note: for most performances, teacher guides were provided to help connect the curriculum to the performance for the target age group.

“My name is Lisa Derry and I'm a teacher at Ridgemont High School. I brought 40 grade 11 and 12 college students to the play [Importance of Being Earnest]. I'll admit, when I received the details along with the education package and saw the length of the play, I was a little worried my students wouldn't be able to make it for that long. I was pleasantly surprised by this production and my students loved it! They are generally well behaved, but this was beyond any expectations. They thought the actors were amazing and found the extra explanation/clarification added to the script on some of the more outdated references very helpful. They all said it was very funny and that the time flew by!

Without these kinds of shows, many of these students would never get to see a professional production put on in a theatre like the NAC. I want to thank you for making programs available to students for such an affordable price - what an amazing opportunity for students (and teachers - I loved it!).”

Lisa Derry

NAC Dance welcomed over 1,960 students and teachers to student matinees, including:

- Alberta Ballet's *The Nutcracker* (December 2014). This student matinee was sold out by early November, an indication of the high demand to see this performance. *The Nutcracker* featured 85 young dancers from Ottawa-Gatineau in the roles of party children, mice, rats, soldiers, and palace pages. Many of the attending schools had students who were performing in the work, a definite highlight for those students and their peers. In order to help teachers identify curriculum links with *The Nutcracker*, an extensive study guide was made available to teachers who had purchased tickets. Blair Puente and Harry Patterson of Alberta Ballet gave a "post-show" chat with 90 third-graders from Saint-Gabriel Elementary School. The students were clearly enthralled; and
- *The Handmaid's Tale* (January 2015). A Royal Winnipeg Ballet performance based on the novel by Margaret Atwood. Although the subject matter was especially challenging, the artistry was well appreciated by students despite the serious topics being explored. Teacher guides were created in both official languages for the production.



Post-student matinee education events for students: Alberta Ballet's *The Nutcracker* post-show chat; students from St. Gabriel Elementary School meet the Mouse King.

French Theatre | De plain-pied

This season, French Theatre launched one-of-a-kind public events structured around teenagers and their concerns, including social pressures, the environment, their place in today's society, their future, school stress and more. The project included three signature events: two which put teenagers on the stage at the NAC (*Album de finissants* and *Ce qui nous relie ?*), and an *Action-Creation Cell* which filled the NAC with surprising interactive installations and activities. Preparations for these uniquely creative events took several months and involved more than 60 youth from the Ottawa-Gatineau region who spoke out convincingly to both families and friends, showing them how to see the world through the prism of adolescence.

Album de finissants

The remounting of *Album de finissants* at the NAC gave two groups of teenagers a thrilling experience. The show, which is conceived for five professional actors and a core of 20 teenagers by Anne-Sophie Rouleau and Michelle Parent, gave 40 students from Ottawa's De La Salle High School and Gatineau's Polyvalente Le Carrefour the opportunity to share the stage with professional actors for five performances in the NAC's Studio.



Hands-on theatre training: a student performs as part of the production *Album de finissant*

These 40 teens made up the chorus of the show and performed complex choreography, complementing the work of professional actors. Some of the participants were theatre students and therefore more familiar with the stage, while others were taking part in a theatrical performance for the first time. Their contribution required over 30 hours of workshops and rehearsals in which the students worked closely with the show's director and assistant director. The dynamic presence of the students as an adjunct to the content of the show completely impressed the appreciative audience of 800!

Ce qui nous relie?

For a second consecutive year, French Theatre brought together a group of 11 youth from Ottawa-Gatineau schools, selected through a call for applications that was sent to schools as well as the community at large. These teenagers met regularly with artist Anne-Marie Guilmaine over a period of 8 months to prepare a performance which they presented on stage at the NAC. With 14 rehearsals and over 120 hours of work, these young artists participated in all stages of the creation process, including work-shopping, rehearsing and presenting their work. On May 16, 2015, these young artists presented an extraordinary performance that highlighted their stunning sensitivity and creativity. An audience of 250 came to see this performance.

An Action-Creation Cell

For several months, under the leadership of Mélanie Dumont, Associate Producer of French Theatre and Youth Programming, a dozen teenagers made full use of their imagination and ingenuity to transform several NAC spaces. Starting from a clean slate, the students designed, developed and created a dozen interactive activities and installations – some of which might be considered hair-raising – for audiences to explore during the *De plain-pied* public event.

These spaces included:

- an existential maze in the Julia Foster Lounge (*Bienvenue dans ta tête / Welcome to your head*);
- karaoke dancing in the foyer of the NAC Studio, transformed into a seaside location;
- a mysterious jungle in an NAC hallway (*Lianes et libertés*); and
- a decompression chamber full of bubble wrap in the Theatre Foyer.



De plain-pied: images of students who took part in this creative and unique theatre experience.

We do everything together, from dreaming to ideas, and then the design and construction... I had no idea that it would require so much energy, work and consensus building. I am proud to have been involved, because there is a little bit of me in every step of the process. I grew as a human being through contact with the group. I now find it easier to know what I want and how to express it.

Gabrielle Lemire, member of the *Action-Creation Cell*

Family Day at the NAC

NAC Family Day celebrated its fifth anniversary on Monday, February 16, 2015. Approximately **5,000 visitors came to take part in the wide variety of free activities** “for children and the people who love them.” Highlights included giant bowling, parent-child reversal games, wacky mirrors, giant rock-paper-scissors, the Family Day Doodle Hunt, and several other hands-on workshops in theatre and dance.

Members of the English Theatre Ensemble were the lead teaching artists for Family Day. They were joined by workshop leaders Venessa Lachance and Kristina Watt, NAC Dance Teaching Artist Sioned Watkins, as well as artists from the Canadian Improv Games and the Ottawa Stilt Union, among others. Over 60 volunteers, members of the Friends of English Theatre, and several other community organizations helped to ensure the success of this annual event.



Family Day: children hanging out in the Giant Teacup; a competitive game of *Giant Rock, Paper, Scissors*; Wacky Mirrors; playing with puppets.

International Partnerships in Music Education

From October 22 to 31, 2014, the National Arts Centre Orchestra undertook a **highly successful ten-day remembrance, performance and education tour of the United Kingdom.**

Led by Music Director and violin soloist Pinchas Zukerman, the NAC Orchestra gave five major concerts and 50 educational events in six cities: Glasgow, Edinburgh, Nottingham, London, Salisbury and Bristol.

The UK Tour education and outreach activities were extremely successful in using music as a source of healing and remembrance, further underlining the theme of the Tour. **With more than 50 education and engagement events held in collaboration with 40 partners, the Tour reached more than 5,000 people in the United Kingdom and in Canada, above and beyond those who attended the five evening concerts.**

Inspire Day

In Glasgow, “Inspire Day” was produced by the NAC in partnership with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. The event featured two quintets from each orchestra performing First World War repertoire to 100 children from four schools in the area. Children responded creatively to the music through both art work and performance they listened to in the award-winning Glasgow Riverside Transport Museum.

“This was a tremendous opportunity to join with our visiting colleagues from Canada’s National Arts Centre in bringing an interactive project to the regions’ primary school pupils. Using creative arts in the process of learning, in this case understanding significant historical events, the participants develop a greater connection with the subject matter.”

Jenn Minchin, Director of Learning & Engagement, Royal Scottish National Orchestra,
Glasgow Evening Times



Inspire Day: School children participate in *Inspire Day* at the Glasgow Riverside Transport Museum, on October 24, 2014.

ConneXXions 2014

One of the education highlights of the UK Tour was *ConneXXions 2014*, which was produced by the NAC in partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) and Royal College of Music (RCM) in London. Linked through high speed broadband videoconference, the Brent Youth Concert Band in London and Colonel By Senior Band in Ottawa performed repertoire from the First World War as well as a newly created work. Canadian composer Abigail Richardson hosted the event in Ottawa, while Ruth Currie, Director of Education for the RPO and Geneviève Cimon, the NAC's Director of Music Education and Community Outreach, hosted from London.

Additionally, Dame Evelyn Glennie, the virtuoso percussionist and composer, was featured as a special guest and performed with RCM percussionist Stefan Beckett. Together, they performed a newly commissioned work by RCM student composer Bertram Wee to great acclaim. Dame Glennie also answered questions from students from both countries.

The Colonel By Senior Band also gave the world premier of "A Canadian at Vimy Ridge: The Story of Tom Williams", composed by Abigail Richardson with the collaboration of the students in the Senior Band.



ConneXXions 2014:
Dame Evelyn Glennie performs with Stefan Beckett from the Amaryllis Fleming Concert Hall stage at the Royal College of Music, while students from Colonel By Secondary School Senior Concert Band watches on from the NAC's Fourth Stage in Ottawa.

Young Artist Training on Tour

NAC Orchestra musicians conducted masterclasses and coaching sessions with talented young musicians in each city visited on Tour. In Scotland, they coached Big Noise, Scotland's Sistema youth orchestra, as well as students studying at the Conservatory of Music. In Nottingham, musicians led "Strive for the Best, Keys to Success" workshops with promising high school music students. In London, masterclasses took place at the Royal College of Music and Trinity Laban College of Music. In Bristol, students from Wells Cathedral School and West England University were treated to coaching sessions and masterclasses.

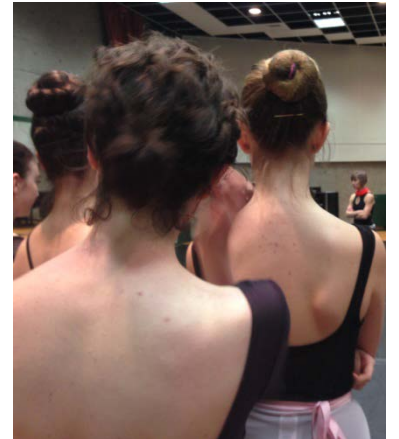
NAC Orchestra Music Director Pinchas Zukerman worked with three outstanding violin students from the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music in London. The entire masterclass is available for viewing on the NAC's YouTube channel.



Pre-Concert Activities

All UK Tour concerts featured animated pre-concert activities, including professional, youth and community choirs which performed repertoire from the First World War. In London, Nottingham and Bristol, choirs also sang an NAC co-commissioned choral work, *Song of the Poets*, composed by Abigail Richardson. Composer John Estacio gave pre-concert lectures about his piece *Brio* to capacity crowds, including a conversation with BBC radio host Stephen Johnson in Bristol. Finally, in Edinburgh, London and Bristol, Youth Ambassadors from the Prince's Trust charity were given the opportunity to host the NAC Orchestra from the stage and remind audiences of the power of music to positively impact the lives of young people.





**IN THE CLASSROOM
AND IN THE STUDIO**

Musical Adventures in My School

One of the major objectives of the NAC is to develop and expand programs for young audiences. Youth and Education continues to be a core activity of each artistic discipline at the NAC. The NAC is committed to raising awareness and understanding of the performing arts in classrooms in order to enrich the lives of young Canadians. In a time of major funding cuts to arts education in school boards across the country, the need for such in-school resources is greater than ever.

The *Musical Adventures in My School* brings various ensembles of musicians at an affordable rate into schools (Kindergarten to Grade 12). For those schools that cannot afford the transportation costs of bringing students to the NAC, this may be their only opportunity to benefit from a live performance. Schools may choose from eight different ensembles (primarily NAC Orchestra players) whose one-hour performances feature musical styles that range from baroque to jazz. In 2014–2015, a new string quartet (*Simon Says Silflay!*) was added to the *Musical Adventures* list. Fifty-three performances took place reaching 9,757 students and 811 teachers.



In School Programs: *Musical Adventures* at Cavalry Christian Academy.



Concert Band Workshops

Alain Trudel, the NAC Orchestra's Principal Youth and Family Conductor, led seven workshops at seven local high schools in the winter and spring of 2014–2015. He worked with over 500 students at John McCrae Secondary School, the Nepean All-City Jazz Band, Rideau High School, South Carleton High School, West Carleton Secondary School, Canterbury High School and Brookfield High School. Maestro Trudel observed and conducted rehearsals, in addition to performing for the students. Maestro Trudel is determined to make tangible connections with schools in Ottawa and surrounding areas, and especially in making inroads with local high school music programs.

"[Alain Trudel] was amazing. I loved that he was able to quickly determine the level of my bands and realize that he could push them, while also balancing that with positive reinforcement. His playing was also very inspiring to my kids."

Teacher

NAC Dance in Schools

During the 2014–2015 season, three contemporary dance masterclasses were held with respected Dance Artists: Quebec-based Frederic Tavernini and British Columbia-based Amber Funk Barton and Josh Martin. In February 2015, South African dancer and choreographer Vincent Mantsoe, who was in Ottawa as part of NAC Dance's *Face 2 Face*, shared his personal approach to performance to aspiring dancers.

October 9, 2014 Masterclass with Frederic Tavernini

- While here to perform with recent Governor General's Performing Arts Award recipient, and NAC Associate dance artist Louise Lecavalier in the NAC co-produced *So Blue*, dancer Frédéric Tavernini led an 1.5 hour workshop at Ottawa's The School of Dance; and
- Twenty-two dancers participated in the masterclass, while four contemporary dance teachers observed.

October 24, 2014 Masterclass with Amber Funk Barton and Josh Martin

- Amber Funk Barton and Josh Martin, performers and choreographers of the NAC Dance co-production of *Leftovers, Hero & Heroine*, taught a 1.5 hour masterclass at The School of Dance. Amber and Josh shared their particular exercises, passion and expertise with pre-professional dancers; and
- Eighteen dancers and two contemporary teachers attended the extremely physical class.

February 6, 2015 Masterclass with Vincent Mantsoe

- South African choreographer and performer Vincent Mantsoe shared his specialized technique called Koba, an Afro-fusion mixed technique of traditional African dance with contemporary Western street styles/martial arts, to create an exhilarating and passionate new language with contemporary dancers from The School of Dance; and
- Fourteen students attended and two teachers observed this exhilarating masterclasses.



Dance Masterclasses: Amber Funk Barton watching as Josh Martin leads the way in this contemporary masterclass; Vincent Mantsoe teaches a contemporary masterclass.

NAC Dance in Schools

This year NAC Dance embarked on a new initiative involving NAC Associate Dance Artists. Dancer Sarah Doucet collaborated with NAC Dance Associate Artist Dana Gingras for an incredible experience for teenagers. After viewing Dana Gingras's film *Chain Reaction* students were encouraged to discuss, to ask questions, and to dance some of the repertory from the film. Sarah Doucet prepared workshops tailored to each level and grade. **Eight film screenings and workshops in four high schools took place with over 120 participants.**



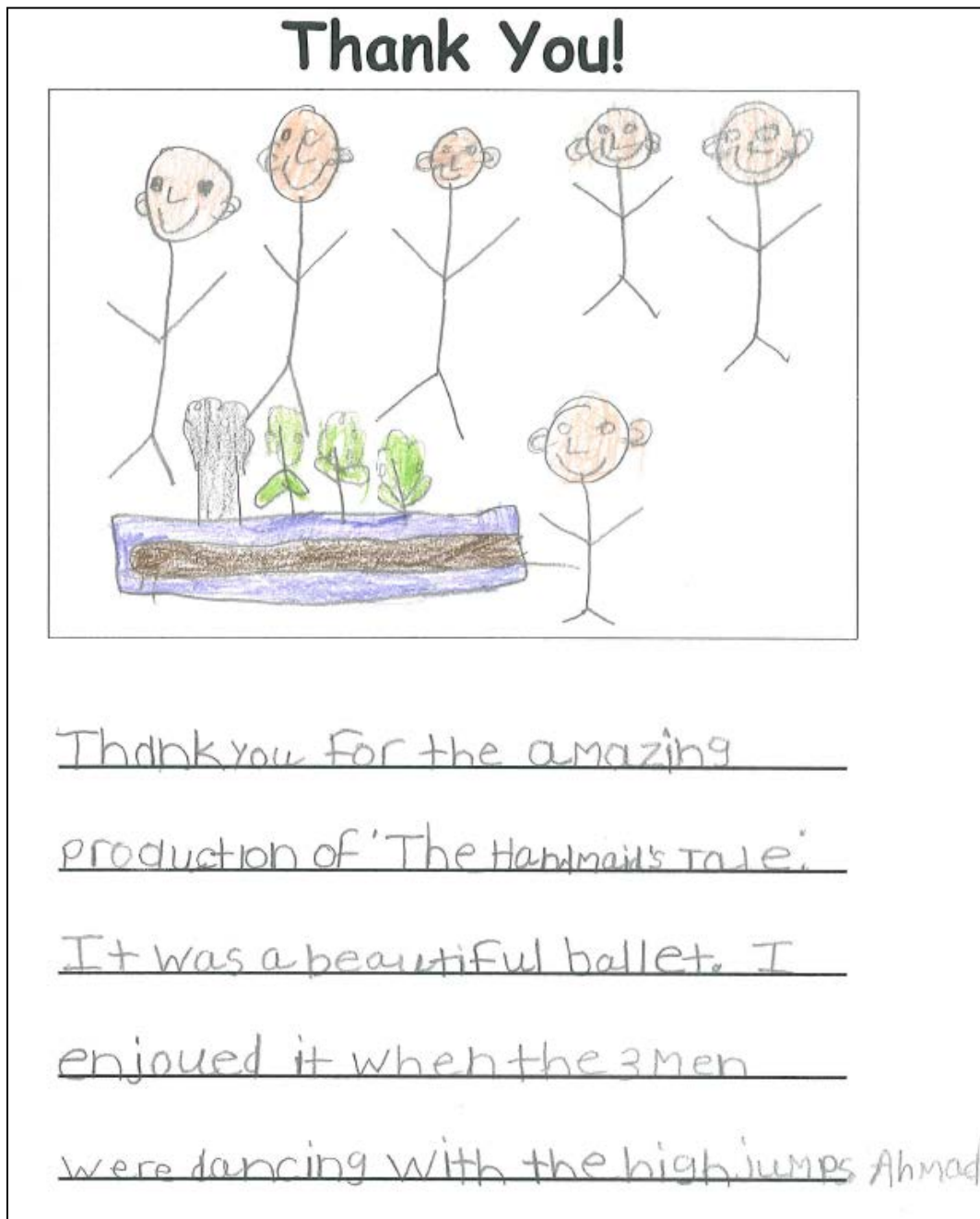
In the studio: *Chain Reaction* workshop at École Secondaire Publique De La Salle.

"As a recent graduate of the Contemporary Programme here in Ottawa, the workshops organized by the NAC are the best thing that we can have in Ottawa for a young professional dancer like me. These workshops help us a lot to grow as an artist. I want to say thanks to everybody that makes these events happen! The workshops are a great challenge for us and a good way to make sure that we stay involved and up to date in the dance community!"

Marie-Michelle Darveau
Recent graduate of The School of Dance Contemporary Program

Royal Winnipeg Ballet Outreach and Education

NAC Dance programmed a week of education events alongside the Royal Winnipeg Ballet's production of *The Handmaid's Tale*, including the opportunity for students to attend the dress rehearsal matinee on January 22. Royal Winnipeg Ballet's Ballet Master, Jamie Vargas, led nine dance workshops, two 60-minute "A Day in a Dancer's Shoes" presentations, three ballet masterclasses, and an impromptu backstage tour of the NAC. **A total of 446 students from six Ottawa schools benefited from this outreach with Jaime Vargas!**



Thank you to the RWB: Thank you letter from a student at Ridgemont High School's developmentally delayed program.



Outreach at its best: Jaime Vargas working with young students at Elgin Street Public School.

"Jaime offered dance lessons to our students at Elgin Street P.S. (Grades 1-6) through an NAC Dance Outreach Program. All of our students were captivated by his talents as a dancer. After the workshops, our students told their parents how much they loved the sessions, and this information is a true testament to the validity and effectiveness of his program! We truly hope that we will have the opportunity to have Jaime return to our school for a series of ballet workshops through the Outreach Program in the very near future!"

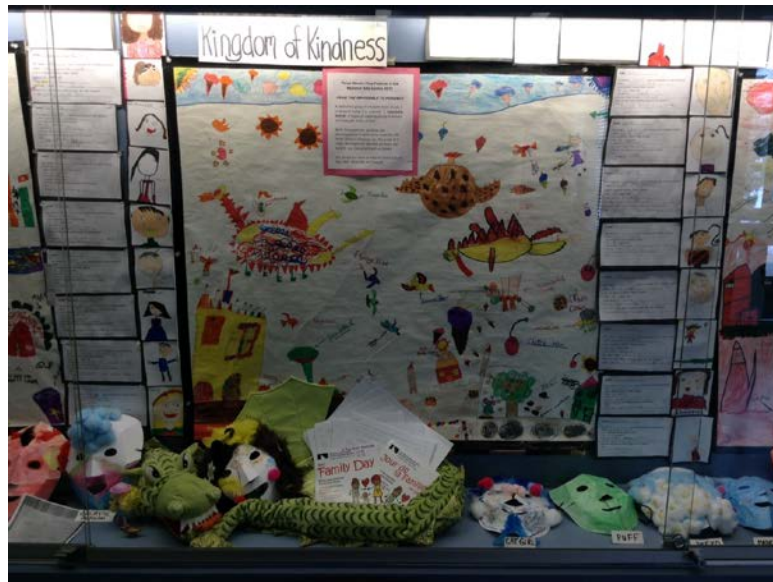
Andrea Hallendy-Mallon Arts Co-ordinator Elgin Street Public School



Ballet masterclasses: Jaime Vargas at Canterbury high school (left); Jamie Vargas at Woodroffe High School (right).

English Theatre's Three Minute Play Festival

The *Three Minute Play Festival Project*, now in its 4th year, took another leap forward in 2015. For several weeks in January and February, teaching artist Kristina Watt led a series of in-school creation workshops with two local schools, culminating in the *Three Minute Play Festival* on Family Day at the NAC. Grade 3 students at General Vanier Public School created spectacular artwork on the theme of "Possible Worlds". The completed artwork was delivered to the Grade 4 students at Connaught Public School where it inspired the creation of seven Three Minute Plays. These plays were then presented at the NAC in the form of staged readings performed by visitors of all ages. The younger students also had their original artwork on display at the NAC. Altogether, it was a transformative experience for the young creators.



Three Minute Play: Artwork created by the students at General Vanier Public School.

Feedback from Julie Coburn, General Vanier PS Teacher:

"I just have to tell you that the kids felt like a million dollars when you gave them personal credit for what they did. William was so excited that every time you said his name, his smile got wider and wider and then I think a boy in his group went to shake his hand and he hugged him! Jasmine's parents were also so proud of her accomplishments. So thank you!"

Feedback from Tammy McCormack, Principal of General Vanier PS:

"Thank you for enriching the students and their families with this amazing arts experience! The students' confidence and creativity has grown immensely!"

French Theatre's Meet the Artists Program

The Education Team at the NAC believes that giving youth the opportunity to meet artists in person and ask questions and have a dialogue, is essential to providing them with a more rounded experience and personal connection with the performing arts.

Through French Theatre's *Meet the Artists Program* artists visit the classroom and speak to students about the work they will see at the NAC, youth are introduced to the remarkable imaginary worlds created by the artists and are provided with a better understanding of artistic work, and how it requires considerable thought, difficult decisions and a new way of looking at the world. In 2014-2015, **more than 500 students attended the 18 workshops given by three artists** in which they learned all about the worlds created by:

- Venessa Lachance, a young musician and specialist in experimental and contemporary music, who provided a workshop inspired by John Cage and the *Listen to the Silence* show. Venessa conducted six workshops at four elementary schools, for children from ages 6 to 12 years old;
- Karine Sauvé, the creator and performer of *Grands-mères mortes*, who conducted six workshops at five elementary schools, for children from ages 8 to 13 years old; and
- Mathieu Arsenault, author of *Album de finissants*, the collection of stories on which the performance of the same name was based, conducted six workshops in four secondary schools, for teenagers from 14 to 18 years old.

In addition:

- Brigitte Haentjens, Artistic Director of French Theatre at the NAC, also gave a classroom talk to a group of CEGEP de l'Outaouais students who had just seen *Richard III*. For 90 minutes, she answered interesting and relevant questions about the production, as well as about her own background and work as a Theatre Director and Artistic Director.



“His unconventional personality, his rebellious artistic side and his creative writing make him an extraordinary individual... My students are still talking about the writing workshop he gave us. I was surprised by how engrossed the students were.”

Fanie Sincennes

The Music Alive Program - Celebrating Music Making in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nunavut

Alberta & Saskatchewan

Since 2006, the National Arts Centre's *Music Alive Program* in Alberta and Saskatchewan has increased access to music education in rural and remote communities. Both students and teachers are given the opportunity to participate in interactive musical experiences, learn new skills, and listen to inspiring live music from our talented teaching artists. **Thanks in part to generous support from donors and corporate supporters the *Music Alive Program* reached 4,752 students in 45 schools during the 2014–2015 season.**

2014–2015 marked the first year of the *Music Alive Program's* next three-year cycle, and marked a year of exciting changes for the program. Schools now have the choice to participate in one of three MAP streams: Classical Composers; Indigenous Arts; and Cross-Cultural Experiences (which includes both classical and indigenous musical forms). The Indigenous Arts stream was a particularly popular new program choice as it responds to the latest curriculum guidelines on Indigenous art and culture. It also filled the need for Indigenous students to find inspiration and cultural affirmation through music. In addition, the new MAP streams include a full-day visit from one or two MAP teaching artists. The full-day allowed teaching musicians to deepen the learning and fully explore participatory activities beyond the one-hour presentation that the program had offered in previous years. The day-long visit included small group workshops and a shared performance that encouraged creativity and discovery.

This year's program theme, *Music and Nature*, carried across all three program streams, and the featured composer in the NAC's popular Classical Composers and Cross-Cultural programs was Antonio Vivaldi.

Every participating school received a resource package corresponding to their particular program stream, and students once again enjoyed learning and singing the *Music Alive Program* song in English, French, and Cree.

This entire initiative is outstanding. Thank you, thank you for this programming! The engagement and excitement of the presenters truly brought the music to life for the students. Thank you so much for what you are doing for young musicians in Canada!

Melody Taylor, Teacher
Manning School, Manning AB



Music Alive Program: MAP Teaching Artist Samantha Whelan Kotkas and Walter White Bear MacDonald with students from Manning Elementary School.

Manitoba

The NAC partnered with two organizations for the fourth year of the *Music Alive Program* in Manitoba: the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) and the Frontier School Division.

The WSO partnership featured three full-day, team-taught visits with MAP teaching musicians Ken MacDonald (WSO horn player) and Andrew Balfour (Aboriginal composer and choral director with Camerata Nova). The four participating schools were located in the small rural communities of Waterhen, Crane River, and Rorketon. In total, **300 students experienced the *Music Alive Program* through this partnership.** Ken and Andrew focused on creative and interactive work with the students, and their sessions culminated in group compositions.



Music Alive Program in Manitoba: Students at Lakefront School in Crane River try the French horn; with MAP teaching artist Ken MacDonald; Students at Rorketon School enthusiastically participate in a shared performance.

The *Music Alive Program* partnered with the Frontier School Division to continue the fiddle-focused music program in the tiny, remote community of Brochet in Manitoba's far north. The Brochet School program follows the successful model for music instruction pioneered by the Frontier School Division over 15 years ago, a model which features tablature notation and enables students to stay motivated by learning to play real tunes quickly. The program in Brochet has been a hit with students, and **87 students in Grades 2 to 12 participated in 2014–2015.** Frontier teacher and *Music Alive Program* teaching artist Nathan Halcrow led the program in Brochet, and this year four Brochet students had the opportunity to attend the Frontier Fiddle Jamboree, a highly anticipated event for selected music students from across northern Manitoba.

“We find that when we are able to get in the school and start working with the students, and the teachers and principal see it is what we can do, there is an 'Ah-ha' moment, one where they can see that this is so much more than teaching students about classical music. We are helping empower these students with the idea of sound, self-expression, creative freedom, cultural awareness, and so many other avenues of the creative process. All schools this year were very receptive and supportive to our program, both principals at the new schools were impressed and were able to identify what we were trying to accomplish with their students. Once again, I feel honoured to be able to take part in such an important and powerful program.”

Andrew Balfour, MAP Manitoba Teaching Artist

Nunavut

During the 2014–2015 season, the *Music Alive Program* in Nunavut offered school and community workshops, mentorship opportunities, community concerts, leadership training, and more throughout Nunavut. In collaboration with community partners, seven communities continued as core MAP participants. The NAC’s multi-year commitment to these communities means ongoing support to projects, programs, and individuals to ensure long-term impact. The seven communities are Iqaluit, Pangnirtung, Igloolik, Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset and Baker Lake. In 2014–2015, some additional programming also took place in Kimmirut, Sanikiluaq and Arctic Bay.



By the end of the 2014–2015 season, the NAC worked with 1,400 children and youth, 30 Inuit artists and approximately 700 community members.

“We were able to allow students from each homeroom a chance to do 45 minutes of accordion each day, and they loved it! The young people that participated in the evening dancing did a fantastic job and we fully enjoyed their performance last night! I was very excited to see that even one of our deaf students was one of the dancers that participated all week and was able to keep up with everyone - so awesome! We also enjoyed hearing from one of our Grade 7 students, Ben Qaqasiq, as he played accordion when Josh was taking a break. He is a very accomplished player and it was awesome to have our kids shine. Thank you so much for providing this opportunity for our kids and our community - it was fantastic! We look forward to more opportunities like this one in the future!”

Nicole Davies, Vice principal, Attagoyuk Ilisavik, Pangnirtung, NU



MAP Nunavut: Hip Hop and Throat Singing Workshops in Baker Lake, featuring Aaron “Godson” Hernandez; Nakasuk School students participate in accordion workshops delivered by MAP Teaching Artists Joshua Quanaq and Greg Brown.

Student Workshops with the NAC English Theatre Ensemble

Launched in the 2013- 2014 season, in-school workshops with the English Theatre Ensemble continued in the 2014-2015 season with four participating schools. Teachers were invited to an open rehearsal of *The Importance of Being Earnest* in the fall, and then met with members of the Ensemble to collaborate on in-school workshops for their students. The actors visited the schools to deliver the workshops later in the season. Participating schools were Glebe Collegiate, Elmwood School, Cambridge Public School and Ridgemont High School.



Members of English Theatre's Ensemble actors with students from Ridgemont High

“The kids loved the workshop! The movement exercises were perfect for them, and the explanations were great, too. They are actually good as a way to focus them and are something we could use with them in the future. The story was also a really good exercise for them, and something we can build on with them.”

*The kids *loved* learning to "die" and how to throw a punch! It was a great novelty for them that they, again, talked about it all afternoon! (They still hit their chests for the sound it makes - they really like that.) Thank you so much for coming and for visiting with them and giving them an experience they (and okay, we as teachers, too) enjoyed immensely.”*

Kelli Watson, Ridgemont High School
Developmentally Delayed Program

The Study on Manitoulin Island

In May 2015, English Theatre brought together 11 Indigenous students from across Canada for a landmark two-week examination of the Indigenous body of work and performance practice at the Debajehmujig Creation Centre on Manitoulin Island, entitled *The Study*. The student company was mentored alongside more than 60 established Indigenous artists and industry leaders with representation from eight provinces and two territories. During the program, students studied Indigenous cultural history, published plays and musicals, performance practices, techniques and traditions, and engaged in a two-day sharing of the learning entitled *The Repast* with Artistic Directors, academics and other professionals from across Canada.

The National Arts Centre English Theatre partnered with the Indigenous Performing Arts Alliance and Debajehmujig Storytellers to provide a platform for this work, as well as a framework from which to build unity and a greater sense of connectivity within the Indigenous arts community, while providing broader exposure and knowledge of Indigenous work to Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists, companies, funders and institutions alike.

Associate Artistic Director Sarah Garton Stanley co-curated the two-week intensive with Algonquin playwright and director Yvette Nolan, and additional curatorial support was provided by Oji-Cree English Theatre Artist-in-Residence Corey Payette, who is also Artistic Director of Urban Ink in Vancouver.



The Study on Manitoulin Island: Theatre students, Nick Nahwegahbow and Samantha Brown, take part in a workshop.



ARTIST TRAINING & SHOWCASING

Summer Music Institute

In the 2014–2015 season, the NAC welcomed 71 participants to the 17th edition of the National Arts Centre's *Summer Music Institute* from June 3 – 27 under the leadership of Pinchas Zukerman and his renowned international faculty. The program focused on private instruction for strings, winds, piano and voice and chamber music studies over the three weeks of the program. Forty-four students, and a resident ensemble, made up the Young Artists Program (seniors) which began on June 3. The Pre-College division had 20 young musicians (12 through 19 years of age) beginning on June 15. Both the Young Artists Program and Pre-College Program culminated in several public performances to which NAC patrons, donors and music enthusiasts were invited to attend. All together the musicians represented ten countries including Armenia, China, South Korea, Iceland, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Turkey, USA, and Canada. The Canadian students came from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

The *Summer Music Institute* was established in 1999 by NAC Orchestra Music Director Pinchas Zukerman, and has since trained over 1,100 participants from every province of Canada, as well as from 39 other countries from around the globe.

Alumni of the *Summer Music Institute* have taken seats in renowned orchestras across Canada and around the world, including in principal roles with the NAC Orchestra. Others have won highly acclaimed international music competitions or have been presented with prestigious awards and bursaries. This is a sure sign of the importance and impact the program has had on young musicians working towards a career in classical music. During the 2014–2015 season, alumni of the *Summer Music Institute* performed in the Pre-Concert Music / *My First NAC* series.



Summer Music Institute (L-R): Patty Kopek, donor Jacques Shore, violinist Jonathan Chern and Peter Herrndorf at the reception hosted by the US Ambassador celebrating the SMI; Pre-college student Michael Song in lessons; Senior level quartet performing at their final concert; Juan-Salvador Carrasco performing in the Senior level final concert.



Institute for Orchestral Studies

The *Institute for Orchestral Studies* (IOS) is a multi-week apprenticeship program designed to prepare highly talented string musicians for successful orchestral careers. After a rigorous audition process, successful applicants are given real-world workplace experience and the unparalleled opportunity to learn from NAC Orchestra members and special guests. In addition to performing with the NAC Orchestra, the apprentices receive valuable mentorship and are given the opportunity to participate in mock auditions. Since the program began in 2006, **52 apprentices from eight different countries have been trained as part of the IOS program.**

The 2014–2015 IOS participants were: Junghee Lee, violin (27, Korea); Shun Yoshino, violin (23, Japan); Vincent Marks, viola (27, Virginia, USA); Sean Hawthorne, cello (22, England) and William Cravy, double bass (22, Colorado, USA).

IOS highlights included:

- performing with the NAC Orchestra in concerts during Music Director, Pinchas Zukerman's Ultimate Season, including all three of four *Vienna Festival* concerts, the NAC Gala featuring Itzhak Perlman, Emanuel Ax & Mozart and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* conducted by NAC Music Director Designate Alexander Shelley;
- joining the NAC Orchestra on its *Tour of Remembrance, Performance and Education* of the United Kingdom between October 22 – 31, 2014. They performed in five major concerts and 50 educational events in six cities, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Nottingham, London, Salisbury and Bristol. The UK Tour commemorated Canada's role in the First World War, widely regarded as a pivotal time when Canada came of age as a nation;
- performing a private chamber concert at Fort Belvedere, the UK home of The Honourable Hilary Weston and Mr. Galen Weston, for donors and sponsors of the Tour; and
- performing a chamber concert at the National Gallery of Canada on November 7, 2014 featuring the works of Mozart, MacMillan and Dvořák.



IOS on the UK Tour: IOS participants performing at the home of The Honourable Hilary Weston and Mr. Galen Weston; IOS students meeting HRH Prince Charles, the Royal Patron of the NAC Orchestra's UK Tour.

My First NAC

Made possible with support from Corus Entertainment, the NAC Orchestra was able to offer pre-concert music performed by talented young Canadian musicians. The chance to perform for the discerning patrons of the Orchestra offered these young artists valuable experience which is part of their training in becoming professional orchestral musicians. This year these exceptionally talented musicians had the opportunity to perform from the stage of Southam Hall prior to three Masterworks concerts on January 29, March 12 and May 14. These three recitals together were named the *My First NAC*:

Thursday January 29, 2015

Yolanda Bruno, violin

Karim Said, piano

- Ottawa violinist Yolanda Bruno received the 2013 Orchestre symphonique de Montréal (OSM)/Standard Life Grand Prize, and several prizes in the NAC Orchestra's Bursary Competition. She has also participated in the NAC's *Summer Music Institute* several times.
- Karim Said accompanied Yolanda on piano. He is a protégé of the renowned Daniel Barenboim.



Thursday March 12, 2015

Anita Pari, piano

- Anita Pari is an exceptionally talented pianist who has participated in the NAC's *Summer Music Institute* for several summers. She also took part in a masterclass led by superstar pianist Lang Lang at the National Arts Centre in 2012.



Thursday May 14, 2015

Kerson Leong, violin

Philip Chiu, piano

- Kerson has participated in the NAC's *Summer Music Institute* several times and most recently won the National Arts Centre's Bursary Competition in 2013. Most notably, at the age of 13 Kerson won the Menuhim Competition in Oslo.



The NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition

The *NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition* is an annual program where aspiring orchestral musicians from the National Capital Region compete in a two-tiered audition process to qualify for various bursaries to help further their musical education. The NAC Orchestra Bursary was established in 1979 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the National Arts Centre Orchestra and to thank the people of the National Capital Region for their support during the Orchestra's first decade. The first competition took place in 1981.

On May 25, eight young musicians from the National Capital Region competed for prizes totaling \$19,000 at the 2015 NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition finals. These finalists were selected from 18 applicants who auditioned before a jury of NAC Orchestra musicians and guest members on May 23 and 24. The grand prize of \$7,000 was awarded to 23-year-old flutist, Phoebe Robertson.

The finalists of the NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition were:

- 2015 NAC Orchestra Bursary Winner – Phoebe Robertson, flute
- Crabtree Foundation Award – Laura Andrew, flute
- Friends of the NAC Orchestra Award – Rachel Domingue, oboe
- The NAC Orchestra Vic Pomer Award– Joel Houghtby, percussion
- The Piccolo Prix – Josh Wynnyk, timpani
- The NAC Orchestra Special Prize for the best performance of Prescribed Orchestral Excerpts – Phoebe Robertson
- Honourable – Allison Miller, Julien Simard, Olivier Brisson



NAC Orchestra Bursary (Photos L-R): Bursary winners Laura Andrew, Phoebe Robertson, Rachel Domingue, Joel Houghtby, Josh Wynnyk; Phoebe Robertson with NAC Orchestra member (clarinet) and Bursary panel member Sean Rice.

Dance Masterclasses and Tea with a Ballerina

During the 2014–2015 season, NAC Dance organized and hosted four ballet masterclasses where young dancers were taught by professional dancers from visiting companies, and they also hosted three *Tea with a Ballerina* events. For the later, small groups of young dancers had the unique opportunity sit with a ballet dancer and ask her questions and receive valuable insight about the life of a ballerina. A total of **1,200 students and 102 teachers attended NAC Dance educational workshops and masterclasses!**



"Taryn's kindness in giving Courtney signed ballet slippers was very moving and so motivating for our daughter. When Courtney got home yesterday afternoon, she danced for over an hour and a half to our Nutcracker CD (but not before telling everyone she knew about her wonderful experiences). Courtney is determined to audition again for the Nutcracker – and we will continue to support her endeavours no matter the outcome."

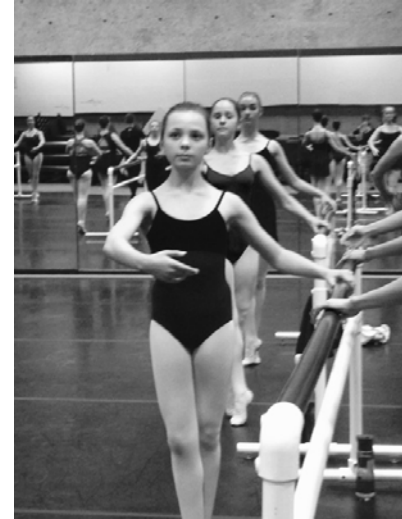
Rejean Mayer (father of Courtney Mayer)

Dance Outreach: Taryn's pointe shoe giveaway at *Tea with a Ballerina*; Lottery draw for *Tea with a Ballerina* participants; *Tea with a Ballerina* -Taryn Nowles of Alberta Ballet on the stage at the Southam Hall with participant Courtney Mayer.



The Alberta Ballet

Alberta Ballet Mistress Beverly Bagg gave a rigorous masterclass for 26 aspiring ballet dancers from six different dance schools. From this group, 12 lucky participants were chosen by lottery to attend the hour-long *Tea with a Ballerina*. Alberta Ballet's Taryn Nowles regaled everyone with story after story and answered questions the participants prepared.



Dance Masterclass: Students participate in Alberta Ballet's masterclass with Ballet Mistress Beverly Bagg; Asper Santa Fe Ballet masterclass working at the barre.

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet apprentice Katie Bonnell was the invited guest for this season's second *Tea with a Ballerina* event. The 12 lucky participants, who were chosen by lottery, also observed a company class taught by Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet Artistic Director André Lewis.

Miami City Ballet

During the Miami City Ballet's visit to the NAC, NAC Dance held its third sold-out *Tea with a Ballerina* event. Twelve young, aspiring, ballerinas from seven different dance schools attended an afternoon tea in the Julia Foster room with Lexi Overholt and Adrienne Carter of the Miami City Ballet. Lexi and Adrienne volunteered their time, signed posters, and gave each participant a signed pair of pointe shoes. They shared their unique perspective of dancing and touring and gave advice on summer schools, pointe shoes, tutus and physiotherapy. Afterwards, everyone stayed to watch the company class, and many of the company signed autographs for the young girls.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet

Executive Director, Jean-Philippe Malaty gave a unique class to an enthusiastic group. Dancers lined up and received personal corrections at the end of class.

"Thank you for the wonderful day you made possible for Charlotte. From allowing staying and struggling through Mrs. Kronenburg's class to attending that very special tea - Charlotte said it was a thoroughly magical day. The masterclass made her desire to learn and improve her dancing more. She said the "fire" is even stronger than before! We will most definitely be back in Ottawa."

Mother of Charlotte Westwick, masterclass and *Tea with a Ballerina* participant.



At the Barre: Miami City Ballet's *Tea with a Ballerina* participants observe professional ballet dancers in class.

NAC Dance's Education Associate and Teaching Artist

NAC Dance's Education Associate and Teaching Artist Siõned Watkins shared her expertise in a number of educational activities. She gave two specialized "Brain and Body" workshops for teachers, four "Dare to Dance" workshops at Family Day, eight dance workshops in elementary schools, two dance workshops in high schools and spoke on NAC Dance activities at the annual NRTEA (National Roundtable for Teacher Educators in the Arts).



THANK YOU

The National Youth and Education Trust is the primary resource for youth and education funding at the National Arts Centre. Supporters of the Trust help the National Arts Centre pursue priority initiatives through the performing arts that nurture and develop the creativity of young people in regions across Canada, and support the educators and artists who challenge and encourage them.

The National Youth and Education Trust funds masterclasses, internships, and training programs for emerging artists, as well as student matinees, open rehearsals, and subsidized tickets to build young audiences. It also helps provide key resources to teachers, including resource kits, teacher information nights, and online tools at ArtsAlive.ca.

The National Youth and Education Trust is supported by Lead Partner CIBC, Corus Entertainment, Michael Potter, supporters and patrons of the annual NAC Gala and the donors of the NAC Foundation's Corporate Club

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