

Nota Bene

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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Maestro Jonathan Darlington conducts NYO Canada at the Konzerthaus Berlin.

MIGRATIONS 2018 TD TOUR DAZZLES

STANDING OVATIONS FROM CANADA TO GERMANY TO SCOTLAND

Coming off our expansive, cross-country *Edges of Canada* tour in 2017, the *Migrations* 2018 TD Tour was one of the largest and most ambitious Canadian-European tours in the 58-year history of the NYO. Performing in 5 Canadian cities, in two of the world's most prestigious concert halls in Germany (Konzerthaus Berlin, Staatstheater Kassel), and finishing up at the prestigious Edinburgh International Festival, musicians dazzled audiences and critics and played to standing ovations throughout the tour. Our 2018 musicians will remember it for a lifetime.

The odyssey began when the Orchestra returned to Wilfrid Laurier University for their Summer Training Institute on June 17th. All 95 musicians immediately got to work preparing for our 2018 Good Foundation Inc. Chamberfest, which included over 15 concerts featuring NYO Canada musicians, faculty, and guest artists such as The Formosa Quartet and Gryphon Trio. These concerts are cherished within the Kitchener-Waterloo community and have become one of the staples of our Summer Training Institute.

For the second consecutive year, Maestro Jonathan Darlington led the 95-musician Orchestra through a challenging selection of repertoire that included works by Strauss, Copland, Gershwin, and Scriabin. New Canadian works were also featured in our program this year, which included pieces by composers John Estacio and Alison Yun-Fei Jiang, as well as new choral works by composers Matthew Emery and Marie-Claire Saindon.

The Canadian portion of the tour included concerts in Parry Sound, St. Catharines, Toronto, Montréal, and Ottawa, where two students received the prestigious Canada Council for the Arts Michael Measures Prize (see story on page 4). These five performances received glowing reviews from critics in English and French Canada (see quotes on page 5), with audience feedback on social media reaching an all-time high. For those who missed the concerts, be sure to order your copy of our 2018 CD (see details on page 7).

This year marked the first of many planned ‘hybrid’ tours, including concerts in Canada followed by at least one international destination. This year, the NYO entourage headed for Europe – first to Berlin’s magnificent Konzerthaus Berlin where the Orchestra performed as part of the Young Euro Classic. Here, the Orchestra received a total of three standing ovations from a sold-out audience of 1,418.

Next, the Orchestra travelled to Kassel to perform at the Staatstheater Kassel before closing off the tour at Usher Hall in Edinburgh, a venue the Orchestra performed at in 1966 during their first-ever Canadian-European tour. Presented as a part of the world-renowned Edinburgh International Festival, the Scotland concert received widespread critical acclaim in the local press and was featured on BBC Radio 3’s program, In Concert.

While musicians will never forget these concert highlights, other memories were made during the time away from the stage. Many found the opportunity to visit Johann Sebastian Bach’s grave site during a stopover in Leipzig, and a group of NYO musicians took the time to visit the head office of Bärenreiter, one of the most prestigious classical music publishing houses in the world.

NYO Canada would like to express our gratitude to everyone who made this summer so special, especially our many generous donors and sponsors. Your support made all of this possible and has enabled a new generation of great Canadian musicians to emerge and shine on the world stage.



Toby Winarto, Jessica Timmermans, Leah Grandmont and Johnathan Mak in front of our tour banner with artwork by Janelle Johnston



Sébastien Talbot, Roxanne Sicard and Samuel-San Vachon



NYO Canada 2018 at the Konzerthaus Berlin



NYO Canada in performance in St. Catharines, ON.



A YEAR OF FIRSTS AND BESTS

2018 was a year of firsts and bests once again as we launched our new comprehensive mental wellness program sponsored by the J & W Murphy Foundation, released a full-length documentary film in partnership with the National Film Board of Canada, and began conversations with the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal (OSM) and McGill University on the hoped-for development of a new apprenticeship program.

If we are successful in raising funds for this initiative, NYO Canada, OSM and McGill University will together create pull-through opportunities to extend the NYO program into a fully-funded 2-year pre-professional apprenticeship that includes playing in Montréal with the OSM, mentoring with top professional OSM section heads, and studying for an advanced diploma in professional musicianship.

We were also very pleased to launch a newly-created NYO Canada Safe Workplace Policy, which began the process of implementing worldwide leading practices at NYO to ensure to the greatest extent possible that NYO Canada is an environment which reflects zero tolerance for harassment and violence. The program included training for board, leaders, faculty and staff, as well as special information sessions for students on the tour and the implementation of a 24/7 confidential 3rd party whistle-blower hotline. We are making discussion of this issue an integral part of the culture at NYO Canada.



LANDMARK GIFT LAUNCHED GROUNDBREAKING MUSICIAN MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

In Canada, hospitalizations for mental health issues among young people rose 67 percent between 2006 and 2016, and those numbers continue to rise at an alarming rate year after year. For some time, NYO Canada had hoped to address the critical issue of artist mental health, and in 2018 we were able to do so, thanks to a visionary \$150,000, three-year gift from the J & W Murphy Foundation. The gift enabled NYO Canada, during the 2018 session and tour, to launch its first comprehensive mental health and wellness program designed to help prepare NYO Canada musicians for the rigors of professional musicianship.

The program provided comprehensive training for musicians in mastering lifelong tools and strategies for managing stress and maintaining health in a gruelling high-performance environment.

Musicians received workshops and training for musician mental health, including performance anxiety, the mental rigors of touring, identifying symptoms of depression and anxiety, and other specialized challenges related to musician mental wellness. They were joined at the session and on tour by professional therapist Dr. John McMillan from Musicians Clinics of Canada, as well as receiving targeted training modules designed by social worker and Cirque du Soleil alumnus Matthew Eldridge of the Al & Malka Green Artists' Health Centre at Toronto Western Hospital.

“Young people everywhere are facing increasing stress, and mental health is a vital part of self-management and success in any endeavour,” said NYO Canada Executive Director Barbara Smith. “But in the world of professional music, competition is fierce, demands are high, expectations are off the chart, and the professional environment can be physically and emotionally grueling. At NYO Canada, we are not just teaching young people to play to professional standards, but are committed to training the whole musician. Just like professional athletes, preparing to perform at the highest levels means not only mastering the physical and artistic rigors of professional musicianship, but the mental self-care and wellness aspects as well.”

“Because NYO Canada is a training orchestra, people think the experience is fun and stress-free. Once accepted to the orchestra, many expect that – for a hopeful young musician wishing to pursue their dreams - the stress would be over,” said Dr. John McMillan of Musicians Clinics of Canada. “But for some students who have been gifted and high-achieving all their lives, the stress is just beginning as they face the rigors of a professional training institute under the baton of a world-renowned conductor, and encounter the demands of touring for the first time.”



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 and government sponsors: TD Bank Group, VIA Rail Canada, the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Ontario Arts Council for an incredible tour, which was so well received in Canada and Europe and has taken us from strength to strength.

Our emerging artists were supported again by the RBC Emerging Artists Program and the SOCAN Foundation. We are also very thankful for the unprecedented number of individuals, corporations and charitable foundations who always step forward so faithfully.

Special recognition as always goes to the Bank of Montreal for providing five of our ten Awards of Excellence, as they do year after year, and to the 100 individual scholarship supporters who all make it possible for the best and brightest to participate, regardless of their financial circumstances. We are also appreciative of the support of the Azrieli Foundation and Gail Asper and Michael Patterson for operations funds, Good Foundation Inc. for supporting Chamberfest, and to the Patrick Hodgson Family Foundation as our choral music sponsor.

This year also saw us build on last year's outstanding \$1 million legacy gift from the Leonard and Gabryela Osin Foundation, as we secured matching funds from the Canadian Heritage Endowment Incentives Program and grew our endowment funds to more than \$2.2 million.

The Migrations 2018 TD Tour represented an exciting growth milestone for NYO Canada, as we celebrated 58 years as Canada's premier training institute for young musicians and had one of the most extraordinary tours in our history. As we move forward toward our 60th anniversary celebration in 2020, we are already at work putting in place an unprecedented phase of growth and development, thanks in large measure to our generous government and corporate funders, private donors and sponsors. Without you, there would be no way. Thank you for supporting NYO Canada.

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



Emma Grant-Zypchen, Longinia Sauro and Madelynn Erickson



NYO Canada donors at our Toronto pre-concert reception.



AWARDS SPOTLIGHT

2018 MICHAEL MEASURES PRIZE WINNERS



Canada Council for the Arts
Conseil des arts du Canada



Martin Mangrum

For the first time since its creation in 2011 by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Michael Measures Prize was expanded to recognize two outstanding talents in the 2018 Orchestra.

The winner of the first Michael Measures Prize, valued at \$25,000, is hornist Martin Mangrum. Currently residing in Los Angeles and the winner of NYO Canada's Canada 150 Commemorative Award in 2017, Martin is an Undergraduate Performance student at the Colburn School Conservatory of Music, where he studies with Andrew Bain, principal horn of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In the last year, Martin won the Ottawa Symphony's Senéchal Prize and has performed as a substitute with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and other Orchestras in the LA area. In addition to his cash prize, Martin performed Richard Strauss' Horn Concerto No. 2 to audiences in Montréal, Berlin, and Edinburgh on our Migrations 2018 TD Tour.



*Jonathan Mak and Tara Lapointe
(Canada Council for the Arts)*

Our second Michael Measures Prize, valued at \$15,000, was awarded to pianist and violist Jonathan Mak. A former NYO Award of Excellence Winner in 2017, Jonathan is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree at the Cleveland Institute of Music. With performance credits that include working with the *Orchestra Filarmonica di Udine* (Italy) and the Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra (Poland), Jonathan's accomplishments include winning first prize at the 2009 Manchester International Concerto Competition for Young Pianists and being the recipient of the Jean Lumb Foundation Kotcheff Family Arts Award in 2013.



RISING STARS

NINE NYO MUSICIANS NAMED TO CBC “HOT 30 CLASSICAL MUSICIANS UNDER 30” LIST

Every summer since 2013, CBC Music has shone the spotlight on the nation’s top young musicians with their “Hot 30 Classical Musicians Under 30” series. The list recognizes musicians who have made a name for themselves over the previous year by winning competitions, making debuts, or graduating from top global music schools. While NYO musicians generally make the list, this was a banner year as nine NYO alums (including two musicians in the 2018 Orchestra) were featured - the highest number ever.

Congratulations to the following musicians, who demonstrate the enormous impact of the NYO in fostering and showcasing excellence in Canadian classical music and the training of exceptional young talent



Amy Hillis, violin
NYO Alum - 2007, 2008



Emily Kruspe, violin
NYO Alum - 2008



Zac Pulak, percussion
NYO Alum - 2013



Kristy Tucker, bassoon
NYO Alum - 2014, 2015, 2017



Brayden Friesen, trombone
NYO Alum - 2015, 2016,
2017, 2018



Brian Mangrum, horn
NYO Alum - 2015



Benjamin Morency, flute
NYO Alum - 2016



Tate Zawadiuk, cello
NYO Alum - 2016



Naomi Ford, flute
NYO Alum - 2018

WIDESPREAD MEDIA ACCLAIM FOR THE 2018 ORCHESTRA

Critics across the globe were full of praise for our 2018 program, with the below representing a small sample of the reviews we received. To view our complete media list from last summer, please visit www.nyoc.org/media.

“The musical highlight of the summer...It is easy to be impressed by the sheer volume of a 95-piece orchestra in an 1,100-seat hall, but such a situation would also reveal any flaws. There were none.” – Michael Johnson, *Concertonet.com*

“A remarkable Orchestra...the National Youth Orchestra under Jonathan Darlington offered a rare, highly convincing performance of Vaughan Williams’ Third Symphony.” – William Littler, *Toronto Star*

« À l’oreille, on aurait cru entendre un orchestre professionnel. La précision des attaques, la qualité de chaque section d’instruments et la cohésion d’ensemble méritent d’être saluées. » – Justin Bernard, *La Scena Musicale*

“For their fixture in the EIF 2018 Year of Young People championships, Canada brought a huge squad to play Scotland, and fielded the most versatile and promising youngsters the event has seen yet...Four Stars!” – Keith Bruce, *The Scotland Herald*

« La fermeté sonore à tous les étages dans Copland était impressionnante. » – Christophe Huss, *Le Devoir*

“Having won the title of Best Youth Orchestra in the World in 1996, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada has clearly set the bar high since then to retain its position within the top international echelons of young people’s music-making.” – Carol Main, *The Scotsman*



THAT HIGHER LEVEL - A FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY FILM

Q & A WITH DIRECTOR JOHN BOLTON



John Bolton

Filmed over the course of our *Edges of Canada* tour, *That Higher Level* follows the 2017 NYO over the course of two months of training and touring across the country. Embedded with the orchestra throughout, filmmaker **John Bolton** provides an insider's view of these young players as they train with some of the country's top musicians.

We had the opportunity to connect with John to discuss his experience making the film.

Classical music has been a key focus in many of your films. What appeals to you about this art form as a subject for storytelling?

I make movies because it's the best way I know of to share my feelings and thoughts with other people, and nothing makes me feel more or think more than classical music. It's the greatest love of my life. In making movies about classical music, I want other people to see what and how I hear, and hopefully feel and think some of the same things that I do.

I'm also just as interested in the musicians as I am in the music that they're making. I want to celebrate and demystify and honour all of the ways in which they've dedicated their lives to something greater than themselves, and in doing so dedicate my life to something greater than myself. More prosaically, I just want to hang out with the classical musicians that I'm so in awe of. I'm never happier than when I'm right in the middle of classical music-making, from string quartets to symphonies. It's always the best seat in the house.

Could you talk a bit about the process of finding your main subjects among the hundred young musicians in the orchestra?

Unlike most documentaries, this one didn't start with the subjects; it started with the institution. I knew I was going to be making a movie about NYO Canada 2017 long before I actually met any of the students. All I knew for sure is that I wanted to focus on at least one subject from each section of the orchestra.

I got to watch every student's audition tape, and I also got each student to submit a video in which they talked about themselves, so by the time that I arrived at the training institute in Waterloo, I knew at least a little bit about each of them. I then had a week on my own before my crew arrived, during which time I got to know them, and they got to know me. By the time we started shooting, I'd settled on 14 subjects. That's a lot for a documentary, but it really was the bare minimum to convey just how many different types of people it takes to make orchestral music. I could have very easily focused on 14 more. I loved them all.

In the end, the film is less about individuals than it is about individuals coming together. Orchestras aren't just metaphors for or symbols of communities and societies: they actually are communities and societies!

The film emphasizes the logistical challenge of a tour of this calibre. What was it like for you to be one of the moving parts in that operation?

It was a pleasure. The fact that everything was so well-organized made it that much easier for us to make the movie. We really were just along for the ride. My crew and I often talked about how lucky we were to get to see the country without having had to even audition for the orchestra!

***That Higher Level* is produced by The National Film Board of Canada in partnership with NYO Canada.**

If you would like to host a screening of this film, please contact NYO Canada at info@nyoc.org or (416) 532-4470.





2019 SNEAK PREVIEW

MAESTRO MICHAEL FRANCIS RETURNS TO LEAD THE ORCHESTRA IN 2019



Michael Francis

Coming off our successful Migrations 2018 TD Tour that included sold-out concerts in Germany and Scotland, we are excited to announce that our 2019 Tour will be highlighted by a trip to Spain for four concerts in cities such as Madrid and Granada. As always, Canadian dates in cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montréal will also be a part of our activities for the year ahead.

We are delighted to welcome back Maestro Michael Francis as our 2019 conductor. Working with young musicians has always been a priority for Maestro Francis. Aside from a six-city Canadian tour with NYO Canada in 2015, Francis has made frequent visits to Miami's New World Symphony and recently returned to the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland. Currently, Maestro Francis works as the Music Director of the Florida Orchestra and as the Music Director of Mainly Mozart, a San Diego-based music festival.

Be sure to stay in the loop about further tour developments as they happen by visiting www.nyoc.org.



2018 CD NOW AVAILABLE FOR PRE-ORDER

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Relive the music from the Migrations 2018 TD Tour by ordering the 2018 NYO Canada album. Recorded at Toronto's Koerner Hall, the CD features recordings of the Orchestra, led by Maestro Jonathan Darlington, performing *Ein Heldenleben*, op. 40 by Richard Strauss, two works by Canadian composers – *Moontides* by John Estacio, and *River Memory* by Alison Yun-Fei Jiang, as well as two choral pieces – *Lead Us Home* by Matthew Emery, and *Terre-Neuve* by Marie-Claire Saindon.

Orders can be made on our online store at www.nyoc.org/store.

Makes a great stocking stuffer!



Naomi Ford, Kira Shiner, Jessica Duranleau, Daniel Preun and Emilia Segura in performance at Rideau Hall.



Marianna Grigg and Marion Portelance in sectional rehearsals.



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

2019 TD NATIONAL AUDITIONS

Applications for 2019 are currently open! Visit www.nyoc.org/auditions to learn more about our 2019 auditions process and for updates on our 2019 tour destinations.



Kailan Fournier, Jemma Jones, Carlene Brown, Brayden Friesen, Kevin Brohman and Malcolm Kellett-Cooke getting ready to board our VIA train in Ottawa, ON! Thanks VIA!



The NYO Canada 2018 Horns in rehearsal at Wilfrid Laurier University



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