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DES ARTS

Canada is our stage. Le Canada en scène.

THE ART OF LEARNING

THE NATIONAL YOUTH AND EDUCATION TRUST



2015 – 2016
REPORT TO
SUPPORTERS

Dear Donor:

Whether it's young artists in Ottawa looking for opportunities to develop their talent or a school filled with students in Saskatchewan whose lives are about to be transformed by their first live performance, there's no denying the power of learning.

Your continued and generous support of the *National Youth and Education Trust* (NYET) helps the NAC and partner educators to:

- engage and inspire young audiences;
- offer programs in schools and studios which enhance the learning experience;
- give Indigenous students and artists the chance to grow and perform; and
- provide Canada's next generation of artists the chance to grow, master their art, and showcase their abilities.

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

Whether you donate to the *Musical Adventures in My School*, the *Music Alive Program*, the *Summer Music Institute Young Artists Program*, or the *NAC Gala*, your support has helped to captivate the imaginations of youth and helped to spark a life-long love of the performing arts.

For more information about these NYET-funded programs, and many others, please contact the National Arts Centre Foundation at 613 947-7000 ext. 315 or nacfoundation@nac-cna.ca. You can also visit our website at nacfoundation.ca to where you can read about the difference your gifts are making.

With our thanks,



Jayne Watson
Chief Executive Officer
National Arts Centre Foundation

Thank You!



**ENGAGING
YOUNG
AUDIENCES**

NAC Orchestra Remix project: *Life Reflected in Ottawa's West End*

On May 20, 2016 students from **10 schools** in Ottawa's west end had the opportunity to perform with NAC Orchestra Music Director Alexander Shelley and members of NAC Orchestra in a concert entitled "Life Reflected in Ottawa's West End" at Woodroffe High School.

Over 380 students spent six weeks working with local artists to create new compositions that echo some of the themes featured in *Life Reflected* — childhood memory, indigenous wisdom, cyber-bullying, and fearless exploration. In addition to these new compositions, students also created a spoken-word piece, a dance video and visual artwork.

This unique concert kicked off a three-year *NAC Orchestra Remix* arts education project. The program is the first of its kind for the NAC Orchestra and **aims to educate and inspire 2,500 students through direct, hands-on exposure to music.**

Over the next three years of the project, many local artists will be involved and a myriad of creative workshops will celebrate the diversity of Ottawa's west end community.



"Programs like NACO Remix are tailored to the specific needs of the community, giving students the opportunity to develop their creativity. With the support of dedicated classroom teachers and local artists, students can celebrate their community and culture through the power of music."

Geneviève Cimon
Director, Music Education & Community Engagement

"The NACO Remix project is an opportunity for us to forge a relationship with these students and their teachers, celebrate the talent in Ottawa's west end, and explore how we can create meaningful partnerships over the next two years."

Alexander Shelley
Music Director, National Arts Centre Orchestra

Photos (L-R): Woodroffe High School band teacher leading students and NAC Orchestra musicians; Co-host YAO welcoming students and audience members to Life Reflected in the West End while Alexander Shelley looks on; Algonquin Elder Albert Dumas giving a prayer of thanks prior to the event beginning; students from Woodroffe School school perform enthusiastically on drums.

Music Circle Workshops

In its third 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 2015–2016, 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 and woodwind instruments in a familiar environment;
- Be engaged in creative group music-making and play brass and woodwind 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 and Woodwind Quartet perform live!



Photos: Nicholas Atkinson helps a youngster play the tuba.

“To all of you who make this possible for our young people with autism, we thank you so very much. You are giving them such an opportunity that they may never otherwise experience. It is lovely to go to the NAC and have people say it is ok if your students want to stand or dance. Liz, you are so wonderful with our students. Your natural calm manner, patience and genuine interest in our students makes it so enjoyable for each and every student.”

Anne Villeneuve
Teacher at Ottawa Technical Secondary School Autism Program



Photos: NAC Orchestra musician Liz Simpson working children at the Lotus Centre.

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 11,600 children and family members attended TD Family Adventures concerts in 2015–2016.** Maestro Alain Trudel, along with other guest conductors, brought classical music to life in each of the Saturday afternoon concerts. Special guests including Canadian actor and comedian Colin Mochrie, Ottawa's Platypus Theatre, Buzz Company from Quebec, and Magic Circle Mime Company performed alongside the NAC Orchestra, helping to create lively and interactive concert experiences. The NACotron, a giant screen made possible by Rogers TV, offered up-close views of the Orchestra and the performers on stage.

Kinderconcerts

The popular Kinderconcert series, in its 12th season, offered four sets of quadruple performances presented in English and French on Sunday afternoons for three- to eight- year olds in the NAC Panorama Room as well as two performances in French of *Le Grand Bal de Noël*. **A total of 4,495 children and family members attended Kinderconcerts in 2015–2016.** Jeunesses Musicales of Canada once again partnered with the NAC to present the series. Interactive pre-concert activities were also presented to families prior to performances by NAC community partners, including Music for Young Children and Ottawa Suzuki Strings.

Music Monday

On May 2, 2016 the NAC, in partnership with the Coalition for Music Education in Canada, celebrated Music Monday with a live showcase concert featuring students from 10 local schools and community choirs at Woodroffe High School. Roughly **400 youth joined hundreds of thousands of children** singing across the country in celebration of music education. The Music Monday performance was a component of a new six-week pilot project (entitled *NAC Orchestra Remix*) between the NAC, the City of Ottawa, the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, and primary, junior intermediate and high schools in the neighbourhoods of Foster Farm, Michele Heights, Bayshore and Britannia in Ottawa's west end.



Photo: Music Monday at Woodroffe High School.

French Theatre Family and Youth Programming

In 2015–2016, a total of **5,230 people** attended French Theatre Youth Programming shows for audiences aged two years and over. Of these, 3,000 were youth and their families who attended the 23 offered youth programs, and over 2,000 were students who attended student matinees.

Pre-show Activities, Reading Corner and Family Audience Encounters

Before each of French Theatre’s family performances there was an open invitation for audience members to come to the Studio Foyer 45 minutes early to take part in craft activities related to the shows. In addition to various other pre-show activities, children have access to a reading corner developed jointly with the Ottawa Public Library. Following several of our performances, the public was invited to meet the people who created the shows. These activities and meetings contributed significantly to familiarizing children with theatre and the work of the artists, and also enhanced the family experience.



Photos: Youth and their families participate in pre-performance activities developed by French Theatre.

Student Matinees in Music, Theatre and Dance

Introducing youth to classical music, dance and theatre through student matinees and open rehearsals has been the cornerstone of the NAC's educational programming for decades. At the beginning of the 2015-2016 season the NAC welcomed children and youth as young as 18 months old to 18, as well as their teachers and parents, to hear the NAC Orchestra, see the holiday favorite the *Nutcracker* and to be part of the audience for NAC French Theatre and NAC English Theatre performances. In January 2016 all student open rehearsals and student matinees in Theatre and Dance were cancelled due to major renovations at the NAC. NAC Orchestra student matinees were moved to CentrepoinTE Theatre.

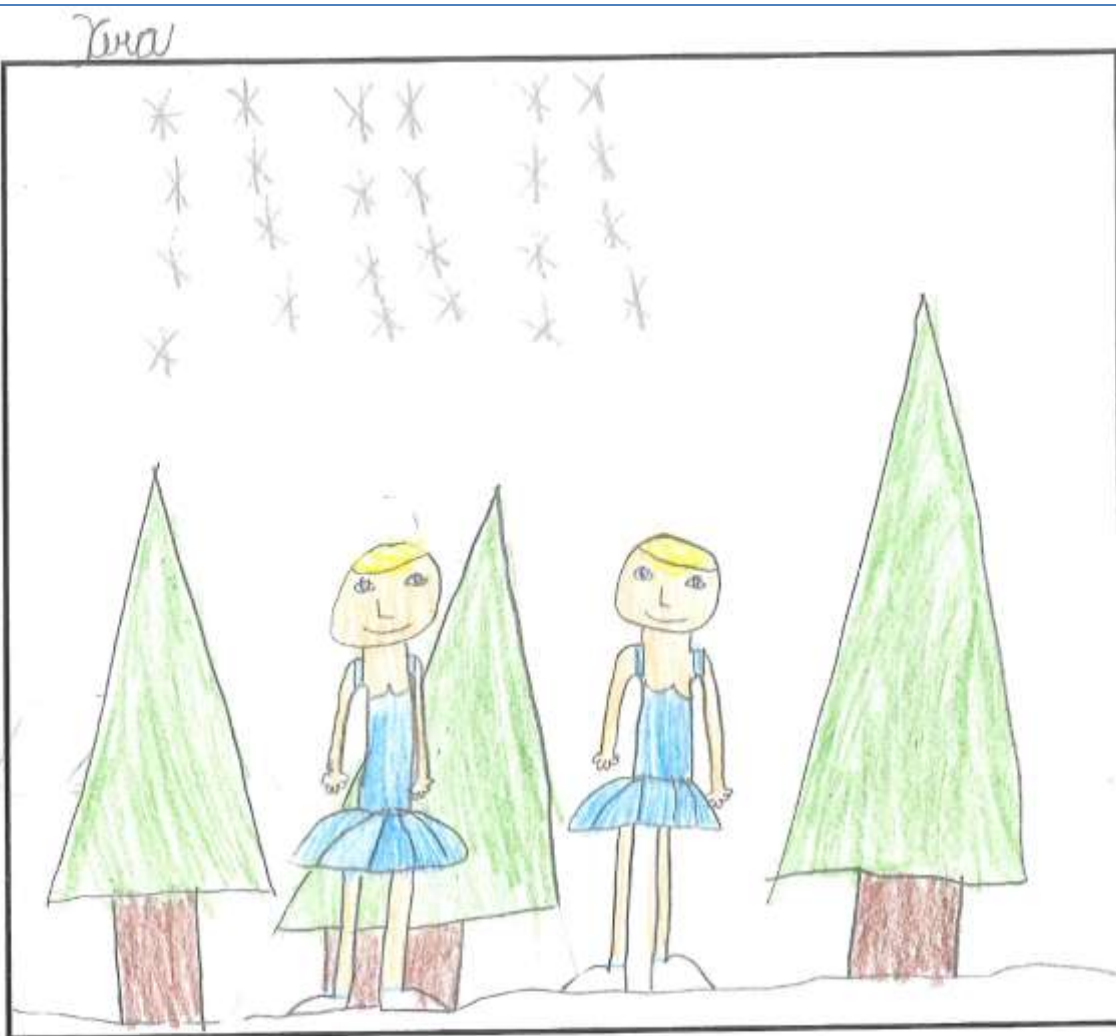
- **NAC Orchestra** welcomed **7,880 students and teachers** to its sold-out student matinee performances in Southam Hall and CentrepoinTE Theatres;
- **NAC Dance** welcomed **over 2,000 students and teachers** to Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet's *Nutcracker* (December 2015);
- **English Theatre** welcomed **2,415 students and teachers to student matinees**; and
- **French Theatre student matinees** attracted **2,044 young people aged 2 to 18 and their teachers. Eleven schools availed themselves of the transportation assistance program** established through the generosity of donors. As a result of this program, which lowers the cost of school bus transportation for schools, **708 students were able to attend one or more of our matinees**. Many were attending a play for the first time.

"We LOVED it. Such a fabulous play, well done, and the actors were so approachable after the show. Gave lots of tips for studying Shakespeare, and made the play so much more approachable. I think every teen should see this performance. Wish there were more opportunities like this."

Erica
Teacher OCDSB
English Theatre Student Matinees

"Wow! What a great play. The children really got into it. It was full of light and poetry. Baïdy, who sat on my lap, was very attentive and concentrated on what was happening. He looked at me every now and then and pointed to the stage with delight."

Early childhood educator
Garderie Imagine
French Theatre Student Matinees



Snow flakes fairies snow!

Snow flakes falling in winter. My favourite dance in the Nutcracker was the Waltz Of The Snow Flakes it was my favourite because it was beautiful.

To start off, scene the seen was in a forest on a snowy day. There was a full moon.

NAC Orchestra Student Open Rehearsals

The NAC Orchestra's Student Open Rehearsals are a unique opportunity for school groups to experience a professional orchestra's rehearsal process. In addition to hearing wonderful repertoire performed by some of the world's finest conductors and soloists, these rehearsals also allow students to meet some of the featured artists in person prior to the rehearsal. In the 2015–2016 season, due to the NAC's accelerated schedule of renovations, only one open rehearsal was offered to schools in which **196 students and teachers attended**.

NAC Dance Outreach

NAC Dance organized and led a one hour workshop for **67 grade 3 students** before the Nutcracker matinee. The students (from St. Leonard School in Manotick) and accompanying teachers and parents arrived early and were escorted to the Fountain Room. NAC Dance teaching artist, Siõned Watkins started the workshop with her specialized "brain and body" work that begins with a movement protocol called "Awakening of the Senses". After this engaging warm up the children learned a fun and simple choreography and danced the morning away. As an added bonus the children were able to touch and examine a variety of pointe shoes before eating their lunch and attending the matinee.

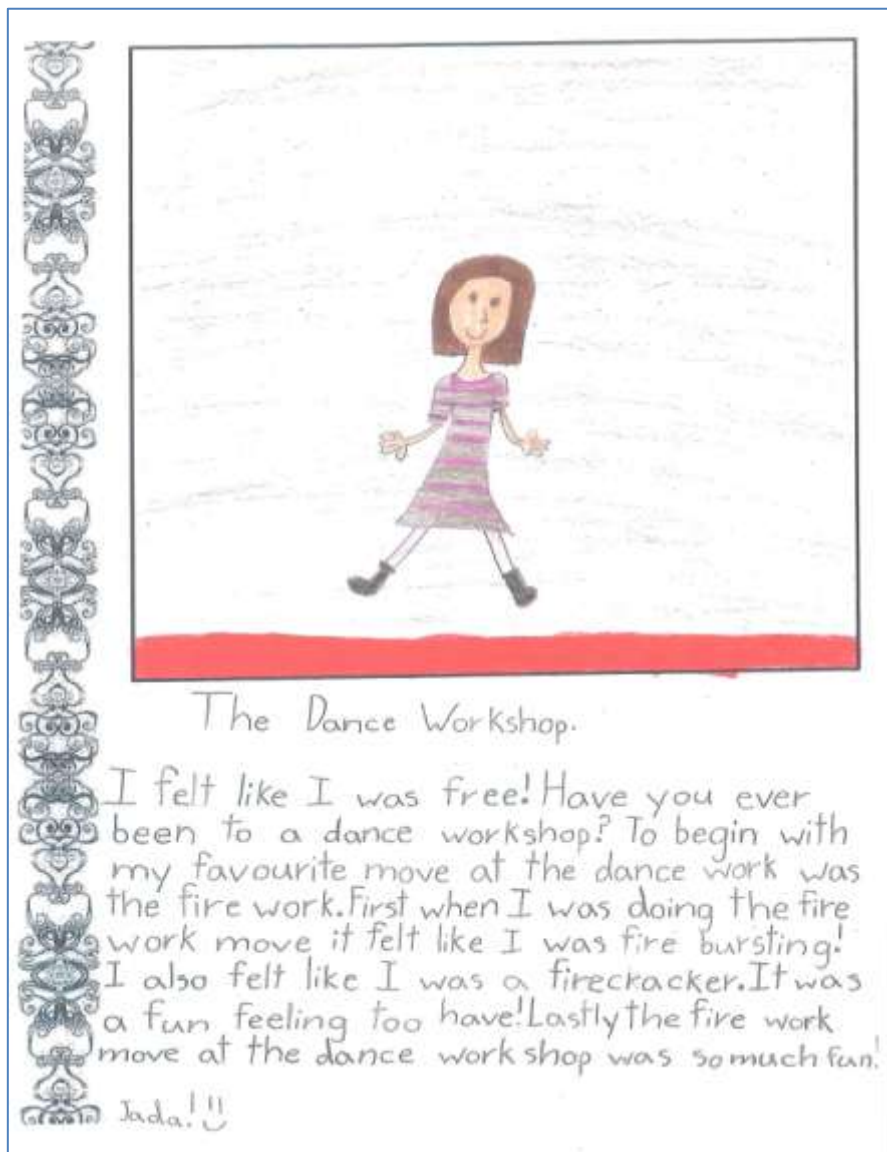


Photo: A thank you note from a participant of a dance workshops.

French Theatre | De plain-pied

On **May 6 and 7, 2016**, French Theatre renewed the *De plain-pied* experience by once again inviting teenagers to invade the NAC with their words, dreams and energy. More than **300 local Ottawa-Gatineau teens** took over the NAC's Studio, the Studio Foyer and Rehearsal Hall A in a veritable invasion of the spaces and stages to explore the theme "Prendre sa place."

The *De plain-pied* youth event consisted of **two parts**: *Ce qui nous relie ?*, a daring creative work that puts youth on stage, and a free event designed by a *Creative Unit* which mounted a variety of installations in the Studio Foyer as well as an impressive series of theatrical moments on stage, in the hall and in the wings of the Studio.

"Though I used to always think that my artistic talent was limited, these projects taught me that I could be active in art in many different ways. I was even able to put my knowledge of mathematics and philosophy to good use in these projects. I would definitely do it again, but not in exactly the same way, because it's precisely the unique nature of each of these events that makes them so interesting."

Samuel Pilon

Participant in the first edition of *Ce qui nous relie?*
and a member of the 2015 and 2016 Creative Unit

"I would never have thought that I could do or learn so much through the process. I experienced something that I would never trade for anything else because it gave me the confidence I needed to pursue my passion for the arts. It was totally exhilarating to see so many young people in the halls of the NAC, not because they had to be there, but because they wanted to."

Bénédicte Bélizaire

Participant in the first edition of *Ce qui nous relie?*
and a member of the 2015 Creative Unit



Photos (L-R): An ovation for De Plain-pied; preparing for the show.

Ce qui nous relie ? | De Plain-pied

After two enthralling editions, French Theatre decided to run the *Ce qui nous relie ?* project once again, this time plunging a group of young people into *Antigone*, to discover a mythical character whose story still echoes for today's adolescents. In November 2015, **more than 30** teenagers submitted an application, either through the community or their school, to take part in the project. **Five teens** were selected to work alongside artist Anne-Marie Guilmaine in this majestic and pure creative adventure at the NAC. The process (workshops, rehearsals and so on) ran from January to May 2016, and involved more than **18 meetings and over 120 hours of work**. On May 6 and 7, 2016, at two performances at the NAC to an audience of approximately **200**, the young people's energy and commitment to the writing, and their physical efforts, evidenced their sensitivity and points of view.

“During the several months of creative work, Anne-Marie, Mélanie, Theo, Éloi, Fadima and Maika became my small family and the NAC became my home, or rather my playing field. I used to be a little apprehensive when I went to the NAC! It was big, it had a reputation and I found it intimidating. I'm no longer afraid. The *Ce qui nous relie ?* project helped me understand that you can do anything. The show may only have been a presented to 100 people, but it meant a lot to me, and I felt like a warrior!”

Gabrielle Maria Gourd
Participant in 2015–2016 (age 14)



Photo: Preparing for *Ce qui nous relie?*

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. A total of **31 performances** took place during the 2015–2016 season reaching **over 4,000 students and teachers**.



Photos (L-R): Members of NAC Orchestra percussion section demonstrate their instruments at D. Roy Kennedy Catholic School on June 15, 2016; A strings ensemble performs at F.J. McDonald Public School on June 17, 2016.

“What an amazing show!!! The students loved it and were at the edge of their seats. Please pass on how well done the entire production was to all performers and musicians.”

Jane O'Regan
Our Lady of Fatima School
Symphonic Vikings at Centrepointe
Theatre



**IN THE CLASSROOM
AND IN THE STUDIO**

Concert Band Workshops

Alain Trudel, the NAC Orchestra's Principal Youth and Family Conductor, along with 6 NAC Orchestra musicians and NAC Orchestra Resident Artist in the Community Donnie Deacon, led **12 concert band workshops at 8 local high schools (approximately 360 students)** throughout the 2015–2016 season. Alain, Donnie and the Orchestra musicians sat in and observed concert band rehearsals and discussed warm-up tactics, rehearsal strategies, and techniques.



Photos (L-R): Principal Youth Conductor Alain Trudel leads a concert band workshop at Woodroffe High School; Alain Trudel performing with students.

Student Workshops with NAC English Theatre

English Theatre artists conducted **18 student workshops for 487 students** throughout the 2015–2016 season, both at the NAC and in-school. The workshops which took place at the NAC sometimes included backstage visits. Topics covered a wide range including ensemble-building, improvisation, physical comedy, musical theatre and stage combat. Teaching artists were a mix of NAC Ensemble members and those from the Ottawa-Gatineau community.

“We had a great time with Al today - we wish we had had longer as the kids found it very useful. One student said, ‘That was awesome! He gave us practical ideas we could apply in our class right away. I want to improv more right now!’ Very sweet. Please pass along our thanks to Al.”

Heather Mortimer
Carleton Place HS

NAC Dance in Schools

- **Brain and Body Workshop:** On April 14, 2016, **13 teenagers and one teacher** participated in a 2 hour “Brain and Body” workshop at Richard Pfaff Alternative School. The students from a life skills class worked on posture correcting and were given exercises to reduce stress;
- **Intermission Dance Performance:** On April 26, 2016, **41 high school dance students** from École Secondaire De La Salle and Earl Of March Secondary performed a four-minute pop-up dance that was performed in the NAC lobby during the intermission of the performance by Sao Paulo Companhia de Dança in Southam Hall. The intermission pop-up dance was filmed and shared by NAC Dance for International Dance Day;
- **Moving Stories - Schooled in Dance:** *Moving Stories* was a co-production of the Canada Dance Festival, the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB), and NAC Dance. The project was spearheaded by OCDSB Dance Educator Allison Carrier and NAC Dance Education associate and CDF Outreach Coordinator Siônéd Watkins. On June 10, 2016 **100 talented local students from grades 7 to 12** participated in the program that creatively connected the dots between movement and storytelling;
- NAC Dance hosted a full day of workshops for 6 OCDSB schoolteachers in RHA to prepare for this project. NAC Dance teaching Artist Siônéd Watkins gave movement workshops and mentored the work with an additional 6 school visits to Earl of March Middle School, Earl of March Secondary and Woodroffe High School; and
- **98 students performed on stage** at the NAC Studio and the show was a huge success. The OCDSB has already approached NAC Dance to plan for next season.



Photos (L-R) Grade 7/8 workshop participants of D.Roy Kennedy; *Moving Stories!* At Earl of March School; Arabesque Dance Outreach Film at Woodroffe High School; *Moving Stories* at Earl of March School.

The Music Alive Program

Celebrating Music Making in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nunavut

The **Music Alive Program** (MAP) celebrated its 11th season in 2015–2016. The MAP is a comprehensive, accessible, and community-driven music program that aims to foster creativity, personal growth, and healthy communities through active participation in the arts and a celebration of Canada’s diverse communities and indigenous cultures. In 2015–2016, the MAP supported ongoing programming in four regions – **Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nunavut** – with a particular focus on rural and remote communities. Additional programming took place in **St. John’s and Moncton** this season, to lay the groundwork for the MAP’s expansion to Atlantic Canada over the next five years.

MAP Western Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba

More than **6,300 students, teachers, and community members** participated in MAP-related activities in Western Canada in 2015–2016. In Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba, the MAP program offered full day school workshops and shared performances with professional artists based on the theme of *Musical Friends and Families*. Schools participated in the Classical Composers, Indigenous Arts, or Cross-Cultural experience program stream, and this was the second year working with the same group of schools from these regions. This year **49 schools** participated in the *Musical Friends and Families* program.

Other activities included in the Western Canada program were:

- Trumpet lessons for students in the small community of Manning, Alberta;
- Creation of an original song and music video as part of the **Rita Joe Song Project** for students in Norway House, Manitoba and in Edmonton, Alberta;
- A performance at a *REDx Talk* event for students in Edmonton;
- Support for an ongoing fiddle and guitar program in the remote community of Brochet, Manitoba;
- A MAP Showcase performance event at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, featuring students and teaching artists from Winnipeg and Norway House;
- A week-long fiddle camp in the community of Cross Lake, Manitoba, in partnership with the local Cree education authority and led by a local Cree instructor
- A special rehearsal led by Alexander Shelley for the Sistema Winnipeg Youth Orchestra; and
- An outstanding professional development session for MAP teaching artists from all three provinces, that spanned 2.5 days and included sessions led by guest facilitators, as well as the artists themselves.

In addition, over **50 resource packages** consisting of over 1,000 individual pieces, including teacher guides, CDs, DVDs, and student newspapers, were distributed to schools. This included a brand-new resource guide on Indigenous arts entitled *All My Relations*, written by Cree teaching artist Sherryl Sewegaham.



Photos (L-R) Teaching Artist Walter MacDonal White Bear with kids in Fort McMurray; Walter MacDonal White Bear and Samantha Whelan Kotkas lead a shared performance in Manning, Alberta; Kids in Manor, Saskatchewan participate in an MAP presentation; Teaching Artist September Russell leads a workshop at Manor School; Walter MacDonal White Bear and Samantha Whelan Kotkas pose with student participants at Manning Elementary School

“I received numerous comments from parents, teachers, and students [about the MAP artist visit] – in the two years that my schools have had this residency, it is the one activity that I receive the most comments about. Parents took the time to tell me how much they learned about the Métis people and how they enjoyed watching the students embrace Canadian history through the fine arts. Numerous comments about how much they enjoyed [teaching artist] Daniel Gervais and how commanding he is as a performer with 200 K-6 students! Staff members – teachers and learning assistants – went out of their way to tell me how much they enjoyed the presentation, too. I think that we forget how much can be done in a short time. If the artist gives students inspiration, so much can be done. Thank you for once again allowing us to have this artist in residence.”

Patricia Swan
 Music Teacher, Saint Louis and Saint Michael Schools
 Medicine Hat AB

MAP Nunavut

During the 2015–2016 season, MAP Nunavut supported a wide variety of initiatives in eight Nunavut communities and in Ottawa, including school and community workshops, mentorship opportunities, community concerts, leadership training, instrument delivery, and more. The eight participating communities were Iqaluit, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, Kugluktuk, and Kimmirut, which was added this season as a core MAP community. The NAC’s ongoing, multi-year commitment to these communities ensures crucial long-term support for projects, programs, and individuals. In 2015–2016, **over 3,400 students, teachers, young artists, and community members** participated in MAP Nunavut-related activities. **Fifteen instruments** were delivered to two Nunavut schools.

Supporting Inuit artists, language, and culture and developing local capacity for arts learning and sharing are the keys to MAP Nunavut’s success. It is rewarding to see young people who participate in program activities as students move on to mentorship opportunities and leadership training, and then become fully-fledged creators, performers, and teachers in their own right!

Empowering Children and Youth through the Arts

- **12 school music workshops** with local or visiting musicians involving **160 participants**;
- **10 school performances** featuring local musicians, visiting musicians, and/or local students involving **1,775 students and teachers**;
- Donation and/or delivery of approximately **15 instruments and music supplies** for schools in Kugluktuk and Kimmirut;
- **11 extended teaching musician visits** for intensive work with schools involving **1,475 students and teachers**;
- Music Camp support in Iqaluit and Kimmirut involving approximately **140 children**;
- **3 instrumental coaching sessions** using the CANARIE broadband link between Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit and the National Arts Centre for **4 students**; and
- Iqaluit high school music students created and recorded an exceptional Inuktitut-language song as part of the *Rita Joe Song Project*, under the guidance of their music teacher, Mary Piercey-Lewis, and local teaching artists Andrew Morrison and Nancy Mike.

Enriching Communities through Music-Making

- **9 community performances** in Iqaluit, Igloolik, Baker Lake, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet and Cape Dorset, featuring local and visiting musicians, involving **15 local musicians and music students, 10 visiting artists** and **1300 audience members**; and
- **26 community workshops** involving **450 participants** in Iqaluit and Cape Dorset.



Photos: A student at Inuksuk High School makes a sign for a Mental Health Awareness Workshop with singer-songwriter Amelia Curran; a fiddle student in Kimmirut.

Building Capacity among Educators and Musicians

- **1 Principal of Music.** Additional training and support was awarded to Nunavut Principal Haydn George of Kugluktuk High School;
- Supporting **mentorship and showcasing for 16 young Inuit musicians** from Iqaluit, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Kugluktuk, and Arviat in music pedagogy, creation, and performance; and
- Annual **Youth Symposium on Music and Leadership**, this year in Rankin Inlet, for **10 young artists** from Nunavut.



Celebrating Local Culture and Local Artists

- 32 Inuit artists participated in MAP activities as performers or teaching artists;
- Workshops and performances included traditional Inuit art forms such as throat-singing, drum dancing, and “Inuktitut Dance” (Inuit square dancing), as well as contemporary Inuit culture including throat-boxing, contemporary songwriting in Inuktitut and English, and instruments including fiddle and guitar.



Photos (L-R): The Inuitsuk High School Drum Dancers, a performance at Simon Alaittuq Middle School in Rankin Inlet with facilitators Tiffany Ayalik and Kathleen Merritt.

Partners of MAP Nunavut

Donors and Sponsors of the NAC’s *National Youth and Education Trust*, First Air, Government of Nunavut, the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet, the Hamlet of Baker Lake, the Alianait Entertainment Group (Iqaluit), the Nunavut Sivuniksavut college program (Ottawa), the Kinngait Performing Arts Society (Cape Dorset), the Iqaluit Music Society, the Coalition for Music Education in Canada, the Akaisarvik Mental Health Centre (Iqaluit), Nunavut Development Corporation (Rankin Inlet), the Mobilizing Inuit Cultural Heritage project (York University), Kivalliq Arctic Foods (Rankin Inlet), the Rankin Inlet District Education Authority, and Nanuq Lodge (Rankin Inlet), as well as individual schools in all eight MAP communities.

“I truly believe the annual Young Artist Summit is one of MAP’s most valuable activities. I really see the impact the experience has on the participating youth as a positive force that encourages the development of creation and leadership. The youth who are attending these Summits will soon be in the ones in communities and classrooms leading MAP events. The network of support and friendships that they build at this event will last them throughout their careers & lives.”

Kathleen Merritt
MAP Nunavut Coordinator, Teaching Artist, & Summit Facilitator, based in Rankin Inlet

Preparing for MAP Atlantic

As part of the NAC's latest strategic plan, the **Music Alive Program** will expand to Atlantic Canada over the next five years. In preparation for this expansion, the NAC is consulting with stakeholders and potential partners and engaging in discussion and observation of the current music education landscape in Atlantic Canada. Several events took place in 2015–2016 as part of this preparation process:

- NACO Music Director Alexander Shelley was a guest conductor with the Shallaway Youth Choirs for a sold-out performance in St. John's NF. **200 choristers and 1000 audience members** experienced this incredible concert which featured numerous choir alumni as guest soloists and instrumentalists;
- While in St. John's Alexander Shelley also led a rehearsal with the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra for about **50 young players** and observed a rehearsal with the Lady Cove Women's Choir (**about 25 singers**); and
- In Moncton NB, Alexander Shelley led rehearsals with the Sistema NB Children's Orchestra and the Moncton Youth Orchestra. About **200 children participated** in these events, which were followed by Q&A sessions with Maestro Shelley.



"To meet a musician as truly brilliant as [Alexander Shelley] was enough of an inspiration. For him to make every child, instrumentalist, and conductor feel so supported and valued...he truly is a gift to the country. Please send him my heartfelt thanks. This time has been so inspiring for me and for everyone who had the privilege to have some time with him."

Kellie Walsh
Artistic Director, Shallaway Choirs

Photos: Shallaway Choir and soloists are conducted by Alexander Shelley in St. John's NF, Alexander Shelley leads a rehearsal with the Sistema NB Children's Orchestra in Moncton NB.

101 Pianists with Lang Lang

On September 18, **100 young pianists between 6 and 18 years** from the Ottawa region participated in the **101 Pianists™ event with superstar pianist Lang Lang**. This unique program and workshop was created to bring together young aspiring musicians to experience the magic and beauty of learning and performance. Two scores created by the Lang Lang Foundation with arrangements of varying degrees of difficulty allowed the piano students of all skill levels to equally participate. Lang Lang led the performance and masterclass with assistance from NAC Orchestra Music Director Alexander Shelley in Southam Hall.



“On behalf of my students and parents of the students, I would like to send you a huge congratulations and a big thank you for the awesome Lang Lang event. It was a wonderful experience for my students and gave me such inspiration as well!”

Danielle
Piano Teacher

Photos (L-R): Local piano students performing with Lang Lang and NAC Orchestra conductor Alexander Shelley (Sept. 18, 2015) in Southam Hall.



INDIGENOUS OUTREACH

Qaggiq Project Wins Arctic Inspiration Prize

Led by the Nunavut-based group Qaggiavuut, the Qaggiq Project was awarded a prestigious Arctic Inspiration Prize for 2015. Qaggiq will support teaching artist training, collaborative arts projects, preservation of Inuit culture, and more, with a priority on Inuit cultural perspectives. The NAC is a founding partner for Qaggiq and was part of its Performing Arts Summit in Iqaluit (March 14-19) for fifty artists from across the arctic regions. Dance Education Associate and Teaching Artist, Siônéd Watkins participated as a choreographer and movement specialist, and the Summit culminated in a spectacular show that included musicians, actors, elders, and youth.



Photos (L-R): Summit participants; Performance circle; Looking up to the Elders Photos by Simeonie Merkuratsuk

“It was great to be here in Iqaluit with these amazing performers. Tonight was successful and we made a week to remember. This trip has changed me so much. I don’t know who I was back home but now I feel refreshed. Thank you to all who taught me so much.”

Simeonie Merkuratsuk
Nain Labrador (youth at risk programmer)

Rita Joe Song Project

In her autobiography, Rita Joe challenges Indigenous youth to find their voices, share their stories, and celebrate their talents. Inspired by this idea, the National Arts Centre asked the teachers and students at Eskasoni High School, in Rita Joe's home community, to be the catalyst for a national youth project and to come up with a 'big idea' to inspire the nation. They decided to create and record a song based on what Rita Joe's poem "I Lost My Talk" means to them and their community. The NAC loved this idea and invited four other communities to participate along with Eskasoni, asking each to create their own unique song inspired the poem.

With financial support from NAC Foundation donors, and the help of guest teaching artists and professional production personnel, each group created a song and a music video that was sent to the NAC and showcased in tandem with the January 2016 premiere of composer John Estacio's new work, *Spirit Prevails* based on Rita Joe's poem and commissioned for the NAC Orchestra by the family of the Right Honourable Joe Clark.

The online videos were launched at the evening event *Voices of Youth: The Rita Joe Song Project* held at the NAC's Fourth Stage on January 13, 2016. The event included performances by students from Kitigan Zibi and Eskasoni, a screening of the videos, a presentation from Jessica Bolduc from the 4Rs Youth Movement, and was followed by a youth workshop led by Moe Clark and Jessica Bolduc.

The inspiring songs and videos can be found at www.nac-cna.ca/ritajoesong.

Participating Communities

Community

Eskasoni - **Mi'kmaq**, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
Kitigan Zibi - **Anishinaabe**, Western Quebec
Norway House – **Cree/Métis**, Northern Manitoba
Edmonton – **Cree/Métis**, Central Alberta
Nunavut - **Inuit** community, Iqaluit, Nunavut

School

Alison Bernard Memorial High School (ABMHS)
Kitigan Zibi Kikinamadinan School
Helen Betty Osborne Ininew Education Resource Centre
Amiskwaciy Academy
Inukshuk High School

"Two characteristics almost literally jumped off the page when I read 'I Lost My Talk': the truth and the reconciliation of her [Rita Joe's] words.

Painfully direct and simple – there is nowhere for the reader to hide, no flamboyance or hyperbole, no hate or resentment – she puts into voice her experiences as a child, her knowledge that we ultimately share so much and her gentle desire to be heard.

As soon as I read it, I knew that I wanted to engage with it, that I wanted it to be part of our creative lives, that I wanted us to carry her beautiful and dignified message to our audiences both nationally and internationally."

Alexander Shelley
Music Director, NAC Orchestra



Photo: Rita Joe's daughters Ann Joe and Frances Sylliboy attend celebratory events at the NAC.

The **Rita Joe Song Project** offered the opportunity for project participants to work with music educators, visiting teaching artists, recording studio professionals and members of their community. Together they wrote and produced songs about based on Rita Joe’s iconic poem.

To celebrate the completion of the project and officially release the five extraordinary songs, a launch event was held at the NAC on January 13, 2016. The evening began with the words of Algonquin Elder Anne Smith St-Georges followed by welcome remarks from Alexander Shelley and Métis singer-songwriter, and host, Moe Clark. Heartfelt words of thanks were shared by Ann Joe and Frances Sylliboy, daughters of Rita Joe. Young Eskasoni poet Hannah Battiste skillfully delivered her poem “Warrior” and received a standing ovation from the standing-room-only crowd. Excerpts from each song and video were played throughout the evening. The Eskasoni group performed inspired song “Gentle Warrior” to close out the evening.

“Through this opportunity, we were able to work as a team to connect with one another by combining our thoughts and feelings to make a song that shows that we as a generation can move on from the experience of residential schools.”

Cassidy Gladue
Amiskwaciy Academy, Edmonton, AB



Photos (L-R): Algonquin Elder Annie Smith St-Georges with students from Eskasoni NS and Kitigan Zibi QC, following their performance at the National Arts Centre; Event host and teaching artist Moe Clark performs with young Eskasoni poet Hannah Battiste at the NAC; Kalolin Johnson of Eskasoni sings the lead vocal on "Gentle Warrior".

Royal Winnipeg Ballet Outreach and Education / *Going Home Star*

NAC Dance Education associate and Teaching Artist, Siônéd Watkins, organized a week of dance outreach with Royal Winnipeg Ballet Master and Community Outreach Coordinator, Jaime Vargas, with a special focus on reaching out to Indigenous youth.

Highlights included:

- **17 dance workshops** with **470 youth reached over five days;**
- **162 complimentary tickets** were shared with Indigenous youth to attend the ballet *Going Home Star*. Groups included Wabano Youth Group, Inuit Youth Group and Students of Aboriginal Studies from the University of Ottawa;
- **30 youth** from Urban Aboriginal Alternate High School and Richard Pfaff Alternative High School attended the dress rehearsal of *Going Home Star* for free; and
- **30 Students** from Urban Aboriginal Alternate High School and Richard Pfaff viewed the exhibit by the Legacy of Hope which was in the NAC lobby.



Photo: OICC Inuit Youth Group with Tania Tagaq after opening night
(Share the Spirit tickets) (Photo/Fred Cattroll)



“I am an Anishinaabe woman living in 2016, and I feel this huge importance for Aboriginal peoples to see their culture being represented and celebrated onstage in a positive way. For generations, Aboriginal peoples have been marginalized and pushed aside; the problems of poverty, drug and alcohol addiction are result of this. I believe that the cycle will not be broken unless we educate our people; which are what the **Going Home Star: Truth and Reconciliation** event does very well! Only by rediscovering and teaching our children the beauty and moral values of our traditions can we build a stronger community and encourage brighter futures. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who was involved in this project!”

Brittany Johnston
University of Ottawa
Honors Bachelor of Arts with Specialization in Theatre

Dance outreach workshops with Jaime Vargas in Ottawa January 25–29

- **25 Inuit youth** ages 9-14 from R.E Wilson Public School attended;
- Wabano Centre Cultural Night: A Day in a Dancer's Life was presented to **30 First Nations youth**;
- R.E Wilson Public School: **20 Inuit youth** ages 5-17 attended;
- Queen Elizabeth Public School, presented five 55-minute workshops for grades 3-8. **214 youth attended** with all of the Indigenous youth, as well as integration of autistic and disabled children; and
- Inuit Children's Centre: Jaime spent 1.5 hours with two kindergarten classes. He read a book called *Brontorina*, which is about a dinosaur that wants to take ballet classes. The children also danced and tried on ballet costumes and regaled Jaime with songs and Inuit throat singing. **12 Kindergarten children and 3 teachers participated.**

Workshops at the NAC

- Students from Urban Aboriginal Alternate High School and Richard Pfaff Alternative High School attended an hour long workshop in Rehearsal Hall A. **26 students and 4 teachers participated**;
- An Inuit Youth Group from the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre came for a one hour workshop in Rehearsal Hall A. **17 youth and 4 youth group leaders participated**; and
- Elgin Public School: 5, 30 minute dance workshops were given with a focus on multi-cultural diversity. **107 students from grades 4 to 6 attended.**



Photo: Jaime Vargas working with children at the Ottawa Children's Inuit Centre



Dear Anonymous Donor,

On behalf of students in grade 1 through 8 and staff at Queen Elizabeth P.S., we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity of enhancing our cultural appreciation through the NAC Outreach Program featuring Mr. Jaime Vargas from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. We are a very diverse school and welcome any opportunity to aid our students in learning to appreciate the arts. What better way to understand, appreciate and celebrate the arts than in the form of dance. Having a Master of Ballet, Mr. Vargas, made it possible to engage students in movement while educating them about form and style. After each workshop, students left with an understanding that dance appeals to our senses as well as opens our hearts. Dance as one of the arts, gives us a glimpse of values, beliefs and morals of our culture.

Having a professional dancer in our school and working with students of varying ages is a very special event. Ms. Siôned Watkins who was our school's contact and the NAC organizer was very easy to work with and a lovely lady to get to know. Together, Ms. Watkins and Mr. Vargas brought their love of dance to a world of students, many of whom are not acculturated in ballet.

As an inner city school, we so rarely can afford to avail ourselves of the various Arts presentations offered throughout the city. Your kindness, understanding and consideration for schools like ours do not go unnoticed. Thank you once again for donating money to help create this outreach program via the NAC and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. We really appreciate it.

*Sincerely,
Aboriginal Committee
Queen Elizabeth P.S.*



ARTIST TRAINING & SHOWCASING

English Theatre Artist Training

Audition Coaching

NAC English Theatre introduced a new program this year, matching students with established NAC artists for audition coaching and mentorship. NAC English Theatre is committed to being part of a theatrical industry that reflects the full diversity of Canadian society. As a small step towards this goal, free individual coaching sessions were offered for students planning to audition for post-secondary theatre training who self-identify as members of under-represented communities.

Successful candidates were paired with an NAC artist for two one-hour sessions via skype or similar technology. Students received coaching for their upcoming auditions, and had the opportunity to ask a professional artist about the reality of a career in the theatre.

In its pilot year, 15 students from across Canada participated in the program. Early results have been very encouraging, with much positive feedback from both students and coaches. So far, we have heard that two participants were accepted into prestigious training programs, and a third was cast in a co-production between two major regional theatres.

“The pairing was great. With what I wrote about my background, Kayvon was a good fit, and was able to give me a lot of insight into what it's like in the industry, and knowledge on coming up as a actor with different racial backgrounds. I felt we had a lot of similarities in personality, and it was nice to be coached by someone who I could relate to on a personal level as well. I feel like we were cut from a similar cloth; goals, and personality wise if that makes sense. We were able to talk about whitewashing, and a person of colour playing someone else who is of colour, and the issues, and dilemma's we face in that. So just having someone with similar experiences that was able to give me some advice, and have a dialogue with was super nice, and helped clear up some things that I was having trouble with personally, because I got cast in short webisode series as a First Nations character and I'm not First Nations. So having someone to talk about that was really great.”

Dylan Floyde
Student

“Thank you so much for including me in this initiative. It was, I think, as exhilarating for me as it was for Mahalia. As I get older in this profession, I am approached more and more by young artists seeking advice or support or simply a place to bounce ideas off of. It's my privilege to engage in this kind of discourse, and usher along the next generation of theatre professionals. It also reminds me why I do what I do. And encourages me to continue to ask those questions and push those boundaries artistically. I think you guys are on the right track here. I think issues of diversity, voice and opportunity require constant, rigorous, intelligent attention.”

Laara Sadiq
Coach

De Plain-pied Creative Unit

A core group of 10 youth, aided by a few free spirits, joined the Creative Unit this year. For several months in **10 meetings and about 80 hours of work** led by Mélanie Dumont, the Associate Artistic Director of French Theatre Youth Programming, this cheerful gang worked hard to develop installations and staged moments that would explode theatre conventions and enable audience members to actively and democratically join the event in the tradition of action art. The following are only a few of the interesting things that happened on the afternoon of May 7:

- The *activist* space, the utopian advocacy collective fresco, and the petition table in the Studio Foyer;
- The following short scenes presented on the Studio stage: *Sur la sellette*; *Mix d'actions*, (*Pour*)*fendre des mots*, *Voyage astral* and *Karaoke rebelle*; and
- The *Planètes habitables* installations in the Studio's wings.

More than 100 people attended the free event, which was definitely designed to be explosive, colourful and shake the walls of the NAC with free and renewed energy!

“This project enabled me to further explore the NAC – the people who work there and what goes on behind the scenes, and to be involved in a creative event like this. I loved how Mélanie structured the project so well, and how she listened to all our suggestions. It is really interesting to be challenged every day to come up with ideas, and to be willing to try out lots of different things. It was wonderful to experience the whole creative part of the project, as well as D-Day in the Studio.”

Anne Hamels
Member of the Creative Unit, De plain-pied 2016



Photos (L-R): Students in De Plain-pied Creative Unit led by Mélanie Dumont, the Associate Artistic Director of French Theatre Youth Programming.



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 arts administrators. In addition to performing with the NAC Orchestra, the apprentices receive valuable mentorship and are given the opportunity to participate in mock auditions.

The IOS 2014–2015 participants were: Linda-Anette Suss (22, violin, Estonia); Adora Wong (23, violin, Canada); Gabriel Polycarpo (24, viola, Brazil); Joshua Nakazawa (29, cello, USA); and Jeanne Corpataux-Blanche (22, double bass, Canada). Since the program began in 2006, 57 apprentices from eight different countries have been trained as part of the program.



Photo: *Institute for Orchestral Studies* participants (L-R) Joshua Nakazawa, Jeanne Corpataux-Blanche, Linda-Anette Suss, Gabriel Polycarpo and Adora Wong.

IOS Highlights Included:

- Six weeks of hands-on learning from principal members of the NAC Orchestra, seminars and workshops, as well as mock auditions (January 2 -15 and May 9 - June 3);
- Opportunity to perform in five major concerts with the NAC Orchestra (10 evening performances) conducted by Music Director Alexander Shelley and John Storgårds, Principal Guest Conductor of the NAC Orchestra; and
- Unique opportunity to perform new works by renowned Canadian composers in two major concerts with the NAC Orchestra. These concerts featured new orchestral compositions by four Canadian composers, Zosha Di Castri, Jocelyn Morlock, Nicole Lizée and John Estacio who based their pieces on the lives of four remarkable women – Alice Munro, Amanda Todd, Roberta Bondar and Rita Joe. The pieces were accompanied by vivid audio-visual projections, including live actors and vocalists.



Photo: IOS apprentices performed alongside the NAC Orchestra in the May 19 performance titled *Life Reflected* where all four new commissions were performed.

Dear Donor,

Thank you for sponsoring the Institute for Orchestral Studies program and this incredible opportunity for me to be mentored by the NAC Orchestra. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience, and even met a few of my lifelong personal repertoire goals during the session! As a recent university graduate, having this chance to rehearse and play with a professional orchestra was invaluable. For me, it served as a perfect bridge between being a student and preparing for a professional career in orchestral playing, as it was a very safe environment to ask our mentors questions about how to prepare for auditions and rehearsals, how to write and submit music resumes, how a formal audition process works, etc. We had the chance to prepare and play a mock audition for a few NAC Orchestra members, and the hands-on experience and feedback we received afterwards is something I am able to learn from and keep with me as I prepare for real auditions.

There have been a lot of highlights from these past few weeks, and one of the most special moments for me was being able to play Mozart's Piano Concerto 17 on stage with John Storgårds conducting and Mark-André Hamelin as the soloist. Growing up, I had a very limited collection of classical CDs, and this was one of the few pieces I knew and listened to on repeat; how incredible it was to have my first experience of performing the piece with these exceptional artists thanks to the IOS program!

It has been so inspiring to learn from and play alongside the world-class musicians of the NAC Orchestra, and I am coming out of the program with a revitalized motivation to keep pursuing a career in orchestral playing! Thank you again for your support.

*Sincerely,
Adora Wong
Violin*



Rising Stars – My First NAC

Made possible with support from Corus Entertainment, the NAC Orchestra offered, for the first time, a Sunday afternoon recital series. Three talented young musicians were able to showcase their abilities in front of an appreciative audience. 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. The three artists were: Aaron Schwebel (violin, October 11, 2015); Lindsay Bryden (flute, February 14, 2016); and Xiaoyu Liu (piano, April 3, 2016).



Photos (L-R): Aaron Schwebel speaks with Music Director Alexander Shelley about his musical influences and passions on October 11, 2016; Lindsay Bryden together with Alexander Shelley and accompanist Jean Desmarais on February 14, 2016. Her concert was recorded by CBC/Radio-Canada and broadcast at a later date; Xiaoyu Liu performs from the lobby stage for an audience of 200.

The NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition

The NAC Orchestra Bursary provides financial support to help further the development of young Canadian orchestral musicians. Created in 1979 by the members of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition awards bursaries and other prizes to music students aged 16 to 24, who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. The bursaries are intended for young musicians whose family residence is in the National Capital Region (NCR), or who have been following a recognized course of music study in the NCR in preparation for careers as professional orchestral musicians. Each year, a committee identifies deserving recipients through audition and selection.

The 26th annual NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition was held at the NAC from May 20-21 for the preliminary round, and the finals on May 22. This year's competition focused on strings and harp for 24 students from the NCR. Guest jurors Angela Schwarzkopf, harpist from Toronto, and André Massicotte, former Radio-Canada producer, joined the NACO jury members chaired by Roderick Bell to award six prizes and honourable mentions worth more than \$20,000. The 2016 NAC Orchestra Bursary was awarded to 18-year-old cellist Bryan Cheng.

- The Crabtree Foundation Award: Jaeyoung Chong, cello (age 21)
- The Friends of the NAC Orchestra Award: Ethan Balakrishnan, violin (age 17)
- The NAC Orchestra Vic Pomer Award: Carmen Bruno, cello (age 24)
- The Sturdevant Orchestral Excerpts Prize: Jaeyoung Chong, cello (age 21)
- Piccolo Prix: Jaewon Seo, violin (age 19)
- Honourable mentions: Daniel Wade, cello (age 17); Sarah Veber, harp (age 20); Aiden Russell, cello (age 19)



Photo: Bursary Winners following the competition. Bryan Cheng winner of the 2016 NAC Orchestra Bursary is second from the left.

Summer Music Institute

The NAC welcomed 69 participants to the 18th edition of the *Summer Music Institute Young Artists Program*. Under the artistic direction of Patty Kopec, the program focused on private instruction for strings, winds, piano, voice and chamber music studies over the three and a half weeks from June 6 - 25, 2016. The Senior Program consisted of 44 students and a resident ensemble, while the Pre-College program had 20 talented young students in their teen years. Together, this impressive group represented eight countries including China, Iceland, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, USA and Canada with representation from the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Since its founding in 1999, more than 1,170 students from 39 countries have taken part in the *Summer Music Institute*.

In 2015–2016 several guest artists were invited to provide an array of special teaching including Daniel Heifetz of the Heifetz International Music Institute who came for two days to give a workshop outlining his principles of communicating the music in an artist’s performance. Arnold Steinhardt, who was the first violin of the Guarneri String Quartet for 45 years, worked with the students for two days giving group classes to the violin and viola students on their solo repertoire. Lawrence (Larry) Dutton of the Emerson String Quartet also came for two days of chamber music coaching and a public masterclass.

The various works in progress recitals, masterclasses and the final concerts of both the Senior and Pre-College levels showed a consistently high level of talent. The Pre-College musicians also gave an outstanding concert to an appreciative audience of donors, patrons and friends of the NAC.

Alumni of the Young Artists Program have taken seats in renowned orchestras across Canada and around the world, including in principal roles with the NAC Orchestra. Most recently, NAC staff were thrilled to learn of the appointment of alumnus Nikki Chooi as Concertmaster of the New York Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.



Photos (L-R): Arnold Steinhardt working with strings students; NAC Orchestra Principal Clarinet Kimball Sykes works with the winds students.



Photos (L-R): Chip Hamann, Principal Oboe works with an oboe student to refine her reed making skills; NAC Orchestra Principal Viola Jethro Marks (a former *Young Artists Program* participant) works with a Pre-college viola student; Patty Kopek watches a senior level student at the violin masterclass; NAC Orchestra cellist Carol Sirois works with a young Pre-College student in a chamber music coaching session; Gregory Kalinovsky from the Manhattan School of Music works with a senior violin student during a private coaching session; the participants of the *Young Artists Program* outside the residence of the US Ambassador where they were treated a lovely reception hosted by Mrs. Vicki Heyman, wife of the US Ambassador to Canada.

NAC Dance’s Education Associate and Teaching Artist

NAC Dance’s Education Associate and Teaching Artist Siôned Watkins shared her expertise in a number of educational activities. She gave a specialized “Brain and Body” workshop for teachers, two advanced choreography workshops for OCDSB annual Dance Showcase (approx. 100 teens), a week of workshops, classes and mentoring for the Arctic Performing Arts Summit (for 50 Indigenous artists), three workshops for the youth performing at the Sao Paulo Intermission Dance and a Dance workshop for children with disabilities with Governor General Performing Arts Award recipient Peggy Baker.

NAC Dance Masterclasses, Tea with a Ballerina & Coffee with a Choreographer

During the 2015–2016 season NAC Dance organized and hosted four ballet masterclasses where young dancers were taught by professional dancers from visiting companies. NAC Dance hosted two *Tea with a Ballerina* events, and four *Coffee with a Choreographer* events. A total of **1,500 students and teachers attended NAC Dance educational workshops and masterclasses.**

November 11, 2015 Masterclass with Kim Kohlmann and Kenny Wing Tao Ho of Hofesh Schechter Company

- Two dancers from the Hofesh Schechter Company taught an extraordinary 2 hour dance workshop that included contemporary improvisation techniques and repertoire; and
- Thirty dancers attended this sold out masterclass, while 3 teachers observed.

December 6, 2015 Masterclass with Caroline Gruber of Canada’s Royal Winnipeg Ballet

- Caroline Gruber (Ballet Master and Repertoire Specialist for RWB) taught a 1.5 hour intermediate/advanced ballet class with Music Director and Conductor, Tad Biernacki on piano; and
- Eighteen young ballet dancers and two teachers from many different Ottawa area dance schools attended this class backstage in Rehearsal Hall B.

February 3, 2016 Masterclass with Eric Beauchesne of Kidd Pivot

- While here as Rehearsal Director for the show *Betroffenheit*, Eric Beauchesne gave a 2 hour workshop in the style of choreographer and NAC Dance’s Associated Dance Artist Crystal Pite; and
- Sixteen contemporary dance students attended this class and one teacher observed.

February 26, 2016 Masterclass with Joanna Kotze

- While here performing in *Face 2 Face* with her show, “IT HAPPENED IT HAD HAPPENED IT IS HAPPENING IT WILL HAPPEN”, NAC Dance escorted Joanna Kotze to École secondaire publique De La Salle where she taught a one hour long masterclass. Joanna taught a modern contemporary dance class where she shared her expertise and pushed the dancers to new limits; and

- Thirteen junior and senior dance students participated in the class. In attendance were Erika Mills (head of the dance department at DLS and Dick Custin, cultural attaché for the U.S Embassy).

February 24, 2016 Masterclass with Honji Wang of Company Wang Ramirez

- NAC Dance escorted Honji Wang (performer and co-creator of Monchichi) to The School of Dance where she gave a 1.5 hour masterclass. Honji taught a class based on her knowledge of ballet, hip hop, breakdance, locking, popping, free flow and new style; and
- Thirteen students in the pre-professional contemporary dance attended the class and two teachers observed.

March 5, 2016 Masterclass with Min Tang of Honk Kong Ballet

- Tang Min, rehearsal mistress for the Hong Kong ballet and past Les Grand Ballet soloist, gave a 1.5 hour intermediate/advanced ballet class; and
- Sixteen ballet students took the class with two teachers observing.

April 9, 2016 Masterclass with Jonathan Renna of the National Ballet of Canada

- Jonathan Renna gave a 1.5 hour intermediate/advanced ballet class in Rehearsal hall B. Jonathan, who runs the National Ballet after school program taught a vigorous class and spent time making individual corrections on the students; and
- This sold out class had twenty-five students participating and three teachers observing.

April 23, 2016 Masterclass with Companhia Urbana de dança

- Choreographer, Sonia Destri Lie and her nine dancers gave an amazing 2 hour workshop to francophone high school students from all over Ontario attending the Festival De Danse En Milieu Scolaire 2016 at École Secondaire Publique De La Salle. Led by Sonia Destri Lie, the nine dancers shared their moves in an awe-inspiring warm up and then split the 100 students into groups and worked on mini choreographies which they then presented; and
- 104 students attended along with eight teachers.



Photo: Masterclass with Min Tang of Hong Kong Ballet.

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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