

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

IN THIS ISSUE...



AURORA 2023



AWARDS



TRUE NORTH BRASS



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



FALL FLASHBACK



2024 AUDITIONS

A DAWN OF A NEW DAY

THE 2023 AURORA EAST COAST TOUR

The 2023 *Aurora* Tour was a resounding success thanks to the unwavering support of our donors, audiences, musicians, staff, and faculty. This year marked another extraordinary summer that underscored our role as a global leader in orchestral training with the orchestra's anticipated return to the East Coast.

We were thrilled to welcome back the exceptional Sascha Goetzel for his second consecutive year as Music Director. His passion and expertise elevated our performances and engaged audiences across the country as the orchestra embarked on a musical journey through seven vibrant cities, spanning five provinces, featuring the beautiful and diverse landscape of Canada's East Coast. Beginning in the historical streets of Kingston, Ontario, through scenic rural Quebec and continuing east along the Saint Lawrence River to the beautiful maritime cities of Charlottetown, Halifax, and Saint John. The tour concluded with a thrilling performance to a sold-out crowd in Toronto's Koerner Hall.

continued



The 2023 *Aurora* Tour CD is
now available on major
streaming platforms!



Over three incredible weeks, our musicians immersed us in a diverse repertoire that illuminated the depth and breadth of orchestral music. From the breathtaking *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky to the exhilarating *William Tell Overture* by Gioachino Rossini, performances left audiences spellbound. We were privileged to witness the exquisite interpretation of Johannes Brahms' Violin Concerto by the Canada Council Michael Measures first prize winner, Tiffany Yeung, and moved by the emotional resonance of *My Name is Amanda Todd* by the late Canadian composer and JUNO Award winner, Jocelyn Morlock. Additionally, we had the pleasure of premiering an exciting new composition, *Glacial Titan* by Kalen Smith, the 2023 NYO Canada Emerging Composer and recipient of the SOCAN Foundation Award.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated musicians, faculty, Music Director Sascha Goetzel, and all the patrons who joined us on this remarkable journey. Your support keeps the spirit of classical music alive and flourishing in Canada.



2023 MUSICIAN EXPERIENCES

A SUMMER OF LASTING MEMORIES



"One of my favourite memories is our last concert in Toronto. It's hard to put into words how wonderful that day was. Everyone was standing together, feeling like a big family. There was a mix of happiness and a bit of sadness, knowing it was the end of our time with NYO and that I might not see some of my new friends again – that's what makes this memory so important to me. Looking back, NYO was more than just a memory; it was an experience that helped me grow – as a musician, as a friend, and as someone who's better at handling different situations in life."

– **Allen Lee, violin**

"I made incredible friends who I feel like I've known forever. NYO was truly a surreal experience! Looking back, I've made so many amazing memories that will always have a special place in my heart. I didn't believe it when people told me a summer program could be truly transformative, but the experiences, emotions, and friendships that occurred during this trip prove them right."

– **Julian Lee De Vita, cello**



"The best thing about being in NYO is learning from the faculty and your fellow musicians. To be surrounded by so many friends and encouraging people who share a unique passion for music is meaningful."

– **Bobby Thompson, bassoon**

"The best thing is that I am able to play with musicians from all around Canada (and the world) in a welcoming setting, all while not having to worry about tuition costs. I am able to be a member of NYO Canada because it is an opportunity that is accessible to whoever earns a spot, regardless of background. I've made some incredible memories at NYO for this reason."

– **Savannah Seibel, viola**



AWARD-WINNING MUSICIANS

LEADERSHIP PRIZES

Awarded following the NYO Canada training session and tour, the Stephen Sitarski Leadership Award and the Payne-Lyon Prize for Excellence in Flute are awarded to one respective recipient who demonstrates exceptional leadership abilities, character, and potential during their NYO Canada experience.



**The Stephen Sitarski
Leadership Award**
Diane Kim, violin



**The Payne-Lyon Prize for
Excellence in Flute**
Esther Su Young Hwang, flute



2023 MICHAEL MEASURES PRIZE WINNERS

Awarded since 2011 in partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts, the Michael Measures Prizes recognize two outstanding NYO Canada musicians who display extraordinary talent on their respective orchestral instruments. Tiffany Yeung, a gifted violinist from Richmond Hill, Ontario, and Thomas Roy-Rochette, an accomplished bassoonist from Québec City, have exemplified outstanding talent and unwavering dedication.

The First Prize winner, Tiffany Yeung, received a grant of \$25,000 and showcased her brilliance by performing Johannes Brahms' captivating Violin Concerto during the tour. The Second Prize winner, Thomas Roy-Rochette, was awarded \$15,000 in addition to opportunities for further performances and recitals during the session. As well-deserving recipients of this honour, Tiffany and Thomas were celebrated for their achievements at a special concert joined by Caroline Lussier of the Canada Council for the Arts held on August 2nd at Koerner Hall in Toronto.



Tiffany Yeung

FIRST PRIZE - \$25,000 - TIFFANY YEUNG

Tiffany Yeung is pursuing her bachelor's degree under Min-Jeong Koh and Erika Raum at the Glenn Gould School, after beginning her studies at the New England Conservatory with Miriam Fried as a Dean's Scholar. She was the winner of the 2017 Remember Enescu International Violin Competition, won 2nd prize at the 2019 Shean Strings Competition and received first prize at the Vancouver International Music Competition. She has performed in concerts and festivals with chamber groups and orchestras across Canada and the US and has also performed as a soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.



Thomas Roy-Rochette

SECOND PRIZE - \$15,000 - THOMAS ROY-ROCHETTE

Thomas Roy-Rochette is the recently appointed Second Bassoon of the National Ballet Orchestra, having earned the acclaimed position earlier this summer. He holds a Bachelor of Music from the Curtis Institute of Music (2022), studying under Daniel Matsukawa. He furthered his studies at the Conservatoire de Musique de Quebec with teachers Richard Gagnon and Melanie Forget. He has performed as a substitute musician with the Orchestre Symphonique de Quebec and the Quintette a vent de Violes. His awards include first-prize wins at the Concours Pentadre-Youkali and the Prix de la Fondation de Quebec. He is also a former NYO Canada BMO Award of Excellence winner.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada





A VICTORIOUS RUN!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US RAISE \$11,464.32!

On Sunday, October 15th, NYO Canada staff and alumni came together for the TCS Toronto Waterfront 5K Charity Challenge. They walked, jogged, and ran with a common goal: to raise funds for our training session, tour, scholarships, and awards program.

We want to extend a special shout-out to our incredible alumni run-ambassadors, Yitian Fan and Yuna Lee, who participated virtually in the race to show their unwavering support for our program.

Thanks to the generosity of our incredible donors, we not only met but exceeded our target of \$10,000 and raised \$11,464.32! This will greatly benefit all the musicians participating in the 2024 NYO session and tour.

Thank you for supporting the future generations of Canadian musicians.



Yitian Fan



Yuna Lee

GIVE TODAY, SHAPE THE ORCHESTRA OF TOMORROW

NYO has set a goal of raising \$20,000 by December 1st for Giving Tuesday to ensure that it can provide the best experience for the incoming 2024 orchestra.

A donation to NYO will provide students with financial assistance, and the opportunity to learn from world-class faculty members, experience a national tour, build life-long friendships, and ensure the arts remain alive and vibrant in our country.

Gifts of any size are meaningful and will have a significant positive impact on NYO by helping to provide more young musicians with experiences like this:



"The concert in PEI was incredibly touching and memorable for me. It felt as though we truly played our hearts out at that concert, especially during Pictures at an Exhibition. It was an experience that I will never forget." – **Kai Rousseau, Alumnus 2021, '22, '23**

TO HELP CHANGE THE LIVES OF YOUNG CANADIAN EMERGING ARTISTS, DONATE:

ONLINE

BY MAIL

BY PHONE



NYO Canada
219 Dufferin Street, Suite 300B
Toronto, ON M6K 3J1

416-532-4470 x 227

nyoc.org/donate-now/

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR HELPING TO FOSTER THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF TALENTED YOUNG MUSICIANS IN CANADA.



IN RESIDENCE : TRUE NORTH BRASS

This year, we are thrilled to announce that the world-renowned True North Brass will be joining NYO Canada as one of our featured chamber groups in residence for the 2024 session. The exceptionally talented musicians of True North Brass will participate in comprehensive workshops, lead captivating masterclasses, and provide invaluable lessons to the brass musicians of NYO Canada. Additionally, they will grace us with a spellbinding concert at the prestigious Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts as part of the 2024 NYO Canada Chamberfest series.

We feel incredibly fortunate and are brimming with excitement as we prepare to welcome them this coming summer. To learn more about this exceptional ensemble, please visit their website at truenorthbrass.com.



SUPPORT FOR THE KITCHENER-WATERLOO SYMPHONY



**KITCHENER-WATERLOO
SYMPHONY**
ANDREI FEHER | MUSIC DIRECTOR

The National Youth Orchestra of Canada expresses its unwavering support for the musicians, staff, board members, and community of the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony (KWS).

The dedicated Musicians of the KWSymphony have united in a collective endeavour to secure funding for the orchestra and its talented members.

For further insights into their current circumstances and to explore opportunities to contribute, we invite you to visit their website: savethekws.ca



RELIVE THE 2023 AURORA TOUR

This year marked a triumphant success with phenomenal performances in the Chamberfest series and Aurora Tour concerts. NYO Canada is immensely grateful for your support of the young musicians whose bright futures help shape the arts worldwide.

Whether you were unable to attend one of our concerts this year, or you wish to replay a memorable concert from the summer, NYO Canada has many ways to relive the magic of the 2023 season.

Rewatch the outstanding student and faculty Chamberfest concerts on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@NYOConjc/>

Enjoy the remarkable sounds of the Kingston concert at the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts: <https://vimeo.com/845435641>

Replay the electrifying final concert in Toronto's grand Koerner Hall:

<http://cbc.ca/music/watch-national-youth-orchestra-canada-aurora-koerner-hall-2023-1.6896640>



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT : JULIEN SIMARD

THRIVING IN MUSIC'S DIVERSE AVENUES



Julien Simard



NYO Canada caught up with one of our outstanding alumni, Julien Simard (2012, CIYO, 2014), to learn more about his exciting career as a trombonist with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band and as a freelance musician around Edmonton, AB.

What are some of your current endeavours, career highlights, significant achievements, or milestones?

I have been a full-time trombonist with the Royal Canadian Artillery Band in the Canadian Armed Forces since 2016. My career highlights include participation in major international events, such as the commemoration ceremonies of the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge in 2017 and the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings at Juno Beach.

Being a musician in the forces gives me many opportunities to compose new works for military bands. Notable works of mine include a funeral march (*Regina requiescit*) for the national commemoration ceremony of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and two official Canadian Armed Forces marches: *VIGILANS*, the march of the Canadian Rangers, and *Westward Winds*, the march of the 3rd Canadian Division Support Group.

I am also an active member of the musical community in Edmonton, Alberta. In recent years, I have become the principal conductor of the Ritchie Trombone Choir and the president of the board of directors for the Mill Creek Colliery Band.

Do you have any reflections or lessons from your time in the orchestra that have stayed with you throughout your journey?

My most cherished memory with NYO Canada was the 2013 trip to India. This trip taught me that music performance is intertwined with music education and that music is an international language spoken by everyone. We were able to bring our own experiences overseas, but we also returned enriched with new musical experiences. In the end, I firmly believe that the importance of music is being able to share it with others.



What impact did being a part of our orchestra have on your life and career?

I learned not only how to be a good orchestral musician, but also a great chamber musician. You might think you go to NYOC to play big orchestral repertoire, but what you learn is how to manage your time, build relationships with others, run your own business as a freelancer, and much more. All these skills are essential as a military musician.

When not performing with the military, I apply the orchestral skills I learned at NYO while performing as a casual musician with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. NYO helped me make connections with musicians coming from every corner of this nation, making it easy to integrate into the professional community. There are NYOC alumni everywhere, and these connections last a lifetime.

Why do you support/donate to NYO?

I am a firm believer in affordable music education, and NYOC is Canada's best program available to students. I was only able to attend NYOC due to the support of donors and scholarships. Therefore, if my donation makes a difference in one student's life, then it will have been worth it. People who complete a summer at NYOC come out of it as better and brighter humans, even if they do not pursue a career in music.

Any advice or words of encouragement you may have for auditionees and future NYO musicians?

Take good care of your mental health while practicing and performing. You will find that there are many more positive outcomes to your performances than there are negative ones. As musicians, we tend to focus on what went wrong and what we didn't like in our playing. Practicing positive reinforcement of the things you enjoy will improve your playing and act as a balance to the things you wish to improve.

List some upcoming projects, performances, or events you would like to promote.

The Royal Canadian Artillery Band performs frequently, and you can find more details about upcoming performances on our social media pages. The RCA Band Brass Quintet will travel to Jasper, AB, from November 8-12 for Remembrance Day concerts and events. Lastly, the RCA Band will host its annual free Holiday Concert at the Winspear Centre in Edmonton on Monday, December 11th in the evening!

FALL FLASHBACK

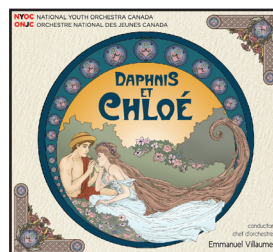
RELIVE THE TIMELESS MUSIC OF THE PAST WITH OUR LATEST ALBUM RELEASES!

NYO Canada is thrilled to announce the release of past albums from 2005 to 2014 on major streaming platforms. Take the journey through time featuring memorable performances:

Jacques Lacombe's energetic interpretation of Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 5 in C-Sharp Minor*
(Selections from the 2005 National Tour)

Jonathan Darlington's charming rendition of Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* Suite (Strike a Chord)

Emmanuel Villaume's sonorous performance of Maurice Ravel's complete *Daphnis et Chloé* ballet (Daphnis et Chloé)



Don't miss out! Listen on Spotify, Soundcloud, or Apple Music today!

AUDITIONS 2024



Applications for summer 2024 are now open! Visit www.nyoc.org/auditions to learn more about our 2024 audition process and for updates on our tour destinations.



NYO Canada
219 Dufferin St., Suite 300B • Toronto, ON • M6K 3J1
Toll Free - 1.888.532.4470 • Toronto - 416.532.4470 • Fax - 416.532.6879
info@nyoc.org • www.nyoc.org
Charitable Registration No. - 10776 4557 RR0001

Editorial Contributions: Felix Rowe, Brayden Friesen,
Nikki Beaulieu, Emily Dunbar, Chantel Balintec,
Christie Gray and Christopher Lamont

NYO Canada expresses sincere appreciation to David Popoff
for the design of this newsletter

Translations by Mark Jessop of MJ Translations

We are also grateful to Charles Frappier and Associates Inc.
for their ongoing pro bono translation services



FACEBOOK.COM/NYOCONJC



@NYO_CAN



FLICKR.COM/NYOCONJC



@NYO_CAN



YOUTUBE.COM/NYOCONJC

MAJOR SPONSORS

Funded by the Government of Canada



Mary Margaret-Webb
Foundation