

Con Brio

December 2023



LES *Amis* DE L' *Friends* OF
THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
ORCHESTRA
DU CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

Honorary Patron – Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley

2023 FNACO Annual General Meeting

The 2023 FNACO Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday, October 15, in the lovely light-filled Rossy Pavilion at the National Arts Centre. Against the backdrop of the Parliament Buildings, Christine McLaughlin greeted and thanked members for their dedicated support of Friends. She was pleased to announce that FNACO is working hard with the capital's diplomatic community to organize several exciting fundraising events in the months ahead to support young musicians. Christine was also proud to announce that Tovin Allers, who was the first recipient of the Friends of the NAC Orchestra Evelyn Greenberg Award in 2021 is now playing with the NAC Orchestra.

Our new Treasurer, Sally Boucher, who has taken over from the long serving and highly regarded Louise Rowe, reported that FNACO had a very successful year post Covid. The organization's revenue increased by 10% over the prior fiscal year. More details about our finances can be found online in our Annual Report at www.friendsofnaco.ca

The AGM guest speaker, Christopher Deacon, President and CEO of the NAC, noted that the new season was off to a great start. However, he cautioned that balancing the ability to be creative and accessible with programming for a wide audience while maintaining revenue is a large challenge. He thanked the audience members for their support and generosity of FNACO and in particular, our financial contributions for the NACO Bursary Competition and to the Music Department.

(cont'd)



Les Amis de l'Orchestra du Centre National des Arts

54
years
1969-2023

Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra

Con Brio

December 2023



LES *Amis* DE L' *Friends* OF
THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
ORCHESTR
DU CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

Honorary Patron – Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley



Justin Azerrad (violin), Ember-Leah Reed (violin), Ryan Vis (viola), Vinci Chen (cello), at the FNACO Annual General Meeting at the National Arts Centre.

The meeting concluded with a wonderful musical performance by a quartet from the University of Ottawa who delighted FNACO members with their skills. This was followed by refreshments and conversation enjoyed by everyone.

It promises to be an eventful 2023-2024 for FNACO, guided by a dedicated Board of Directors that were ratified by members. We look forward to seeing even more of our members at next year's AGM.

Kathleen McKillop
Board Member

Concert comments

Two concerts one evening after another - how very different and extraordinary they were.

On Nov. 1st the Gala concert with the incredible Renee Fleming and our Orchestra conducted by Alexander Shelley. Handel to Broadway were performed by this remarkable opera singer with that recognizable and distinctive voice known around the world.

The following night again with our Orchestra conducted by John Storgards with music by E. Rautavaara – Concerto for Birds and Orchestra and by R.Maenpaa - Symphony for Yoik and Chamber Orchestra with Sami vocalist Niilas Holmberg which was hauntingly beautiful. Followed finally by Sibelius Symphony 3, all demonstrating a brilliant presentation of Finnish music.

Thank you to our wonderful conductors and our excellent musicians.

Christine McLaughlin FNACO president

Les Amis de l'Orchestra du Centre National des Arts

54
years
1969-2023

Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra

Con Brio

December 2023



Honorary Patron – Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley

Notes of appreciation from organizations we support

Many thanks for your wonderful e-mail. We are honoured and grateful to be supported by FNACO. Please pass on our deepest thanks to all of the Friends! And please share the invitation to our Holiday concert: Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30PM in Carleton Dominion-Chalmers. Hope to see you there and also at some of the many upcoming concerts in the NAC!

Kindest wishes,
Tina Fedeski MSM, Co-Founder of OrKidstra, Executive & Artistic Director



Christine – this is lovely and very much appreciated. Many thanks FNACO!

Best,
Kim Chadsey, Ottawa Kiwanis



I am thrilled to know that the Friends of the NAC Orchestra will continue their support and that you have in fact increased the value of the two annual FNACO Bursary awards! I know the committee and our new Chair will be excited to hear this news when I tell them at our first meeting next week. Thanks again, we are truly appreciative and grateful to you all for this support.

Kelly Symons,
Emerging Artist Programs Manager, National Arts Centre



I am delighted to work with FNACO moving forward, and echo our thanks for your wonderful continued support of this meaningful award! Many thanks for confirming your plans to support the award again this year.

Gratefully,
Erin Pickering, Development Officer, Carleton University

Con Brio

December 2023



Honorary Patron – Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley

This is so kind and helps support our programs! We thank you so much for supporting our musicians and programming!

Best ,
Dr. Tasha Ausman, Ottawa Youth Orchestra Academy, General Manager



What can I sayBless you and the FRIENDS for your donation to the YSPF. Though we had a wonderful year of performances from the young talents, we, and I am sure other organizations are catching up financially VERY slowly.

Please extend our appreciation to everyone!

Best wishes for the Season,
Joan Milkson, President, Young String Performers Foundation



On behalf of the NAC Orchestra administration, thank you so much for the Friends' generous support this season. With your contributions, we will be able to present meaningful professional development experiences for emerging and early career artists as well as further develop and support educational content through Arts Alive for students and teachers!

Thanks again and all best,
Kelly Racicot, PMP
Manager, Family and Youth Programs, National Arts Centre Orchestra

♪ **A** reminder regarding attendance at free concert rehearsals ♪

These rehearsals are by invitation ONLY for FNACO members. If you wish to bring a friend, before you register, they must first join FNACO. Please do not reply to the person who sent you the information about the free rehearsals. Please ONLY reply to Steve McCarthy at FNACorehearsals@gmail.com. This information is always in the invitation to register – please read it carefully.

Les Amis de l'Orchestra du Centre National des Arts

54
years
1969-2023

Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra

Con Brio

December 2023



Honorary Patron – Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley

Music to Dine For returns with exquisite dinner at UAE Embassy

We, the Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, wish to sincerely thank his Excellency Ambassador Fahad Saeed Al Raqbani, and Mrs Abeer Al Jasim for their invitation last November 8, 2023.

Immediately upon arrival, our hosts' kindness and simplicity created the tone of this evening which was most pleasant and warm. From the first appetizers, the smiles, the laughter and the greetings many friendships were renewed or created.

We were then led into the dining room where our talented young musicians were waiting, ready to amaze us. These musicians were:

- Cécilia Kim, on violin
- Claire Qiu, on violin
- Grâce van der Sloot, on viola
- Cal McGowan, on cello

Thanks to their amazing fingers Mozart, Bach, Schuman and Joplin enchanted us. The chosen works were light, energizing and well known ...therefore allowing the audience to become somewhat animated and thus better prepared to enjoy a delicious and generous meal.

As we savoured these dishes, other musicians came to enchant us with Arabic music ... Their melodies were pleasant and rhythmic, mixed with Kanoun (the ancestor to the piano) and Oud (the ancestor to the lute). We were thus transported many miles from Ottawa!

At the end of the evening, The Ambassador came to remind us that music, to which this evening was dedicated, was a Universal gift, for us and for everyone, that had the ability to release tensions. Finally, speaking mostly to the young people, he reminded us that music facilitates learning math and, in general, music students are excellent students.

A good encouragement for our future musicians!

Christiane Delon, member of FNACO

Con Brio

December 2023



LES *Amis* DE L'*Friends* OF
THE NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE
ORCHESTR
DU CENTRE NATIONAL DES ARTS

Honorary Patron – Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley



*B*irthday greetings to FNACO member Maria Neil, who celebrated her 91st birthday in November.

*C*ongratulations Maria!

Les Amis de l'Orchestra du Centre National des Arts

54
years
1969-2023

Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra

Con Brio

December 2023



Honorary Patron – Président honoraire
Alexander Shelley

This season consider giving the gift of
Membership

May we suggest a gift membership for a friend or family member who might like to:

- ♪ Attend Friends of NACO concerts, garden parties, dinners and receptions hosted at the residences of Ottawa diplomatic missions in support of the NAC Orchestra's music education programs
- ♪ Attend three or more complementary open rehearsals of the National Arts Centre Orchestra
- ♪ Receive the Friends of NACO newsletter Con Brio
- ♪ Have the satisfaction of assisting financially young musicians in their aspirations to one day play in an orchestra such as the NACO

Annual membership fees are: Students \$15.00 Seniors (65+) \$ 35.00 Individuals (64-) \$ 40.00

Visit our website: friendsofnaco.ca / amisdocna.ca or contact Madeleine Aubrey at:
membership@friendsofnaco.ca

Membership fees over \$20.00 are charitable donations and income tax deductible.



Con Brio

Editor Christine McLaughlin

Translator Gisèle Lamontagne

Coordinator Carol Lutes-Racine

Marketing & Communications Julie Anne Brown

Webmasters Juan Sebastian Zuluaga Molina and Jim Burgess

friendsofnaco.ca

Les Amis de l'Orchestra du Centre National des Arts

54
years
1969-2023

Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra