



Music-making thrives in a mentor-apprentice culture at Symphony Nova Scotia.

I feel an immense pride to be in a position to speak to you about Symphony Nova Scotia *and* the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. What a joy it has been to work with these two fine orchestras over so many years. **As a Symphony donor, you are an important part of this community of music makers.** Thank you for making so much possible!

Financial backing from individuals like you and corporations like RBC allowed me to immerse myself in the creation of pieces and projects for this orchestra I know so well. I loved my time with Symphony Nova Scotia as a conductor and was particularly moved when I was invited back a second time to my musical family as Composer in Residence. One of the great perks was to be able to consult with my dear friend and mentor Maestro Bernhard Gueller during my residency. The piece I wrote for Symphony Nova Scotia – *Polyphonic Lively* – won the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia *Masterworks Arts Award* in 2017. It was thrilling to be in Edmonton in January this year to hear Bernhard conduct it again!

I have also enjoyed 13 wonderful years as Music Director of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. The NSYO has been the heart and soul of all the educational work I do. It is such a privilege to interact with musicians who remain so positive and so alive to possibility. **Donors have so generously invested in these young people, giving them the chance – through music-making – to understand themselves, to connect with the world and those around them, and to surpass themselves in ways they never knew they could.** Thank you!

The 2018/19 season has been most notable. The merger of the two orchestras is such good news! I see them working so well together, inspiring each other, continuing the traditions, and making

way for innovation. **Imagine the potential for artistic development with Symphony musicians as coaches and mentors!** With your continued support, I see that doors are opening to so many new possibilities for creative collaboration. In five to 10 years, I see Symphony Nova Scotia reaching even more youth across the province and making music even more intensely than before.

Your sustained funding is important in so many ways – particularly now, as the search is on for the next Music Director. When the candidates consider Symphony Nova Scotia, they see an incredibly versatile orchestra and an organization deeply connected to the community through its programs and concerts. They also see an organization that is highly valued by its donors. They see the creative opportunities made possible by a solid financial base. **Thanks to your generosity, the Symphony continues to grow artistically, expand education initiatives, and bring the best orchestral music to communities throughout Nova Scotia.**

Last year, the outpouring of donor support during Bernhard’s “Bucket List” season proved that donors make the orchestra bigger and better. This season, we’ve grown again, and you have never been more important to professional performances and creative education programs.

As we all eagerly await the outcome of the ongoing Music Director Search, the lifework of the orchestra continues: planning, rehearsals, concerts, and preparations for the array of visiting conductors and world-renowned guest artists. Your financial support directly impacts all of this. You are vital to keeping up the momentum and the ultimate success. You, as a donor, can be a big part of helping Symphony Nova Scotia achieve it.

**Your generosity is particularly critical at this time of year** for meeting current concert obligations. I’m told that more than three-quarters of all donations to the orchestra are given in the March-to-June time frame. Your support ensures that both orchestras can plan and move forward with confidence.

Please consider what you can do right now for Symphony Nova Scotia. By making a valuable contribution today, you can help pave the exciting road ahead!

Sincerely,



**Dinuk Wijeratne**

Conductor in Residence (2005-2008)

Composer in Residence (2015-2017)

Music Director, NSYO (2005-2018)

