Welcome to NYO Canada's Biannual Newsletter! • Bienvenue au bulletin biannuel de NYO Canada!
Celebrating Canada's finest emerging artists • Met en scène le meilleur de notre relève artistique

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A RETURN TO THE STAGE

THANKS TO YOU!

Our 2022 Borealis Tour to Ontario and Québec marked NYO Canada's return to the stage after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic. NYO Canada has emerged from this pandemic even stronger and continues to be a world leader in orchestral training. The painstaking efforts of supporters, friends, faculty, staff, and musicians over many years led us to the top. Maestro Sascha Goetzel, faculty, and audiences agree: this year was one for the books!

The 2022 Borealis Tour began in Kingston on July 20th at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts. After departing on July 21st, the Orchestra performed in Montréal at La Maison symphonique, followed by Ottawa's newly-renovated Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre as part of the Ottawa Chamberfest. The Orchestra continued their journey to perform in Québec City's beautiful Palais Montcalm and concluded at Koerner Hall in Toronto. Works performed included Don Juan by Richard Strauss, Hungarian Dances and Symphony No. 4 by Brahms, Nino Rota's Trombone Concerto in C, and two Canadian premieres by composers Leo Purich and Katerina Gimon.

This extraordinary summer will always be seen as the moment the orchestra reconnected with Canadian audiences. It was an unforgettable year for everyone involved. Thank you to all the donors who believed in us and who have continued to support us so faithfully year after year.

Borealis
NYO Canada 2022

PREPARATION IS KEY

Performances like the 2022 Borealis Tour take great preparation, which all began on June 19 with our comprehensive summer orchestral institute. 82 musicians, 55 faculty, visiting artists, commissioned composers, and conductor Sascha Goetzel converged in Kingston for five weeks of intensive preparation at Queen's University and the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts.

This year, we combined virtual and in-person training for the first time. This hybrid model, developed during the pandemic, allowed musicians to take advantage of more learning opportunities, and gave them the freedom to access workshop content on their own time. They had the opportunity to explore workshops on how to boost performance excellence, improve practice planning and skill retention, and help solve challenges like losing focus under pressure, and dealing with stress. These new elements build naturally on the highly successful J & W Murphy Initiative for Mental Health. Addressing health and wellness for musicians, who deal with very high levels of expectation and stress, is a key issue for NYO as musicians are three times more likely than non-musicians to experience anxiety and depression. For this reason, we extended the 1:1 confidential support from therapists. Musicians could access this service as early as May 19, until two weeks after tour. The pandemic has had a real impact on young people, and this year, it was more important than ever to have these resources in place.

Photo : Dahlia Katz

TESTIMONIALS

"NYO 2022 was one of the best summers of my life. I worked with incredible musicians, met some very fine human beings, and shared my love for music like never before." – **William Deslauriers-Allain, double bass**

"I have changed as a musician and a person as a result of doing NYO. The people and environment was one of the liveliest and exciting new experiences I've had in a long time. The tour was a big attraction, as well as the scholarship, and I am glad to have participated and I will hopefully do so again in the future!" – **Bobby Thompson, bassoon**

"Working together […] under the guidance of wonderful coaches in order to make music together is a rare and incredibly meaningful experience that a unique program like NYO makes possible." – **Leo Purich, viola**

"I loved feeling the energy the orchestra had, and how the audience reacted so strongly to our performance. It felt really personal and fulfilling. Being a part of such a large ensemble of people who are so passionate about making music helped me to bring out the best qualities in my own music making" – **Savannah Seibel, viola**

"Throughout the entirety of this summer, NYO made me realize that the people in this community always come full circle, which I thought was very special." – **Yuna Lee, cello**

"My experience as a member of NYO 2022 was deeply meaningful. As a developing musician, it is valuable, and essential, to surround oneself with musicians that are aspiring to the standards of the professional orchestra." – **Noah Bailis, trumpet**

AWARD-WINNING MUSICIANS

THANKS TO YOU, 10 MUSICIANS RECEIVED $5,000 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Every year, NYO Canada presents 10 of the most promising orchestral musicians with $5,000 Awards of Excellence in recognition of their exceptional talent and leadership capabilities.

Special thanks to BMO Financial Group, the Gail Asper Family Foundation, Long & McQuade Musical Instruments, the S.M. Blair Family Foundation, Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation, and the friends and family of (the late) Brian G'froerer for sponsoring named Awards of Excellence.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS

Olivia Cho
cello

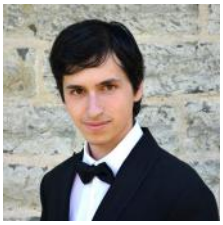
BMO

William Deslauriers-Allain
double bass

BMO

Yin Vanny Hu
cello

BMO



Nicholas Vasilakopoulos-Kostopoulos
violin

BMO

Gezi Charles Yu
flute

BMO

Samuel Hughes
trumpet

GAIL ASPER FAMILY FOUNDATION

Justin Saulnier
violin

Long & McQuade MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Ming Rou (Anna) Ding
horn

BRIAN G'FROERER MEMORIAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Sarah Yang
violin

Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation
La Fondation commémorative sir Ernest MacMillan

Samuel Kerr
percussion

S.M. BLAIR FAMILY FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Manuel Lok
violin

THE STEPHEN SITARSKI LEADERSHIP AWARD

Rachel Tormann
flute

THE PAYNE-LYON PRIZE OF EXCELLENCE IN FLUTE

Dominic Ghiglione
trombone

THE MARY AND CHARLES SHASKY MEMORIAL AWARD

2022 MICHAEL MEASURES PRIZE WINNERS

Established in 2011 through a generous bequest, the Canada Council for the Arts Michael Measures Prizes annually recognizes two outstanding musicians aged 16-24, who are enrolled in NYO Canada.

Robert Conquer

First Prize - $25,000 – Robert Conquer

Trombonist Robert Conquer, from Scarborough, Ontario, is quickly establishing himself as one of Canada's top young musicians. In the orchestral setting, he has performed in concert as Acting Principal of the Canadian Opera Company Orchestra and in the section of the Philadelphia Orchestra. As a soloist, Robert was the 2nd prize winner of the Canada Council for the Arts – Michael Measures prize in 2021. In 2020, he won first prize at the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal competition, wherein he also received the Best Interpretation of a Canadian Work and Domaine Forget prizes. Robert is currently a Presser Scholar at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, where he studies with Nitzan Haroz and Matthew Vaughn of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

Arin Sarkissian

Second Prize - $15,000 – Arin Sarkissian

Arin Sarkissian graduated from Rice University with a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance studying with Leone Buyse. He recently studied with Jim Walker at The Colburn School. Arin was a 1st Prize winner of the 2022 Yamaha Young Artist Performance Competition and 2020 Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal Concours. This fall, he will join the Victoria Symphony as Principal Flute.

Canada Council for the Arts | Conseil des arts du Canada

Photos : Dahlia Katz

HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

None of the work of NYO Canada would be possible without our outstanding donor and sponsor community. A special thanks to our national sponsors: the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and VIA Rail Canada for an incredible tour which was so well received in Toronto, Kingston, Montréal, Ottawa and Québec.

Thank you to our 2022 Summer Training Sponsors, the RBC Emerging Artists, the Azrieli Foundation, and the Hodgson Family Foundation, the SOCAN Foundation for our Emerging Composer-in-residence Mentorship Program, and the J&W Murphy Foundation for their continuous support of NYO's ground-breaking mental health & wellness program. We are also thankful for the number of individuals, corporations and charitable foundations who always step forward so faithfully.

Special recognition as always to the Bank of Montreal for providing five of our ten Awards of Excellence, as they do year after year, and to the 82 individual scholarship supporters who all make it possible for the best and the brightest to participate, regardless of their financial circumstances.

This year also saw us build on our endowment through the special gifts from the friends and family of NYO alumni, the Late Brian G'froerer, the Estate of long-time supporters; Mr. Thomas C. Logan, and Jannetje Gaveel-Dorrestijn, and the re-emergence of the Stephen Sitarski Award.

The 2022 Borealis Tour represented an exciting growth and milestone for NYO Canada. As we celebrated 62 years as Canada's premier training institute for young musicians, we were excited to return to in-person learning and performances. As we move forward toward our 63rd season, we are already at work putting in place a prodigious phase of growth and development, thanks in large part to our generous government and corporate funders, private donors, and sponsors.

Without you, there would be no orchestra. Thank you for supporting NYO Canada.

To view our complete sponsor list, visit www.nyoc.org/sponsors-and-donors

Photo : Dahlia Katz

GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As we look ahead to an in-person tour and session, we are opening positions to encourage even more great young musicians to dream of a professional career.

Many young musicians face truly daunting financial challenges right now, and we are committed to supporting them through $1,500 scholarships in 2023. We are committed to raising 90 scholarships this year, so each and every musician who meets the level to be selected for the orchestra can participate, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Can you help?

This holiday season, please consider the gift of music to a hopeful young musician reaching for their dreams. Gifts of any size mean so much. Consider a named individual $1,500 scholarship in honour of a family member or a friend.

To make your gift, contact Emily Dunbar at 1-888-532-4470 (Toll-Free) ext. 225 or email edunbar@nyoc.org.

Photo : Dahlia Katz

YOU'RE A HERO!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US RAISE $11,522.14 FOR THE ENDOWMENT!

On Friday, October 7th, members of NYO Canada staff ran in the TCS (formerly Scotiabank) Waterfront Toronto Virtual 5K Charity Challenge to raise money for the NYO Canada Endowment Fund.

The endowment fund provides a reliable stream of revenue, which supports NYO's annual training session, tours, and musician scholarships and awards. The income received was a lifeline (especially during the pandemic) – and really drove home for us just how essential a healthy endowment fund is to our orchestra's future success.

Thanks to our incredible donors, we exceeded our goal of $10,000 and raised $11,522.14!

If you would like to support the endowment, we have set a NEW goal of raising $10,000 by December 1st for Giving Tuesday. Make your gift today to have twice the impact! Visit **nyoc.org/donate-now** to support the endowment.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION!

All donations to the endowment are eligible for dollar-for-dollar matching from the Canadian Cultural Incentives Funds

But these matching programs don't last forever, so make your gift today and DOUBLE your impact!

Applications for summer 2023 are now open! Visit **www.nyoc.org/auditions** to learn more about our 2023 audition process and for updates on our tour destinations.

NYO CANADA

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