



Giving the arts a hand

DONORS' CIRCULAR

A Unique Initiative: The Laboratoires du Théâtre Français

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Photo: Gordon King

When Denis Marleau was appointed Artistic Director of the National Arts Centre (NAC) French Theatre in December 2000, one of his first actions was to initiate a programme of artistic mentorship. As he wrote at the time, “*The search for authenticity that underlies our art is sustained by the transmission of knowledge and skills between theatre artists. Such exchanges most often take place in bits and pieces, through chance encounters or during the rehearsal process. However, they can also be sparked by activities specifically designed for the purpose.*”

That's why, each year, the NAC French Theatre offers a series of workshops based on the “masterclass” model, where internationally recognized theatre artists are invited to share their knowledge and practice with professional colleagues from our community. Furthermore – and this was an essential part of Mr. Marleau's vision – the workshops had to be open to French-speaking theatre professionals from every region of Canada. Travelling to Ottawa to attend a two-week workshop can be prohibitively expensive for an emerging theatre artist living and working in Vancouver or Moncton. The NAC French Theatre enlisted the support of the Canada Council for the Arts to cover travel and accommodation expenses, and the Donors' Circle is proud to offer its support.

The other key feature is simple: the *Laboratoires* feature guest artists of the highest calibre. The inaugural session in the spring of 2002 welcomed translator André Markowicz (how many translators do you know whose name alone will boost book sales?), who with Denis Marleau co-hosted a workshop on how to perform Dostoyevsky in French while remaining faithful to the original. The following year, French Theatre welcomed American-born French director Stuart Seide, who led a workshop on the work of the Roman



Danielle Grégoire, in the 2004 Laboratoire with Stuart Seide

playwright Seneca. The 2004 session was hosted by Lebanese-born Quebec director Wajdi Mouawad, whose theme was *The Architecture and Geometry of Narrative*.

In May of this year, Saguenay writer Daniel Danis, whose plays have been produced by several major European theatres, joined distinguished French stage director Alain Françon (Artistic Director of

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Message

Message from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

I can hardly catch my breath after 13 days of the Alberta Scene festival! Like many of you, I revelled in the festive atmosphere that gripped Ottawa and marvelled at the 600 talented artists who poured in to the capital from the West. *Filumena*, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and Alberta Ballet were highlights for me, and I was also inspired to be far more adventurous than is typical. Thanks to the Alberta Scene, I also witnessed the energy of country superstar Terri Clark.

Alberta Scene was a wonderful expression of the National Arts Centre's mandate to showcase Canada to Canadians. Our daily diet of media reports may leave us believing that Canadians are defined by deep political differences. But Alberta Scene demonstrated how the arts highlight our common stories and, at the same time, *celebrate* our differences. It also showed that talent has no boundaries!

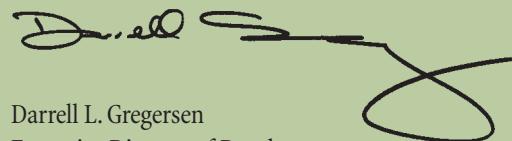
Behind the scenes, so to speak, is National Arts Centre Friends – Alberta, a group of leading Albertans who understand that the arts need support, and Alberta artists deserve it. Alberta Scene, and the NAC Orchestra's November 2005 tour of Alberta, are two beneficiaries of the generous contributions made through NAC Friends – Alberta. We are privileged to have former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed and Jeanne Lougheed as honorary co-chairs of Friends.

Photo: Jules Villemaire

So, a big Alberta thank you to everyone who has made a gift for the National Arts Centre's Alberta initiatives, and to the generous sponsors of the Scene and the tour. We are proud to have such broad support for not only the works on our stages in Ottawa, but also our broader mission of "nation building through the arts."

By the way, Alberta Scene is not the only important cultural festival that the National Arts Centre is presenting this spring. English Theatre's groundbreaking *On the Verge* play reading festival and the *Magnetic North* showcase of contemporary English Canadian plays are not to be missed in June. And more than 70 young musicians, composers and conductors arrive in June for the Summer Music Institute. Then, in September our *Festival Zones Théâtrales* presents French-language theatre from almost every province in Canada. Not coincidentally, these exciting initiatives are all national in scope and simply would not take place without the generosity of our many donors and sponsors.

As I said, I can hardly catch my breath!



Darrell L. Gregersen
Executive Director of Development
CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation



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the Théâtre national de la Colline in Paris) to explore the relationship between performance and the word.

As in each of the previous years, 16 theatre professionals from all across Canada will gather in Ottawa to attend this prestigious workshop led by cutting-edge international artists. Participants will return to their home theatres, whether in Toronto, Winnipeg or Quebec City, armed with new creative approaches to stage French-language productions for their audiences. And the National Arts Centre, with its commitment to education and its pan-Canadian mandate, is the only institution in the country with the resources and the expertise to make it all happen.

Wajdi Mouawad, leading the 2004 Laboratoire.

National Arts Centre Friends – Alberta



Above:
NAC Foundation Board member,
Gail O'Brien.

Middle:
Former Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed
and his wife Jeanne.

Below:
NAC Foundation Board member,
Jim Kinnear.

This is a year of tremendous national outreach for the National Arts Centre, much of it focused on Alberta, which celebrates its centennial in 2005. The Alberta Scene festival showcasing Alberta talent has just wrapped up and the National Arts Centre Orchestra will tour Alberta (and Saskatchewan, also celebrating its centennial) in November.

From the start, it was clear that substantial philanthropic support would be essential to the success of these projects. Gifts through the Donors' Circle and sponsorships are two important ways that funds have been raised for these Alberta initiatives. The NAC Foundation believed that individual Albertans would also be eager to invest in projects that promote and nurture Alberta's artistic talent. The success of National Arts Centre Friends – Alberta is happy evidence of this.

It all began in September 2004 with NAC Foundation Board member Gail O'Brien. She was excited by the Alberta Scene concept and what the festival could do for Alberta artists. Gail convened a group of friends in Calgary to discuss raising funds for Alberta Scene. But, the group wasn't content to stop there. "What happens next?" they asked.

National Arts Centre Friends – Alberta was born at that moment, when Gail and her group determined to raise funds for not only Alberta Scene but also the Orchestra's 2005 tour. Former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed and his wife Jeanne graciously lent their support to

the group, becoming honorary co-chairs and making a generous personal gift. The momentum just kept growing when Calgary's Jim Kinnear, also a director of the NAC Foundation, initiated a fundraising evening to support emerging artists, attended by more than 90 influential Albertans.

With strong support for the upcoming tour's education program, there is also interest in strengthening the NAC's presence in Alberta after the tour. Donations are being sought to support a music education program for rural Alberta schools to keep the impact of the Tour alive. The Friends have also helped raise awareness of the NAC's year-round national programming that benefits Albertans, especially young people. The Summer Music Institute, Aber Diamond Debut Series and Canadian Improv Games always have strong Alberta representation, and Alberta teachers are enthusiastic users of *ArtsAlive.ca* and our teacher resource kits.

To date, donations of more than \$650,000 have been made to the Friends, including a leadership gift from Gail and David O'Brien. In all, more than 60 families, foundations and corporations have made philanthropic gifts in the name of National Arts Centre Friends – Alberta. For information on how you can join this initiative, please contact the Donors' Circle office.

Congratulations to National Arts Centre Friends – Alberta!

Donor Profile:

Five minutes with Paul Fydenchuk

We spoke recently with donor Paul Fydenchuk who with his wife, Elizabeth Macfie, supports the NAC's music and young artists programmes.

Paul remembers many special moments at the NAC. Reflecting on his interest in violin, Paul recalled a NACO concert featuring violinist Sarah Chang. Following the concert, all three family members noticed a change in their bowing styles, inspired by watching the young virtuoso.

Paul also mentioned a performance by Joel Quarrington (former principal double bass) and Donnie Deacon (principal second violin) which was "just wow... wonderful." He thinks Donnie Deacon has particular "kid appeal" because he is so "colourful."

According to Paul, being an NAC donor is like being part of a family, where an interest in the performing arts can be a shared passion. He knows that Ottawa is lucky to have Pinchas Zukerman and particularly values the Maestro's vision to bridge distance with technology. Using technology to bring music to more people, says Paul, is "so huge and yet so down to earth. He is opening up a whole new world of music to children who wouldn't normally have this opportunity. It is so exciting."

Children really drive Paul's commitment to being an NAC donor. "I love to see little kids being enthusiastic about music. I wish I'd had that growing up. It would have been a life changing experience."



Photo:
Peter Beninger

NACO concerts have proven to be a real inspiration for Paul and Elizabeth. They have developed an even greater appreciation of all types of music and are pursuing violin lessons as adults! Their daughter Emilie has also taken up the instrument.

At Home on the Fourth Stage

Since opening its doors in January 2001, the NAC's Fourth Stage has offered a refreshing and intimate setting in which to showcase a wide range of artists: singer-songwriters, storytellers, jazz musicians, actors, even circus performers! The Fourth Stage is a shining example of the artistic expansion that has been fuelled by our generous donors over the past four years.

This season, the Fourth Stage has a decidedly international flavour. The Ottawa International Jazz Festival's Dutch Jazz Series featured world-class performers passing through en route to Amsterdam. The Japanese Embassy sponsored two performances that offered traditional and contemporary Japanese music to audiences. The Ottawa Folk Festival presented Colin Hay, former lead singer of the famous Australian band Men at Work, who delighted the full house with funny stories and charmed the audience with his ballads.

Marcel Aymard, *Les vendredis de la chanson*, October 2004.





- 1 Chakidor, *Les vendredis de la chanson*, March 2004
- 2 Sneezzy Waters, Ottawa Folk Festival, April 2004
- 3 Fayo, Coup de cœur, November 2004
- 4 Kim Zombik, Cirque III, November 2004
- 5 Myner Pelletier, *Les vendredis de la chanson*, April 2004
- 6 Brian St-Pierre, *Les vendredis de la chanson*, January 2005
- 7 Company of Fools, January 2004
- 8 Contes Nomades, Eric Gauthier, June 2004
- 9 Stef Paquette, Coup de cœur, November 2004

All Photos: Michel Dozois

Most importantly, the Fourth Stage continues to provide a special “home” for some of Ottawa’s leading professional artists and also fosters emerging local talent. Jazz musician John Geggie’s critically acclaimed *5 Shades of Geggie*, our English and French storytelling programmes (*Ottawa Storytellers* and *Contes nomades* respectively) and the showcase for leading Franco-Ontarian artists, *Les vendredis de la chanson francophone* are all home-grown series with devoted audiences, thanks to the Fourth Stage.

Fourth Stage programming serves important goals for the National Arts Centre. It supports the local artistic community, exposes audiences to first-class talent in an inviting atmosphere and draws new people to the NAC. The size of the Fourth Stage (150 seats), its comfortable “cabaret” environment, and the range and variety of its offerings make the Fourth Stage a warm introduction to the NAC as a whole.

Summer Music Institute Stars:

Faculty, Graduates and Donors

The Origins of Success...

Here's a brief look back at the growth of this successful donor-supported programme.

1999

- Young Artists Programme (YAP) established
- 10 students studied violin, viola and cello for 5 days

2000

- YAP expands to 2 weeks and 23 students; piano added

2001

- YAP opens to international musicians
- Conductors Programme established

2002

- YAP expands to 3 weeks and 34 students

2003

- Young Composers Programme established
- YAP adds double bass element

2004

- Three programmes now constitute Summer Music Institute
- 75 students participate
- Junior Strings and Junior Composers components added

What's new in 2005?

- SMI receives a record 189 applications from 23 countries
- YAP adds wind instruments
- Members of the Orion String Quartet teach as special guest artists

Annual designated gifts to support the Summer Music Institute have fuelled its growth, reaching a record of \$342,000 in 2004.

What are some of the ingredients that make up a world-class musical training institute?

Candidates for the NAC's Summer Music Institute (SMI) point to the calibre of teaching faculty. By that measure alone, the SMI is truly exceptional, being founded and directed by one of classical music's leading virtuosos and educators, Pinchas Zukerman.

The SMI offers tremendous depth of teaching talent as well. Patinka Kopec, the Young Artists Programme's Co-director, is an especially gifted violin and viola teacher, known among the students for her nurturing style. She and Grigory Kalinovsky (violin/viola), Tatiana Goncharova (piano) and Michael Tree (guest artist), come to us from the prestigious Manhattan School of Music. Carole Sirois (cello) and Steven Dann (chamber music) are faculty members of the Royal Conservatory's Glenn Gould Professional School. The renowned academies of

music at Northwestern University and The Juilliard School are represented by Hans Jorgen Jensen (cello) and Joseph Kalichstein (guest artist).

Fresh from her active role on the Orchestra's B.C. Tour, NAC Awards Composer Alexina Louie leads this year's Young Composers Programme. The legendary Jorma Panula, known for launching the careers of several acclaimed Finnish conductors, returns as Professor of Conducting alongside Maestro Zukerman. NACO's own Margaret Munro Tobolowska (cello) and Elaine Klimasko (violin) lead the Junior Strings programme for 12- to 14-year-olds.

A star-studded faculty has been key to the success of SMI graduates. Rising star Caitlin Tully is one example. Caitlin was just 11 years old when Pinchas Zukerman first heard her play the violin. It was during a masterclass in her hometown

Photo: Fred Cattroll



Caitlin Tully in a masterclass with Pinchas Zukerman in 1999.

Photo: Bette Mitchell



Caitlin Tully today.

of Vancouver, as part of the NAC Orchestra's Canada Tour in 1999. Impressed by her big sound, Maestro Zukerman invited Caitlin to participate in the NAC Young Artists Programme (YAP) in 2000 and 2001. Many will remember that Caitlin was invited to perform with the NAC Orchestra for Canada Day, as well as for a Young People's Concert.

This past January, the National Arts Centre invited the now 17-year-old Caitlin to be the first soloist in our *Aber Diamond Debut Series*. The hour-long recital was hosted by the CBC's Eric Friesen and broadcast live-to-air on Radio Two's *Studio Sparks*. In conversation with the host, Caitlin showed herself to be a delightful and poised young woman, deeply passionate about playing the violin. When not being heard on

nationwide radio, performing internationally or studying with Itzhak Perlman, Caitlin finds time to be a teenager with friends and family in her adopted home state of Texas.

Jessica Linnebach and Jethro Marks, two of the NAC Orchestra's youngest members, are also highly successful YAP alumni. The exceptional training and mentoring that all three young artists received through the Summer Music Institute could not have been achieved without philanthropic support. The SMI is almost entirely donor-funded and its remarkable growth (see sidebar) is a result of generous donors investing in young talent. Your gifts have grown with the programme, making our *donors* the real stars of the Summer Music Institute!

Have you ever wondered... ...what's the origin of "break a leg"

The English expression "break a leg" has been used in the theatre for years to wish good luck to performers. Superstition suggests that uttering an actual expression of good luck "tempts the gods" and could lead to a bad performance. The Germans say *Hals und Beinbruch*, or "neck and leg break." Interestingly, the French simply say *merde*.

There are several theories of how alluding to broken bones came to be associated with good luck. In earlier times, to "break one's leg" meant to bend one's knee, as is done in taking a bow. Similarly, audiences once showed their approval for a performance by throwing money on stage, causing the actors to bend at the knee to pick up the coins. Others speculate about injuries sustained by famous thespians Sarah Bernhardt and Lincoln-assassin John Wilkes Booth as the source of the expression.

Whatever their true origins, it's safe to say that expressions like this only serve to make the lively world of the performing arts even more "theatrical."

* Source: www.worldwidewords.org

National Arts Centre Foundation

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Donors' Circle Coordinator

Calendar of Events

DATE & TIME	EVENT	INVITATION ONLY	PRODUCER'S CIRCLE	DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE	MAESTRO'S CIRCLE	PLAYWRIGHT'S CIRCLE	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES	EVERYONE
May 31, 2005 Post-performance	 Meet the Artist Extravaganza: Pinchas Zukerman & Yefim Bronfman Panorama Room									
June 10, 2005 Pre-performance	Young Artists Programme Scholarship Reception Salon									
June 15, 2005 7:00 p.m. Chat 7:30 p.m. Rehearsal	 NACO Open Rehearsal: <i>Bostonian Bravo Series</i> Pinchas Zukerman , conductor & violin Ottawa Choral Society Choirs of the University of Ottawa Pre-rehearsal Chat: Panorama Room Rehearsal: Southam Hall	SOLD OUT!								
June 28, 2005 7:30 p.m. Concert 8:30 p.m. Reception	Donor & Student Summer Music Institute Celebration Concert: Southam Hall Reception: TBA									
July 1, 2005	 Canada Day Party NAC Terrace Tent									
July 1, 2005 Canada Day Concert	Young Artists Programme and Conductors Programme Students Concert: Southam Hall									
July 2, 2005	Young Artists Programme Final Concert NAC Main Foyer									
September 9-11, 2005	Friends of English Theatre Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake Information: Fran Pearl, (613) 726-9330 or franny@magma.ca									
October 1, 2005	National Arts Centre Gala Jessye Norman , soprano Pinchas Zukerman , conductor National Arts Centre Orchestra									

Report to Donors

If you were unable to attend our Report to Donors information session on November 24, 2004, or would like more information concerning the progress of the National Arts Centre Foundation, please contact Katie Lauzon at 613-947-7000, ext. 250 or klauzon@nac-cna.ca.

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