

AN EVENING WITH SPAIN IN CANADA By Norm Boucher FNACO member

Spain's Ambassador Alfredo Martínez Serrano and Madame Rosa Pañeda welcomed members of the Friends of the NAC Orchestra and a score of other special guests to his historic Rockcliffe Park residence for a late August concert celebrating Spain's presidency of the European Union, and the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and Spain.

A quartet of NAC Orchestra stellar musicians: Jessica Linnebach (violin), Erica Miller (violin), Paul Casey (viola), and Karen Kang (cello) then presented a riveting musical program that began with renditions of the Anthems of Spain, Canada, and the European Union. Guests who were not familiar with the latter would have recognized the melody of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy", which was adopted in 1985 as the official EU anthem.



Following the anthems, violinist Jessica Linnebach introduced an eclectic and riveting program, which began with the playful, yet suspenseful score of the movie Knives Out. Jessica expressed her excitement at playing the next piece, a vibrant rendition of the first



movement of Spanish composer Ruperto Chapi's Second Quartet, its Andalusian melodic tone punctuated by energetic conversations between violin and cello. The quartet ended with Opus 10 by Claude Debussy, a rich, energetic finale to a great set.

On Spanish Guitar, Nathan Bredeson moved the audience with a set that began with the Prelude to Bach's Cello

Suite No. 1 BWV 1007. He then introduced one of his creations titled Ruminations: Fantasy on a Theme, and shared with the audience how the piece originated. The last two performances of the night offered a fitting tribute to Spanish music with two of its greatest

guitar classics: “Recuerdos de la Alhambra”, and “Concierto de Aranjuez, taking the audience to the very heart of Spain.

Following the concert, Ambassador Martinez Serrano and Madame Pañeda invited the guests 'al fresco' to enjoy delectable offerings of Spanish cuisine and wines in the embassy's candlelit garden and lawn, a perfect setting to mingle and chat while enjoying delicious tapas and paellas with a Spanish blanco (or tinto of choice).

The warmth of the hospitality and the depth of Ambassador Martinez Serrano's support of the arts was evident throughout the event, as cited appreciatively by Friends of the NAC Orchestra President Christine McLaughlin in thank you remarks at the close of the concert.



Truly a remarkable evening of cultural diplomacy in Spain's "Casa en Canadá”.

Muchísimas gracias!



We are Back at the NAC

For the FNACO Annual General Meeting

Sunday, October 15th, 2 p.m., Rossy Pavilion, NAC, One Elgin Street

Plan now to attend and e-mail Kathleen McKillop to register at:
fnacosecretary@gmail.com



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A Word from our Honorary Patron Alexander Shelley

Thank you Christine for the July Con Brio.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the latest edition (I wish I had made it to the event at the Japanese residence!) and for your kind words.

It remains one of the great joys of my life to make music with our great NACO for our wonderful audience. I can't wait for the next season!

Warmest regards to you and the entire FNACO,

Alexander

Registration Deadline

Registration for the **NAC Orchestra September 21st 10:15 a.m. open rehearsal in Southam Hall of Ehnes, Altstaedt & Kanneh-Mason** play the music of Clara and Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms is open until **September 16th**. Seating is limited, so please register as soon as you can.

The open rehearsal is available to members of FNACO only. To register please email to Stephen McCarthy at nacrehearsal@gmail.com clearly indicating your full name.

Please remember to leave plenty of time to find a parking spot. The NAC underground parking is often full. Rideau Shopping Centre is a good alternative.

CON BRIO

Christine McLaughlin Editor; Gisèle Lamontagne Translator; Carol Lutes Racine Coordinator;
Juan Sebastian Zuluaga Molina and Jim Burgess Webmasters <http://www.friendsofnaco.ca>