

## **Boris Brott**

### **Principal Youth and Family Conductor, National Arts Centre Orchestra**

Boris Brott is one of the most internationally recognized Canadian Conductors, holding major posts as music director in Canada and the United States. He enjoys an international career as guest conductor, educator, motivational speaker and cultural ambassador. In May 2004, he was named to the newly created position of Principal Youth and Family Conductor of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, where for over 20 years he has regularly been conducting student matinees and Young People's Concerts.

In Canada, Mr. Brott had developed no fewer than six Canadian Orchestras. In addition, he has guest-conducted in Mexico, the United States, South America, Central America, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Scandinavia, Japan, Korea, Israel and the Netherlands.

Currently, Mr. Brott is Artistic Director of the Brott Music Festival, which was established in 1988, as Ontario's principal set of classical music festivals, and he is founding Conductor and Music Director of the New West Symphony, in Los Angeles California. In addition he serves as Artistic Director of the McGill Chamber Orchestra in Montreal.

## **Franz-Paul Decker**

### **Former Principal Guest Conductor, National Arts Centre Orchestra**

Franz-Paul Decker is a conductor of international reputation who has played an important role in Canadian musical life. He has been a regular guest conductor of the National Arts Centre Orchestra since 1976 and was Principal Guest Conductor from 1991 to 1999. Maestro Decker is Principal Guest Conductor of the Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona, where he was Music Director from 1986 to 1992. In September 1995 he was named Conductor Laureate of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra with whom he has enjoyed a highly acclaimed association of 30 years as well as holding the position of Principal Conductor from 1990 to 1994. In 1992 he led the Orchestra to the Expo at Seville, Spain, to perform with Kiri Te Kanawa to huge success.

Maestro Decker's North American career began in 1965 with a highly successful period of work with the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. In 1967, he was chosen to succeed Zubin Mehta as Director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, a position he held for nine years. He then became artistic advisor to the Calgary Philharmonic and the Winnipeg Symphony. He regularly guest conducts the Montreal and Toronto Symphony Orchestras.

Maestro Decker holds awards and distinctions from the governments of Brazil, Holland, Germany and Canada. He has recorded for EMI, Deutsche Grammophon, the CBC and, most recently, Naxos.

## Shirley Douglas

Shirley Douglas was born to Irma and Tommy Douglas in 1934 in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. It was there that Shirley witnessed the birth of Hospitalization and Medicare and has since been determined that Canadians not lose what was so ferociously fought for. In 1952, Shirley graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, England and performed there in theatre and television for the next decade. Shirley then moved to Los Angeles where she was politically active in the anti-war and civil rights movements. Returning to Toronto in 1977 with her three children, Shirley resumed working as an actress in theatre, film and television. She was last seen on stage with her son Kiefer Sutherland at the Royal Alexandra Theatre and the National Arts Centre in *The Glass Menagerie* and on television in the series *Wind at My Back* shown on CBC. Shirley is also actively involved with the Canadian Health Coalition and is the Chair of the Toronto Health Coalition. Shirley was the recipient of the 2000 Gemini Award for the Best Featured Actress in a Drama for the film *Shadow Lake* and was recently seen in the *Vagina Monologues* in Toronto. Last year Shirley was the recipient of a Doctor of Laws degree from Ryerson Polytechnic University and Variety Club's Diamond Award. Shirley was the recipient of the Order of Canada in 2003. And, will be inducted to Canada's walk of fame in June 2004.

Shirley Douglas was a member of the NAC English Theatre Company in the early 1980's. Among her many memorable performances with this resident NAC company were appearances in *Blood Relations*, *The Torch Bearers* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has returned to the NAC Theatre and Studio stages a number of times since then in such acclaimed productions as *The Stone Angel* and *The Glass Menagerie* (in which she appeared with her son Kiefer Sutherland).

## Celia Franca

Born in London England on June 25, 1921, Celia Franca was the founding artistic director of the National Ballet of Canada, and has played a central role in the development of classical ballet in Canada. She trained as a dancer in England with a number of illustrious companies - the Metropolitan Ballet, Ballet Rambert and the Sadler's Wells Ballet. With the National Ballet of Canada she danced leading roles, choreographed and collaborated with such renowned international choreographers as Antony Tudor and John Cranko. Franca's devotion to the classical ballet repertory and her strong-willed leadership have made her a living legend in Canadian dance.

In 1965 Celia Franca served on the National Arts Centre's Advisory Committee on Opera, Music and Ballet. Among her many awards are a Governor General's Performing Arts Award (1994), The Molson Prize (1974) and The Companion of the Order of Canada (1985). Celia Franca continues to be a strong advocate for the arts.

## Gabriel Gascon

Gabriel Gascon made his acting debut with the Montreal-based theatre company Les Compagnons de Saint-Laurent, appearing alongside such leading artists as Denise Pelletier, Gaétan Labrèche and Guy Hoffman. In 1951 he performed in Molière's *L'Avare (The Miser)*, the inaugural production of the Théâtre du Nouveau Monde (founded by his brother Jean). From 1965 to 1980 he lived and worked primarily in France, where he appeared at the Théâtre National Populaire, among others. After his return to Quebec he played the lead in numerous classics of the repertoire, including *La Mouette (The Seagull)*, *Les Femmes savantes (The Learned Ladies)*, and *Œdipe roi (Œdipus Rex)*. In recent years he has worked regularly with director Denis Marleau, appearing in his productions of *Maîtres anciens*, *Nathan le Sage*, *Intérieur*, and *La Dernière Bande (Krapp's Last Tape)*, presented at the NAC in October 2002. He is familiar to television audiences for his roles in numerous made-for-TV dramas and series, including *Les Belles Histoires des pays d'en haut*, where he played Alexis for over nine seasons. He has also appeared in film, most recently in Robert Lepage's *Possible Worlds*, Catherine Martin's *Mariages*, and Kim Nguyen's *Le Marais*. In June 1969 he appeared at the NAC in the bilingual musical *Love and Maple Syrup/Amour et sucre d'érable*, featuring songs by Gordon Lightfoot and Gilles Vigneault.

## Franco Mannino

### **Former Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor, National Arts Centre Orchestra**

As composer, pianist, conductor, novelist, and playwright, Franco Mannino is one of the most distinguished Italian artists of our time. Mannino has conducted operas and concertos in practically every theatre in Italy, at the Opéra in Paris, at the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, at the Welsh National Opera, at the Opéra in Monte Carlo and in London, the U.S.A., and Canada. He has often conducted in Japan and was the first Italian artist to be invited to conduct the orchestras of Peking and Shanghai in China.

In 1982 he was appointed Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, a position he held until 1986, when he was named Principal Guest Conductor until 1989.

Composing always kept pace with performing in Mannino's career, as shown by his more than 440 compositions, comprising opera, ballet, oratory symphonies, chamber music and music for the theatre. He has written the music for more than a hundred films by some of the best-known directors. His collaboration with Luchino Visconti (*Death in Venice*) has been particularly close and fruitful. Visconti wrote the libretti for Mannino's *Il diavolo in giardino* and the award-winning *Mario e il Mago*.

## **G. Hamilton Southam**

G. Hamilton Southam is known to many as the “founding father” of the National Arts Centre. Mr. Southam was appointed Co-ordinator of the federal project to create the National Arts Centre in 1964, shortly after becoming president of the National Capital Arts Alliance. In 1967, after simultaneously overseeing both the establishment of a new national cultural institution - the National Arts Centre Corporation - and the construction of a state-of-the-art performing arts complex in the heart of the capital, Mr. Southam was appointed its first Director General. The NAC opened its doors to the public in 1969. Mr. Southam held the position of Director General for 10 years, until 1977, and he remains a highly involved supporter of the NAC to this day.

Mr. Southam is an Ottawa native, the son of Wilson Mills Southam (publisher of the *Ottawa Citizen*) and Henrietta Alberta née Cargill, and the grandson of William Southam (founder of the Southam group of newspapers). During the war, he served in both the British Army (1939) and the Canadian Army (1940). Following the war, he was a reporter for *The Times*, London, until 1946 when he became an editorial writer for the *Ottawa Citizen*. Mr. Southam began his political career with the Department of External Affairs in January 1948, and served in Stockholm (1949-53), Ottawa (1953-59), and Warsaw (1959-62). In August 1962, Mr. Southam returned to Ottawa to become Head of the Information Division at the Department of External Affairs. In 1964, he was seconded to Secretary of State, and soon thereafter began his ongoing relationship with the NAC.

## **Veronica Tennant**

Veronica Tennant's long association with the National Arts Centre began on opening night, June 2, 1969. It was the inaugural performance at the NAC: *Kraanerg*, by the National Ballet of Canada. Veronica Tennant danced with the National Ballet in a leading role that night, and returned many times to great acclaim and appreciative audiences. One of the most memorable was with the National Ballet's staging of *The Sleeping Beauty*, in 1972, choreographed by Rudolf Nureyev. Tennant danced with Nureyev in this production that had its world premiere at the NAC.

Veronica Tennant was born in England and moved to Canada at a young age. She studied dance at the National Ballet School in Toronto. In 1965 she joined the National Ballet as a principal dancer, and was soon making guest engagements with some of the world's great ballet companies. Since her retirement as a dancer, Veronica Tennant has written children's books, launched a career in broadcasting and television production, taught dance at York University (Toronto), worked in theatre and appeared as a much in-demand public speaker. Her many honours include several honorary doctorates and the Order of Canada.

## **NAC representatives in attendance**

On the occasion of the NAC's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are honoured to have with us a number of people who have helped bring the NAC dream to fruition. Below is the full list of past and present senior personnel – the names of the VIPs celebrating with us appear in bold:

### **Artistic Directors, Advisors and Producers**

#### **English Theatre**

David Haber Director of Programming (including English Theatre) 1969/70

Michael Bawtree Artistic Director Centre Studio Group 1970/71

Jean Roberts Artistic Director 1971/72 -- 1976/77

John Wood Artistic Director 1977/78 -- 1982/83

**Andis Celms Producer, Theatre Department and Director of English Theatre  
1983/84 -- 1995/96**

Gil Osborne Artistic Director 1996/97

**Marti Maraden Artistic Director 1997/98 --**

#### **French Theatre**

Jean-Guy Sabourin Artistic Director Le Capricorne 1969/70

Jean Herbiet Artistic Director Le Groupe du Studio 1970/71 and Artistic Director  
1971/72 -- 1981/82

André Brassard Artistic Director 1982/83 --1989/90

Robert Lepage Artistic Director 1990/91 -- 1992/93

Jean-Claude Marcus Artistic Director 1993/94 -- 1995/96, Artistic Advisor 1997/98 --  
2000/2001

(Alain Grégoire Artistic Director 1996/97 Interim)

Denis Marleau Artistic Director 2001/02 --

Jean Roberts was Director of Theatre 1971/72 -- 1976/77

Jean Herbiet was Associate Director of Theatre 1971/72 -- 1976/77

Jean Gascon was Director of Theatre 1977/78 -- 1982/83 and Artistic Consultant for  
Theatre 1983/84

## **Music**

Jean-Marie Beaudet Music Director 1969/70, Mario Bernardi Principal Conductor 1969/70

Mario Bernardi Music Director and Principal Conductor 1970/71 -- 1981/82

**Franco Mannino Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor 1982/83 -- 1985/86**

Gabriel Chmura Principal Conductor and Music Director 1987/88 -- 1989/90

**(J.M. (Jack) Mills Music Producer 1990/91)**

Trevor Pinnock Principal Conductor and Music Director 1991/92 -- 1995/96

Trevor Pinnock Artistic Advisor 1996/97 -- 1997/98

**Pinchas Zukerman Music Director Designate Principal Conductor 1998 and Music Director 1999/2000 --**

## **Dance and Variety**

David Haber Director of Programming (including Dance and Variety) 1969/70 -- 1972/73

Ted Demetre Producer and Administrator of Dance and Variety 1973/74 -- 1982/83

**Yvan Saintonge Producer of Dance and Variety 1983/84 -- 1986/87**

**Jack Udashkin Producer of Dance, Variety and Special Projects 1987/88 -- 1996/97**

**Jack Udashkin Consultant Producer of Dance 1997/98 -- 1998/99**

**Michel Dozois Associate Producer of Dance, Variety and Special Events 1997/98 -- 1998/99 Producer of Dance and Special Events 1999/2000**

**Cathy Levy Producer of Dance 2000/2001 --**

**Michel Dozois Producer of Community and Special Events 2000/01 --**

Brian Macdonald was Senior Artistic Advisor 1995/96 and Senior Artistic Director 1996/97 -- 1998/99.

Mario Bernardi was Artistic Director of Festival Canada 1971 -- 1982

Nicholas Goldschmidt was Senior Artistic Director of Festival Canada 1996/97 -- 1997/98

**Franz-Paul Decker was Principal Guest Conductor 1990/91 -- 1998/99**

Mario Bernardi was appointed Conductor Laureate in 1997

**Jean-Philippe Tremblay was appointed Apprentice Conductor in 2001**