



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Enriching the legacy of the arts in Canada
by nurturing exceptional talent

The
HNATYSHYN
FOUNDATION





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2008 we were pleased to recognize the important role visual arts curators play in fostering and promoting Canadian art and awarded the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Visual Art, an annual prize of \$15,000, created in 2007 and the only national award of its kind in Canada – in addition to the \$25,000 Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Award, created in 2006 to honour the work of an outstanding mid-career artist.

The two Visual Arts Awards were presented in December at Hart House, University of Toronto before a gathering of over 100 artists, curators and art aficionados. The opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our award recipients in the presence of their colleagues, and to have experienced the warmth of their enthusiasm, was truly memorable. Since the beginning we have awarded more than \$100,000 in support of visual art in Canada.

The Developing Artists Grants, the Foundation's national scholarship program for young performing artists in training, awarded eight \$10,000 grants this year to exceptional candidates. This program has provided \$300,000 in financial support to exceptional young Canadians over the past four years. Some of our previous scholarship winners have now finished their training and are beginning

their professional careers. We look forward to following the successes of all the talented young performers who have received our scholarships.

On the investment front, 2008 was one of the worst years on record. Fortunately, our conservative strategy mitigated what might have been otherwise substantial losses. We began to explore new sources of funding while waiting for the markets to stabilize; this activity will continue in 2009.

Let me express my appreciation for the generosity of all our donors and the many members of the arts community across Canada who supported the Foundation in the past year by providing advice, serving as jury members for our grants or as Honorary Patrons. Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to our Board of Directors and staff whose hard work and expertise has ensured the continued growth of The Hnatyshyn Foundation.

Gerda Hnatyshyn, C.C.
President and Chair of the Board
July 2009



The HNATYSHYN FOUNDATION

Dedicated to the support of excellence in the arts, The Hnatyshyn Foundation is a federally registered charity established by the late Right Honourable Ramon John Hnatyshyn, Canada's twenty-fourth Governor General.

We have two major objectives. First and foremost, we seek to nurture Canadian talent and facilitate the creation of new art by providing the means for individual artists to excel in their discipline and achieve national and international recognition.

Secondly, our goal is to promote national cohesiveness and pride in citizenship through the medium of the arts – transcending regional boundaries and cultural differences by exposing Canadians to the wealth of artistic talent within Canada.

The Foundation has a volunteer Board of Directors and a small operational staff. We collaborate with other organizations, whenever possible, to reduce administrative costs. Our grants programs are conceived to complement assistance offered by other public and private arts funding bodies, and to avoid unnecessary duplication. We work in consultation with artistic advisors in all disciplines to ensure the relevancy of our programs.

FUNDRAISING

The Foundation is building an endowment fund of \$8.5 million the income from which is used to carry out our programs. By December 31, 2008 we had raised nearly \$3 million in donations from individual, corporate and provincial government donors. In addition, through an agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Government of Canada had provided matching funds of \$2.38 million.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Foundation's investment portfolio, managed by Greystone Managed Investments Inc., had a market value of \$4.1 million at the end of 2008. The Foundation seeks to preserve the value of its portfolio within reasonable return and risk parameters. While the base is growing to the targeted \$8.5 million level, the Foundation is emphasizing the generation of income over the growth in capital of the fund.

2008 was one of the worst years on record for equity markets. Fixed income markets did well by comparison, finishing the year with a modest positive return. Overall, the Hnatyshyn portfolio had a return of -1.1% for 2008 (compared to 3.3% in 2007). The conservative nature of the Fund's Investment Policy helped to cushion the portfolio from the sell-off in equity markets. The uncertainty in financial markets is expected to continue into 2009.

GRANTING PROGRAMS

Developing Artists Grants

In the fourth year of our Developing Artists Grants program we awarded eight scholarships of \$10,000 each to exceptionally talented young students in the performing arts. Nominated by universities and professional training institutions across Canada, the candidates were then adjudicated anonymously by an expert jury. One scholarship was awarded in each of the following disciplines: classical music

(string instrument), classical music (wind instrument), classical music (piano), classical voice, jazz, classical ballet, contemporary dance, English theatre acting, French theatre acting. Five provinces were represented in this year's scholarship winners: British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec.

"I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the Foundation for the financial support you have offered to our daughter. I don't think we can ever adequately describe what it has meant to Paige to have been selected for this most prestigious award. I honestly think that she values the honour more than the actual money. Kudos to the Hnatyshyn Foundation! Keep nurturing our young artists!"

Lisa Henderson, Mother of Paige Culley
Contemporary dance grant recipient

"Many thanks to you and the Foundation for making wonderful things happen for the future leaders of Canadian culture...bravo!!"

Denny Christianson, Director, Music Program
Humber College

"I'm absolutely thrilled about this news! I'm in Italy at a festival, and just retrieved your message. Devon is a very deserving and gifted young man, and I think that he'll make the greatest use of this award."

Jane Coop, Professor and Head, Keyboard Division
UBC School of Music

"What wonderful news to hear from you while we're launching the Centre for Opera in Sulmona, Italy. As you know, Allison Arends is with us here...Thank you to Mrs. Hnatyshyn, to you, and to the members of the Hnatyshyn Foundation - for establishing such a notable source of encouragement and practical help for our developing artists. It makes all the difference. As singers, voice teachers, and coaches, we are deeply grateful."
Sincerely,

Dr. Darryl Edwards
Associate Professor and Head of Voice Studies
Artistic Director: Centre for Opera in Sulmona,
Italy

2008 DEVELOPING ARTISTS GRANTS RECIPIENTS



English Acting

Ms. Kaitlyn Semple, Regina, Saskatchewan
Studying at University of Regina



French Acting

Ms. Catherine Hughes, Val-Morin, Quebec
Studying at the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Québec



Ballet

Mr. Tristan Dobrowney, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Studying at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School



Contemporary Dance

Ms. Paige Culley, West Kootenay, B.C.
Studying at the School of Toronto Dance Theatre

2008 DEVELOPING ARTISTS GRANTS RECIPIENTS



Classical Piano

Ms. Isabelle David, Sainte-Julie, Quebec
Studying piano at McGill University's Schulich School of Music



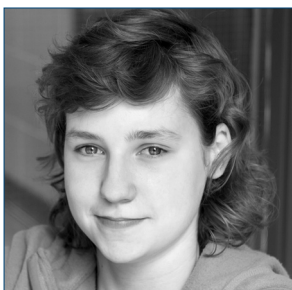
Classical Music (Orchestral)

Ms. Emily Belvedere Richmond Hill, Ontario
Studying harp at Glenn Gould School of
the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto



Classical Voice

Ms. Valérie Bélanger, Lambton, Quebec
Studying at the Quebec City Conservatory of Music



Jazz

Ms. Samantha Chrol, Winnipeg, Manitoba
Studying jazz saxophone and clarinet at University of Manitoba



2008 ADJUDICATORS

The Hnatyshyn Foundation gratefully acknowledges the contribution of the eight expert juries who selected the 2008 recipients of the Developing Artists Grants.

Acting (English Theatre)

Mr. Michael Shamata, Victoria
Ms. Lois Brown, St. John's
Mr. Perry Schneiderman, Toronto

Acting (French Theatre)

Ms. Marcia Babineau, Moncton
Mr. Daniel Cournoyer, Edmonton
Ms. Geneviève Pineault, Sudbury

Ballet

Mr. Igor Dobrovolskiy, Moncton
Ms. Anik Bissonnette, O.C., Montreal
Ms. Joysanne Sidimus, Toronto

Contemporary Dance

Mr. Brent Lott, Winnipeg
Ms. Marie Beaulieu, Montreal
Ms. Judith Garay, Vancouver

Classical music (piano)

Mr. Gérald Lévesque, Québec City
Mr. Arthur Rowe, Victoria
Ms. Marilyn Engle, Calgary

Classical Music (Orchestral instrument)

Mr. Brian Sand, St. John's
Ms. Nora Bumanis, Edmonton
Ms. Gwen Hoebig, Winnipeg

Classical voice

Ms. Helen Pridmore, Sackville
Ms. Lynn Channing, Regina
Mr. Mel Braun, Winnipeg

Jazz

Mr. Phil Nimmons, O.C., O. Ont., Toronto
Mr. Richard Gagnon, Montreal
Ms. Jane Bunnett, Toronto

VISUAL ARTS AWARDS



Barbara Fischer, George Bures Miller and Janet Cardiff ,
2008 Visual Arts Awards recipients, with Gerda Hnatyshyn

“These awards celebrate the mid-career phase in the lives of visual artists and curators of contemporary art. One of the most enjoyable duties that I have as President of The Hnatyshyn Foundation is the presentation of these awards. Each year I have the opportunity to experience more and more of the incredible depth of talent we have in the visual arts and to meet some of the people, both artists and curators, who are making their mark both in Canada and abroad.

What has quickly become evident to me is that being an artist is not really a career choice, but a passion that artists pursue because they can’t imagine living their lives any other way; they devote themselves to a creative process that wipes out the boundary between their work and the rest of their lives. They struggle to express something that may be inexpressible in any


other way, or to help us experience something that cannot be experienced in any other way. And in so doing, they enrich the fabric of our lives and help create the cultural heritage of future generations.

In this endeavour art curators are their partners or accomplices, sometimes their mentors, and often their interpreters. They are an invaluable bridge between the artist and the public, providing not only the space for the work to be seen and experienced, but also the context and the guideposts to assist visitors in their journey of discovery.”

Gerda Hnatyshyn
*Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts
Awards Presentation
Toronto, December 2, 2008*

2008 VISUAL ARTS AWARDS JURY

Ms. Christina Ritchie, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver,
Mr. Jeffrey Spalding, President, Glenbow Museum, Calgary
Ms. Louise Dompierre, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton
Mr. Marc Mayer, Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, Montréal
Ms. Marlene Creates, Artist, Newfoundland



The Hnatyshyn Foundation Visual Arts Awards are two national prizes for excellence in Canadian contemporary art. Together they recognize and celebrate the crucial relationship between those who create art and those who help make it accessible to the public.

The 2008 award recipients, chosen by a jury of arts professionals from across Canada, received their awards at a ceremony at Hart House at the University of Toronto on December 2, 2008, before a gathering of over 100 visual arts professionals. The \$25,000 prize for outstanding achievement by a mid-career Canadian artist was awarded to Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller. The \$15,000 award for curatorial excellence in contemporary art was presented to Director/Curator of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House at the University of Toronto, Barbara Fischer.

Both **Janet Cardiff** and **George Bures Miller** were born in Canada. The artists live and work in Berlin, Germany and Grindrod, British Columbia. For over a decade they lived and worked in Lethbridge, Alberta, where they refined their art and came to artistic maturity. In the nineties, Cardiff was an associate professor of art at the University of Lethbridge where she currently retains the title of adjunct professor. Their work has been celebrated around the world and thus the cause of much excitement and pride as ambassadors for Canadian contemporary art. “The Paradise Institute”, 2001, originally produced for the Canadian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, is in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada and is on tour across the nation. Last year a retrospective

was organized in Spain and circulated to Germany, Italy and Milan. Their works have been collected by some of the leading international museums including: Museum of Modern Art, NY, Corcoran Gallery, Washington and the Art Gallery of Alberta.

Barbara Fischer recipient of the Hnatyshyn Foundation Award for Curatorial Excellence in Contemporary Art, is Director/Curator of the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House at the University of Toronto. Throughout the span of Barbara’s practice she has demonstrated a suite of clear commitments that indicate the reasons for this choice. In every exhibition she has curated it is evident that her curatorial process proceeds from a deep understanding of the artist and their work. Whether reexamining works of historical significance or introducing new work by an emerging artist, Barbara unites her deep-rooted connection to the issues that motivate artistic practices with dedicated scholarship. Her ability to apply broad art historical and theoretical knowledge to nascent ideas circulating among artists has enabled her to identify key features of emerging concerns. This same ability has given her writing both lucidity and intellectual authority. Barbara knows her community profoundly, which provides her with advance knowledge of the artistic questions that inspire that community and which, in turn, sustains the courage of her commitments. In her academic engagements Barbara has shown herself to be a generous teacher and mentor, inspiring emulation and deep respect, while demonstrating her commitment to the ongoing development of Canadian art practices at the highest level.

VISUAL ARTS AWARDS PRESENTATION



From left to right, top to bottom:

Barbara Fisher; Mr. George Bures Miller, Ms. Janet Cardiff and daughter celebrate The Hnatyshyn Foundation award for visual art; Ms. Barbara Fischer receives The Hnatyshyn Foundation award for curatorial excellence; Mr. Marc Mayer, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, at the presentation of the Visual Arts Awards.



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