

MUCH TO CELEBRATE!

Madeleine Aubrey – Membership Secretary & 1st vice-president, FNACO

June ushers in summer with all the joy this season of warmth and growth brings to our celebrations with family and friends. Your FNACO Board is especially happy to celebrate you, our great membership. For the past fifty years more than 1,000 individuals have signed up to become FNACO members. They represent the artistic and intellectual cultural capital of our Capital Region. Many of these members have given their time, money and energy by serving on the Board, participating in various programs, writing for “Con Brio” and voicing their ideas and appreciation. Today, despite the pandemic, many of you continue to renew your membership and your support. The Board truly appreciates your loyalty and the confidence you have placed in our collective ‘Friends’ association.

Your membership fees and other contributions are a true charitable donation. These financial gifts are used to support targeted programs developed by the NAC Music Education Department, bursaries competitions for students, and groups such as OrKidstra among others. Through these programs, FNACO advocates for both the performance of music and its appreciation. Together, these goals contribute to the flourishing and sustainability of a rich diversity of musical activities in our community.

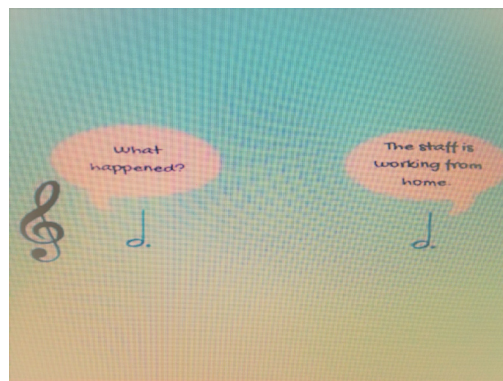
July brings an end to our fiscal year. At the September 19th AGM, we will report on the year behind us, embrace new projects for our new year and celebrate our good deeds. With great hope, the FNACO Board looks forward to a new year that will allow us to celebrate together once more with live musical events.

Over the next few weeks, you are invited to send us your favorite musical composition that evokes the summer season. Your recommendations will be placed on our Facebook account and website for others to see and sample over the summer months. It will be yet another way to celebrate and connect with our members and friends.

Have a very celebratory summer!

membership@friendsofnaco.ca

COVID Era Music-Making



Con Brio

June 2021



1969-2019



DESPITE A GLOBAL PANDEMIC THE MUSIC PLAYS ON...

Tina Fedeski, MSM—CEO & Artistic Director OrKidstra

Thank you Friends of NACO for your incredible love, support, and commitment to OrKidstra during this challenging time. I hope this note finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. It is difficult to believe that it has been over a year since our world changed; it's hard to comprehend the profound impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on us globally and locally, as a community and as individuals. What helps lift the heaviness in my spirit is thinking of the love, generosity, creativity, innovation, and desire for inter-connectedness with our OrKidstra family: your support has meant the world to us. Even at a distance, under such difficult circumstances, our community has come together stronger than ever.

In mid-March 2020, the halls of OrKidstra fell silent but, guided by love, courage, and excellence, the harmony began to rise again... On March 24, 2020, our OrKidstra @Home online programming began with our first virtual class: an individual clarinet lesson. Thanks to the community's support over the past year, OrKidstra @ Home has grown its weekly, after-school online programming to over 110 hours per week – all helping to empower kids to continue building success with music at home.

Did you know that 88% of students report a greater sense of belonging, and 95% of students have improved their musicianship after a year at OrKidstra? One of the beautiful programs to come out of OrKidstra @ Home is our Masterclass. Every Friday, students virtually come together to perform music and learn from each other in a Kid-Powered, peer-to-peer online learning environment facilitated by our fantastic Teaching Artists. Other new programs to emerge over the past year include our leadership-building Buddy Mentorship program and our creative KidComposers initiative.

Now, more than ever, we need music in our lives, and so do our young people! Like many of us, kids and families continue to struggle with the challenges associated with the pandemic, including isolation and loss (Ottawa Public Health). But, thanks to your incredible loyalty, OrKidstra continues to create a circle of music, love, and support around our young people.

With the warmth of the sun and the hope of vaccines in the air, sending love and deeply-felt gratitude from the entire OrKidstra family.

TO NOTE

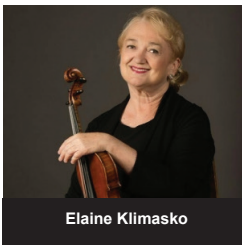
If you receive your Con Brio before June 10th, please consider tuning in at 5:30 p.m. for OrKidstra's end of year concert to showcase our wonderful students' accomplishments. OrKidstra's Ambassadors are Angela Hewitt, Alexander Shelley and Kelly-Lee Evans.

<https://orkidstra.ca/events/upcoming-events/june-10/>

THOUGHTS ON LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN Pamela Reynolds – Member, Friends of NACO

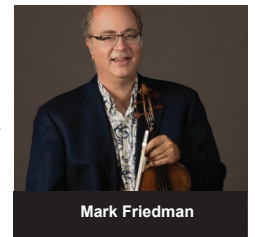
I was so looking forward to the Beethoven concerts to be performed at the NAC in 2020 to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of Beethoven's birth in December 1770. Alas the Pandemic caused the closure of our NAC and we were denied this treat. I clearly remember when I first heard a recording of Beethoven's music. I attended a girl's boarding school in England and a friend returned to school after a Christmas holiday with a gift she had been given - a recording of Beethoven's 5th. We listened avidly. This was my introduction to Beethoven's music and he has been my favourite composer ever since. During World War II the BBC prefaced all their daily radio news broadcasts with the opening four notes of Beethoven's 5th ***__ which is the letter V in Morse code, V for Victory. I am at present re-reading "Beethoven – Anguish and Triumph" by Jan Swafford which reminds us of the many difficulties Beethoven endured throughout his life and yet despite these hardships he was able to compose some of the world's greatest music.

ORCHESTRA NEWS



Elaine Klimasko

Our Orchestra representative on the Friends Board, Mark Friedman, has handed the baton over to Elaine Klimasko. We wish to thank Mark very much for finding the time to inform us of the Orchestra's plans over the past few years and for keeping us up to date on the lives of our musicians and we welcome Elaine - another busy musician - as our new Orchestra representative.



Mark Friedman

... AND MORE ORCHESTRA NEWS Frédéric Moisan – (First violin, NAC Orchestra)

Dear Friends of NACO,
Anni and I are very happy to announce to you the birth of our little girl Salme!
She was born the 17th of March at the Civic Hospital in Ottawa. Her mom is fine and is slowly recovering. Here is Salme two weeks old. We are happy and admiring parents of this little wonder and look forward to one day having the chance to present her to you. Salme's middle name is Aino, the same as Sibelius's wife.

In the meantime, I wish you all a spring and summer filled with joy and music.

Frédéric Moisan - (first violin, NAC Orchestra)



Anni and Frédéric Moisan with baby Salme

MEMORIES OF ANTONIA NANTEL

Gisèle Lamontagne – Member, Friends & FNACO Translator

In connection with the article posted on the Friends Facebook page about Antonia Nantel and her hard and devoted work with Wilfrid Pelletier to found the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, our family was deeply touched to see that her work is finally being recognized. Antonia Nantel was my maternal grandmother and, I was fortunate enough to attend many concerts and musical events even in my early youth. At times, we children would even help out and meet some artists. This has guided me to suggest to parents and grandparents to take their children and grandchildren to such events; the lifelong impact is absolutely incredible. We don't all become musicians; but, we learn to appreciate music and its many forms and respect those who study and practice for hours and hours, year after year, to offer us such delightful music. As a psychotherapist, and one who studied music for a few years, I truly feel that music is one of the greatest therapeutic tools anyone can have. So grand'maman, thank you for passing your love on to my mother and to me ... it continues not only to survive but to grow, nonstop! De tout coeur, Merci.

YOUNG STRING PERFORMERS' FOUNDATION

Joan Milkson – President YSPF

Many Friends will know me as the former Assistant Concertmaster of the NAC Orchestra. However, besides playing in the orchestra, I have always been interested in the development of young musicians, string players in particular. I began teaching young musicians during my time with the orchestra and continue to do so to this day. This made me aware of a serious gap in musical education in Ottawa: When students reach university age, they can further their music education in the Music Departments at the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, and even receive financial support. But before reaching that level, young musicians need opportunities to give public performances. Furthermore, from an early age onward they need financial support, because a music education costs money for lessons, suitable instruments, etc. All this support was lacking in Ottawa for young people. The burden shouldn't fall completely on parents.

In 2002, with the support of friends and colleagues who shared my views, I founded the Young String Performers' Foundation (YSPF) to help correct this situation. The major goals of the YSPF, a charitable organization, were—and are—to provide performance opportunities, instrument loans, master classes and financial support for aspiring young string performers. Besides organizing and presenting four concerts per season featuring our young artists, we provide young string musicians who perform solo or chamber music at the Friends' very popular Music To Dine For fundraising events. Admission fees to our concerts and generous donations by the public and the Friends provide us with money to award bursaries at the end of each season to all the young musicians who performed on one or more of our concerts.

It wasn't possible during the pandemic to present our concert series, nor were there any Music To Dine For dinners. We therefore have made videos—four so far—to feature our young performers who, naturally, have continued to take lessons and practise diligently. Links to them can be found on our website www.yspf.ca

Over the years, some of our young musicians have made a successful career in music, including recordings. To name a few: Anya Muminovich (now Dambeck) is Assistant Principal Viola with the Staatskapelle Dresden. Kerson Leong is establishing an international career for himself as a violinist, as is Bryan Cheng as a cellist. Paul Casey is now a violist in the NAC Orchestra. Yolanda Bruno is concertmaster of the Kingston Symphony and Carmen Bruno is a member of the Quebec Symphony. We are grateful to the Friends of the NAC Orchestra not only for its continued financial support of our activities, but also for giving our young musicians a chance to perform at events such as Music To Dine For. We hope this mutually beneficial relationship will continue in our "post-pandemic" lives.

Joan Milkson President YSPF
Jim Burgess Secretary YSPF

NAC ORCHESTRA BURSARY COMPETITION 2021

The Friends have presented an award for the Bursary competition since 1993 when it was decided to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NAC Orchestra. Since then we have awarded collectively over \$70,000. The yearly award of \$3,000 is intended to further the training of a gifted young musician who comes from the National Capital Region. In 2019 we chose to honour the founder of the Friends, Evelyn Greenberg by adding a further award of \$1,500. Our funds are raised from your generous donations and the James Morton bequest. This year the Bursary committee decided to offer a virtual competition.

The finalists were presented on May 29th. Presenters were given 30 seconds for a virtual congratulatory speech.

Here is Evelyn Greenberg's speech representing the Friends of NACO: "When the NAC Orchestra was established in 1969, the Friends of the Orchestra, formerly the NACOA, became its booster club. And here we are, 52 years later, "plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose", promoting the NAC Orchestra and doing our bit to help young gifted musicians find their places in orchestras such as ours. Our bursaries will do just that, through the Friends of NACO award of \$3,000 and the Evelyn Greenberg bursary of \$1,500, named in my honour as Founding President, for which I am deeply grateful." We wish the winners a bright and successful future.

And the winners for 2021 are:

The Friends of the NAC Orchestra award – \$3,000 – JaeWon Seo, Violin, age 24
The Friends of NACO Evelyn Greenberg award – \$1,500 – Tovin Allers, Viola, age 21

CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU LETTER TO THE FRIENDS FROM THE NAC

Dear Christine,

On behalf of the National Arts Centre Music Department, we would like to thank the Friends of the NAC Orchestra for their generous support of \$11,750 towards the NAC Orchestra's Learning and Engagement programs for the 2020-2021 season, as well as prizes totalling \$4,500 to be awarded at the 2021 NACO Bursary competition.

Accessible online programs and resources in Music are more important now than ever. Your contribution will help us maintain and grow the NAC Orchestra's rich learning and engagement programs to meet the needs of teachers, students and performing arts lovers within the National Capital Region as well as from across Canada. The NAC is ushering in a new era of learning and engagement in the performing arts – we are delighted to name you among our first champions.

Once again, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Genevieve Cimon
Senior Director, Learning and Community Engagement

Thank You

Many thanks to Christine McLaughlin, Carol Lutes Racine, Gisèle Lamontagne, Juan Sebastian Zuluaga Molina, Jim Burgess, for their work in publishing Con Brio.
Please let us know if you enjoyed this edition.
We welcome your comments and articles anytime.

www.friendsofnaco.ca