



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



A Celebration of Resilience, Heritage, and Canadian Musical Excellence

When 90 young musicians arrive at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo this June, they will be stepping into the inaugural season of incoming Music Director Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, and preparing the world premiere of Pulse, a new orchestral work by Toronto composer Liam Ritz, commissioned through the SOCAN Foundation for NYO Canada's 2026 Canadiana Tour.

Audiences across Ontario and Québec will hear Ritz's premiere alongside Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony and works by William Grant Still, Anna Clyne, Richard Strauss, Jordan Pal, and Lili Boulanger, a program that places Canadian voices at the centre of the repertoire.

"As our country navigates questions of identity and heritage, supporting young Canadian artists becomes more than an artistic choice," says Christie Gray, CEO of NYO Canada. "It's a civic imperative."

2026 Canadiana Tour – Dates

Sunday, July 5 *	4:00 PM	Stratford, ON	Stratford Summer Music
Saturday, July 18	7:30 PM	Toronto, ON	Koerner Hall
Sunday, July 19	4:00 PM	Stratford, ON	Stratford Summer Music
Wednesday, July 22	7:00 PM	Parry Sound, ON	Festival of the Sound
Thursday, July 23	7:30 PM	Kingston, ON	Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts
Sunday, July 26	7:00 PM	Ottawa, ON	Ottawa Chamberfest
Friday, July 31	4:00 PM	Saint-Irénée, QC	Domaine Forget

**Special Chamber Orchestra Presentation*

Complete
Tour Info



Before the tour: big LITTLE Concerts in Waterloo

Through June and mid-July, the Maureen Forrester Recital Hall at Wilfrid Laurier University hosts the free big LITTLE Concerts chamber series, featuring the New Orford String Quartet, the Formosa Quartet, the Gryphon Trio with James Campbell, and the NYO Canada musicians themselves.

Tickets and details: nyoc.org/concerts/canadiana-tour/

One of the 90 – Mio Nakajo



Meet Mio Nakajo, violinist, 2026 Award of Excellence recipient, and one of the 90 musicians making this summer's journey. Now in her third year at the Glenn Gould School of the Royal Conservatory under Erika Raum, Mio served in leadership roles during NYO Canada's 2025 65th Anniversary tour and performed in the Royal Conservatory Orchestra's sold-out 2024 Carnegie Hall debut.

In Mio's own words, *"A large part of my life involves people who are as passionate about music as I am. The connections I build in this community are uplifting and motivational."*

Mio, and every one of her 89 colleagues, is here tuition-free. Each musician accepted into the 2026 orchestra receives a \$23,500 scholarship and a \$1,500 honorarium, because their time is valued, and because we want ability and hard work, not financial circumstance, to decide who gets to be in the room.

What \$23,500 Covers...

The scholarship is not an abstraction. Here is what it funds for each of the 90 musicians accepted into the 2026 orchestra:

- One-on-one study with world-class faculty, individualized lessons and mentorship through the Summer Training Session.
- Chamber-music immersion with resident ensembles: the New Orford String Quartet, the Formosa Quartet, and the Gryphon Trio with James Campbell.
- Full-orchestra rehearsals under Music Director Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser, and a national tour across Ontario and Québec, Toronto, Kingston, Stratford Summer Music, Festival of the Sound, Ottawa Chamberfest, and Domaine Forget.
- An integrated wellness program: one-on-one psychotherapy, registered massage therapy, athletic therapy, physiotherapy, and auditory health services on-site (funded by the J&W Murphy Foundation).
- Career-development workshops, financial literacy, audition preparation, performance anxiety, led by composer Kathryn Knowles, CBC's Tom Allen, and CEO Christie Gray.
- Room, board, and three meals a day for four weeks at Wilfrid Laurier University.
- In addition to the \$23,500 scholarship each musician receives a \$1,500 honorarium because their time has value.



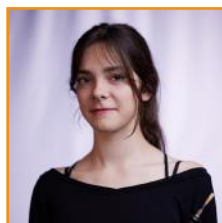
2026 Awards of Excellence

Ten musicians. Extraordinary skill. Every one of them here tuition-free.

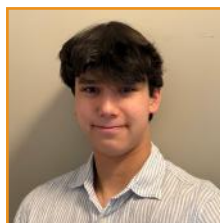
Each year, NYO Canada recognizes exceptional artistry and dedication with ten Awards of Excellence of \$5,000 each, conferred on the musicians whose technical command, musicianship, and collegiality set the tone for the summer.



Alexis Bernier
Flute



Flavie Lacoste
Oboe



Toby Mar
Trumpet



Ehrentraud Moser
Violin



Mio Nakajo
Violin



Jackson Kelly
Percussion



Félix Nunes
Cello



Jonathan Alter
Piano

AUDREY S. HELLYER
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

"Music makes me feel like I belong, like I've accomplished something, and it lets me connect with other musicians through the music itself. I love what we're able to create in an orchestra — a result greater than any one of us, something that can carry the audience for a moment."
- Alexis Bernier, Flute - two-time Award of Excellence recipient (2025, 2026)

"I learned so much both from the faculty and from my peers. Music fosters a level of connection and commitment as a player and pushes me to form bonds with my fellow artists. During a performance I hope to showcase those bonds to the audience."
- Toby Mar, Trumpet

"Words can't describe it, but playing music within a group is a magical feeling. And when the audience gets to experience what we are playing, then we've done our job."
- Jackson Kelly, Percussion

Other Awards to be awarded after the completion of the 2026 Tour

STEPHEN SITARSKI
LEADERSHIP AWARD

HILLIS PRAIRIE
MUSICIAN AWARD

PAYNE-LYON PRIZE
IN FLUTE

NICK ATKINSON
BRASS AWARD

BRIAN G'FROERER MEMORIAL
HORN SCHOLARSHIP

PLUS TWO ADDITIONAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
RECIPIENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED

One Part of the Picture

The 2026 Awards of Excellence, ten awards of \$5,000, made possible by BMO, the Sir Ernest MacMillan Memorial Foundation, Long & McQuade Musical Instruments, the Audrey S. Hellyer Charitable Foundation, and the NYO Canada Award of Excellence Fund, recognize individual artistry. Each award is often underwritten by a single corporate or foundation gift.

But the Awards are a small slice of what it takes to put ninety musicians through an NYO Canada summer. The scholarships that make every participant's place possible, **the \$23,500 that keeps the program tuition-free, every year** are built, instead, by hundreds of smaller gifts from individual donors. People who decide, together, that talent and not financial circumstance should decide who gets to be here.

Make it Monthly

Your monthly gift keeps the program tuition-free

Every young musician at NYO Canada is supported through a \$23,500 scholarship and a \$1,500 honorarium, tuition-free, and compensated for their time. That commitment is how we ensure talent, not financial circumstance, determines who has access to this life-changing opportunity. We can't do it without you.



"My decision to do NYO was very heavily influenced, as a young adult of 23 years old, by the ability to have financial gain through the summertime, to subsidize life, in all its facets, through the year. As someone who is independent financially, this is a big consideration for me, and I wouldn't have been able to justify doing NYO without [financial support]."
- Félix Nunes, NYO Canada Alumnus –
2025 and 2026 Award of Excellence recipient

What your monthly gift funds :

\$10/month (\$120/year) covers a day of tour travel for one musician.

\$25/month (\$300/year) gives a musician three days of instruction and mentorship.

\$50/month (\$600/year) covers ten days of nutritious meals during the summer session.

\$125/month (\$1,500/year) provides one musician's full honorarium.

Monthly donors are the backbone of NYO Canada. They provide the stable, consistent funding that lets us plan tours, hire faculty, and say yes to every qualified musician who auditions

"This has been the best summer program I have ever attended. I really enjoyed the chamber fest portion of NYO and working with Naomi [Woo] was a dream come true."

- Claire Mindell, Cello – NYO Canada Alumna 2025



That kind of summer, multiplied by 90 musicians, year after year, that is what your monthly gift makes possible.

Join our community of monthly donors

Online: nyoc.org/support/donate-now

Email: Andrés Tucci Clarke, Director of Impact and Engagement – atucciclarke@nyoc.org

Phone: 416-532-4470 x223

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