

An Evening To Remember

On Thursday June 29th His Excellency Kanji Yamanouchi welcomed FNACO members in the warm wood-paneled drawing room of the Japanese Embassy Residence. The colours of the flags of Canada and Japan were harmoniously intertwined, and trembled in the gentle breeze which was assisted by the vigorous gestures of the chamber musicians seated nearby, all representing the NAC Orchestra: Concert Master Yosuke Kawasaki, Associate Concert Master Jessica Linnebach, Principal Cellist Rachel Mercer, and Violinist and Violist Carissa Klopoushak.



The String Quartet in D Major, Opus 44, No. 3 by Felix Mendelssohn, followed by the String Quartet in F Major by Maurice Ravel were well served by their most energetic performances, from the undulating patterns of lyrical passages unto the dramatic resolution through pizzicato and crescendo.

Contrary to such appearances, violinist Kawasaki introduced the composition of Ravel with the remark that they had only a half hour to rehearse the piece, which is less time than the length of the composition itself! He also observed that the first movement of Ravel was a personal favourite of the Ambassador. Lastly there was a modern and unprogrammed composition, "Merry Christmas Mister Lawrence" by the prominent film and popular composer, the late Ryuichi Sakamoto. The aforementioned pizzicato of the strings together with the immediately recognizable and emotionally captivating melodic line generated a palpable atmosphere of connection not only amongst the musicians but between all who were in attendance.

FNACO President Christine McLaughlin congratulated the musicians, and thanked the Ambassador for his kindness, support, and generosity in hosting this special evening--and similarly she thanked the participation and donorship of the attendees.

The doors of the dining room and solarium were opened to the sumptuous presentation of Japanese delicacies including sushi and edamame, as well as three varieties of sake. Where the Embassy interior was accented with ornate ikebana arrangements, the reception was held in the beautiful and fragrant evening atmosphere on the terrace and afforded a splendid view of the exterior lawn and gardens.



Article contributed by Peter Devenyi and Francisca Filleul – FNACO Members

KIWANIS Awards from FNACO

Dear Friends of the NAC Orchestra,

I am the grateful recipient of the Kiwanis \$1,000 Senior Scholarship (2023) awarded by the Friends of the NAC Orchestra. I am a grade 11 student attending Canterbury High School for the Arts and currently studying under the instruction of Donnie Deacon. This summer I will be a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada. Music has taken a very important place in my life allowing me to achieve several bursaries that will contribute to my musical education.

Since I was a child, having picked up a violin for the first time when I was three, I have loved playing music. Although my other extra curriculums include ultimate frisbee, Nordic skiing and cross country running I have realized that playing the violin is what I want to do with my future. This scholarship will be beneficial towards my upcoming fees. I am working towards attending the Schulich School of Music at McGill in the performance music programme. I will also be auditioning for the music programme at the University of Toronto. Education is very important to me and I would love to receive an education that can condition me for the life of a professional musician. The career path I am hoping to follow is as a violinist in a professional orchestra (hopefully the NACO!); therefore I am looking forward to gaining experience with other skilled young musicians who are following a similar path!

Although I have been playing violin for many years, I still have a lot to learn in terms of musical ability as well as general knowledge. We need this experience to evolve as people, not only for our careers but for our personal growth. I enjoyed performing for your AGM last September with my string quartet. I would like to thank you all, the donors of this scholarship immensely; the money means a lot for my future education.

Thanks again,

Bennett Van Barr



Donnie Deacon/Bennett Van Barr

A note from president Christine McLaughlin:

I was fortunate to attend the final concert of the Young String Performers' Foundation and heard Bennett Van Barr and his teacher Donnie Deacon play Leclair's Sonata No 5 in E min Op 3 for two violins. This was quite magnificent playing and I think we will hear Bennett's name again!

Dear Friends of the NAC Orchestra,

Thank you so much for all the things you do to support young people, including myself and our musical journeys. It means a lot to me to know that I'm being supported and that the music everyone makes has an impact on others. I'm really grateful for all the time and effort you and other volunteers put into helping and supporting music programmes and projects like the Kiwanis Music Festivals as well as donating awards and scholarships to them.

I know as things get closer to the end of the academic year it can be pretty hectic and stressful which makes me even more appreciative for all your support. I'm really happy, proud and thankful to be the recipient of this year's Kiwanis John Gazsi memorial award for \$250 donated by FNACO. Thank you so much for helping the growth of young musicians like me!

Sincerely,

Mary Jane Xia

NACO THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the NAC Orchestra Administration, please extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation to the Friends of the NAC Orchestra for their generous financial contributions towards the NAC Orchestra's Mentorship Program and Family and Youth Programming this season. These funds will really make a difference to the pre-professional and early career artists who will be taking part in the Mentorship Program in May 2023.

In addition, it will support the Orchestra's efforts to present the Reggae Roots student matinee to hundreds of local middle/high school students. This student matinee marks the return to in-person student matinees since the 2019/20 season, and is one of NACO's main engagement initiatives this year in an effort to help support local school music programs that have been greatly impacted as a result of the pandemic.

Once again, thank you to the Friends for your ongoing support! Warmest regards,

Kelly Racicot Manager, Family and Youth Programs, NAC Orchestra and Arts Alive

Welcome To Our New Orchestra Musicians

The following have just completed their first year 2022-2023 with NACO

Darren Hicks, Principal Bassoon

Emily Kruspe, Section Violin

Starting the new season 2023-2024

Max Cardilli, Assistant Principal Bass

Zhengdong (Zane) Liang, Section Violin

Tovin Allers, Section Viola

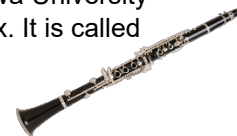
Tovin was the first FNACO winner of our new Bursary award in honour of Evelyn Greenberg in 2021

Congratulations and welcome to you all.

GREAT OBOE NEWS

Charles "Chip" Hamann our Principal Oboe at the NACO and Adjunct Professor at Ottawa University School of Music has just released a new CD with the well known pianist Frederic Lacroix. It is called Canadian Scenes and is found digitally on the Leaf Music Label.

Congratulations!



SAVE THE DATE

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the NAC Orchestra will be held this year on Sunday, 15th October 2023 at 2:00pm in the Rossy Pavilion at the NAC. Please save the date.

Watch for details in the September Con Brio.

CON BRIO

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