

Tuckamore Festival

C H A M B E R M U S I C T O I N S P I R E

YOUNG ARTIST
COMPOSER PROGRAM

celebrates

10 YEARS



FOREWORD

A central part of Duo Concertante's MO has been commissioning new works. We have done this for over 25 years, for two main reasons: first, we feel a responsibility to the future of classical music - many of the great older works we all play were inspired by performers, and second, we have valued working with living composers, who stretch us artistically and technically. We also treasure their friendships!

This was in our minds when we started the Young Artist Composer program with Andrew Staniland over ten years ago. This program was conceived to give composers opportunities to mentor with Andrew, one of Canada's big composer stars, but also to work intensely on their pieces with peer performers, what we hope is an inspirational relationship model for both players and composers as they become professional musicians.

Congratulations to Andrew and all the YAC alumni on celebrating the 10th anniversary of the YAC program in 2022. We remember with pride so many wonderful new YAC works at Tuckamore, played with commitment and passion by our YA Performers!

Artistic Directors,
Nancy Dahn & Timothy Steeves



Nancy Dahn, Timothy Steeves; Photo by Rich Blenkinsopp

INTRODUCTION



All music was once new music. While older classical music gets the lion's share of airplay, it is part of a lineage that living composers are inexorably connected to. Today's composers and performers are the living edge of this tradition, and their health and success is the health and success of us all.

Sharing the craft of composition through teaching is one of the great joys of my life. I have received creative inspiration and technical skills from my mentors, and it is my duty and honour in turn to share it with my students. For me, there is no separation between teaching and composition. They are complementary sides of a well-rounded creative practice.



INTRODUCTION

~CONTINUED~

Our program is built on 2 core principles: 1) Young Artist Composers collaborate meaningfully with their peer Young Artist Performers, and 2) The student pieces are treated with the same dedication and reverence given to the ‘dead white guys’ (eg. Dvorak, Schumann, etc). Here, new music is not something to be rushed through on the way to Beethoven, but rather, it is something of equal, or, dare I say, more importance. Our Young Artists come away from the program with a professional performance of their work, new knowledge and skills, and connections with other musicians of their generation that will last a lifetime.

Together, we have created one of Canada’s foremost composition programs that attracts applications from all over the world. Our alumni have won major accolades, including SOCAN Young Composer Awards, the Karen Kieser Prize, JUNO nominations, and ECMAs, to name a few. While we celebrate our prize winners, the impacts of our alumni manifest on a much broader and more meaningful scale: In classrooms, private studios, and music-making spaces of all kinds across the country and around the world.

We are just getting started. Recently we launched the Life Long Learning Program for composers of any age, and Widening the Circle, which focuses on underrepresented composers. In 2023, one of our alumni will lead the Tuckamore Young Composers program as I step aside for a sabbatical year. The student has become the mentor.

Composer, Founder, YAC program
Andrew Staniland

EARLY YEARS

As an alumna of the very first edition of the Tuckamore Young Composer program, it brings me great joy to return as a mentor for the program's 10th anniversary. I've had the pleasure of joining the YCP as a guest speaker over the past several years, and am always delighted by seeing the array of aesthetics and approaches from young composers across the country. I've had a busy 10 years compositionally and educationally, and the YCP remains a crucial pivot point for my career - I hope it will serve future participants in the same way.



Bekah Simms
Alum '12-'13



[Bekah Simms: Testimonial](#)

LIFELONG LEARNING

An online composition mentorship program for composers of any age.

In 2020, we launched the “Tuckamore Lifelong Learning Program”, directed by faculty composer Andrew Staniland. This program is open to composers of any age and career stage for a one-of-a-kind online composition mentorship experience.

Program instructors are drawn from Tuckamore faculty and distinguished alumni. Successful participants receive private, one-on-one lessons with the goal of a creation of a new work of less than 5 minutes duration. This new work will be prepared and recorded by professionals drawn from Tuckamore faculty artists and alumni.

In 2020, our mentor was Tuckamore Young Composer alumna Bekah Simms and in 2021 Young Composer alumni Andrew Noseworthy.



Jaedon Daly, Esmée Gilbert, Connor Cornick, Mia Zihan Zhao; Photo by Erin Grieve; 2022

LASTING IMPACT

I consider my involvement with the Tuckamore Festival, and working with Dr. Andrew Staniland through the Young Composers Program and the Lifelong Learning Program in particular, to be among the most formative ongoing relationships of my compositional career.

Led by Dr. Staniland's support, both programs provided experiences that were necessary at different points of my musical life: first as a student composer working with chamber ensembles, then returning as a mentor with the Lifelong Learning Program. Working with the latter program proved especially fulfilling, since my often fluid work as a composer, electric guitarist and educator was integrated into a mentorship role while working with young composer Thomas Yackimec. This resulted in an all around very successful Lifelong Learning program for everyone involved!

Andrew Noseworthy
Alum '14



Colin Taylor, Andrew Staniland, Bekah Simms, 2012



Robert Humber, Leslie Opatril; Photo by Andrew Staniland, 2019



Andrew Staniland, Stephanie Orlando, Gavin Fraser, André McEvenue, 2017



Michael Maevsky, Grace Lizan, James Lowrie,
Leslie Opatril, Andrew Staniland, 2018



Alex Simon, Timothy Steeves; Photo by Andrew Staniland, 2015



Alex Simon, Andrew Staniland,
August King-Murphy, Adrien Cormier, 2015

ALUMNI

Composition is difficult to teach, and Andrew is one of the best composition teachers I've worked with. He helped show me where to look, both within and without, to seek answers to musical questions and problems composers face regularly. It's an insightful and inspiring program; I enjoyed it so much that I went back a second time!

Leslie Opatril
Alum '18-'19



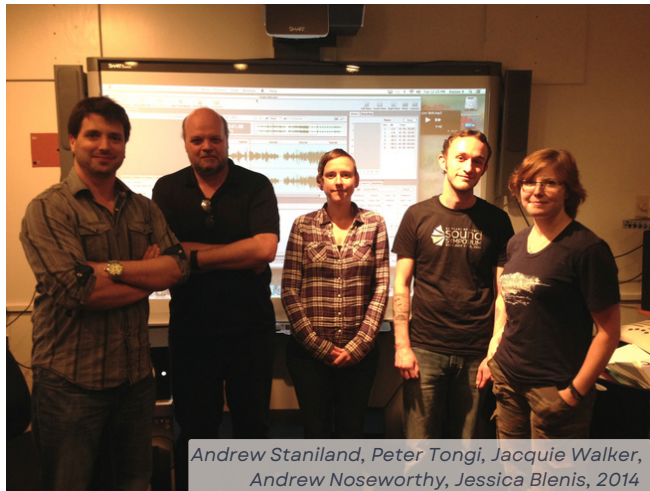
[Brad Bonnell: Testimonial](#)



[Aiden Hartery: Testimonial](#)



[Michael Spiroff: Testimonial](#)



Andrew Staniland, Peter Tongi, Jacquie Walker, Andrew Noseworthy, Jessica Blenis, 2014



Nancy Dahn, Angelese Pepper, Gavin Fraser, Aiden Hartery, Timothy Steeves; Photo by Andrew Staniland, 2016



Timothy Steeves, Leslie Opatril, Robert Humber, Daniel Gardener, 2019

The Tuckamore Young Composers Program instilled the joy I continue to carry with me for chamber music. The skills we workshopped, including effective communication and artistry in composer-performer collaboration, highly detailed compositional technique, music-career building, and incorporating play and fun into the compositional process have been invaluable tools as I foster my career as a composer.

Gavin Fraser
Alum '16-'17



Gavin Fraser: Testimonial



Alice Ho



Rodney Sharman



Ian Cusson



Jocelyn Morlock

WIDENING THE CIRCLE

In winter of 2022, Tuckamore introduced 'Widening the Circle'. This program utilized a unique mentorship model involving three 'circles' of participants: a Youth cohort, aged 14-19; an Emerging cohort, past participants of the YAC program and their colleagues; and, a Professional cohort, recognized Canadian composers and music educators. We also set a goal that this program would span across the entire country, and indeed our participants spanned from coast to coast.

Widening the Circle's Mission was two-fold: To widen networking opportunities for young and emerging composers as well as strengthen and enhance their mentorship capacities via community based learning.



Over a three-month period from January to March, Youth composers had weekly lessons with their Emerging composer mentors, who in turn had bi-monthly check ins with their Professional mentors to discuss the practice of teaching composition.

Every two weeks, the group participated in discussions surrounding the the work of the Professional composers, or the work of guest speakers, active in the field of composition, improvisation, or performance of new music. Throughout the entire program, the Young composers were working on brand new pieces to be premiered by Duo Concertante.

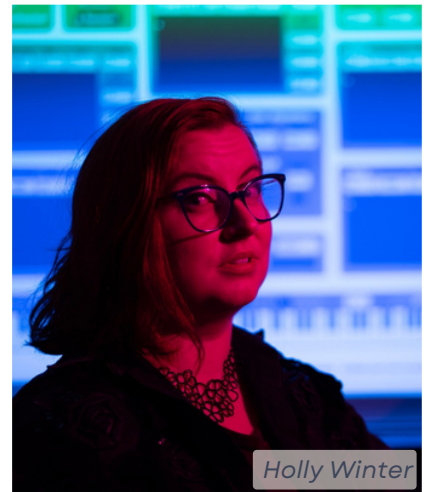
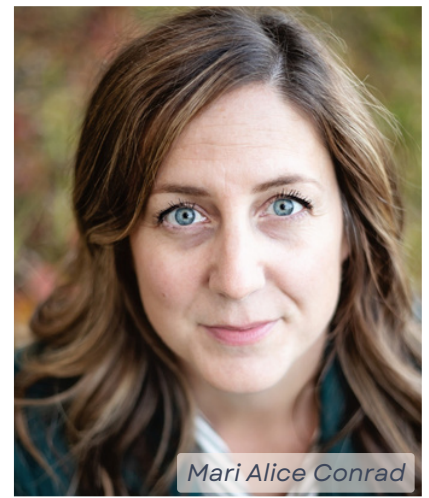
At the end of the program, Artistic Directors Nancy Dahn and Timothy Steeves premiered four new works composed by the Youth Cohort. Performances can be found on the Tuckamore Festival YouTube Channel.

▶ *Saudade*, Krithika Venkataramadas

▶ *Rachscriaguren*, David Eguiguren

▶ *On the Cusp*, Jacob Eaton

▶ *Sonata for Violin and Piano*, Túng Ngô



YOUNG ARTIST COMPOSER PROGRAM ALUM

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|------|---|------|--|
| 2012 | Bekah Simms Colin Taylor | 2018 | Leslie Opatril Michael Maevsky James Lowrie |
| 2013 | Brad Bonnell Bekah Simms | 2019 | Leslie Opatril Daniel Gardener Robert Humber |
| 2014 | Jessica Blenis Andrew Noseworthy Jacquie Walker | 2020 | Taylor MacGillivray Holly Winter Michael Spiroff |
| 2015 | August King Murphy Adrien Cormier Alex Simon | 2021 | Kirsten Ewart Hsiu-Ping (Patrick) Wu Athena Loredó |
| 2016 | Angelese Pepper Gavin Fraser Aiden Hartery | 2022 | Zihan Zhao, Chung Ki Peter Min Andrew Gosse |
| 2017 | Stephanie Orlando André McEvenue Gavin Fraser | | |



Bailey Wantuch, Theodore Chow, Nulibeth Ortiz, Chung Ki Peter Min; Photo by Erin Grieve, 2022

OUR COMMUNITY

Check out what our alum are up to by visiting their websites!

bekahsimms.com

anmusiccomposer.com

augustmurphyking.com

gfrasermusic.com

aidenhartery.com

stephanieorlando.ca

andremcevenue.com

leslieopatril.ca

roberthumber.com

taylormacgillivray.com

hollywintercomposer.com

kirstenewartmusic.ca

patrickwumusic.com

andrewgossecomposer.com