



NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

NAC Orchestra British Columbia Tour 2004: Additional details about educational outreach

When the National Arts Centre Orchestra and Music Director Pinchas Zukerman head to British Columbia on their 2004 Tour (November 8 to 18), an ambitious educational programme will take place that goes far beyond the concert halls and extends to the north, the interior and to First Nations communities. There will be more than **75** teaching events, as the NAC collaborates with over **60** partners. An estimated **6,000** school children and music students will benefit from the teaching on tour. A total of **1,400** elementary schools in the province will receive a school copy of the NAC's *Vivaldi and the Four Seasons* teacher resource kit with distribution to all elementary schools across the rest of Canada taking place in 2005.

Summary of Events

- 4 student matinee concerts with the NAC Orchestra
- 4 school visits – question-and-answer sessions and performances
- 14 masterclasses (including 2 with Pinchas Zukerman)
- 6 composition lectures and masterclasses with NAC Award Composer Alexina Louie
- 2 piano works masterclasses with NAC Award Composer Alexina Louie
- 9 sectional rehearsals with youth and community orchestras (including 1 with Pinchas Zukerman)
- 6 “Musicians in the Schools” string quintet performances in schools
- 27 coaching sessions and performances for students in school band programs
- 3 teacher clinics on NAC resources
- 4 pre-concert talks with Alexina Louie
- 3 special projects
 - “Music Bridge” (Broadband event with Pinchas Zukerman connecting Burnaby, Ottawa, St. John’s)
 - Kispiox Music Project (First Nations student performance with NACO brass septet)
 - Music in Schools discussion with parents and youth (Broadband event connection Burnaby, Ottawa, St. John’s)

The National Arts Centre Orchestra British Columbia Tour is supported by Major Partner CN, which has a 90-year history in BC. The National Post is the Tour’s National Media Partner. Special funding for tour educational activities is generously provided by Yamaha Canada, Alcan-Kitimat Works, and donors and sponsors of the National Youth and Education Trust.

Event Descriptions

A Day of Distance Learning through videoconferencing – November 9

Four unique events have been organized to showcase what is possible using the latest in videoconference technology. Participants in Burnaby BC, Ottawa ON and St. John's NL will be linked in real time using CA*net4 technology.

9:00-10:00 BC / 12:00-13:00 ON / 13:30-14:30 NL: “**Music Bridge II – Vivaldi and The Four Seasons**” is a major undertaking that will involve Pinchas Zukerman and 121 participating students from Bishop Abraham Elementary School in St. John's NL, Connaught School in Ottawa and Stride Community School in Burnaby BC. For seven weeks beginning on September 20 and culminating with a public performance on November 9, students at all three schools will learn about each other, about where they live in Canada and about their country of origin and with the help of NAC resources, they will learn about the life, times and music of Antonio Vivaldi. The students will prepare an excerpt from the Winter concerto of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* to sing and play on recorder, and will prepare creative responses to Vivaldi's music to share with each other, Pinchas Zukerman and the live audiences at each of the three sites. The students involved represent the diversity of cultures within Canada. A number of children are of aboriginal origin; others come from Vietnam, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Uganda, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, China, Korea, Yugoslavia, the Philippines, Colombia, Africa, Morocco, and Somalia. **Yamaha Canada** is donating 20 free recorders for the students at Connaught who are taking part in Music Bridge, and will sponsor a recorder clinician to work with Connaught teachers with the goal of empowering them to start recorder instruction throughout the school. Each participating school received a rehearsal CD with the recorder melody and harmony lines, as well as the *Vivaldi and The Four Seasons* teacher resource kit and NACO CD recording, to assist the teachers and students in their preparations for November 9.

10:30-12:00 BC / 13:30-15:00 ON / 15:00-16:30 NL: A **Brass Coaching Session**, with clinician Douglas Sturdevant based in Ottawa, will involve three student brass quintets from St. George's High School in Vancouver, BC; Canterbury High School in Ottawa, ON; and Holy Heart of Mary High School in St. John's NL.

16:00-17:00 BC / 19:00-20:00 ON: **Teachers' Workshop:** This workshop for teachers with session leaders in Ottawa and Burnaby will highlight music resources from the NAC and the VSO that can be used by generalist teachers in their classrooms.

17:00-18:30 BC / 20:00-21:30 ON/21:30-23:00 NL: **Music in Schools:** A discussion on music in schools will engage parents and youth in all three cities with guest speaker Ingrid Whyte, president of the Coalition for Music Education in Canada. Included in this discussion are the NAC's Parents for the Arts and Youth Advisory groups in Ottawa, the Coalition for Music Education in BC, and the Victoria Youth Advisory Council.

“Kispiox Music Project” at Kispiox School - November 15

Up to 130 First Nations children from four First Nations elementary schools will gather in the Gitksan Village of Kispiox, halfway between Terrace and Smithers, to perform with seven brass players from the National Arts Centre Orchestra. Over six weeks prior to the concert, these young children will learn to play an excerpt from the Winter concerto of Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* on recorder and to sing the melody with specially prepared words in English and in their First Nations language. Language teachers at each of the four schools will help the students prepare to sing the Vivaldi excerpt in the two languages of the area – Gitksan and Wet’suwet’en. They will also prepare the students to sing two traditional melodies in these two First Nations languages. The brass septet of the NAC Orchestra will rehearse with the students on the morning of November 15 in preparation for a public performance in the afternoon. Four teachers from these schools, with varying degrees of music teaching experience, are receiving free recorder tutorials with a high school music teacher in Terrace. **Yamaha Canada** along with their local distributor in Terrace, Sight & Sound Music, are covering the instructor’s fee and have provided 130 free recorders for the participating students. The NAC produced an introductory video of the brass septet performing on their instruments as well as a rehearsal CD with the recorder melody and harmony lines to assist the teachers in preparing their students to play the recorder. The NAC also provided the teachers with the *Vivaldi and The Four Seasons* teacher resource kit including the NACO Four Seasons CD recording to use in their classroom preparations.

“Music at Artfarm” in Winlaw – November 15

In southern BC, preparations are underway for another NACO BC Tour legacy project called “**Music at Artfarm**”. Artfarm is a relatively new charitable arts organization that provides after-school and summer programming for young people in the area. Until now they have had very little to offer the community in terms of music teaching. The NACO Tour outreach program will officially bring music to the community of Winlaw, located in the Slocan Valley about 45 minutes west of Nelson. “Music at Artfarm” is a fundraising concert on November 15 featuring the NAC Musicians in the Schools String Quintet. Money raised at the concert will start a music program for Artfarm. Children from the area will have six weeks to prepare to play on recorder and sing the Vivaldi excerpt from “Winter” with the String Quintet at the evening concert. Once again, **Yamaha Canada** is donating 50 free recorders to Artfarm along with sponsoring a recorder instructor to help prepare the students for November 15.

NACO wind clinicians in Terrace – November 15 and 16

The music community in Terrace expressed great interest in having a visit from NACO players to work with music students and community musicians during the BC Tour. Thanks to support from Alcan-Kitimat Works, the NAC is able to accommodate this special request and send a quintet of NACO wind players (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn) to hold coaching sessions with music students in Terrace schools and with musicians of the Terrace Community Orchestra, and to perform for a student audience at the R.E.M. Lee Theatre.

NAC Orchestra Brass clinicians in Smithers - November 16

The NAC Orchestra brass septet will visit Smithers Secondary School to coach and perform for 75 music students in grades 8-12. The septet will perform for the students in the morning followed by a question-and-answer session. In the afternoon, students will be divided into groups for sectional coaching. The day will wrap-up with performances by the junior players, the senior players and a massed rehearsal with everyone performing together, including the NACO brass septet.

Young Audience Development: student matinees

The NAC Orchestra will present an all-Vivaldi student matinee in Burnaby (Nov. 12), Kelowna (Nov. 15) and Comox (2 concerts on Nov. 16) for a total of up to 3,000 students. Huron-Wendat storyteller and musician Nathalie Picard, from Quebec, will co-host the concert with NAC Youth and Family Conductor Boris Brott. Soprano Melody Mercredi, an award-winner in the National Métis Youth Role Model Programme and a graduate of Highland Secondary School in Comox BC, will solo with NACO. So will NACO's own bright young stars, violinists Donnie Deacon and Jessica Linnebach. Each student attending the concerts will receive a student newspaper guide, produced by the NAC in collaboration with the *Ottawa Citizen*, to help prepare them for the experience. Students are encouraged to sing or play on recorder an excerpt from the Winter concerto of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.

With the support of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, two of the student matinees with Boris Brott will take place in the Comox Valley in northern Vancouver Island on November 16, the first time a symphony orchestra has performed for a purely student audience there. 1,800 mainly Aboriginal students will attend the two matinees in the gymnasium of Highland Secondary School on land belonging to the Comox Nation. Vivaldi kit illustrator and Comox resident George Littlechild will be featured, and the original copies of the paintings used in the kit will be on display. Between performances, the community will officially welcome the musicians to Comox Territory with a traditional prayer service and performances by Aboriginal artists. The Vancouver Island International Children's Festival is presenting the NAC Orchestra in Comox.

Recorder Programs for BC Schools: An NAC/Yamaha Legacy Project

Recorder clinics have been arranged in the cities of Burnaby and Kelowna in preparation for the NACO Student Matinees. **Yamaha Canada** is providing a total of 600 free recorders to school boards for distribution to as many lucky students attending these concerts. Again, Yamaha and its local distributors will cover the cost of recorder clinicians to teach the teachers so they can be empowered to teach their students to play recorder along with the NAC Orchestra at the concerts. The plan is that the teachers will continue the recorder instruction at their schools long after the visit by NACO. To this end, Yamaha and the NAC will provide instructional materials for these teachers, and will acknowledge completion of a full year of recorder study by sending Certificates of Achievement to teachers to hand out to their students at the end of the school year.

The NAC is grateful to Yamaha Canada for providing a grand total of 800 free recorders and to Yamaha Canada and its local distributors in Ottawa and in BC for contributing \$3,600 for recorder instruction in connection with the BC Tour.

Young Artist Development: masterclasses, sectionals and coaching

Pinchas Zukerman will lead 2 masterclasses and 1 sectional rehearsal in Vancouver and Victoria. NAC Orchestra principal musicians will lead 12 masterclasses at post-secondary music schools in Vancouver and Victoria. NACO players will lead 27 coaching sessions for students in school band programs and will lead 8 sectional rehearsals for youth and community orchestras in Burnaby, Kelowna, Richmond, Terrace, Smithers and Victoria. NAC Award Composer Alexina Louie will lead 6 composition lectures and masterclasses and 2 piano works masterclasses in Vancouver, Victoria, Courtenay, Kelowna and Burnaby.

“NAC Musicians in the Schools” String Quintet

The Musicians in the Schools String Quintet will give performance/demonstrations in 4 elementary schools in Vancouver and 1 elementary school in Nelson, in addition to the fundraising concert in Winlaw.

Teacher Resource Kit: *Vivaldi and the Four Seasons*

The *Vivaldi and the Four Seasons* teacher resource kit will be distributed to every elementary school in BC in the Fall of 2004, with additional distribution to the rest of Canada in 2005. Teachers and students can discover Vivaldi’s life, times and music with the help of innovative lesson plans and student activity sheets. The kit contains information to help students learn about the four seasons through music, language arts, social studies, science, visual arts, drama and First Nations storytelling. There are additional resources available on the NAC’s performing arts website – ArtsAlive.ca – including music curriculum requirements for each province to show how the lessons and activities can best be used by teachers.

The guide includes an original story by award-winning Mohawk children’s writer C.J. Taylor, from Quebec, illustrated by internationally renowned Cree artist George Littlechild who lives in Comox, BC.

The Teacher's Kit was sponsored by CN, National Post, Ottawa Citizen and the Government of Canada’s One-Tonne Challenge.

Each Vivaldi kit also includes a complimentary copy of the CBC Records VIVALDI: FOUR SEASONS CD, featuring Pinchas Zukerman and the NAC Orchestra.

Pre-Concert Talks with Alexina Louie

NAC Award Composer Alexina Louie, whose NAC-commissioned orchestration of *Bringing the Tiger Down from the Mountain II* will be performed at all public concerts, will give Pre-Concert Talks one hour prior to each of the 4 concerts at the concert venues.

Teacher Clinics and Resources

A total of 12 recorder clinics will be held for teachers in Burnaby, Kelowna, Terrace and Ottawa in connection with the BC Tour Education Program.

Two teacher meet-and-greets with NAC Principal Youth and Family Conductor Boris Brott will take place prior to the student matinee concerts in Kelowna and Comox.

A workshop on how to use Vancouver Symphony Orchestra music resources in the elementary classroom will be given by NAC and VSO music education staff for teachers in Burnaby and Ottawa.

For details on exactly where and when each activity takes place, visit the NAC's performing arts website: www.artsalive.ca . Go to Music; BC Tour; Concerts and Education Events.

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