

Full Circle



It may have been a while since you celebrated a fifth birthday.

Happy Birthday!

The National Youth and Education Trust (NYET) turns five this year. Because the Trust is really the expression of your support of the NAC's youth and education programming, this birthday is yours to celebrate!

My, how the NYET has grown. In 2001, the NAC Foundation launched the National Youth and Education Trust to raise funds for one of the NAC's most important long term goals: reaching out to Canada's young people, to nurture a love of the performing arts in children and develop the talent of Canada's young artists. Within its first year, donor contributions to support the NAC's programming for young people tripled, from \$398,430 to \$1,460,133. By 2004-2005, gifts to the NYET were almost double those received in its first year – a total of \$2,336,442!

What makes us proud is that, every year, *all* the funds donated to the NYET go directly to NAC arts and education programmes that benefit children, youth and artists, not only in the National Capital Region, but all across Canada.

Gifts to the NYET have made it possible for the NAC to broaden the reach of one-of-a-kind professional training programmes for young artists, and offer young audiences access to great theatre, dance, music and inspiring educational resources and activities. The Summer Music Institute has quadrupled in size since its founding in 1999. When on tour, the NAC Orchestra now offers up to 10 educational events for every one of its performances. Plays, concerts and dance works created and performed especially for young audiences enthrall thousands of young people every year, many of whom benefit from subsidized tickets to make attendance affordable. And, teachers across Canada rely on



At the First Nations University in Regina, NAC Orchestra Music Director Pinchas Zukerman and a young recorder player from the St. Augustine Community School near Regina compare parts at Music Connexions III. Photo: Fred Cattroll

the unique music, dance and theatre resources available at ArtsAlive.ca to bring the performing arts right into their classrooms.

This issue of *Full Circle* reveals just a few of the exciting initiatives you have made possible with your contributions to NYET. The Trust has been the catalyst for new arts education initiatives that reach communities throughout Canada. Our Music Ambassador Programme is currently introducing students in Alberta and Saskatchewan to the wonders of classical music. And in 2006-2007, the first recipients of NAC English Theatre's new Aboriginal theatre internships will arrive.

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Carlos Rivera and Sandra Laronde in *Caribou Song*. Photo: David Hou

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message

from the National Arts Centre Foundation CEO

It was October 2001 when the National Arts Centre Foundation announced the establishment of the National Youth and Education Trust. Now, almost five years later, we have truly come “full circle.”

We can proudly announce to you that your support for the National Youth and Education Trust has been the driving force to help realize the National Arts Centre’s vision: to lead the nation in the artistic development of young Canadians.

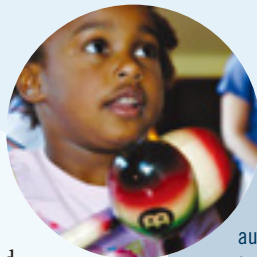
The NAC has always provided programming for young people; five years ago, our dedication to investing in Canada’s youth through the performing arts reached a new level. The ever-present need to engage young audiences and foster young talent was growing. But there was the question of capacity. What was missing to support the ambitious plans of our educators and artistic leaders?

We established the National Youth and Education Trust to help fulfill our vision of young Canadians embracing – and being inspired by – the performing arts, and to make it easy for donors across the country to share in the dream.

And, with your help, we have had tremendous success. Donors at every level are inspired by the mission of the Trust and their support has been truly transformational. Since its establishment, your contributions of more than \$9.3 million to the National Youth and Education Trust have been distributed by the NAC Foundation to the National Arts Centre. In just five years, these gifts have helped transform the scope and reach of NAC programming for young people.

The NYET helps us underscore the importance of the arts for young people. The NAC’s new series of annual roundtables on the arts and health, also reported in this issue, takes the beneficial nature of the arts further. Last year’s roundtable shared research on the importance of the arts for human well-being – in the treatment of disease, for example. This year’s will explore the positive effects of the arts of mental well-being. Not only have we come full circle – the circle is expanding.


Darrell Louise Gregersen
CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation



A young audience member enjoys the “Instrument Petting Zoo” prior to an NAC Orchestra Young People’s Concert. *Photo: Dyanne Wilson*

13-year-old Alberta violinist Meghan Nenniger performs with Boris Brott and the NAC Orchestra during a student matinee in Grande Prairie, Alberta. *Photo: Fred Cattroll*



moi moi played to young NAC French Theatre audiences in February 2006. *Photo: Robert Etcheverry*

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Considering all that the National Arts Centre has been able to do thanks to a five-year-old National Youth and Education Trust, it is inspiring to imagine what it can make possible by the time it reaches the age of 10 or, for that matter, 20.

Five is a good age. We have so much to celebrate and, with your continued support, even more which we can look forward to!

For more information about the National Youth and Education Trust and the programming it supports, please feel free to contact us at the Annual Fund Office at (613) 947-7000, ext 315, or by e-mail at annualfund@nac-cna.ca.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you!



NAC Foundation

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From *Donors' Circular* to *Full Circle*

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. But as we put together this issue, the rapid approach of spring and the inauguration of the newsletter's colourful new design offered an irresistible opportunity to consider a change of name.

So it is that the *Donors' Circular* has become *Full Circle*. We feel this name ideally expresses the circle of support that your gifts to the National Arts Centre create. Everything we do begins with you, our donors, and through this newsletter we come "full circle" to share with you the powerful impact of your support. The new name also embraces all our donors, both corporate and individual, within one circle.

In *Full Circle*, by describing how your contributions are fostering artistic excellence, developing exceptional Canadian talent and supporting performing arts education, we aim to bring you the sense of *fulfillment* you so richly deserve.

We hope you like our new look and name! If you have questions or comments about *Full Circle*, please feel free to contact us at (613) 947-7000, ext. 315 or annualfund@nac.cna.ca

Winter Donors' Circular Correction

The article on Reynaliz Herrera on Page 8 of the Winter Donors' Circular should have made clear that in 2005 Reynaliz won the NACO Bursary. The Bursary was established by musicians of the NAC Orchestra in 1979 as a gesture of appreciation to the audiences who had been so supportive of the Orchestra in its first decade. The first annual competition was held in 1981 when a Bursary of \$1,000 was presented. The Bursary is now worth \$7,000.

The National Roundtables: Exploring the Art of Better Health

Science, the study of the quantifiable, and the arts, the exploration of some of the most elusive aspects of human existence – beauty, love, mystery – have joined hands at the National Arts Centre's series of three national Roundtables on the arts and health.

For all of us who feel strongly that music, theatre and dance enhance life, both personal and societal, the Roundtables offer good news: Our innate sense of the beneficial nature of art is being increasingly backed up by scientific research.

Medical research has made very specific connections between physical well-being and exposure to the arts. Last year, in the first of these roundtable discussions, highly regarded leaders in the medical field shared some of these findings with business leaders, artists and philanthropists from across Canada. The session explored the therapeutic potential of music in the treatment of, among other things, cancer, heart disease, brain injury and dementia.

In September 2006, we will again bring together leading experts, for the second Roundtable of the series. Whereas the first addressed music, this time the forum is being expanded to include other art forms such as drama and visual arts, while delving into their potential for positive effects in the treatment of mental illness.

The NAC shares the findings of its Roundtables with thousands of arts organizations nationwide. Sharing research that is proof positive of the healing power of the arts will, it is hoped, help increase public appreciation of and support for the Canadian arts organizations that play such an essential role in our society, and in all our lives.

You can obtain your own copy of the 2005 Roundtable report from the Corporate Reports page of the NAC's web site at: <http://www.nac-cna.ca/ar>

The 2005 and 2006 Roundtables are sponsored by Sun Life Financial.

Panelists in discussion at the 2005 Roundtable. Left to right: Dr. Robert J. Zatorre, Professor, Dept. of Neurology and Neurosurgery, McGill University; Dr. Isabelle Peretz, Professor, Dept. of Psychology, University of Montreal; Dr. Antoine M. Hakim, Professor and University Chair, Neurology, University of Ottawa.

Photo: Mike Pinder



Donor Profile:

Samantha Plavins and her daughter Piper.
Photo: Alvis Plavins



Samantha Plavins, Emeritus Circle Member

A former NAC Foundation employee and now a member of the Foundation's Emeritus Circle, Samantha Plavins, at age 32, might seem young to have made a legacy gift. But, as this one-time ballet dancer and classically trained pianist says, "Giving isn't about statistics."

Samantha has made a gift of life insurance that will create an endowment to support training and professional development for the NAC Foundation's staff. A thoughtful gift from someone who knows first-hand the challenges of fundraising, this endowment will ensure that future staff will be ever more effective at meeting the needs of the NAC's valued donors, for the benefit of the performing arts in Canada.

The arts have played a huge part in Samantha's life. Growing up, she was inspired by listening to her father, "a brilliant pianist." Upon graduating with a music degree from Lakehead University, she joined the staff of the NAC in 1999. She left us in 2004, but her warmth and generosity are fondly remembered by staff and many donors.

Now working in her father's insurance business in Thunder Bay, Samantha sadly reports that elementary schools there have no music programmes, and the local symphony orchestra faces ongoing financial struggles. This reality has driven home to her the importance of the NAC's programming.

Of her decision to make a gift of life insurance she says, "I was raised to believe that in life you have to give back – you cannot stand still and take what you've been blessed with for granted."

"If there were no classically trained musicians, if there were no dancers, no classical theatre, what a dull, flat, colourless world we would live in. That's why we have to invest in young people."

When asked who her role models were, Samantha was clear. "Quite honestly, I was inspired by the NAC's donors: people who have taken the time to give thought to what kind of an imprint they'd like to leave on this earth...and then taken that step forward."

We thank Samantha for her generous gift and wish her all the best in her new career!

Kinderconcerts (Warning: Adults Must be Accompanied by a Child)

Since 2003, when the NAC's Music Education department launched its Kinderconcerts in collaboration with Jeunesse Musicales, throngs of three- to six-year-old music fans have come to the NAC for serious musical thrills. Bilingual performances that meld original stories with the music of fantastic groups such as the Thalie Quartet, the Impact Brass Quintet and the Alliage Trio keep these young audience members riveted.

Costumed musicians bring to life music and stories, such as the classic tale, *Peter and the Wolf*. The musicians encourage their young audiences to dance, clap and stay awhile after the show to ask questions.

The growing interest in Kinderconcerts should be encouraging to those concerned that our youngest generation might abandon live arts for the hypnotic lure of television shows and computer games: This young audience doubled in size in the series' second year and the expanded edition sold out this season.

Attending live music performance is a wonderful way of enjoying and integrating music into our lives. Early, engaging exposure to live music is one of the most precious gifts that donors to the National Youth and Education Trust can offer our children.

Making Giving Easy: Life Insurance

For donors who wish to create a powerful impact in the performing arts in the future while realizing tax advantages today, a gift of life insurance to the National Arts Centre is an easy, affordable choice.

You don't have to be wealthy to make a gift of life insurance. Below is just a sampling of the many insurance options available to donors. You can:

- transfer an existing policy, making the NAC the owner and beneficiary
- purchase a new life insurance policy naming the NAC as owner and beneficiary
- retain ownership of your policy and name the NAC as primary beneficiary, co-beneficiary, contingent or default beneficiary
- name your estate as beneficiary of an insurance policy and make a bequest to the NAC equivalent to the face value of the policy
- make a bequest to the NAC and purchase wealth replacement insurance for the amount of the donation, naming your children as beneficiaries

We invite you to learn more about making a gift of life insurance, or other types of legacy gift, by contacting Barry M. Bloom at (613) 947-7000, ext. 314.

The National Arts Centre Foundation encourages you to consult your financial and legal advisors, who will ensure your gift is tailored to your own circumstances and that you maximize tax advantages.

First among Many: English Theatre's New Aboriginal Focus

The National Gallery of Canada's recent retrospective of Anishnaabe painter Norval Morrisseau's brilliantly hued paintings had enormous historical significance. It was the Gallery's first major solo exhibition of the work of a Canadian Aboriginal artist.

As a creative coincidence, Norval Morrisseau is also associated with three important "firsts" at Canada's National Arts Centre.

In June 2007, English Theatre's Artistic Director, Peter Hinton, will direct the world premiere of *Copper Thunderbird*, a new work about Morrisseau's life by Aboriginal playwright Marie Clements.

This will be the first time the NAC has produced the work of a First Nations playwright on its main stage, now an annual commitment of NAC English Theatre. With a cast of 12, the production is a large-scale work that speaks directly to Peter Hinton's vision of a unique, national theatre that truly represents all national voices.

We hope to include in the cast several apprentice actors who would be the first participants in English Theatre's new NYET-funded Aboriginal theatre internship programme.

Marie Clements will be one of two playwrights in the NAC's first Aboriginal Playwright-in-Residence initiative. She and playwright Daniel David Moses will each join the NAC English Theatre for 10 weeks. They will refine their own works for future production by the NAC and participate in the life of English Theatre, including conducting education activities with young people.

These exciting "firsts" in English Theatre reflect the important new commitment of Peter Hinton to bring Aboriginal voices to Canada's national theatre. They are also wonderful examples of why the National Youth and Education Trust was established. Donors' contributions to the NYET allow the NAC to do the innovative things that visionaries like Peter Hinton stand for, such as nurturing emerging artists and investing in Aboriginal theatre development.



Marie Clements.
Photo: Laird Mackintosh

Matjash Mrozewski

NAC donors, patrons and dance lovers around the world are increasingly recognizing the name Matjash Mrozewski. And it's no wonder. His commission to create the first work for the NAC-CGI Youth Commission for Dance in 2003 led to a world premiere of his piece, *Break Open Play*, at the NAC. A national tour and international success followed for this talented 29-year-old dancer and choreographer. The Toronto native has since travelled extensively, bringing his creative vision to dance companies worldwide.

In March 2006, Mrozewski premiered at London's Royal Ballet a work called *Castle Nowhere*. Prior to that, he was in Australia producing *Soft Punch*. He worked with the Royal Swedish Ballet in November 2005 on a piece entitled *Dreamland* and also created *Avatar* for the Stuttgart Ballet.

Back home in Toronto, Mrozewski is remounting *A Delicate Battle* with the National Ballet of

Canada and also creating a short work for that company to perform in London, England. In 2007, Matt is slated to create a work for the National Ballet with a new score by the 2002 NAC Award composer Alexina Louie.

We know our donors join us in celebrating the accomplishments of artists like Matjash Mrozewski. His career has benefited from support from the NAC-CGI Youth Commission for Dance, as have

those of other young Canadian choreographers. This programme, with support from the Canada Council for the Arts and funds from the National Youth and Education Trust, allows emerging artists to grow, and builds new audiences for dance.

We hope you will continue to watch the career of Matjash and be proud of the contribution you have made to his success.



NAC Music Ambassador Samantha Whelan with students at the Belfast Elementary School in Calgary, Alberta.
Photo: Fred Cattroll

Glowing Reviews for the Music Ambassador Programme

Many Donors' Circle members share the concern that school children do not have the opportunity to enjoy music as part of their classroom education. The awful truth is that music education is under strain in the Canadian public school system.

The NAC's Music Ambassador Programme is designed to counter this decline. Thanks to this initiative, made possible entirely by gifts to the National Youth and Education Trust, classical music is coming alive in prairie classrooms. Dozens of Alberta and

Saskatchewan schools are receiving visits from our Music Ambassadors – locally based orchestral musicians and teachers – and they are winning glowing reviews from both teachers and students.

“The students absolutely loved it. The presenter was entertaining, interactive, well prepared and enthusiastic. The presentation was very suited to the children involved,” says Nina Hurst, a Calgary teacher.

Taylor, a student in Leduc, Alberta is equally enthusiastic. “Thank you for coming to our school, it was cool! I really liked it, especially when you played the saxophone.... Maybe one day you can come back for the whole day and teach us more about Vivaldi.”

Success with this regional pilot could mean we can develop similar programmes in other areas of the country. As always, donor support through the National Youth and Education Trust will be essential to make that dream come true.

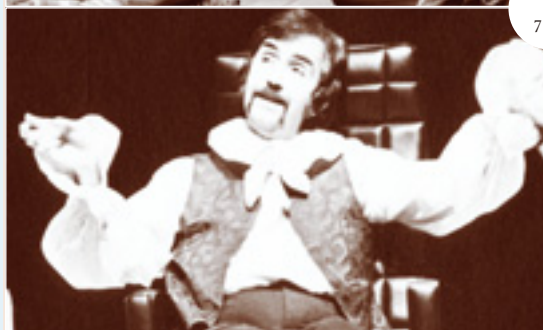
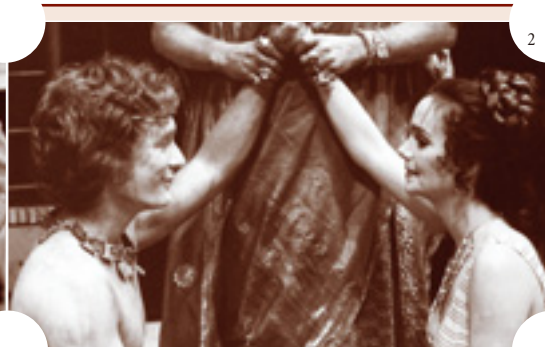
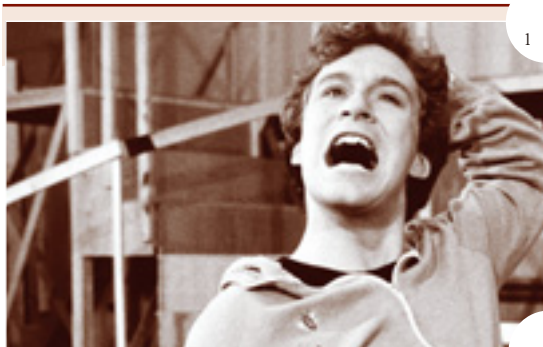
We Knew Them When

Since the NAC's opening in 1969, some of Canada's most widely recognized theatre artists have cut their teeth, artistically speaking, on its stages. Fans of Shakespearean theatre, film and TV drama will recognize these celebrities.

1. Seen here in rehearsal for *Equus* (1979), this current Stratford Theatre company member won the part of Troilus in the English Theatre's production of *Troilus and Cressida* (1977). Look for him next season in the NAC English Theatre's *The Ark*.
2. Ben's co-star in that production has had success on stage, on TV and in Canadian films such as *Whale Music* (in which another of our mystery artists appeared as a deceased rock star).
3. This artist, renowned for directing the premieres of all Michel Tremblay's plays, was behind the NAC's very first theatre production in French in 1969 and later served as Artistic Director of NAC French Theatre. Here he is rehearsing *Lysistrata* in 1969.
4. TV fans liked how this actor looked in red serge, but he started off on the stage. He took on acting roles at the NAC and made his directorial debut here with *Sprung Rhythm*. (NAC insiders enjoy pointing out that he also met his wife here.) Here he is with *Walsh* (1983) co-star Ray Jewers as Sitting Bull.
5. This actress's film and TV credits include *The Hanging Garden* and *Emily of New Moon*. She had the lead role in *Mother Courage*, and performed in NAC productions of *The Torchbearers* and *Richard III*.

She is seen here in *Mother Courage* with actor John Koensgen, whose most recent NAC appearance was in this season's *recovery*.

6. Her performance at the Canadian Improv Games garnered her an invitation to join the student improv group "Skit Row High", which created and wrote original works performed at the NAC. Now she can be seen in a hit television series that pokes fun at doctors' workplace romances. Here she is in *Oleana* (1995), with actor Rod Beattie of *Wingfield* fame.
7. Here, the current artistic director of the Théâtre de l'Île performs in the NAC French Theatre's production of *La Cantatrice chauve*, in 1972.



4. Paul Gross
Photo: NAC/Photo Features

5. Joan Orenstein
Photo: NAC/Photo Features

6. Sandra Oh
Photo courtesy of the Grand Theatre, London

7. Gilles Provost
Photo: CNA/Flaherty





1. Benedict Campbell
Photo: NAC/Photo Features

2. Jennifer Dale
Photo: NAC/Photo Features

3. André Brassard
Photo: André Brassard, Théâtre du Nouveau Monde

Answers:

Calendar of Events

DATE & TIME	EVENT	INVIATION ONLY	PRODUCER'S CIRCLE	DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE	MAESTRO'S CIRCLE	PLAYWRIGHT'S CIRCLE	BENEFACTORS	SUSTAINERS	ASSOCIATES	EVERYONE
June 29, 2006 post-performance	Summer Music Institute Celebration NAC Terrace Tent									
July 1, 2006	NAC Foundation Canada Day Thank-You Party									
July 6, 2006 5 p.m.	NAC Foundation Volunteer Appreciation Evening									
September 20, 2006 & September 21, 2006 6 p.m.	NAC Foundation Piano Fund Reception									



Taylor Leighton, granddaughter of donor and past NAC Chair David Leighton, anticipates enjoying a piece of Canada Day cake.
Photo: Mike Pinder



Donors "rev up the red" NAC-style at the 2005 Canada Day Thank-You Party.
Photo: Mike Pinder

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