



The Hnatyshyn Foundation

La Fondation Hnatyshyn

PRESS RELEASE

HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION INCREASES GRANTS TO YOUNG ARTISTS

OTTAWA, January 17, 2006 - In 2006 The Hnatyshyn Foundation is increasing the number of grants to young Canadians pursuing careers in the performing arts. Now in its second year, the Foundation's program of *Developing Artists Grants* will award eight grants of \$10,000 each to assist students in the performing arts with their training. Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C., President and Chair of the Board of The Hnatyshyn Foundation, announced the program guidelines today in Ottawa.

"We were delighted with the results of last year's competition," said Mrs. Hnatyshyn. "Our 2005 grant winners represent some of the most exciting and promising young students in the performing arts from coast to coast. We have decided to increase the number of grants this year in response to the high quality of the applications."

In addition to the five grants awarded in 2005 in the fields of classical music (orchestral instrument), classical voice, classical ballet, jazz and acting (theatre), the 2006 *Developing Artists Grants* will include awards for contemporary dance, classical music (piano), and acting for the French theatre. Exceptionally talented young Canadians undertaking post-secondary studies in these disciplines can be nominated for the grants by their educational or professional training institutions. The nominees from across Canada will then be adjudicated by experts in each field.

"These scholarships will go well beyond the financial assistance they provide, bringing more awareness to the arts and an understanding of the depth of Canadian talent and the need to promote it," says Murray Kilgour, Principal of the School of Alberta Ballet in Calgary. "There is very little assistance for young dance artists these days, so this is very good news indeed."

The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a federally registered private charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General. Its goals are to help emerging and newly established artists in all disciplines with their schooling and training, and to promote to the Canadian public the importance of the arts in our society. Its programs are funded by donations from government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The Department of Canadian Heritage matches donations received by the Foundation up to a maximum of \$2.5 million.

Information about the Foundation and the 2006 *Developing Artists Grants* program is available on the Foundation's website www.rjhf.com

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Barbara Janes
Executive Director
The Hnatyshyn Foundation
(613) 233-0108
bdjanes@rjhf.com