



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS! 1960 - 2010

INSIDE:

- 2 Summer recap
- 3 Tour highlights
- 4 Scholarship winners
- 5 Recollections
- 6 Alumni and staff news

59 Adelaide St E, Suite 500
Toronto, ON, M5C 1K6

Toll Free (Canada):
1-888-532-4470

TEL: Within Toronto:
416-532-4470

FAX: 416-532-6879
EMAIL: info@nyoc.org

Charitable Organization
Registration No.
10776 4557 RR0001

A message from the Executive Director

We've just concluded another outstanding and hectic season, and can hardly believe that it's over already! It is so rewarding and inspiring to watch 100 of our country's finest young musicians train and grow together into a world-class orchestra. A special thank you to all who attended one (or more) of our concerts, and all who logged on to watch our groundbreaking webcast concert on August 2nd. I'm sure you'll agree that this year's orchestra was outstanding! To our students, faculty, staff, and conductor Alain Trudel: thank you for making this season a tremendous success!

Now that we've returned to our offices, there's no time to relax. In 2010, the NYOC will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and planning for the big celebration has already begun. We are very excited to mark this important milestone and plan on making this concert tour a very special occasion. For NYOC alumni, please visit our website to update your contact info, and we'll keep you in the loop. In the meantime, keep your eyes on our newly-redesigned website (nyoc.org) for all the latest news!

Barbara Smith

In this edition of our newsletter, you'll find a detailed recap of the 2009 summer training program and tour, plenty of photos and recollections from NYOC students, as well as information about this year's scholarship winners (including an exciting announcement about new scholarships for 2010). You can also read about our 2009 triple-disc CD and DVD, which is now available for pre-order online and will ship later this fall.



Alain Trudel, 2009 conductor and Barbara Smith, executive director
Photo: Meiyang Li



Horn players: Bethany Curley (Port Elgin, ON), Curtis Vander Hyden (Granton, ON), Mindy Liang (Vancouver, BC)



Josh Brintnell, clarinet (Ottawa, ON)



NYOC students in rehearsal with Maestro Alain Trudel

Summer Recap

Record number

The 2009 orchestra was our largest ever at 100 strong! Students were chosen from a pool of 561 applicants – again, a record – following a rigorous national audition process. Ranging in age from 15 to 25, our students continue to reflect the diverse geographic and cultural make-up of this country.

New instruments

This year we added two beautiful concert harps as well as a bass clarinet and alto flute to the NYOC family. The purchase of these instruments was made possible through a loan from Infrastructure Ontario. Owning these instruments will help reduce our rental costs; we also plan to make them available for rental to other arts organizations and individuals. Your donations to the NYOC Instrument Fund will now go towards paying for these and other instruments that we hope to purchase in the near future. The acquisition of high quality musical instruments is necessary in order for the NYOC to continue its first class training and performances.

Chamber music

This summer, we embarked on a pilot project by adding a Chamber Music component to our training program and welcomed the Super Nova Quartet as Faculty Chamber Ensemble-in-Residence. Twenty of our most talented string players formed string quartets and were coached by the Super Nova Quartet culminating in an exciting series of concerts by both students and faculty. We look forward to expanding this program in 2010 to include members of our wind and brass sections.

Hands-on training

One of the greatest strengths of our program is the unparalleled amount of practical orchestral experience it offers. This year was no exception – from 7:00 a.m. wakeup to 11:00 p.m. lights out, each day was packed with rehearsals, coaching, lessons, master classes, guest speakers, and concerts. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our esteemed faculty of music professionals who contributed so much to the success of this year's program!



Merrissa Ollivier, harp (Vancouver, BC)

Brass on the grass

In what's become an annual tradition, the NYOC brass and percussion sections made a day trip to Toronto on July 19th to perform a free outdoor concert at the Toronto Music Garden, part of a concert series presented by the Harbourfront Centre. The crowd of over 400 people were on their feet during this performance!



Valérie Dubuc, viola (Longueuil, QC)



NYOC frisbee games were a daily activity at the University of Western Ontario

Tour Highlights

Kicking Off

This year's tour began with two-night stand in London to enthusiastic crowds. It went on to include a special concert in Stratford with star Canadian soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, packed houses at Ottawa's National Arts Centre and the Kingston Gospel Temple, Montreal's breathtaking Notre Dame Basilica, the beautiful acoustics of Mont-Tremblant's Église de Saint-Jovite, a return to Kitchener-Waterloo for the first time in 17 years, and a stirring finale at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall.

Webcast concert makes history

On August 2nd, the NYOC undertook a groundbreaking project: an online concert broadcast over the web. Presented in partnership with the McGill Schulich School of Music, this webcast concert was the first ever produced exclusively for the world-wide web by a Canadian orchestra and the first by a Canadian youth orchestra. In case you missed it, the concert can be streamed from our website (see nyoc.org/webcast), and will also be included as a high-definition DVD with our 2009 CD set.

Recording

During our stay in Montreal, the NYOC recorded its annual double CD at McGill University in their state-of-the-art Multi-Media Room. Featuring highlights of the 2009 tour repertoire, the CD was produced by renowned recording engineer Martha de Francisco and will be available later this fall. Place your pre-order online at www.nyoc.org/purchase_recordings.

A midsummer night's cruise

On August 5th, 120 guests, along with media partner Classical 96.3 FM, set sail for a special evening fundraiser: a sunset harbour cruise and dinner on board Toronto's only tall ship, Kajama. The event was a great success, thanks in no small part to the NYOC musicians who participated: a brass quintet, two string quartets (from our chamber music program), and a percussion ensemble.



Alexander Dyck, keyboard (Regina, SK)

Wrapping up

The 2009 concert tour concluded on August 7th on the stage of Toronto's exquisite Roy Thomson Hall. Concertgoers agreed that the NYOC musicians put their heart and soul into this final concert. You can listen for yourself: the concert was recorded by CBC Radio and can be streamed online (visit our website for the link).

There were many tearful farewells backstage as the musicians prepared to head home. When the dust settled it was hard to believe that the session and tour could be over so soon. And yet, in these seven short weeks, the musicians gained experiences and friendships that will last a lifetime.



Cruising the Toronto harbour on board Kajama

Photo: Meiyong Li

Scholarship Winners

Exciting scholarship announcement

Although the NYOC has been tuition-free since 2006, our students must still forfeit summer employment opportunities and incur travel expenses to attend our program. Therefore, as part of the NYOC's increasing commitment to universal accessibility and as a part of our special 50th Anniversary celebrations, we are thrilled to announce that **all students in next year's 2010 orchestra will receive an honorarium of \$1,000.** In addition to this, the NYOC will award **six Leadership Scholarships valued at \$4,000 each.** All students applying to the NYOC in 2010 are eligible to apply.

This year, the Board of Directors sponsored awards of \$1,000 to twenty students who were selected by NYOC's conductor, faculty and staff. In addition, the NYOC faculty sponsored two special scholarships of \$1,000, in addition to the **Steve Sitarski Leadership Award.** The recipients were students who demonstrated both musical and personal leadership.

This year's scholarship winners are:

Steve Sitarski

Leadership Award: Brennan Connolly

Faculty Awards: Lindsay Roberts
Marie-Sonja Cotineau

Board of Directors' Leadership Awards:

Andréanne Chartier-Labrecque	Corey Rae
Brennan Connolly	Chad Reimer
Marie-Sonja Cotineau	Lindsay Roberts
Ryan Davis	Julie Rochus
Alexander Dyck	Jesse Solway
Joseph Hundley	Jeffrey Stonehouse
Elizabeth Kovalchuk	Catherine Varvaro
Molly MacKinnon	Dean Wang
Jeremy Potts	Rob Weymouth
Alyssa Ramsay	Steven Woomert

Did you notice our new website?

In preparation for our upcoming 50th anniversary season, we've overhauled our website with a fresh redesign and more dynamic content. Have a look at www.nyoc.org: the new site was launched in June with some new features including student blogs, musician profiles, and searchable news and concert listings. We'll be doing some more development over the next year, so check back frequently! You can also follow us on **Facebook** and **Twitter**.



The NYOC double basses strike a pose

Save the date

On October 26, the world famous and much celebrated Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela makes its Canadian debut at Toronto's Four Season Centre for the Performing Arts. This event also marks the Toronto debut of superstar conductor Gustavo Dudamel, one of *Time Magazine's* 100 Most Influential People of 2009. This is truly a once in a lifetime event! More information is available at www.glenn Gould.ca.

Recollections

What the critics are saying

“This was **one of the best concerts I’ve heard all year**, with repertoire that let the musicians stretch — Rob Teehan’s fresh, tuneful *Dreams of Flying*; Haydn’s *Symphony No. 96*; Mahler’s sprawling, chilling *Symphony No. 6* — and, in Alain Trudel, a conductor who is unabashedly his musicians’ friend and champion...The Haydn symphony was light, funny and precise...The Mahler is obviously an endurance marathon, but the NYOC brought out its logic and the delicacy that might otherwise have been buried under the fireworks.” **Paul Wells**, *Macleans* (August 5th, 2009)

“You could **feel the voltage** Monday night in Notre Dame Basilica...Strings sounded **exultant** in the slow movement... The lengthy finale can challenge the pros, let alone teens and 20-somethings, but the fabric never weakened.” **Arthur Kaptainis**, *The Gazette* (August 5th, 2009)

“...78 passionate minutes. Trudel pushes his students to the limits of their instruments, the execution could have been realized by professional players and, more so, Mahler’s Sixth **exploded into its full dimension** as a symphony of desperation.” **Claude Gingras**, *La Presse* (August 5th, 2009)



NYOC winds, brass and percussion in concert



Michelle Hwu, percussion (Toronto, ON)

What the students are saying

“I feel that the National Youth Orchestra is a program that all young Canadian musicians should take part in during their formative years. It is an **enormously rewarding experience!**” **Andréanne Chartier-Labrecque**, oboe, age 21 (Montréal, QC)

“The experience I gained this summer is priceless. I can say without hesitation that this was one of the **best summers of my life** and it was an experience definitely worth repeating. I would love to be a part of it again next year and I will certainly be auditioning!” **Daniel Fuchs**, violin, age 17 (Montréal, QC)

“The new experiences that the NYOC brought into my life didn’t just occur to me as events. They left their mark in terms of **clarity and reaffirmation** surrounding my love for music and what I believe in the bottom of my heart that I can do with it.” **Alex Dyck**, keyboard, age 21 (Regina, SK)

“This place is invaluable not only because it gives us the technical training and repertoire insight but because it reminds us of who we are and it teaches us purpose, **fuels our passion** and inspires us to **touch people’s lives** with what we care about so much. Can it get any better?” **Brennan Connolly**, percussion, age 22 (New Hamburg, ON)

View more stories and recollections by NYOC students at our online student blog:
www.nyoc.org/student_blog.

Alumni & Staff News

Congratulations!

This year's orchestra members wasted no time in furthering their careers after the session. Flutists **Chris James** (NYOC '07 – '09) and **Kaili Maimets** (NYOC '09) traveled to New York to compete in the prestigious National Flute Association competition. Chris James placed second in the High School Soloist division! Congratulations Chris!

Tuba player **Chad Reimer** (NYOC '08 – '09) won the Regina Symphony's Principal Tuba audition. Chad is in his final year of undergraduate studies at the University of Manitoba. Congratulations!

GOT NEWS? Send your career updates to info@nyoc.org!

Send us your photos!

In preparation for our 50th anniversary year, we've been digging through the NYOC archives for photos, press clippings, old programs, etc. to use on our website and publicity materials. If you have any of these materials from past NYOC sessions - especially from the late 1970s to the late 1990s - we'd love to see them. E-mail digital files (hi-res) to us at info@nyoc.org, or mail your photos to our office and we'll scan them and return them.

Welcome!

Brian Punambolam joined our staff as marketing coordinator in May of 2009. A native of Waterloo, Ontario, Brian is a recent grad of the Wilfrid Laurier University School of Business.

Natasza Cieplik, manager of development, returned from a one-year maternity leave in late August 2009. Welcome back Natasza!

Maggie Fairs joined our team as full-time director of communications and marketing in June 2009.



Ruža McIntyre, violin (Ottawa, ON)

New board president

This summer saw a change in the NYOC's board of directors. **David Fisher**, who served as board president for the past three years stepped down (but remains on as past president) and **Randy Barber**, a federally appointed board member of National Parole Board, was elected as our new board president. Randy has been a long-time member of the NYOC board, having joined in 2004. We thank David for his long-time service to the NYOC and welcome Randy in his new role.



Taking the show on the road with the NYOC low brass

Alumni in the Greater Toronto Area

Mark Skazinetsky, NYOC violin faculty, is creating a new community orchestra geared towards NYOC alumni and other advanced players. Please contact Mark for more information at alumni.orchestra@gmail.com.