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THE ART OF LEARNING

THE NATIONAL YOUTH AND EDUCATION TRUST



2016 – 2017
REPORT TO
SUPPORTERS



**ENGAGING
YOUNG
AUDIENCES**

Culture Days

On October 1, due to Southam Hall renovations, the National Arts Centre held all of its Culture Days workshops at the Isabel Bader and the Tett Centres in Kingston, Ontario. Free public activities for families included a choral tribute to the Tragically Hip, a one-of-a-kind dance workshop, and a “Rusty Orchestra” rehearsal led by Music Director Alexander Shelley.

NAC Dance co-produced additional Culture Days activities in Kingston: Siõned Watkins gave a one-hour GYROKINESIS® workshop for 12 participants and led a 10-minute warm-up for members of the NAC Orchestra, Kingston Symphony and members of the public in the lobby of the Isabel Centre for Performing Arts. Participants have also treated to the GYROKINESIS® *Awakening of the Senses* series, and brain and body exercises that have been tailored for a quick grounding preparation for performance.



Photos: Culture Days in Kingston, Ontario, GYROKINESIS® class with Siõned Watkins.

TD Family Adventures with the NAC Orchestra

The NAC Orchestra's *TD Family Adventures* series introduced another generation of children to the beautiful world of classical music. Over 11,400 children and family members attended the interactive Saturday Afternoon concerts led by Principal Youth and Family Conductor Alain Trudel. The 2016–2017 season featured an all-Canadian cast of guest artists, including Platypus Theatre, author Roch Carrier, hockey legend Ken Dryden, actor and soprano Natalie Choquette, comedian Rick Mercer, and Les 7 doigts de la main. The NACOrtron, a giant screen made possible by Rogers TV, offered up-close views of the Orchestra and the performers on stage.

The Friends of the NAC Orchestra organized over 40 thematically-linked interactive activity stations, known as *TUNETOWN*, for children to enjoy prior to the start of each concert making the afternoon fun for the whole family.



Photos (L-R): *TUNETOWN* pre-concert activities before *Peter and the Wolf*, Les 7 doigts de la main and *Peter and the Wolf*, Rick Mercer animates *Peter and the Wolf*, Roch Carrier and the NAC Orchestra perform *The Hockey Sweater*.

KinderNACO Concert Series

The popular *KinderNACO* concert series, in its 13th season featuring string, brass, percussion and wind ensembles from the NAC Orchestra, offered four shows performed three times each (twice in English and once in French) for three- to eight-year-olds. Over 2,800 children and family members attended the *KinderNACO* concerts in 2016–2017. Interactive pre-concert activities were available to families prior to performances by community partners, including Music for Young Children and Ottawa Suzuki Strings.



"I was there [Shenkman Arts Centre] with my son and his friend. They had a great time. This performance [We've Got The Beat] was very engaging, interesting, moved along and was fun. Please send my thanks to the artists, they were really great!!! Thanks again for sharing this programming with us."

Caroline Obeid, Artistic Producer and Manager
Shenkman Arts Centre

Photos (L-R): Ayorama Woodwind Quintet with Marjolaine Fournier performs *WINDerful Musical Zoo*; Bangers & Smash percussion duo performs *We've Got the Beat*; the Ambassador Brass Trio performs *Brass Through the Ages*.

NAC Orchestra Student Matinees

Throughout the 2016–2017 season, the NAC Orchestra welcomed over 4,630 students and teachers to its sold-out student matinee performances at CentrepoinTE theatres and La Nouvelle Scène. Student matinees were relocated to these off-site locations because of the NAC’s major architectural renovation. Performances included:

- *Canadian Brass: Brilliance and Class* (November 2, 2016): Canada’s most famous brass ambassadors performed a brand new program filled with high energy fun, featuring the trumpet, trombone, horn and tuba;
- *Slumberland** (November 11, 2016): Produced by Belgium’s innovative Zonzo Compagnie, this breathtaking film-like musical journey took audiences into the world of dreams where anything is possible; (*A co-production with the NAC’s French Theatre)
- *The Music of Star Wars* (December 7, 2016): John Williams’ iconic movie music, performed by the NAC Orchestra under the baton of maestro Erik Ochsner, guided by Canadian funnyman Charles Ross in his famous “One Man Wars Trilogy”, and co-hosted by Canadian actor Emilie Fournier; and
- *How the Gimquat Found Her Song* (April 4, 2017): A compelling story of a bird who is searching for her own unique voice, Peter Duschenes and Danielle Desmormaux from Ottawa’s Platypus Theatre took audiences on an expedition across continents and through centuries of music, from Gregorian chant to Beethoven to rap.

To help ensure the concerts were as meaningful as possible, teachers were assisted in their classroom preparation with curriculum-based study guides prepared by the NAC Music Education team. Additionally, complimentary visits from Donnie Deacon, the NAC Orchestra’s Resident Artist in the Community, helped prepare students for their upcoming attendance of the student matinees.



Photos: *How The Gimquat Found Her Song* student matinee.

Music Monday

In honour of Canada's sesquicentennial, the NAC partnered with the Coalition for Music Education to co-produce the national celebration. *Music Monday* is the world's largest single event dedicated to raising awareness for music education. The Showcase concert was live-streamed on May 1 from the NAC Theatre and was hosted by opera superstar Measha Brueggergosman and Seamus O'Regan, MP.

The concert included:

- Performances of "Song of Life" by Métis songwriter Susan Scofield;
- The Métis Fiddle Quartet;
- Singer-songwriter Mimi O'Bonsawin;
- A harp and operatic soprano duo;
- Youth jazz and strings ensembles;
- Ottawa Junior Youth Orchestra conducted by Angus Armstrong; and
- JUNO award-winning songwriter Marc Jordan along with musicians from the official *Music Monday* video and a mass children's choir of over 300 students conducted by Robert Filion led the nationwide sing-along of *Sing It Together*.

The National Showcase Concert also premiered a unique Indigenous drumming video by Cole Forrest, a North Bay Ontario hip-hop artist. The video featured a compilation of young Indigenous drummers from across Canada with spoken word. Cole is the recipient of the 2016 James Bartelman Aboriginal Creative Writing Award and an ambassador for *Youth4Music*, a national movement of young people who understand the importance of access to quality music education programs for all students.

In Charlottetown, in honour of *Music Monday* and as part of the NAC Orchestra's Canada 150 Tour to the Atlantic Provinces, Music Director Alexander Shelley led a free *Music Monday* concert at Trinity United Church that featured internationally renowned violinist James Ehnes, a massed choir of about 600 students, PEI's Singing Strings, and War Horses with Tian Wigmore.



Photo: In performance in Southam Hall, 2017 *Music Monday* National Showcase Concert.

French Theatre Family and Youth Programming

In 2016–2017, the French Theatre Children/Youth series shifted to non-NAC venues because of the major architectural work underway at the NAC. This gave Mélanie Dumont, the Associate Artistic Director for Youth Programming, the opportunity to be creative and take participants on exciting and imaginative journeys.

Designed for babies and up to age 12, a total of 3,540 people attended the 34 performances of the three shows presented through the French Theatre Children/Youth and Education Program. More than 2,000 students attended French Theatre’s school matinees and approximately 1,500 people took in 18 family performances. There were also 100 teenagers who attended the De Plain-pied evening performances, and another 100 children who came to the *Fête à carreaux* event.

English performances of *Slumberland*, a special multi-media performance by Belgium’s innovative Zonzo Compagnie, premiered in Ottawa to families and students at La Nouvelle Scène. The English performances were a co-collaboration between the NAC Orchestra and NAC French Theatre.

French Theatre Student Matinees

French Theatre attracted a total of 2,125 students aged 18 months to 12 years, who, accompanied by their teachers and educators, went to three different venues (La Nouvelle Scène, the University of Ottawa's Academic Hall, and AXENÉO7 Gallery), to see innovative and daring shows and arts events during the course of the season.

Six schools made use 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, 439 youth were able to attend one or more of French Theatre’s matinees. Many of the youth were attending a play for the first time!



Dancers, letters and lots of talent. The youth show *26 lettres à danser* kept its promise to keep audience members of all ages on the edge of their seats during the first school matinee in Ottawa. It was an innovative and impactful project...

Maud Cucchi, Le Droit, February 10, 2017

Photo: A child's drawing of *Slumberland*

French Theatre Pre-Show Activities, Reading Corner and Parent-Child Workshops

Before each French Theatre family performance, there was an open invitation for everyone to arrive 45 minutes early to take part in craft activities related to the show about to be performed. In addition to the various pre-show activities, L'eau du bain collective developed an interactive sound installation. Before the show, the children spoke about their night-time visions, plunged their hands into dead leaves or drummed on a steel bucket. Artist Thomas Sinou then edited the various parts of this “infinite collective dream” and posted it online.



Photo: Children had access to a reading corner developed jointly with the Ottawa Public Library to read or make pictures.

To accompany the *26 lettres à danser* show, choreographer H el ene Langevin ran a creative dance workshop for parents and children aged 4 and over in the NAC rehearsal hall. During the 90-minute session, two dozen parents and children danced, played, and unleashed their creativity!

These activities and meetings contribute significantly to familiarizing children with theatre and the work of the artists, while also enhancing the family experience.



Photos (R-L): Drawing by a Grade three year student from  cole Francojeunesse, photo submitted. Children enjoy activities with their parents pre-show.

Introducing Toddlers to Theatre



Les matinées berçantes presented performances throughout the month of May at the AXENÉO7 gallery in Gatineau. Each of these electro-acoustic concerts for babies to three-year-old children was evocative of a specific region (Gascony, Alsace or Natashquan) in a blend of theatre, installation and sound experimentation. The experimental theatre company Les Incomplètes created the series for French Theatre, and it was accompanied by an exhibition of interactive works connected with rocking chairs in some way.

"In a hall normally used for contemporary installations, colours and carpeting were added to create a warm and bucolic cocoon... A mixture of soothing but rich sounds – sea winds, the sound of sheep bleating, softly played notes – immersed us in a gentle and relaxing time-out that was full of surprises. It was a welcome bubble of spring-like sweetness..."

Maud Cucchi, Le Droit, May 12, 2017



Photos: *Les matinées berçantes* presented performances throughout the month of May at the AXENÉO7 gallery in Gatineau.

De plain-pied

French Theatre continued its youth engagement by presenting the third edition of the *De plain-pied* project, where events are structured around teenagers and their concerns, including social pressures, the environment, their place in today's society, their future, school stress and more. In 2016–2017, two creative evenings took place with 50 youth aged 14–20 years taking part.

"You managed to combine grace with ferocity, and to mix sweat and effort. This strikingly powerful evening will remain in my heart forever through my entire life."

Anne-Marie Guilmaine, Artistic Associate



Photos : *De plain-pied*.

La Fête à carreaux

To close this nomadic season, parents and children were invited to get together at the NAC for *La Fête à carreaux*, where they could view works created by around 100 students from grades 3 to 8 who took part in *L'école à l'œuvre*, a huge artistic mediation project led by Lisa L'Heureux and Marie-Pierre Proulx. The families who came saw some amazing and imaginative works in a series of installations that filled every nook and cranny of the Studio.



I had a very nice time at the NAC's *Fête à carreaux* today! I'm not the only one to have enjoyed the afternoon. Many of the parents, children and grandparents who were there enjoyed being a part of such a pleasant activity!

Véronique Jolicoeur, Grade 3 teacher, Trille-des-bois Public Elementary School

Photos: French Theatre's *Fête à carreaux*.



**IN THE CLASSROOM,
COMMUNITY, AND
STUDIO**

Musical Adventures in My School

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 in-school resources is greater than ever.

The *Musical Adventures in My School* series brings various chamber ensembles at an affordable rate into local schools (kindergarten through 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. A total of 42 performances took place during the 2016–2017 season reaching over 7,700 students and teachers.



Photo: *Musical Adventures in My School*

“L'école de l'Envolée aimerait remercier les musiciens pour leur superbe prestation. Les élèves et les enseignants ont apprécié le spectacle. Merci!”

Danielle Roger, enseignante à propos du concert Rythmo-Danse du quintette à vents Bel Canto

“The concert today was super! Donald, as Master of Ceremony, engaged the audience repeatedly and all of the players, Karen, Nick, Donald, Stephen and Jill were in top form! The students and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves.”

George Old, attending the Classy Brass! concert with the Rideau Lakes Brass Quintet

French Theatre: L'École à l'oeuvre Project

Artists Lisa L'Heureux and Marie-Pierre Proulx made classroom visits to six groups of students, Grades 3 to 8, in the Ottawa-Gatineau region. In a series of interactive workshops, they shared their thoughts, interests and view of the world. And as their connection with the students grew stronger, they encouraged them to create, express themselves and discover the power of their imagination. Over the course of the project, the students explored various concepts and media (images, words, and sounds) to unleash their creativity, think outside the classroom, and reimagine the world around them. In all, about 150 local students from three elementary schools participated in the project. In partnership with the French Theatre team, Lisa L'Heureux and Marie-Pierre Proulx were pleased to showcase the children's creativity through a series of art installations unveiled at the *Fête à carreaux!*



Photos: French Theatre in the classroom.

"I wanted to thank you for having made such a positive contribution to the students in my class. By choosing the world of the imagination, you were able to hold my students' attention and to motivate them. Even more important, you showed them that many people work in the arts, a side of life that is not always in evidence in society. Some of them might even decide to become artists."

Véronique Jolicoeur
Grade 3 teacher, Trille-des-bois public elementary school

NAC Dance in Schools

On January 19, NAC Dance Education Associate and Teaching Artist, Siõned Watkins, gave a fully subsidized dance workshop for students of Ridgemont High School. A total of 16 high school students attended the two-hour *Introduction to Contemporary Dance* session.

Post Show Discussion with Compagnie Virginie Brunelle

On April 7, over 100 youth and three teachers attended a performance of Compagnie Virginie Brunelle at the National Arts Centre; the students were invited to stay in the studio to discuss the performance in a discussion moderated by Erika Mills, the head of the dance department of École secondaire Publique De La Salle.



Photo: Ridgemont class attended the two-hour *Introduction to Contemporary Dance* session.

The Music Alive Program

Celebrating Music Making in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut, and the Atlantic Provinces

The *Music Alive Program* (MAP) celebrated its 12th season in 2016–2017. 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 2016–2017, MAP supported ongoing programming in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Nunavut, with a particular focus on rural and remote communities.

MAP Western Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba

More than 7,200 students, teachers, and community members participated in MAP-related activities in Western Canada in 2016–2017. In Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba, the MAP program offered full-day school workshops and shared performances with professional artists based on the theme of *Listening and Creativity*. Schools participated in the Classical Composers, Indigenous Arts, or Cross-Cultural experience program stream; this was the third year working with the same group of schools from these regions. This year, 51 schools participated in the *Listening and Creativity* program.

Other activities included in the Western Canada program were:

- Trumpet lessons for students in the small community of Manning, Alberta;
- Support for an ongoing fiddle program in the remote community of Barrows, Manitoba;
- A partnership with the Regina Public Library to support hip-hop creation workshops with two middle schools, which culminated in students sharing their work at a community event;
- A special Indigenous cultural presentation for high school students in Manning, Alberta;
- Additional interactive artist visits focusing on the MAP’s Friends and Family program for two Manitoba schools in Crane River and Gypsumville; 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.



Photo: Kids Sharing their Drawings - Greely Road in Fort Mac

In addition, 51 digital resource packages consisting of teacher guides, student materials, and musical tracks were distributed to schools. These resource materials included a newly-expanded version of the NAC's *Listen Up, Canada!* teaching package, based on the work of Canadian composer R. Murray Schafer, and a brand-new resource guide on Indigenous arts entitled *Nitohtha: Listen to Earthsounds*, co-written by Alberta-based music educators Sherryl Sewepagaham (Cree-Dene) and Nicole Schutz (Métis).

MAP Nunavut: Iqaluit, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, Kugluktuk, Kimmirut, and Cambridge Bay

During the 2016–2017 season, MAP Nunavut supported a wide variety of initiatives in nine Nunavut communities and in Ottawa, including school and community workshops, mentorship opportunities, community concerts, instrument delivery, and more. The nine participating communities were Iqaluit, Igloolik, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Cape Dorset, Kugluktuk, Kimmirut, and, for the first time, Cambridge Bay.



Photo: 2017 Festival - Kids Activities

The NAC's ongoing, multi-year commitment to these communities ensures crucial long-term support for projects, programs, and individuals. In 2016–2017, over 4,000 students, teachers, young artists, and community members participated in MAP Nunavut-related activities. Seven instruments were delivered to the community of Iqaluit, including six Inuit drums made by master drum-maker David Serkoak.

Supporting Inuit artists, language, and culture and developing local capacity for arts learning and sharing are the keys to MAP Nunavut's success. Past MAP student participants then have the opportunity to move towards mentorship opportunities and leadership training. They become fully-fledged creators, performers, and teachers in their own right.

Empowering Children and Youth through the Arts

- 17 school/youth music workshops with local or visiting musicians involving 568 participants;
- 8 school performances featuring local musicians, visiting musicians, and/or local students involving 739 students and teachers;
- Donation and/or delivery of 7 instruments for students in Iqaluit;

- 12 extended teaching musician visits for intensive work with schools and communities involving 1,615 students and teachers;
- Music Camp support in Iqaluit involving approximately 150 children;
- Partnership with the Cantiamo Girls Choir of Ottawa and the Inuksuk Drum Dancers of Iqaluit for Nipiit Katittut – Voices United, a musical and cultural exchange project for approximately 75 students and resulted in a new choral composition in Inuktitut and collaborative performances in both cities; and
- Support for the ongoing music and culture program at Nunavut Sivuniksavut in Ottawa, which provided music-learning opportunities for approximately 40 post-secondary students from across Nunavut.



Photos (L-R): MisterLee and Rita Claire with Cambridge Bay Students; Qaggiq Teaching artist training included performing for children and elders.

Enriching Communities through Music-Making

- 8 community performances with 720 audience members; and
- 17 community workshops involving 579 participants.

Building Capacity among Educators and Musicians

- 1 choral workshop for 16 teachers in Iqaluit
- Mentorship and showcasing for 23 Inuit musicians from across Nunavut in music pedagogy, creation, and performance;
- A 2-week internship at the National Arts Centre for 1 young Inuit arts administrator, and;
- Partnership with the Qaggiavuut Society to support an intensive teacher training symposium for Inuit artists, attended by 8 musicians representing 6 Nunavut communities.

Celebrating Local Culture and Local Artists

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

NAC Resident Artist in the Community

Donnie Deacon, NAC Orchestra's Resident Artist in the Community, took part in several outreach activities and professional development events throughout the year including:

- A workshop at Robert Bateman Public School to prepare 90 students for the NAC's *Canadian Brass* student matinee;
- Working with OrKidstra prior to their performance at the Rideau Club with Alexander Shelley, and conducting the Strings of St John's;
- A string workshop at the Conservatoire de musique de Gatineau and took part in the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra's Concertmaster audition committee;
- Workshop at Carson Grove Elementary School in preparation of NAC Orchestra's *Star Wars* student matinee performances;
- A conducting lesson at Carleton University, and
- A coaching session with the apprentices of the *Institute for Orchestral Studies*.

NAC Dance's Education Associate and Teaching Artist

NAC Dance's Education Associate and Teaching Artist Siônéd Watkins shared her expertise in a number of educational activities.

- A total of 1,648 students attended workshops with Siônéd in 2016 – 2017;
- Taught a total of 11 dance workshops in schools during the 2016 – 2017 season
- Choreographed students and worked with National Indigenous groups;
- Delivered a movement warm-up to 1,300 youth participating in *Music Ignites 150*; and
- Produced and created the dance element and procession for the NAC's grand re-opening on Canada Day.



**CELEBRATING DIVERSE,
MIXED ABILITY AND INDIGENOUS
ARTISTS**

Gauthier Dance Company Theaterhaus Stuttgart Masterclass

On March 11 Eric Gauthier of Gauthier Dance led a two-hour dance workshop for 24 participants, ages 14 to 70 including two youth with disabilities.



Masterclass with Eric Gauthier of
Gauthier Dance

*"Everybody can
dance – and dance
is for everybody!"*

Eric Gauthier

“It’s unusual to find
accessible,
valuable dance training.
I’m very appreciative to
NAC Dance
and their supporters for
making it possible.”

Liz Winkelaar
(paraplegic dancer)

In the 2016–2017 season, The National Arts Centre continued to showcase Indigenous storytelling and reconciliation on all its stages. Through its educational programming, the NAC made meaningful connections and grew relationships with the Indigenous community nationwide.

Canada Scene: Residence with Qaggiavuut



On May 19 and 20, in preparation for their performances at the National Arts Centre’s *Canada Scene*, Inuit performing group Qaggiavuut! invited Siõned Watkins to work with their cast and crew as a dance mentor. Siõned lead GYROKINESIS® movement classes worked with the cast privately and participated in rehearsal during their residence in Kingston, Ontario.



Photos: Cast and crew of *Kiviuq Returns*; a movement class with Siõned Watkins.

Music Circle Workshops

In its fourth year, the *Music Circle Workshop* series, which is produced in collaboration with the Lotus Centre for Special Music Education, was expanded to reach even more participants. In 2016–2017, over 120 children, youth and adults with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disorders took part in this free hands-on program.

The program enabled participants to:

- Learn about orchestral string, brass and percussion instruments in a familiar environment;
- Be engaged in creative group music-making and play string, brass and percussion 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 String Quintet, Rideau Lakes Brass Quintet and Bangers and Smash percussion duo perform live.

NAC Orchestra Second horn Elizabeth Simpson facilitated a total of six series of workshops on string, brass and percussion instruments for children at the Lotus Centre and CHEO's Ottawa Children Treatment Centre; high school students at Woodroffe High School, Earl of March Secondary School, and Ottawa Technical Secondary School; and adults at Partners in Parenting's Life Program.



Photos (R-L): NAC Orchestra Second horn Elizabeth Simpson with students at the Lotus Centre and Ottawa Technical Secondary School.

"Music Circle has exposed Aidan to so much more than I could have ever done myself. Liz and all the musicians from the NAC are so generous with their time and patience for all the kids. **Music brings Aidan so much joy, his gift will always amaze me and I truly appreciate what you do for him!**

His talent was certainly showcased yesterday! Lotus Centre and the NAC coming together has been a very special gift for us!

It is programs like this that help brings so much out in our children that without funding we would never be able to enjoy! Looking at all the faces yesterday, the smiles, the excitement, the curiosity...and so much more! Aidan was even expressing his feelings when he was listening... words like, "that is dramatic music", " I feel like someone is running away". We are so incredibly lucky to be a part of this beautiful journey! I thank you so very much! "

Rebecca Vandebosch, mother of Aidan

Canada Day: Youth, Diversity and Culture

On Canada Day a special dance event was produced by Siõned Watkins for His Royal Highness Prince Charles and visiting dignitaries attending the NAC's grand re-opening. The day was made possible by Honorary Patrons The Honourable Hilary M. Weston and Mr Galen Weston. Guests were led through the newly built spaces by Algonquin Fancy Shawl Dancer Josée Bourgeois and Traditional Drummer Yancey Thusky of the Kitigan Zibi First Nation. The procession watched a dance performance featuring Propeller Dance Company of Ottawa, three students from Canada's National Ballet School, Xander Sen and Yukon's Dakhká Khwáan Dancers, with music by JUNO nominee, Rise Ashen. DJ and musician Rise Ashen worked closely with Siõned to create the five distinct musical elements that were woven together to create an uplifting dance showcasing youth, diversity and culture.



Photos: Finale dance on Canada day. 14 year old Xander Sen flies towards HRH.

Launching the Music Alive Program: Atlantic Canada

As part of the NAC's latest strategic plan, the *Music Alive Program* piloted initiatives and partnerships in Atlantic Canada in 2016–2017, in association with the NAC Orchestra *Canada 150 Tour* to the region. The NAC worked with more than a dozen local partners, Indigenous organisations and featured 26 emerging and professional artists from all four Atlantic Provinces.

Highlights included:

- A four-day Young Artist Summit for Indigenous musicians led by Natalie Sappier and Moe Clark in partnership with the Canada Council and the East Coast Music Association in Saint John, New Brunswick;
- Award-winning Indigenous musician Tian Wigmore led a songwriting workshop and performed for the *Music Monday* celebrations in Charlottetown. He led multi-artist visits for 80 students at Mount Stewart Consolidated School in the community of Mount Stewart and for 50 students at John J. Sark Memorial School in Lennox Island. The artists performed a variety of material for the students, including traditional Indigenous songs, and some childhood sing-along favourites, and also engaged students in discussion on the role of music in life and within M'ikmaq culture;
- In St. John's Newfoundland, the female drum and vocal group Eastern Owl joined forces for the first time with Shallaway's Jubilate choir for a performance and a powerful community gathering on Reconciliation Through the Arts; and
- In Halifax's north end, African-Nova Scotian hip-hop artists MAJE and Shevy Price worked with local youth for six weeks to create their own songs, which they performed with members of both the NAC Orchestra and Symphony Nova Scotia.



Photos: African-Nova Scotian hip-hop artists MAJE and Shevy Price, with local youth members in performance with both the NAC Orchestra and Symphony Nova Scotia.

Indigenous Voices Rising: Spiqitaqotal Feedback

"I attended the Indigenous Voices Rising performance and was impressed by the event beyond measure. The musicians were given a means with which to artistically express emotions, concerns, and relationships through their music. Personally, I was both moved and excited by the performances. The use of music to unite cultures and to encourage collaboration is a wonderful thing, and I would guess that the musicians gained a confidence to perform through the Summit that will continue with them throughout their careers. The facilitators did a fantastic job of collaborating with the emerging musicians, illustrating ways of enhancing the performance so that the professional benefit was maximized. The event and the music will encourage us at Symphony New Brunswick to reach out to NB Indigenous communities in the hope of being able to collaborate in a similar manner."

Jennifer Grant, General Manager of Symphony New Brunswick

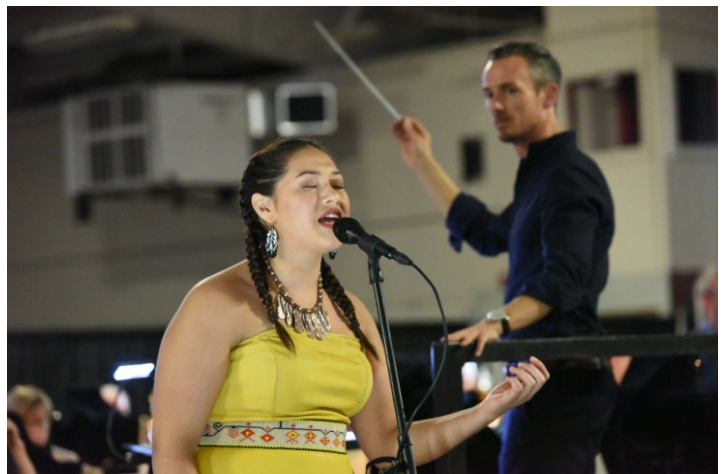
NAC Orchestra Performance in Eskasoni NS:

"Our students as part of the curriculum learn about the culture of the Aboriginal People; they have heard of the residential school experience and of course Rita Joe's Poem "I Lost My Talk" but to be in Eskasoni and to see the support and love during the concert for Rita Joe, her family and for Miss Kalolin Johnson has left a memory on my students that they will never forget."

Noelle Wadden, teacher at Glace Bay High School in Glace Bay NS



Photos (L-R): Drummer CJ Cleal as part of the Reconciliation Through the Arts event at the St. John's Native Friendship Centre (St. John's NL); Facilitator Moe Clark and elder-in-residence Hubert Francis work with participants in the Young Artist Summit for Indigenous musicians in Saint John NB; Paula Drew performs as part of Indigenous Voices Rising, accompanied by Hubert Francis and Kayla Stride.



Photos (L-R): Kayla Stride performs with Quinn Bonnell for Indigenous Voices Rising in Saint John NB; Quinn Bonnell performs solo for Indigenous Voices Rising. Middle Photo: Julie Pellissier-Lush and Richard Pellissier-Lush lead students in music and dance in Mount Stewart PEI. Bottom Photos (L-R): Tian Wigmore, Julie Pellissier-Lush, and Logen Lewis lead a discussion with students in Lennox Island PEI; 17-year-old Kalolin Johnson performs with the NAC Orchestra in her home community of Eskasoni NS.



ARTIST TRAINING & SHOWCASING

Close Encounters

On November 7 the NAC Orchestra and Ottawa Youth Orchestras joined forces for the very first time in the newly-renovated Southam Hall for *Close Encounters*. Co-hosted by CBC/Radio-Canada's Martin Vanasse and CBC's Lucy van Oldenbarneveld, 140 musicians led by Alexander Shelley performed selections from Beethoven, Borodin, and Kabalevsky. Featured artists in this sold-out performance included young OrKidstra/Ottawa Youth Orchestra (OYO) clarinetist Peter Perez and student dancer Xander Sen. One lucky audience member also had the opportunity to conduct the massive orchestra. The collaboration was so successful that the OYO will return to join forces with NACO and our *TD Family Adventures Series* in May 2018.



Photos: The NAC and Ottawa Youth Orchestras with dancer Xander Sen in rehearsal for *Close Encounters* on November 6, 2016; Alexander Shelley with the performers; Taking a bow after the performance of *Encounters*; Xander Zen in performance.

The NAC Orchestra Celebrates Ottawa’s Talented Young Artists

In 2016–2017 students explored the theme of “encounters” and were given opportunities to hear or perform alongside students from different schools in their neighbourhood or in some instances from opposite ends of the city. The program deployed dozens of musicians from the NAC Orchestra to work with students to prepare them for exciting future performance experiences. *NACO Remix* is a grassroots community engagement program that uses the power of the performing arts to build community and inspire young people. The program addresses the lack of arts programming in underserved areas of Ottawa’s west-end. As part of Canada 150 and Ottawa 2017 celebrations, the NAC Orchestra and Music Director Alexander Shelley brought local schools together to celebrate the power of music and to build strong communities. From March 20 to 24 Alexander Shelley and the NAC Orchestra brought students together from across the city to “encounter” each other through music. Here are details about the three main events that took place during that week:

1. Simply Strings: Encounters between Performing Arts Schools

On Tuesday, March 21, the strings of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and Ottawa’s two performing arts high schools — Canterbury High School, and École secondaire Publique De La Salle — joined forces for a special concert conducted by Alexander Shelley. This event marked the first joint collaboration in the history of all three orchestras. The program included excerpts by Britten, Balmages, Dvořák, Barber, and Elgar.



NACO Music Director Alexander Shelley works with musicians in advance of the Simply Strings concert.

2. NACO Remix: ENCOUNTERS in Ottawa's West End

On March 22, led by Alexander Shelley, four school bands from the west end of Ottawa, including one school that began a band as a result of *NACO Remix* last year, Pinecrest Public School, performed in a side-by-side concert with 20 wind, brass and percussion musicians from the NAC Orchestra at Woodroffe High School. Siôned Watkins, NAC Dance Education Associate, worked with students from Pinecrest and Woodroffe to choreograph and dance to three pieces on the program. NAC Orchestra musicians had visited the four schools in advance of the performance, providing helpful advice to music teachers, and inspiring the students to reach their full potential. The four participating school concert bands were: D. Roy Kennedy Public School, J.H. Putman Public School, Pinecrest Public School, and Woodroffe High School.

Woodroffe High School is a recent recipient of some of the NAC's donated seats that were removed from Southam Hall as part of the NAC's architectural rejuvenation.

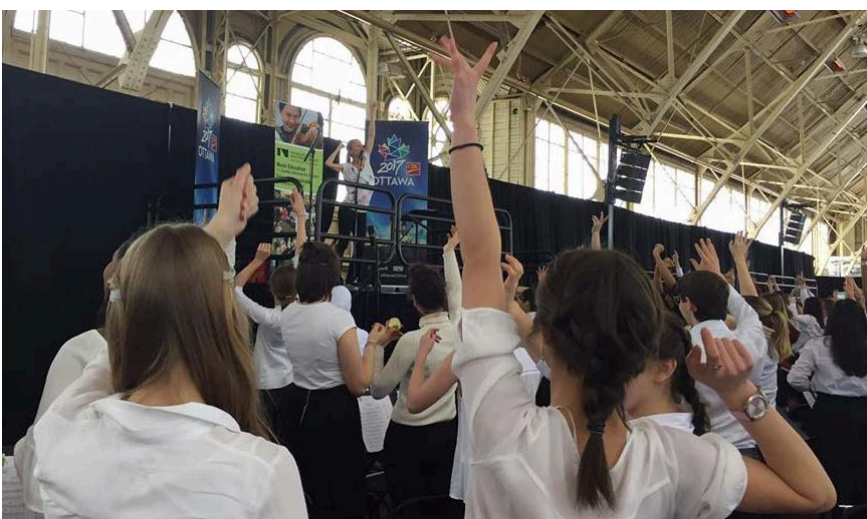


Photos (L-R):
NACO Remix Project at Woodroffe High School; tap dancer Chantal Carrillo; dancer Ivan Melgares Mena and tap dancer Nigel Clifford.

3. Music Ignites

On March 24, under the *Ottawa 2017 Ignite 150* umbrella, NAC Orchestra Music Director Alexander Shelley conducted 1,300 high school students from 25 local schools in a massed band concert at the Aberdeen Pavilion. This event, entitled *Music Ignites*, was one of 17 epic stunts, events or gatherings organized by *Ottawa 2017* as part of Canada’s 150th birthday celebrations. High School bands had the chance to encounter students who play a similar instrument from a different part of the city. Two arrangements were performed: *O Canada*, and Leonard Cohen’s *Hallelujah*.

In advance of this event, members of the NAC Orchestra, NAC Resident Artist in the Community Donnie Deacon, as well as former NAC Orchestra principal trumpet and NAC Manager of Artist Training Douglas “Pace” Sturdevant, led in-school workshops with each of the participating concert bands to provide helpful advice to music teachers and to inspire the students.



Photos: Alexander Shelley conducting 1,300 high school students in Aberdeen Pavilion; Sióned Watkins, NAC Dance Education Associate, lead a GYROKINESIS® session during *Music Ignites*.

Young Artists Program

The NAC welcomed 64 participants and 22 exceptional faculty members to the 19th edition of the *Young Artists Program* (formerly the *Summer Music Institute*). This year's program was led by Artistic Director Pinchas Zukerman, after returning from a year-long sabbatical. Students hailed from the USA, Canada, Korea, Germany, Australia, Japan, China, Israel, France, Taiwan, Argentina, Peru, and Latvia.

The YAP welcomed guest chamber coach David Geber of Manhattan School of Music and pianist Jing Yang from New York. Canadian recital pianist Angela Cheng taught a masterclass in the third week of the YAP. Especially welcome was Canadian baritone Russell Braun who led the YAP vocal division. NAC Orchestra violist David Thies-Thompson joined the precollege faculty to lead the string orchestra. Pinchas Zukerman and Patty Kopec gave a stellar masterclass with three YAP violin students to a full house of 150 people in Freiman Hall.



"I have been looking forward to the *Young Artists Program* all year. My lessons with Mr. Zukerman and Ms. Kopec motivated and inspired me to become not just a better violinist but also a better musician. I have become great friends with my quartet over these few weeks here. This program really encompassed everything I love about music."

Ari Boutris, violin, YAP 2017 (USA)

Photos (L-R): Wind Quintet: Stephanie Morin, (Canada), Michelle Feng, (Canada/USA), Ludovik Lesage-Hinse, (Canada), Yu-Ping Wang, (Taiwan) and Molly Wreakes(Canada). Two cellists in an all cello session: Edward Luengo, (USA) and Drake Driscoll, (USA). Cellist: Camden Archambeau, (USA), in a masterclass with Precollege Collaborative pianist Judy Ginsburg. Canadian Pianist Angela Cheng gives a piano masterclass with (L-R): Jennifer Ahn (USA), Sean Lim (USA), Jinsung Kim (Canadian), Jeremy Tai and Tal McGee (USA).

NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition

From May 12-14, the 27th annual *NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition* was held at the NAC. This year's competition focused on winds, brass and percussion for 16 students from the National Capital Region. Guest jurors Andrew Tunnis, an accomplished pianist and teacher, and André Massicotte, former Radio-Canada producer, joined the NAC Orchestra jury chaired by Roderick Bell to award six prizes and three honourable mentions worth more than \$20,000.



Photos (L-R): Nicolas Richard performs with accompanist Fred LaCroix during the Bursary Competition in the Azrieli Studio at the NAC; Heather Jonasson performs.

MusicFest Canada Nationals

MusicFest Canada “The Nationals” brought thousands of students and educators from across the country together, over a one-week period, to celebrate excellence in musical performance. Not only does MusicFest Canada showcase the talent and knowledge of esteemed clinicians and adjudicators from across North America, it also showcases Canada’s own landscape by hosting the festival in a different metropolitan city each year.

From May 14 -19, the 45th Annual MusicFest Canada Nationals were held in Niagara Falls. Approximately 8,000 students and teachers from across Canada took part in the week-long event full of music, learning and fun. Three National Arts Centre cash prizes totalling \$3,000 were awarded at the 2017 MusicFest Annual Awards presentation on May 19.

My name is Lucas March, and I am the 2017 recipient of the Outstanding Woodwind Player Award. I would like to thank you for generously donating this award. As you know, being a musician can be extremely expensive. If it weren't for awards like this, I would not be where I am today. I live in the small town of New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. I am a 15 year old clarinet player and I enjoy practising a lot.

This award is important to me because it helps me understand that all of the hard work that I put into music is recognized. I will use it to help pay for my recently purchased set of clarinets. I will also use the money to offset the costs of travel to the National Music Festival in August.

Thank you again so much for providing young musicians like me with awards to help us along our musical journey.

Sincerely,
Lucas

Music Podcasts

Throughout the 2016–2017 season, Sean Rice, NAC Orchestra’s second clarinet, interviewed guests on topics such as the *Classical Collisions* events that took place in celebration of Beethoven and Schumann, the upcoming *Ideas of North* festival and the 2017–2018 NAC Orchestra season preview in seven NACOcast episodes. His guests included lyricist Robert Chafe, artist Anita Kunz, composer Timo Andres, and various NAC Orchestra musicians and conductors. The NACOcast channel tracked 50,288 downloads during this season.

In 2016–2017, Jean-Jacques van Vlasselaer and NAC Orchestra’s Marjolaine Fournier recorded six *Explore the Symphony* and *L’univers symphonique* podcasts relating to 2017–2018 programming. Featured composers included Sibelius, Saariaho and Bruckner. The *Explore the Symphony* channel counted 149,935 downloads this season, while the *L’univers symphonique* channel counted 47,685.

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 work 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.



Photos (L-R): The 2016–2017 IOS apprentices: Tom Duboski, viola (26, USA); Min Jung Lee, cello (26, Canada), Jorie Butler-Geyer, violin (23, USA), Yeseul Gam, violin (26, South Korea); and Maximilian Mauricio-Cardilli, bass (23, Canada) and Elizabeth Oka, viola (26, USA – not pictured).

Highlights Included:

- Gaining hands-on experience learning from NAC Orchestra mentors while playing in the orchestra for six weeks, seminars and workshops, and two mock auditions (January 16 – March 4, 2017);
- Performing in nine major concerts with the NAC Orchestra including the NAC Orchestra's annual performance in Toronto at Roy Thomson Hall;
- Worked on aspects of their performance with guest conductor Christian Zacharias, Principal Guest Conductor John Storgårds, NAC Resident Artist in the Community Donnie Deacon, and NAC Orchestra Music Director Alexander Shelley; and
- Students met with psychologist Dr Cathy Kerzner to explore music career-related issues.

Dance Workshops, Masterclasses and Programs

During the 2016–2017 season, NAC Dance hosted one *Tea with a Ballerina* and *Coffee with a Choreographer*. NAC Dance offered four contemporary and three ballet masterclasses. A total of 364 students and educators attended NAC Dance educational workshops and masterclasses.

Tea with a Ballerina

On January 21 NAC Dance organized a *Tea with a Ballerina* in the newly renamed Ruddy Lounge. Eleven aspiring ballerinas met with National Ballet of Canada's First Soloist Jordana Dumec who gave advice on pointe shoes, nutrition and conditioning over the course of the event. The participants then had the rare privilege of observing a company class and the opportunity to meet with NBC Artistic Director, Karen Kain.



Photos: Young aspiring ballerinas meet with NBC first soloist Jordana Dumec in the NAC's Ruddy Lounge for *Tea with a Ballerina*.

Coffee with a Choreographer

NAC Dance’s newly-minted initiative, *C with a C* provides the chance to have coffee and exchange ideas in an intimate setting with a renowned choreographer. Participation is limited to an intimate group of emerging and aspiring artists, creators, and/or art academics registered in advance.

While here presenting *Fractus V*, choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, and his dramaturge Guy Cools animated the first *C with a C* event on November 19. A diverse group of 18 artists and academics packed into the Actor’s Quiet Lounge for the event. In addition, 15 students and one teacher from the new Glebe High School dance program attended the opening night of *Fractus V*, while another eight University of Ottawa Department of Theatre students attended the opening night of the performance and then attended the pre-show chat with dramaturge Guy Cools and Ottawa Department of Theatre professor Yana Meerzon.

Masterclass with Dorrance Dance

On October 15 NAC Dance, in collaboration with Ottawa Rhythm Initiative, held a masterclass and *Tap Talk* with the award-winning choreographer Michelle Dorrance. A group of 32 tap dancers from Ottawa, Toronto, Montréal and Vancouver attended the 1.5 hours intermediate/advanced tap class. Michelle Dorrance gave a half hour “Tap Talk” and Carole Anne Piccinin of Ottawa Rhythm Initiative animated the program. Participants were encouraged to ask questions and Michelle Dorrance regaled the group with tap history, choreographic advice and the inside scoop on aspects of her show, *ETM: Double Down*. In addition, 80 youth from the dance program at École polyvalente Nicolas-Gatineau attended the show.



Photo: Michelle Dorrance leads the group of 32 dancers in a tap masterclass.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

On November 22, 41 students, four parents and two teachers from École Polyvalente Nicolas-Gatineau attended the *Mixed Program* by Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Four young student volunteers had the opportunity to act as table pullers for *One Flat Thing*, reproduced by William Forsythe. The volunteers spent the day with the company and were outfitted in wardrobe and assisted in both the dress rehearsal and show.

Dance Workshop by Batsheva Dance Company

On January 21 Adi Salent, Co-Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance Company, led a one hour class which was open to all, regardless of their background in dance or movement. Students were introduced to *Gaga*, an expressive and dynamic movement language developed by Ohad Naharin, long-time Artistic Director of Batsheva Dance. Thirty-four participants attended the sold-out class.

"Skin ironed out, body ropes stretched out and connected, moons activated, Gaga breathing a new life into my body, new inspiration for what's to come. Thanks Siônèd Watkins, NAC Dance and all the donors for this wonderful workshop!"

Élise Gauthier

Masterclass with Anne Plamondon

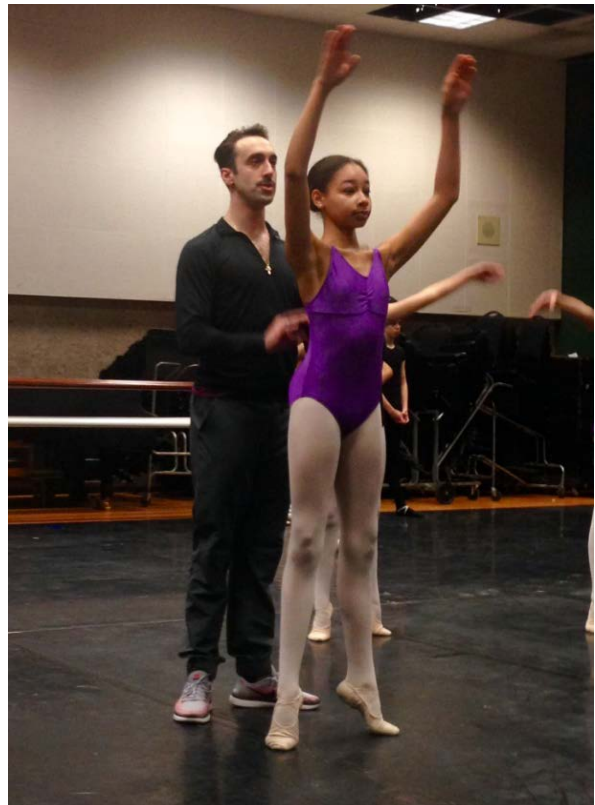
On March 27 Montreal based dancer and choreographer, Anne Plamondon, gave a 1.5-hour contemporary masterclass for 14 visiting students from Vancouver-based dance company *Dance Streams Company for Youth*.

Alberta Ballet Masterclass

On December 3 Christiana Bennett, ballet master and rehearsal mistress for Alberta Ballet, taught a 1.5-hour intermediate/advanced ballet class for 12 young ballet dancers and two teachers. Following the masterclass, NAC Dance organized a question and answer period for the participants. Christiana talked with the young dancers about life as a ballerina and answered all of their questions on stretching, diet, auditions and more.

National Ballet of Canada Masterclass

On January 21 Jonathon Renna taught a 1.5 hour intermediate/advanced level ballet class for 22 dancers on January 21. Three teachers observed the class which was held backstage at the NAC.



Photos: Masterclass with Jonathan Renna of the NBC held in the Rehearsal Hall B at the NAC.

NAC Orchestra Performance and Education Tour

Through 250 school and community events, in every region of the country, the National Arts Centre Orchestra brought to life the theme of the Canada 150 Tour – *Canada is our Stage*. The NAC Orchestra partnered with dozens of organizations across the country to celebrate the artists, educators, and youth who are shaping our country’s future.

From April 25 through May 6, the NAC Orchestra toured the Atlantic Region of Canada performing six major concerts and conducting 100 education and community engagement events.

Outcomes of the NAC Orchestra 150 Tour – Atlantic Region

- 100 Education Events including 22 side-by-side events, 11 band clinics, 8 Sistema events; 7 masterclasses, and 5 Indigenous Young Artist Summit events;
- Engaged over 6,800 students and teachers; and
- Outreach in over 10 communities in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia.

Newfoundland

- Professional Development Teacher workshops for 20 local educators in St. John’s;
- A side-by-side concert with the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra for over 800 students;
- NAC Orchestra musicians collaborated with JUNO Award-winning local artist Duane Andrews in a sold-out intimate concert; and
- Shallaway’s Jubilate choir performed for the first time with Indigenous vocal group Eastern Owl and participated in a discussion on reconciliation through the arts.



Prince Edward Island

- NAC Orchestra musicians led workshops for music students and Alexander Shelley led a massed choir and string orchestra to celebrate *Music Monday*. James Ehnes and ECMA 2017 Indigenous artist of the year, Tian Wigmore, were also featured during the concert.



New Brunswick

- A four day Young Artist Summit for 10 Indigenous musicians from across the Atlantic provinces was held in Saint John in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts and the East Coast Music Association; and
- A side-by-side concert with the NAC Orchestra and 270 students from New Brunswick. This concert culminated two days of coaching sessions with NAC Orchestra musicians, Alexander Shelley and James Ehnes.



Nova Scotia

- 500 students from across Cape Breton and the Eskasoni reserve participated in music and visual art workshops in Eskasoni given by NAC Orchestra musicians and Mi'kmaw artist Alan Syliboy;
- Three masterclasses at Dalhousie University led by Yosuke Kawasaki, Rachel Mercer and James Ehnes for students; and
- *Music Alive Program* partnership with Music Nova Scotia and Symphony Nova Scotia resulted in a collaborative hip-hop night at The Pavillion.

"Having the National Arts Centre Orchestra in St. John's was an incredible opportunity for students, local professional musicians and music educators, and audiences alike. The Orchestra brings tremendous artistry, spirit and generosity. The masterclasses provided to university students, the work with members of the Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra and all the Orchestra's events were of the highest caliber. The concert they gave, which included the Shallaway Youth Choir, was more than a highlight of the concert season here. It was an evening of the finest music making - deeply moving. The National Arts Centre Orchestra is not only an immeasurable resource for Canada, it is a true national treasure."

Ian Sutherland from Memorial University in St. John's:

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 and supporters and patrons of the annual NAC Gala and the donors of the NAC Foundation's Corporate Club

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