

DONORS' CIRCULAR

Giving the arts a hand

A Gift for Tomorrow – Mr. James Gill's Legacy

Contemplating what we've accomplished in our lifetime is not an easy task. Even more difficult, is contemplating what we could achieve in the future – after we're gone.

Let me tell you about Mr. James Wilson Gill, a donor to the National



James Gill at home with his collies Jasper and Jagger

Arts Centre for the past four years. He is sixty-one, he loves music, is an ardent collector of art, and has two beautiful collies and a cat. But most important, he is a man with a clear vision and profound generosity of spirit. He wants to "make people happy."

About 18 months ago, while coping with cancer, Mr. Gill began to contemplate his own mortality. As he did so, he realized that he had tremendous power: he could have a remarkable impact on Canada's National Arts Centre. The NAC is close to his heart, so he decided to make Canada's pre-eminent showcase for the performing arts the sole beneficiary of his substantial estate.

After spending time with Mr. Gill over the past year, we began to understand what he wanted to achieve with his gift. We pieced together a donor agreement that embodied his personal values while paying tribute to the significant contributions made by his grandmother, Canada's first female senator, Cairine Wilson. With the guidance of his lawyer, he chose a Charitable Bequest as his means of giving. The agreement clearly outlined the intentions stated in his will.

In January 2002, Mr. Gill signed his revised last will and testament, leaving his entire estate to the National Arts Centre. What will result is the creation of two funds – "The Cairine and Norman Wilson Family Young Performers Endowment" and the "James Gill Performance Fund." The first fund will focus on artistic development in young people and reflects the tireless determination of Cairine Wilson to assist refugee children relocated to Canada during the war. The second will ensure that Mr. Gill's primary intention – "to delight audiences" – is accomplished.

When asked why he chose to leave his legacy to the arts and not something more "obvious" — like medicine — he quotes George Carlin: "Medical researchers have discovered a new disease that has no symptoms. It is impossible to detect, and there is no known cure. Fortunately, no cases have been reported thus far."

Along with all of us at the NAC, I have been touched by Mr. Gill's ability to focus on the positive – to commit to leaving a legacy that will ensure future generations can enjoy the beauty of the performing arts at Canada's National Arts Centre.

For his extraordinary vision and sincere desire to leave this earth knowing he made a real difference, I would like to thank James Gill on behalf of all of us who feel passionate about the NAC.

by Samantha Wrenshall, Development Officer, Major and Planned Gifts



Photo: Fred Cattroll

Talented musicians hone their chamber skills at the Young Artists Programme

Give the gift of music education with your support this year

You can help develop the next generation of talented Canadian performers at the National Arts Centre. Why not consider one of the following options?

Young Artists Programme (YAP) Student Sponsorship

With a one-time gift of \$3,500 you can provide tuition, room and board and all travel costs for one deserving Canadian musician – enabling him or her to participate in Pinchas Zukerman's renowned Young Artists Programme this summer.

Named Annual Scholarship

With a three-year commitment of \$5,000 each year, or a five-year commitment of \$3,500 each year, you can create a legacy of ongoing support at Canada's National Arts Centre. Each year, your named scholarship will be awarded to one exceptional young Canadian artist, covering all costs for the attendance at the Young Artists Programme.

Endowed Scholarship

To create a legacy in perpetuity, why not give the gift of education through an Endowed Scholarship? Your gift of \$50,000 will be carefully invested and each year the income will provide direct financial support to one young artist. For more information, please contact Samantha Wrenshall at (613) 947-7000, ext. 268.

ArtsAlive.ca, it's a hit!

Since the launch of ArtsAlive, the National Arts Centre's new arts education website, generously supported by TELUS, we've been thrilled at the response we've had from teachers and students alike. We wanted to share some of these reviews with you:

From educators

Jeff MacQuarrie, B.H.S. Musical Director, Bathurst, NB

...I took the liberty of visiting your website, ArtsAlive. Being a web builder myself and a strong promoter of the web and technology in music education, let me congratulate you and your organization on a job well done!

Melissa MacNeil, Music Teacher, Cape Breton Victoria, Regional School Board

I am a fine arts teacher in Cape Breton. I would like to comment on how much I enjoyed the page, visually speaking. I think it would certainly appeal to children. I plan to show it to my students in class. I have used the Beethoven Package from the NAC on many occasions and I think your initiatives should be praised. Thank you.

Marie-Élisabeth Brunet, Ottawa, ON, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens

Hello! Bravo for this great website. It's a resource that we will certainly make known to our 8,000 members.

Lise F. Slack, Class Act Manager, Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Santa Ana, CA

Thanks for letting us know about your website – it's wonderful! We are just beginning to put ours in place and have many grand plans for the education section. I really like the "meet the musicians" sections. It is concise and not too wordy – excellent job! I definitely have some ideas from it that I could use for ours. Thank you!

Marg Fritz, Western Regional Education Centre, Smiths Falls, ON
Great little site with lots of useful information and activities for students.

Shelley Deck, La Loche, SK

I took some time to look over the ArtsAlive website and was very pleased with the findings. I have been looking for additional arts education resources in music, drama and dance and was pleased to have been directed to your most useful materials. THANK YOU!

Jayne Evans, Niagara, ON

I just visited the site and played all the games and tried the quizzes! This is an amazing site and I know that my teachers and students will love it!

Anonymous

The website is amazing. Bright colours, nice cartoons, easy to navigate. Super for kids!! I love creating your own score! I will pass it on to some teachers I know.

From students

Julia Shepherd, York House Junior School, Vancouver, BC

I am in grade six and my friends and I were chosen to do a project on music over the years, from the 1400s to the 2000s. I chose to do Bach and Beethoven and I was very pleased to find out that you had lots of information on both composers so I say thank you for helping me.

Natacha Poirier, École Hormisdas Gamelin, Buckingham, QC

I love this site! It is interesting to read all the information about the musicians. Bravo!

Laura Tsang

Hi my name is Laura. My school is participating in your event so I went to see your website. I think it is a great way to teach children about music. I am in grade 8 piano. I loved to play on your games especially the orchestra one.

Fall Gala

September 18, 2002

Tickets on sale now!



The late Joyce Conger

A Fitting Tribute – The Joyce Conger Award for the Arts

Twentieth century author Hope Edelman once said – “Our lives are shaped as much by those who leave us as they are by those who stay. Loss is our legacy. Insight is our gift. Memory is our guide.” These words ring true for Stuart Conger, who upon learning of his wife Joyce’s illness began a quiet campaign to create a special fund in celebration of her life, her passion and her values.

Out of a deep respect and love for his wife and wanting to perpetuate her generosity of spirit and the extraordinary passion she had for music, Mr. Conger, along with many close friends and family members, created the “Joyce Conger Fund for the Arts.” The fund will support an award for outstanding young artists for the next seven years, providing them with exceptional opportunities to develop and showcase their talents to the fullest. Later this spring, Mr. Conger will have the pleasure of presenting the award to one exceptional young musician. This year’s recipient will be personally chosen by Pinchas Zukerman, Walter Prystawski and Christopher Deacon and that recipient will have a chance to learn about Mrs. Conger, her many interests in the arts and the passion with which she lived her life.

Joyce Conger raised her family in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and

was known for her extraordinary caring and concern for others. She had perfect pitch, a lovely voice and showed promise as a painter. Using her musical, dramatic and artistic talents, Mrs. Conger coached her patients at the London Psychiatric Hospital in western Ontario, where she worked for many years as an occupational therapist. She believed strongly in the healing power of the arts. She and her patients would often produce their own musical shows to the delight of staff and other patients. She married Stuart in 1953, and had two children with whom she shared her joy of music and theatre on many occasions.

It is Mr. Conger’s hope that his tribute to his wife will inspire others to follow suit.

If you would like more information on how to pay tribute to your loved one through the performing arts, please call Samantha Wrenshall at the National Arts Centre Foundation, (613) 947-7000, ext. 268.

“She inspires us still to be better than we are – to achieve more than we think we can and ultimately to simply be better people.”

– Stephen Conger, son of Joyce and Stuart Conger

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NAC Foundation staff

You can reach our Foundation staff through the NAC’s general number (613) 947-7000; their individual extensions are listed below.

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CEO, National Arts Centre Foundation, ext. 331

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Director, Corporate Gifts and Sponsorship, ext. 202

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Catherine Hardwick
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Development Officer, Special Events, ext. 308

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Associate Development Officer, Annual Fund, ext. 309

Christina Sunstrum
Executive Assistant, ext. 269

Samantha Wrenshall
Development Officer, Major and Planned Gifts, ext. 268

Magdalena Ziarko
Development Coordinator, ext. 324

Annual Fund Update

We're almost there! 85% of the way to be precise!

With a few months to go, the annual *Give the Arts a Hand* Campaign is getting very close to reaching its ambitious goal.

The Donors' Circle is growing quickly this year, having acquired over 1,000 new donors.

In just six months, the "Circles" level donors (giving \$1,000 or more annually) have exceeded 300! That's a significant increase of over 80 new donors. This marks our greatest growth in the eight-year history of the Donors' Circle.

If you have yet to renew your support, please give the Annual Fund Office a call at (613) 947-7000 ext. 315. And remember, even if you have renewed your commitment, you're always welcome to move up to the next giving level. Although the end is in sight, we still need your help to get us all the way there. And should you know of anyone who shares your passion for the National Arts Centre, please let us know. We can do it!

The Annual Fund has a new home

With each new day comes a new donor and so, thanks to you, we have outgrown our old office!

To illustrate the significant role the Donors' Circle plays in the life and vitality of the National Arts Centre, the

Foundation has opened an Annual Fund office conveniently located in the Southam Hall lobby. We encourage you to stop by to have your questions answered, discuss your gift, and of course, meet those 'mysterious' and always helpful voices on the other end of the line: Sara T. Schwartz, Associate Development Officer, Annual Fund, and Magdalena Ziarko, Development Coordinator.

On behalf of the National Arts Centre, our artists who flourish as a result of your support, the local community, and the students who can now make live performances a part of their lives, thank you for helping us grow.

We look forward to meeting you in person soon!

Under construction

Recognizing your support is of the utmost importance to the National Arts Centre Foundation, as it gives us the opportunity to express our sincere gratitude, and inspires others to follow your example.

As you may have noticed, our Donor Wall has temporarily gone astray. But fear not . . . it's not gone for good. The construction of the new Annual Fund office has given us an ideal opportunity to improve our current Donor Wall. The new and improved version is scheduled to make its debut before too long. Thanks for your patience!

We cordially invite you and a guest to take a special sneak preview of our new

Circles' Lounge

Located in the Southam Hall lobby, the Circles' Lounge is an intimate gathering place for those donors who contribute at the Circles' level (\$1,000 and more). The Lounge is open 30 minutes prior to evening performances (in Southam Hall or the Theatre – excluding rentals), as well as during intermissions.

This coupon entitles you and a guest to a one-time use of the lounge, and does not include beverages. It cannot be exchanged for cash, goods or services and is non-transferable.



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To contact any of these NAC departments, please call our main number (613) 947-7000 and the following extensions:

Box office: ext. 280

Subscriptions: ext. 620

On Stage at the NAC: ext. 565

Donors' Circle: ext. 315

NAC Foundation: ext. 269

Le Café: (613)594-5127

Restaurants and Catering: (613) 232-5713

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