



SYMPHONY NOVA SCOTIA 2022/23 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

At Symphony Nova Scotia, it is our privilege to share a wide range of musical programs with communities across the province. Throughout the 2022/23 season, we continued our efforts to expand accessibility and to create opportunities for everyone to share in our communities' rich musical traditions.

We know music appreciation is a life-long endeavour, and contributing to arts education and participation for people of all ages and abilities in Nova Scotia is a key mandate for the Symphony. Throughout the year, Nova Scotians gather in new and sometimes unexpected places to experience our live performances beyond the traditional concert hall. These concerts aim to captivate new audiences, while expanding our reach outside of Halifax.

Our province benefits from a rich diversity of cultural communities, including Black, Indigenous, Acadian, Gaelic, and newcomers to Nova Scotia among others. We are committed to inclusion of diverse populations in our programming and performances, ensuring that a wide spectrum of voices is represented in orchestral music.

Outreach continues to open many new doors and nurture exciting new relationships for Symphony Nova Scotia. In 2022/23 we returned to our full complement of Education and Outreach programming and over the season, we shared free and low-barrier programs with more than 8,000 attendees over 40 performances and activities.



CHAMBER MUSIC AT QUEEN'S MARQUE AUGUST 10–SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

In partnership with the Armour Group, we presented three chamber music concerts on the Halifax waterfront at the Queen's Marque. On August 10, a percussion trio of Michael Baker, D'Arcy Gray, and Trevor Brandenburg performed music by George Hamilton Green, Keiko Abe, Gerald Heslip, and Steve Reich, as well as traditional fife and drum music and African drumming. On August 11, David Parker, Mary Lee, Julie Cuming, and Randall Ulmer performed a variety of French horn music. Finally, on September 11, a string quartet featuring Jennifer Jones, Anne Simons, Yvonne DeRoller, and Rachel Desoer performed music by Haydn, Mozart, Elgar, Beethoven, Derksen, Price, and Sealy. Upwards of 100 audience members attended each performance, complemented by the many boardwalk visitors who stopped to listen.



MUSIC FOR EVERYONE



SYMPHONY WEEK **SEPTEMBER 15-22, 2022**

In 2022/23, Symphony Nova Scotia celebrated our 15th annual Symphony Week of free performances at a variety of community spaces that included the Halifax Central Library, Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth, and the Anglican Church of Saint Andrew in Cole Harbour. Hour-long concerts were performed on September 16, 18, and 20, 2022 to upwards of 900 individuals, families, and seniors who gathered enthusiastically for a “dose of classical tuneage,” as reported by The Coast.

The week is a chance for our orchestra to get up close and personal with audiences and showcase local artists – this year, up-and-coming Mi’kmaq fiddler Morgan Toney joined us, in preparation for the season that launched later in the month. We were humbled when Mayor Mike Savage made an official proclamation that September 15-22, 2022 was “Symphony Week” in Halifax.

In addition to our in-person offerings, we also released our online Fusion Sessions – highlight videos from the previous season’s live concerts – featuring reggae royalty Jah’Mila on September 15 and troubadour Ben Caplan on September 22. With over 2,000 combined views, these digital presentations are ideal for long-term, ongoing, free accessibility.

FAMILY SERIES

Our flagship Family Series program returned to its full capacity this season! These delightful concerts combined with interactive learning from our full orchestra provided audiences with nine engaging, high-spirited, hour-long performances. Our Family Series takes place at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax and Alderney Landing Theatre in Dartmouth.

MADSADGLAD **JANUARY 14 & 15, 2023**

The Symphony’s Artist in Residence & Community Ambassador Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser curated a program of classical canon as well as contemporary pop compositions that highlighted the feelings we all share: anger, sadness, happiness, and joy. Children were invited to express themselves through movement by dancing to the music and the audience was prompted to use facial expressions to show their feelings. We were glad to see close to 400 residents attend over the two performances, despite a surprising, flash snowstorm that kept many people home!

SYMPHONY MEETS BHANGRA... AGAIN! **FEBRUARY 18 & 19, 2023**

Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser led the orchestra through an Indian-themed program that featured local dancers, the Maritime Bhangra Group. Works like A.R. Rahman’s *Slumdog Millionaire*, Stephen Roberts’ *Bhangra Dance*, and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Sadko: Song of India* were performed, introducing many new rhythms and sounds. The enthusiastic audience of more than 400 across the two performances danced in their seats to Punjabi music, while children mirrored the adult Bhangra dancers with their own renditions of the dance.

MUSIC THAT MAKES US HAPPY **MAY 13 & 14, 2023**

With upbeat music from Scott Joplin, Florence Price, and more, guest conductor Gary Ewer led a program well received by a full-house audience. The program featured dance music including the Mi’kmaq *Ko’jua*, Juba Dance, Polka, Ragtime, and other music that expresses happiness and joy. This was a repeat of our school concerts from October 2022.



MUSIC FOR EVERYONE

SENIORS' CONCERTS

In 2022/23 we provided six encore performances of the Family Series programs specifically for a senior audience at Halifax Central Library. With the support of The Berkeley, upwards of 40 mature adults were bussed to each concert from various residences to listen to symphonic music in person. They joined other community members who discovered these free weekday performances, perfect for retirees who remain invested in the arts.

We were also pleased to provide seniors in area residences complimentary access to our Digital Series livestreamed concerts – Spectacular Sibelius (April 20, 2023), Beethoven's Violin Concerto (March 16, 2023) and Magnificent Mozart (January 26, 2023) – thanks to the support of Parkland at the Lakes.



LIBRARY SERIES

A reimagined Library Series, without our usual host Max Kasper, went to libraries in Hubbards, Musquodoboit Harbour, Spryfield, Bedford, and Woodlawn in September and June. A string quartet of Jennifer Jones (September) / Renaud Lapierre (June), Anne Simons, Yvonne DeRoller, and Rachel Desoer with host/narrator D'Arcy Gray performed music by Haydn, Beethoven, Price, Derksen, and Sealy. These small, intimate performances attract young families and seniors, with opportunities to engage personally with the musicians.



CLASSICAL MUNCHKINS

Symphony musicians connect with preschoolers to have fun exploring music with instruments, games, and interactive activities. These programs are free and offered in community spaces throughout Halifax such as the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and libraries in Halifax, Dartmouth, Tantallon, Woodlawn, and Musquodoboit Harbour. In 2022/23, we offered eight performances by Symphony musicians Jennifer Jones, Mary Lee, Yvonne DeRoller, Eileen Walsh, Christine Feierabend, and Susan Sayle.



LEARNING & EXPLORING

RURAL SCHOOL OUTREACH

Every May through June, Symphony musicians head to different schools in communities throughout the region to present chamber concerts. This year, a string quartet performed eight concerts for seven different schools in communities including Berwick, New Germany, Bridgewater, and North Preston.

Concertmaster Renaud Lapierre, violinist Celeste Jankowski, violist Yvonne DeRoller, cellist Hilary Brown, and host/narrator D'Arcy Gray brought students the music of Bach, Bologne, Mozart, Bartók, and more – including a Surprise Medley arranged by Renaud himself!

This year we also added two French Language concerts at Ecole Bois Joli and Ecole Beaubassin. Concertmaster Renaud Lapierre, violinist Ken Nogami, Principal Viola Susan Sayle, cellist Aiden Russell, and host/narrator D'Arcy Gray performed music by Bologne, Haydn, Dvořák, Bartok, and Coldplay. Approximately 800 students enjoyed the concert with narration in French.

Since 2015, these rural school programs have inspired thousands of young people across the province with the joy of orchestral music. These programs are generously supported by Jason Roth and Cheryl Steadman-Roth through the Education and Diversity Outreach Fund, established in memory of Adel and Imelda Darwish within the Symphony Nova Scotia Foundation.



REDGE CRAIG MEMORIAL WORKSHOPS

These free, interactive, instrumental workshops are held annually at a school in Nova Scotia in memory of Redge Craig, a social worker and mentor to many people. The workshops' goal is to connect the Symphony's orchestra members with aspiring young musicians, particularly those who may not otherwise have the opportunity to learn from a professional mentor.

On May 12, 2023, about 100 students participated in a Rural Band Summit. Schools from Musquodoboit, Truro, Eastern Passage, and several other communities attended workshops by Jack Chen and Christine Feierabend, flutes; Sylvie Duchesneau, clarinet; Suzanne Lemieux, oboe; Gabe Azzie, bassoon; Mary Lee, horn; and Damien Moynihan, percussion.

The Redge Craig Memorial Workshops are generously supported by Jason Roth and Cheryl Steadman-Roth through the Education and Diversity Outreach Fund.



LINK UP

APRIL 4, 2023

Symphony Nova Scotia is one of more than 80 national and international organizations chosen to present this program in collaboration with Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute. Link Up is a highly participatory program inviting students to learn about orchestral repertoire through a year-long, hands-on music curriculum. In 2022/23, 575 students and teachers participated from eight different elementary schools across the South Shore, Annapolis Valley, and Halifax Regional School Boards. The culminating concert in conjunction with the full orchestra was performed on April 4, 2022 at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium under the direction of education conductor Gary Ewer. Three student soloists from the Fountain School of Performing Arts were also featured on this concert.



LEARNING & EXPLORING

SCHOOL CONCERTS & OPEN REHEARSALS

The orchestra regularly visits elementary, junior high, and senior high schools across Halifax. A 45-minute program is designed each season to be fun and engaging, offering students the experience of a full symphony orchestra in live performance. This season, we presented Music Makes Us Happy! – a shorter version of our Family Series program that featured upbeat music from Scott Joplin, Florence Price, and more. Gary Ewer, long associated with the Symphony as a premier arts educator, conducted.

Our School Dress Rehearsals continue to be popular. Grades 4 and up students attend to watch and listen to the Symphony in action at the Rebecca Cohn as the orchestra prepares for a concert. We hosted three concerts with school rehearsals this year: Beethoven's Famous Fifth (October 13), Chopin's Piano and Beethoven's Eighth (February 16), and Spectacular Sibelius (April 20). These rehearsals are offered at a very reduced price for school groups, and we were pleased to see upwards of 1,500 students attend, including home-schoolers and university students.

These school concerts and open dress rehearsals are generously supported by Jason Roth and Cheryl Steadman-Roth through the Education and Diversity Outreach Fund.



ONLINE LEARNING

Online access is an important part of our outreach strategy, as highlighted by the popularity of our Symphony 101 series on our website, where we see close to 150,000 visitors annually. As part of our digital development, we recently completed filming and editing our "Meet the Instrument" videos, funded by the Education & Diversity Outreach Fund. These five-minute shorts have Community Engagement Manager D'Arcy Gray interviewing Symphony and community musicians about their instruments. To date, we have completed 11 such videos that are posted to our YouTube channel for easy access.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Upwards of 100 individual donors have supported education and outreach activities with gifts this season. We're also pleased to acknowledge the following:

- **Symphony Nova Scotia Foundation**
- **Jason Roth & Cheryl Steadman-Roth**
- **The Estate of William & Corinne Hopgood**
- **The Craig Foundation**
- **Women for Music**

We would also like to acknowledge that Symphony Nova Scotia programming takes place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.

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