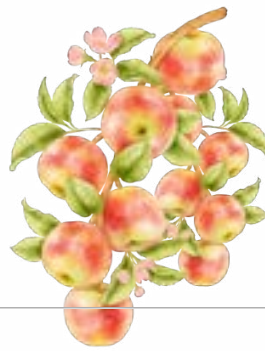


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September 2024



Honorary Patron - Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley



G Grand Evening of Peruvian and European Music

Residence of the Ambassador of the Republic of Peru | August 28th, 2024

By Ted and Nancy Lennox, Members of FNACO

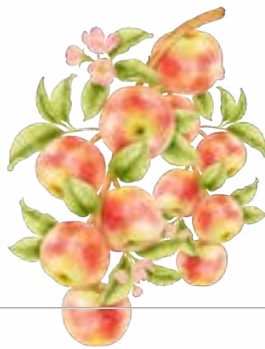
Les Amis de l'Orchestra du Centre National des Arts

55
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1969 - 2024

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On Wednesday August 28, 2024, at the kind invitation of His Excellency Manuel Talavera Espinar, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru, and Mrs. Heidi Calonge de Talavera, more than 50 Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra were treated to a cordial introduction to 20th century Peruvian music, and to European music from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, delivered in a setting of fine Peruvian art and culture.



*H.E. Manuel Talavera Espinar, Ambassador of the Republic of Peru and Mrs. Heidi Calonge de Talavera with the musicians.
Photo © Ülke Baum.*

Cover Photo Credit : https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Residence_Peruvian_Ambassador_Ottawa_Island_Park_Drive.jpg#file

Ambassador Espinar welcomed NACO members with brief remarks focussing on Canada's 80 years of diplomatic relations with Peru and highlighting some of the common interests our countries share in the global community, especially with respect to international rules-

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based societies, and universal human rights. The Ambassador mentioned that Peru has a growing economy, exporting gold to Canada as an example, and with four flights operating between Peru and Eastern Canada each week. He also noted that the Peruvian Residence has been at its current iconic location for 78 years, and prior to its purchase had accommodated British children evacuated during World War Two.

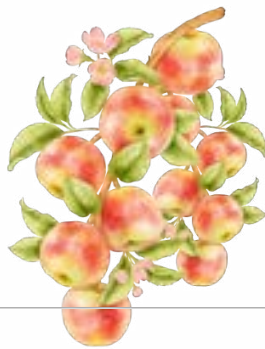
The FNACO evening was significantly influenced by music in the Inca style. The “Empire of the Incas” was centred in the Peruvian city of Cusco in the 15th century and was known for its advanced arts and cultural development, in addition to its economic and military strength. The Quena Andean Flute (similar to panpipes) held a central role in Inca musical traditions and was a popular instrument during seasonal festivals delivering unique polyphonic harmonies.



Sean Clark flute; Emily Westell violin; Desiree Abbey cello. | Photo © Ülke Baum.

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Two flute-dominated pieces, written in the 20th century, opened and closed the evening's performance by a very talented trio comprising flute, violin and cello. In fact, the entire program was constructed around classical music with strong flute influences.

The first piece entitled Vilcanota, by Armando Ochos tells the story of a sacred Inca river rising in the mountains above Cusco, and flowing into ever larger streams and rivers down to the ocean. In many respects this melodious tune is similar to Smetana's The Moldau which tells the story of the Vltava (Moldau) River, as it flows down through the Czech Republic to the Elbe. Sean Clarke's smooth interpretation of this work on the flute was a pleasant opening to the evening and established a link with Peru's Inca past.

Following a most informative introduction by Emily Westell (violin) the trio next performed the Divertimento in G Major (Op. 100, no.2) by Haydn. Emily led the Allegro off with a spirited leadership of the trio which only calmed somewhat when the subsequent Adagio introduced a smoother more Mozart-influenced tempo. The Finale Allegro was once again invigorating with Desiree Abbey providing a vital musical foundation to the movement on her cello.



FNACO Guests | Photo © Ülke Baum

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The ensemble next performed the Trio in G Major (Op.71, no.1) by Franz Danzi. Ideally suited to the skills of the three performers the Allegretto featured strong cello leadership; the Larghetto and subsequent Minuetto featured poetic and graceful flute melodies concluding with a somewhat surprising scale; and lastly the Polacca, with its traditional Polish style reminiscent of the grandeur of Polish Knights passing in front of their king on horseback, was well-delivered by the grand rhythms of Desiree's cello in this piece.

The fourth piece was a Libertango by Astor Piazzolla. Led by the violin, this short piece thoroughly exercised the well-honed skills of all members of the trio.

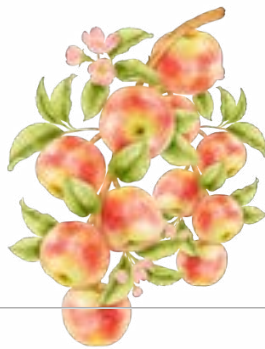
The evening concluded with another Inca-themed piece composed by Roberto Campana in the 20th century. Entitled Intl Raymi, meaning sun god festival, this piece brought out the joyous excitement of a June festival and provided a fast and most exciting finish to an excellent evening's performance by three most accomplished musicians.



H.E. Manuel Talavera Espinar & Mrs. Heidi Garcia de Talavera with guests Indonesian Ambassador H.E. Daniel T.S. Simanjuntak and his wife. | Photo © Ülke Baum

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Ambassador Espinar and his most hospitable embassy staff subsequently hosted a fulsome reception with delectable canapes, wines and other refreshments which showed the wonderful residence off to its best. We were even shown a portrait of the 12 British children gathered on the old oak staircase in the early 1940s.

Lastly it was noteworthy that FNACO member Edward Doe was in attendance. He led the Canadian International Development Agency team in Peru before, during and after the Shining Path revolutionaries attempted to overthrow the government in the early 1990s. He was subsequently awarded a medal for meritorious service by Peru. ■

About the Author: As a Queen's University engineering student in 1972, Ted Lennox was required to take one "arts" course to graduate. He barely achieved a "credit" from a course entitled "A Tonal and Thematic Analysis of Baroque and Mid-classical Music". After 52 years, this course has finally proved to have been worthwhile for him, thanks to FNACO.

Message of Thanks from Sean Clarke

Thank you very much for including me in this event, it was an honour to perform at a concert that furthered diplomatic ties and supported music education programs.

I remember how important music programs, grants and awards were to supporting me and my colleagues while we trained to become musicians, so I'm impressed and heartened to see the work that the Friends of NACO does! Thanks again.

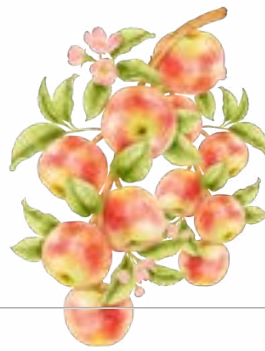
All the best, Sean

Sean Clarke, DMus Composer & Flutist
Adjunct Professor - University of Ottawa



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Alexander Shelley



*T*hank you Notes from the Three Ottawa Kiwanis

Winners of FNACO Awards 2024

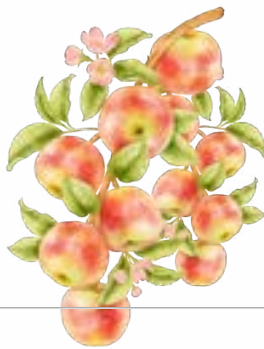
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I would like to express my gratitude for your generous scholarship to help me in my musical journey.

This year I completed my 12th grade at De La Salle high school in the specialized winds and percussion program. I also continued with the Ottawa Youth Orchestra and participated in several other music projects.

By awarding me this scholarship you have lightened my financial burden as I continue my education at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

I hope one day I will be able to help music students pursue their passion in the same way you are assisting me. Thank you for your kindness.

Nabeel Ansari, oboe

I wish to thank you for awarding me the John Gazsi memorial scholarship.

This year I performed at a Young String Performers' Orchestra concert and with the Ottawa Youth Symphony Orchestra playing symphonies by Dvorak and Shostakovich.

I am looking forward to another great year in music. This summer I will be studying violin at the Domaine Forget International Music and Dance Academy in Charlevoix. I am also very happy to have been accepted in the new University of Ottawa Pre-college music program which will include the opportunity to play chamber music and perform in master-classes for guest artists.

I hope I will have a chance to play for you at some point in the future. Thank you once again.

Philippe Lafleur, violin

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I would like to express my sincere appreciation for receiving the FNACO award for the brass category.

I have devoted countless hours to practicing the tuba and I have loved every hour. I received the highest level of instruction from my music teachers at De La Salle high school.

While I will be taking a step back from formal music education in the Fall to concentrate on my undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering at Ottawa University, I will always have a musical instrument nearby. Besides the tuba, I have a trombone and keyboard to turn to when I need to hear, feel and play music.

I thank you for your organization's support of the performing arts.

Gabriel Carty, tuba



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*C*oncert at the Embassy of Colombia

Embassy of Colombia | September 6th, 2024

By Yves Ross and Michelle Gibeault, Members of FNACO

For a second consecutive year, the Embassy of Colombia welcomed the Friends of the National Arts Centre. On Friday, September 6th, 2024, we had the great honour and pleasure to attend a wonderful soirée hosted by his excellency Carlos A. Morales and his charming wife, Mrs. Betty León.

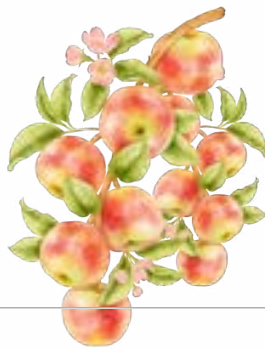
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Foreseeing inclement weather, nothing had been left to chance by our superb hosts. We were sheltered under a marquee, which added to the intimacy of the evening.



H.E. Carlos A. Morales Ambassador of Colombia and Mrs Betty León | Photo G. Gratton

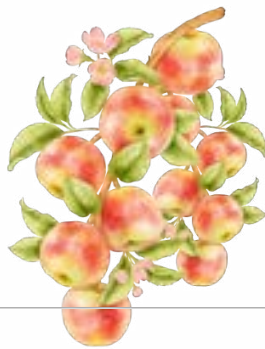
We enjoyed a panoply of splendid music. Moreover, we were charmed by the exquisite voice of Ania Hejnar, the most talented violinist, Sarah Williams. The ensemble was under the masterful direction of the accompanist/soloist, the reputed, Judith Ginsburg.

First, we heard, “O sither Nicht” an excerpt from Mozart’s, *The Magic Flute*, which was followed by Vivaldi’s *Violin Concerto in A minor*. Then came the “Salut d’Amour” by Elgar and the “Vissi d’arte” from Puccini’s *Tosca*.

We were then treated to the famous “Thaïs -Meditation” by Massenet and the “Saper Vorreste” from *Un Ballo in Maschera* by Verdi. Moreover, we were thrilled to hear “Tango” by I. Albeniz and the “Libertango” by A. Piazzolla. At that point, we all felt like dancing!

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Between the two tangos we were charmed with the beautiful “Solace” by Scott Joplin.

The finale was the uplifting “Glitter and Be Gay” from the operetta Candide by Leonard Bernstein.



From Left: Judy Ginsburg pianist, Sarah Williams violinist, Ania Hejnar soprano. Photo by N. Lennox

To conclude this magnificent concert, our souls being well fed with beautiful music, we were served a succulent Colombian meal. Seven tables, full of happy guests, were impatiently waiting for their succulent meal. When the first servings appeared, our mouths were watering at such an enticing presentation.

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From the beginning to the end of this enchanting evening, we enjoyed excellent wines. Then, we enjoyed sweets followed by the famous Colombian coffee that we were offered as a gift, the previous year

A huge thank you to our generous hosts.

Muchas gracias Su Excelencia.

Thank you also, to our president, Christine Mclaughlin, to Carole Lutes Racine, our liaison officer. Finally, a very special thank you to Melina-Vacca -Pugsley, our beloved embassy concerts director. Once again, she organized a memorable evening.

All we can say is:
"ENCORE!!!" ■

Save the Date – Annual General Meeting

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra will be on Sunday, October 20th in the Rossy room at the NAC from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

We invite you all to attend for the annual reports, for a musical entertainment and coffee and chat with everyone interested in our FNACO and music. Our AGM is a free event.

Please make a note of the date and more details will follow shortly.

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Note to Members

Dear Members,

If you are no longer interested in our Fund-Raising events and wish to unsubscribe from these emails, please notify: fnaco.aocna@gmail.com

You will continue to receive Con Brio, Rehearsal notices and AGM information.



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