



Letter from the President and CEO

Welcome to the 2020 edition of *Encore*, the National Music Centre's (NMC) Annual Report to the community. To say that 2020 was an extraordinary year would be an understatement. It was a year filled with some of the biggest challenges to date for many who work in the music, arts, and live experience sectors.

For NMC, 2020 will be remembered as a year of heartbreaking decisions, personal growth, reflection, focus, impacts from social upheavals such as Black Lives Matter, new learnings, resilience, reimagination and compassion, examples of which you will find throughout this report.

When we were forced to close Studio Bell on March 16, 2020, the shock of the closure did not immediately sink in. It really hit home when long-standing iconic cultural events started to cancel, one after another. As we began to grasp the scope of public health restrictions and the resulting impacts they were beginning to have

on our entire ecosystem, it became clear that the pandemic was going to be with us for a while, and that any sense of a recovery would be well beyond 2020. The impact of the pandemic was most significantly felt in the temporary and then permanent layoff of 70% (14 full time and 16 part time) of our staff in September 2020—a heartbreaking decision that we made in an effort to preserve base operations and ensure that we could continue to sustain some connectivity to our audiences via digital content knowing that it would be for an extended period of time with so much uncertainty.

To no one's surprise, our 2020 inperson attendance numbers for all of our programs, new exhibition openings, partnerships, and event services were only 25% of our record attendance numbers in 2019. Yet our team's ability to readapt and pivot would result in a 130% increase in the amount of video views we generated on social media and other platforms compared to 2019.

Even though Studio Bell was closed to the public for much of the year due to public health restrictions, NMC's shift to utilizing digital outputs allowed us to deliver our vision and reach audiences in new ways online. We were forced to reimagine our operations and take stock of our future.

While we were determining ways to create and deliver our programs digitally, we were also very proud to support music therapy programs in two hospitals in Calgary that, in some cases, treated patients with COVID-19 in ICU units, among other conditions. Thus, our commitment to sharing the gift of music for healing purposes provided relief to individuals in many different ways from in 2020, an intention that will continue in the future.

As you review this year's Encore, please remember that it takes a team, always, so join me in thanking our incredibly supportive volunteer Board of Directors, our past and present staff, and our volunteers. We also applaud the many supporters who pivoted alongside us: supporters across philanthropy, community investment and sponsorship, who recognized our changing operational needs and responded by altering existing agreements to support new initiatives and areas of greatest need. Equally, our government partners at the City of Calgary, Government of Alberta, and Government of Canada through a myriad of programs, grants, and

subsidies recognized the importance of the cultural sectors and supported NMC.

Our supporters inspired us to find the grit to move forward, and to explore new ways to stay connected and serve our communities by keeping the music alive.

Still absorbing the lessons of 2020, we are forever changed by the experiences of the past year. While we are grateful for what we were able to accomplish and the support we received, the successes of 2020 came at a great cost to our team and to our sector.

As we look to the future, we'll continue to invest significantly in our digital capacity and explore the feasibility of turning the National Music Centre into a digital leader.

We'll be widening our reach with young learners through a comprehensive digital education strategy, expanding our video content, covering a wider range of topics in our articles, and entering the world of podcasting to help tell the stories of those making impacts in music, arts and culture, and the creative industries sectors.

As well, we'll continue our efforts to expand our programming, exhibitions and digital content in the area of music,

medicine and wellness, a subject area that we're already committed to, but are eager to do much more. Most importantly, we'll use our platform to be inclusive, do better for BIPOC communities, and welcome a diversity of voices to our table to guide NMC's future.

In tandem with rebuilding our team and growing our musical offerings, we'll keep developing our audiences online and in-person, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

When public health restrictions are lifted, Studio Bell and the King Eddy will reopen, resuming an important role for exploration, education and incubation, community and wellness, comfort and connection.

Thank you again for supporting the National Music Centre. We hope you enjoy the 2020 edition of *Encore*, definitely one for the history books.

Kholo hjak

Sincerely Yours - Au Plaisir,

Andrew Mosker
President and CEO

NMC Board of Directors

Rob Braide, Chair
Cam Crawford, Vice Chair
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Greg Kane, Director
Steve Kane, Director
Denise Man, Director
Diane Deacon Mannix, Director
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Andrew Mosker, Director
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Susan Van Wielingen, Director
Jennifer Walsh, Director



Letter from the Chair of the Board

Une année inoubliable, an unforgettable year! As Chair of the National Music Centre Board of Directors, it has been overwhelming to watch our beloved arts and music sectors struggle through a very difficult year in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the challenges, the uncertainty, the ups and downs, it continues to be an honour and a pleasure to watch our incredible team adapt to these times with compassion, collaboration, positivity and a dedication in continuing to build Canada's home for music.

Despite all of the trials we faced in 2020, including difficult conversations around the closing of our building to the public, and the subsequent disappointment of downsizing our wonderful and talented team, we found the motivation to discover new ways to serve our audiences through a myriad of digital means. In other words, Studio Bell never really closed, it just stopped letting the public inside the building in large numbers!

National Music Centre's impacts during Studio Bell's closure are documented here in our 2020 Annual Report. Among many accomplishments worth noting, the most significant is the expansion of our digital footprint as a way to stay connected to supporters and to reach new ones across Canada and around the world. Next, the support and recognition received from all levels of government and other financial supporters are evidence of the National Music Centre's increasing importance on the local and national stage. Amplified by the Black Lives Matters protests of 2020, our commitment as a board remains focused on ensuring that the voices of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) communities are represented throughout the National Music Centre, further strengthening advancements we've made as an organization already with respect to bilingualism and gender parity. Lastly, the operational prowess of our team who continuously demonstrated safety first, innovation, and positivity throughout 2020.

The Board of Directors remains endlessly inspired and motivated to do more in programming and supporting others, as we explore our path to recovery into the future. We believe that NMC has an ever-increasing role to play

in the coming years to bring people from diverse backgrounds together to strengthen Canada as a nation and to heal through the power of music.

A heartfelt thank you to our retiring board member and committee members, especially Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Cam Crawford, for his many years of incredible service to the National Music Centre. We'll miss him

As always, on behalf of the Board of Directors, a big thank you to all of NMC's staff, past and present, and to all the volunteers who make NMC an incredible cause to support. Thank you for your adherence to safety, creativity, and for keeping the flame alive, so that we can rebuild our future as Canada's home for music—a home that's needed more than ever.

Merci Beaucoup – Kind Regards,

Chair, Board of Directors



STAThank you to the volunteers, staff, and supporters who work tirelessly to make NMC a success.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our NMC family, past and present.

The National Music Centre made a very difficult decision to permanently layoff 14 full-time and 16 part-time staff in September of 2020. As a charitable nonprofit, non-governmental organization, this choice was made to ensure a sustainable future for NMC at a time of considerable uncertainty. We sincerely acknowledge those NMC team members who helped build a new home for music in Canada from Calgary, Alberta and we cannot thank them enough for their passion, dedication, and commitment to music and building community.

We are confident that eventually the pandemic and its devastation on our sector will subside. In the future, alongside our staff, volunteers, supporters, visitors, friends and family in the arts and the broader creative industry sectors in which we thrive, we will rise up again to rebuild!

It's an honour to share this land.

Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, is located on the traditional lands of the peoples of the Treaty 7 region. NMC acknowledges and pays respect to the original custodians of these territories and is committed to working with Indigenous communities in Calgary and area in a spirit of collaboration and reconciliation.

Executive Office

Andrew Mosker President and CEO

Stephanie Pahl

Chief of Staff and Senior Director,

Administration

Ioana Busuioc

Executive Assistant

Operations

Chad Saunders

Director of Operations

Roberta Walker

Volunteer Coordinator

Finance

Chermaine Chiu

Senior Director of Finance

Stefanie Forward

Manager of Accounting

Adnan Ahmed

Senior Accountant

Mandy Wei

Junior Accountant

Programming

Adam Fox

Director of Programs

Kat Hoven

Public Programs Coordinator

Evan Rothery

Education Program Leader

Educators

Cameron Buie

Kevin Stebner

Melody Stang

Peter Exner

Collections and Exhibitions

lesse Moffatt

Director of Collections and Exhibitions

Claire Neily

Collections Manager

Meghan MacKrous

Collections Coordinator

Brett Phillips

Exhibition Technician

Graham Lessard

Studio Manager and Recording Engineer

Jason Tawkin

Studio and Electronics Engineer

Eric Cinnamon

Assistant Engineer

Franco Mosca

Production Coordinator

Matt Walkey

Internal Event Technician

Technical Staff

Connor Harvey-Derbyshire

Samantha Selci

Niall Vos

Stuart Bardsley

Ian Dillon

Darryl Swart

Kelsey Miller

Development

Elizabeth Reade Director of Development

Jessica Switzer

Annual Giving Officer

Marketing, Communications and Visitor Experience

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and Visitor Experience

Julijana Capone

Senior Publicist

Chad Schroter-Gillespie

Digital Media Specialist

Shahrazad Azzi

Manager of Visitor Experience

Meaghan Lawrence

Visitor Experience Team Lead

Visitor Experience Ambassadors

Kim Cabral

Olek Janusz

Business Development

Cynthia Klaassen

Senior Manager of Business Development

Nandita Aggarwal

Sales and Event Specialist

Tara McLay-Molnar

Retail Coordinator

Event Staff

Jaime Miller Janilyn Peredo

Executive Committee

Rob Braide, Chair Freida Butcher Cam Crawford

Ron Mannix

Andrew Mosker, Ex Officio

Garth Jacques, Secretary Treasurer

Finance and Audit Committee

Cam Crawford, Chair

Freida Butcher, Chair (as of September 2020)

Rob Braide. Ex Officio

Brinna Brinkerhoff

Andrew Mosker, Ex Officio

Karen Prentice

Paige Shaw

Garth Jacques, Secretary Treasurer

Content and Operations Committee

Rob Braide, Chair Freida Butcher

Steven Kane

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Diane Pinet

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National Indigenous Programming Advisory Committee

David McLeod, Chair Madeleine Allakariallak

Lowa Beebe

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Amanda Rheaume

Steve Wood

CONTENTS



TURNING TO **MUSIC IN** UNCERTAIN TIMES



NMC **LEARNING** AT HOME: SOUND **SANDWICH**



THE "NEW NORMAL"



LIVE MUSIC RISES FROM THE ASHES (FOR A WHILE)



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: **AMP CREW** VOLUNTEER, **BRIAN MILLS**

NMC BY THE **NUMBERS**



A PLACE FOR COMFORT **AND CONNECTION**



CELEBRATING RESILIENCE AND THE POWER OF **MUSIC**



AMPLIFY 2.0: NMC'S DIGITAL CONTENT **STRATEGY**

FUND DEVELOPMENT **FINANCE**



HERE'S TO YOU... OUR **DONORS AND SUPPORTERS**



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DESIGN AND LAYOUT:

Original design concept by Three Legged Dog with additional design and layout by Brandon Wallis and Lucas Watts.



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

Turning to Music in Uncertain Times

In the early months of 2020, National Music Centre (NMC) was charting a path to even greater success from the previous year, our best to date that saw over 182,000 guest visits to Studio Bell.

We were gearing up for another record year of inspiring young students through our education programs, Halifax pop scientist Rich Aucoin had just completed a synapse-bursting residency recording with over 50 of NMC's synths, while honky-tonk country outfit Tom Phillips and The DTs wrapped its week of exploration at the King Eddy with a free show of communal, wall-towall joy. The new ADISQ Hall of Fame was launched, offering a home for the achievements of the Francophone music industry outside of Quebec; and local Calgary legend Jann Arden was named the 2020 inductee to the Canadian Music Hall of Fame, with an exhibition unveiled in her honour. NMC also proudly announced the expansion of our partnership with Calgary Health Trust and JB Music Therapy to support music therapy programs at two local hospitals. All the while, news of a mysterious,

spreading novel coronavirus dominated nightly broadcasts. Canadians watched as the virus crept closer to home. A case confirmed in Ontario. One in B.C. A presumptive case in Quebec.

And then it was in Alberta.

Less than a week after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic on March 11, 2020, Alberta would declare a state of public health emergency. Events would be cancelled one after another, and Studio Bell would close indefinitely as regional lockdowns across the country began.

Little did we know that the Family Day dance party held the month before would be the last time we'd dance our hearts out together in real life.

With the abrupt loss of earned revenues from the closure of Studio Bell, the increasingly difficult challenges surrounding fundraising for the entire charitable sector, and no end to the pandemic in sight, NMC instated costsaving measures to safeguard the sustainability of the organization.

As a charitable non-profit, nongovernmental organization, the need to adapt to our new fiscal and operational realities became critical. A very difficult decision was made to temporarily layoff 77 per cent of staff—35 part-time staff and 17 full-time staff, many layoffs that would be announced as permanent in the fall-and move forward with a much smaller team. That decision was painful but done knowing that it would help to ensure a more resilient National Music Centre for future generations. It was a heartbreaking day for our NMC family.

Although the pandemic was having a devastating effect on communities, arts organizations, and cultural industries around the world, music continued to be used by people as a lifeline to support each other through the crisis songs were shared from balconies and musicians globally brought their sets to fans online from their homes. NMC would continue to tell the story of music in Canada and bring people together in a different way, motivated by the tremendous power of music to heal.



The "New Normal" and an Opportunity for Reflection, Reimagination, and Healing

We embarked on a new phase of the NMC story, adjusting to our "new normal" of working from home, and ensuring the health, safety, and wellbeing of our whole team.

The straightforward task of staying connected became a critical priority: Calls were made to donors, sponsors, governments, fellow arts organizations, creators, and arts workers to see how they were holding up. Regular updates were relayed to media, resources for artists were shared on social media, and strategies for an uncertain future were made.

Most importantly, we began to shift our thinking for what the new normal would mean for our ongoing operations, and plans got underway to bring the NMC experience online.

The encouraging messages that our supporters shared as we transitioned our operations fortified our resolve to get through those heavy days.

Another call for reflection and change was to come.

In early June, Black Lives Matter protests sprung up around the world in response to George Floyd's death

while in police custody. A reckoning would ensue globally with calls made for institutions to confront systemic racism and to demonstrate greater diversity and inclusivity throughout all levels of organizations in places where diverse communities exist, including Canada.

While NMC had already made good strides in developing inclusive programming, collections and exhibitions, collaborations with Indigenous communities in the collective process of reconciliation, bilingualism and gender parity over the years, we realized we needed to do more. Believing that music has long been a tool to heal, speak up against injustice, to affect social change and to bring people together, NMC leadership met with community members and attended professional workshops with the aim of listening, learning, and doing better. Programs, marketing materials, and hiring policies were audited to ensure that diversity and inclusion were updated. NMC's commitment to improve diversity internally became an organizational goal that would be achieved over time, much like incorporating bilingualism (i.e. Canada's official languages) as well as advancing

of gender parity in the NMC workplace that had been realized several years

With COVID-19 continuing to ravage the gig economy, NMC joined forces with Alberta Music, CKUA Radio, and a local tech company, Stagehand, to reimagine NMC's Alberta Spotlight program as an online concert series, supported with funding from the Government of Alberta. Over 80 musically and culturally diverse acts from across the province would be featured, bringing an array of sounds into the homes of music lovers

For families isolated at home, we created the first-ever NMC Learning at Home series with fun lessons on science and sound, inspired by our longstanding on-site children's programs. On the exhibitions front, the award-winning Speak Up! exhibition, honouring 13 Indigenous trailblazers, would make its online debut. Our online gift shop was also launched, allowing shoppers to buy locally made musicinspired gifts from the safety of home.

The goal of keeping our audiences connected virtually was becoming a reality and we had just gotten started.

1 Alberta

Spotlight:

KARÍMAH.

3 Alberta Spotlight:

Ellen Doty. Image:

Courtesy of the artist.

Image: Courtesy of the artist. 2 Speak Up! Artist Kinnie Star. Image: Levi Manchuk

Calum Slingerland. "National Music Centre Takes Indigenous 'Speak Up!' Exhibit Online." Exclaim! June 16, 2020.

Dan Clapson. "Alberta music venues find new ways to ensure shows go on." The Globe and Mail. October 3, 2020.

Live Music Rises from the Ashes (For a While)

Centre decided to partner with the King Eddy to create a safe space for live music after months of silence. In Canadian country music artists and raise a while. funds for charity. Safely recorded at the venue without an audience and live streamed publicly, the event lit the fuse for more virtual concerts recorded from the Studio Bell building.

Two of its initial 2020 phased reopening plan, the King Eddy opened its doors at reduced capacity with heightened protocols in place. The aim: To create a safe and comfortable environment for down live music series in honour of the artists and keeping audiences connected patrons to come back to gradually—and cancelled 2020 Calgary Stampede. support a music community in crisis by offering paid performances to artists who had been without steady gigs for months

As summer neared, the National Music It all looked a little weird in the beginning: Bands performed in isolation behind glass barriers, artists wore masks—medical, fringed or otherwise. partnership with local organization. With a shared goal of safety and keeping touring country artists was recognized Craig Senyk Initiatives, the Jamboree in live music alive, the live experience Lockdown was produced to help support began to rise from the ashes, at least for

> cautious Canada Day celebration moved forward with live acts free to safely rock inside the adjoining Rolling Stones Mobile room, affectionately known as the "sealedperforming an epic set from the Eddy's rooftop as part of the City of Calgary's Virtual Canada Day event. Then came Boots On at the King Eddy, a pared

Among the first wave of venues in Alberta to safely bring live music back after COVID-19 restrictions had lifted, the Eddy's support of local and with a 2020 Canadian Country Music Association Award for Country Club of the Year, further cementing its status as an important space for the live music community. It was also crowned the winner of two Best of Calgary awards for Best Live Music Venue and Best Historic

When the province moved into Stage off sanctuary," and Paul Brandt From country to classical and rap to rock, a hybrid mix of live and virtual shows became the COVID norm. National Music Centre worked closely with the King Eddy, supporting local online and in person amidst the pandemic. And, as comfort levels rose, so too did attendance for shows.

CBC News. "Paul Brandt. Bebe Buckskin to perform virtual Canada Day concert from King Eddy rooftop." CBC News Calgary. June 29, 2020.

Kaylen Small. "Alberta launches weekly online concert series to help musicians through COVID-19 pandemic." Global News. June 9, 2020.

- 1 RBC Live from the King Eddy: Sinzere and Timothonius. Image: Screenshot from NMC livestream
- 2 Paul Brandt performing on the King Eddy Rooftop for Canada Day. Image: Bamboo Shoots
- 3 Homegrown Country Series with The Washboard Union. Image: Screenshot from NMC video
- 4 Stingray Classical Live from the King Eddy: Kensington Sinfonia. Image: Screenshot from NMC livestream



A Place for Comfort and Connection

Excitement—and a lot of anxiety swirled as we readied to reopen Studio Bell. The groundwork laid by the National Music Centre and the Eddy team offered some solace. But there was far more to consider with an opening of this magnitude.

Three full-time and five part-time staff members were recalled to help with tech, education, and front-of-house roles. The collections team re-tuned kiosks with "fun-fact" slideshows and developed new COVID-safe approaches for enjoying exhibits. All departments went above and beyond to do their part.

Volunteers participated in focus groups to help plan for any changes to the visitor experience. Service partners who help us run Studio Bell yearround adjusted to the everchanging needs and requirements arising from the pandemic, such as air flow and circulation. Without them all, we would not have been able to open safely.

After five months of closure and an abundance of safety preparations, Studio Bell reopened with free admission courtesy of Bell on August 15. The public were welcomed back to a reimagined experience: timed ticketing to manage flow, a self-guided wayfinding

tour, mandatory masks, no interactives, and limited touch points. Still, visitors seemed to revel in the activities that offered a sense of comfort and connection and a flicker of normalcy. The public would return in droves.

Donations poured in at a constant pace unseen in previous years. With so many still reeling from the effects of the pandemic, their capacity to give was

Through it all, our community was by

During this time, NMC continued to find ways to support the struggling live music and experience sector, collaborating with multiple partners on the RISE UP! initiative, an online platform to support local artists and live presenters; and supporting West Anthem's Alberta Music Industry Ecosystem Report to show how the music industry could be harnessed to accelerate post-pandemic recovery.

Having moved all of our live music programs over to the King Eddy by the fall, NMC launched three new live and online concert series' including RBC Live from the King Eddy, National Music Centre presents: Friday Night at the King

Eddy sponsored by Bell, and the Stingray Classical Live series. Local Alberta artists had a chance to play again as patrons got more comfortable coming out to shows or taking in a concert virtually from home.

Given there were few private events taking place at Studio Bell, we opened our doors to film and television productions, acting as a location and sound stage, and giving opportunities to workers that had been impacted by the restrictions in the live experience economy.

As life was returning to our spaces, so too was the incubation of new music behind the scenes in NMC's recording studios. Many new protocols were implemented, and 13 artists were able to safety record new projects. Most notably, electronic artist Angie C, whose groundbreaking musical project involved controlling NMC's holy grail of synths, TONTO, with her mind for a new album. The ingenious project would attract media attention from around the world, including a feature on CBC's The National.

Erin Collins. "Artist plays music on synthesizer using only her mind." CBC's The National. October 19, 2020.



Celebrating Resilience and the Power of Music

As a second wave swept across the country, NMC's holiday admission campaign with free weekends courtesy of ATB was cut short and Studio Bell was closed for a second time in December. Plans for our small, physically distanced annual fundraising gala also needed to be reimagined.

Our resilience was undeterred.

In lieu of our annual fundraising gala in-person, we produced our first-ever virtual fundraiser, the Rise Up! gala, featuring performances by a diverse group of Canadian artists, including Jann Arden, Brett Kissel, Tanika Charles, Louis-Jean Cormier, Jan Lisiecki, and more. It was co-hosted by two Canadian music luminaries, Kissel and broadcaster Jackie Rae Greening, who crafted a story about National Music Centre's impacts since opening and status since being closed throughout

National Music Centre | Annual Rep

the pandemic. The Rise Up! gala was a significant milestone success for NMC. With so many unable to be with family over the holidays, the Rise Up! gala offered a moment of celebration and connection through the power of music.

The gala drew over 85,000 views on social media, people tuned in from around the world, and we surpassed our \$100,000 fundraising goal.

If COVID has taught us anything, it's that nothing can stop the music. Through a year of uncertainty, music played a vital role in healing and bringing people together, and it will play a critical role in the recovery of our city, province, and country after the

Calgary Herald. December 2, 2020.



NMC LEARNING AT HOME

Pivoting to Digital

When Studio Bell was closed to the public and we couldn't physically service our regular audiences of K-6 students, the NMC Learning at Home virtual series was born out of necessity. Geared towards educators and families isolated at home, it features DIY lessons that mirror our on-site education programs.

Because of its success, the Learning at Home series inspired a much greater commitment to digitize our core organizational activities. As a part of the NMC Learning at Home series, Evan the Educator teaches you how to take household items to build the world's simplest musical instrument: the Sound Sandwich.

How to make a Sound Sandwich with Evan the Educator:

STEP 1

Stretch the thick rubber band over the length of the craft stick, so that it holds itself in place.

STEP 2

Take **one piece of straw** and place it underneath the rubber band on one end. You will end up with a lowercase t, or a sword.

STEP 3

Take the **second craft** stick, and pinch it against the first craft stick, squishing the straw in the middle.

STEP 6

Wrap the final rubber band around the unwrapped end of your soundwich. Voila! Your soundwich is ready to make

HOW DOES IT WORK?

STEP 5

Using your newly made tweezers, pick up the **second** straw piece. Position it like the first straw piece, making sure that it is on the opposite side of the rubber band.

STEP 4

Pinching the straw between the two sticks like a sandwich, wrap one of the rubber bands tightly around the handle of your sword, creating a pair of tweezers.

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Two craft sticks
- Two pieces of straw cut to 2-3 cm
- One thick rubber band
- Two thin rubber bands



CONTROLLING THE



Once your Sound Sandwich is complete, try blowing very hard and very weakly. By controlling the air pressure, we can control the pitch and volume. We now have a musical instrument with which we can control the pitch and volume! This means we can create music. See what songs you can play with your new Sound Sandwich!

To make sound, we need to put energy into our instrument, to make vibrations. There are four types of instruments: struck, pluck, air, and electric. The Sound Sandwich is most effectively used as an air powered instrument. It is similar to a harmonica in how we use it to make sound. As we blow air through the sticks, the rubber band vibrates, creating sound.

To learn more about NMC's education programs, visit studiobell.ca/learning

Don't forget to check out the entire NMC Learning at Home series at amplify.nmc.ca or on YouTube and please remember to like and subscribe.



NMC CHAMPIONS

Scotiabank AMP Crew Volunteer: Brian Mills



When Brian Mills was awarded the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers by the Governor General in 2018, it came as no surprise to those who know him. Aside from being a dedicated National Music Centre volunteer, Brian is a wonderful, warm-natured person who cares deeply about music and giving back to his community. He joined NMC's volunteer team in 2011 and has since worked as a Jam Club mentor, trusted collections assistant, and museum steward.

Recently, he broke 1,000 volunteer hours—equivalent to six months of fulltime work—which is a remarkable feat.

Speaking to Brian, he shared the motivation behind his decade-long commitment to NMC.

What motivates you to keep volunteering with NMC?

BM: I have always enjoyed hanging around musical people, musical instruments, playing music. Volunteering for NMC gets me pretty great exposure to all of that. I've had a lot of opportunities to learn new things, meet new people—the other volunteers that I've met along the way are great.

What's been your favourite project to work on and why?

BM: I got the biggest charge out of working with four other volunteers building coloured cables for TONTO. A group of us were schooled by J.L. (a.k.a. John Leimseider, NMC's late electronics technician). He taught us the rudiments of stripping, soldering, and testing the cables. We spent weeks in the shop, building a whole whack of coloured cables from scratch, and they'll be able to be used for years to come. When Malcolm Cecil was in town, he gave us the nod during his public talk. He made a reference to the volunteers who built the cables, calling us "The Cable Guys." I'm looking forward to getting back and helping with collections again. Working behind the scenes is always interesting. You never know who is going to walk in, or who you're going to meet.

Thanks for everything you've done for NMC over the years, Brian!

Come rock 'n' roll with the Scotiabank AMP Crew and join an incredible group of passionate music lovers. Learn more:



To give Canada a home that amplifies the love, sharing, and understanding of music.

To be a national catalyst for discovery, innovation and renewal through music.

NOTE:

Studio Bell temporarily closed in 2020 due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, which severely limited in-person attendance for all activities. This includes on-site visits from school field trips, museum admission, concerts, special events, facility rentals, café and retail, and attendance at the King Eddy. In lieu of not being able to serve the public on site, a major organizational pivot was made towards bringing the NMC experience online. Through our new digital content platform, Amplify, and various video and livestream programs and partnerships, we were able to provide people from around the world with hours of engaging content and amplify the power of music.



IN-PERSON AUDIENCE

GUEST VISITS

7,939

Paid admissions

6.107

Complimentary admissions

2.154

3,983

Education program attendance

3,278

Live events, and co-

production attendance

Third-party rental attendance

Program partners

Co-productions

Education classes

Online learning videos

COLLECTIONS AND **EXHIBITIONS AT A** GLANCE

New exhibitions

62 New artifacts

19

Artifacts added online

5,405
Hours the "living collection" was in use

16 Recording sessions

634 Studio recording hours

*YOY is year-over-year

15,364

King Eddy attendance

TOTAL GUESTS

38,825

NEW AND RETURNING GUESTS (-79% YOY*)

MEMBERSHIPS

TOTAL MEMBERS

1.929

ACTIVE MEMBERS ON DECEMBER 31, 2020 (-16% YOY*)

ONLINE AUDIENCE

SOCIAL MEDIA

16,722

12,688

14,222 Instagram

TOTAL FOLLOWERS

43,632

(+11% YOY*)

WEBSITE **PAGEVIEWS**

72,939 NMC Amplify

295,248 Studio Bell

33,217

Collections Database

TOTAL PAGEVIEWS 401,404

(-44% YOY*)

VIDEO VIEWS

189,400 YouTube

337.564 Facebook

2,108

TOTAL VIEWS

529,072

(+133% YOY*)

AMPLIFY 2.0

pandemic forced the temporary closure of Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre, our team began to think anywhere with an internet connection about how we could continue to engage with our audiences safely and effectively while continuing to follow public health guidelines. While many of us first began to grapple with the idea that we would be spending a lot more time in our homes—possibly in a semi-lockdown scenario—a global story started to emerge online about how music was playing a key role in providing hope and comfort to people all over the world in this time of crisis.

opportunity for NMC to accelerate our efforts to bring more of the NMC

would allow us to continue to spread the power of music to people from 2.0 became a new vehicle for how who were coping with this pandemic Centre's programming, collections, from home—just like we were.

NMC had already been dabbling in producing online content since 2012, publishing regular articles on a small blog named Amplify. Now, shifting our full attention towards this opportunity, a decision was made to build a new, more robust website with more great articles, videos, and livestreaming—and to even potentially experiment with new avenues of digital content in the near future, A plan began to develop around an including several new video and podcast series' in the works for 2021.

In early March, when the COVID-19 experience to audiences online. This With COVID restrictions in place for the unforeseeable future, Amplify we would bring the National Music and exhibitions to a larger audience online. This became our "silver lining" in an otherwise dark time since Studio Bell's doors were closed. Focusing on this new digital content strategy has reinvigorated hope for the future and demonstrated the resiliency of NMC and its mission to amplify the love, sharing, and understanding of music.

Top 5 Posts on Amplify in 2020

- 1. NMC Learning at Home: Making a Sound Sandwich
- 2. Origin Stories: Buffy Saint-Marie on "Universal Soldier"
- 3. In The Collection: TONTO Has Arrived at NMC
- 4. Great Moments in Canadian Music: How Ocean Grabbed a Worldwide Hit Away from Anne Murray
- 5. National Music Centre Launches Special Exhibition Dedicated to Jann Arden on March 13

- 1 The Original New Timbral Orchestra aka TONTO, part of NMC's living collection. Image: Chad Schroter-Gillespie
- 2 Lyrique performing behind safety glass during a livestreamed concert at the King Eddy. Image: Screenshot from NMC video
- 3 Members of NMC's "Stream Team" live switching a broadcast of "RBC Live from the King Eddy." Image: Andrew Mosker





and stories of music in Canada aimed at

Read features on made-in-Canada moments and trailblazing artists. Delve

concerts that put the spotlight on performance, and education programs. Canadian artists, hear oral histories Amplify is a virtual hub for the sounds and interview podcasts, and participate in fun educational videos designed connecting with music fans everywhere. for students and families that connect science to sound.

Learn, explore, and enjoy from the safety into articles on NMC's vast collection of home at amplify.nmc.ca.

- 1 Great Moments in Canadian Music (Track 4): More Grizzly than Teddy - the Early Blues Rock Years of Edward Bear.
- 2 Instrumental: Kaia Kater's Banjo is the Tiny, Beating Heart of her Music. Image: Raez Argulla
- 3 NMC Learning at Home: Spectrograms – Instruments and Timbre. Image: Evan Rothery
- 4 Collections Pick: "Dolmetsch" Clavichord. Image: Don Kennedy



amplify.nmc.ca

FUND DEVELOPMENT

2020 was a very challenging year for fund development not only for National Music Centre but for the entire cultural sector in Canada. Despite these many challenges which included an overall 26% decrease in funds raised by NMC compared to 2019, we also experienced considerable adaptability, generosity and compassion from our existing financial supporters. All of our supporters sympathized with our forced closure and worked closely with us to find innovative ways to re-direct existing support to areas of greatest need as well as supporting new ideas that safely offered programs, content and services to the public. New investments were also made in digital engagement in 2020 that we believe will benefit NMC in fund development in the years ahead.

Overall, a sincere thank you to our entire community of donors, grantors and sponsors for continuing to believe and invest in the future of National Music Centre and for being by our side throughout 2020, a year of unforgettable resolve and resilience.

In particular, we are very grateful to the City of Calgary through Calgary Arts Development, Government of Alberta through Alberta Foundation for the Arts as well as Creative Industries and the Government of Canada through

FACTOR (Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Record) for all their operational support. Thank you also to the Government of Canada for all the additional support provided through the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) as well as the Government of Alberta's Small and Medium Enterprise Relaunch Grant. NMC is also very grateful to the corporate sponsors, foundations and individuals who allowed us to reallocate previously designated funds towards areas of greatest need and to others who supported us in imaginative ways, such as Craig Senyk Initiatives; and to Bell, RBC and Stingray for boosting their commitment to live performance and studio recordings through Friday Night at the King Eddy, Homegrown Country, RBC Live from the King Eddy and Stingray Classical Sundays.

Many new and existing supporters saw the value and impact of our work and were inspired to help us continue to survive and ultimately thrive through the pandemic. Over 2020, many new first-time donors were welcomed to the NMC family, up 60% from the previous year, and the steady support we received through our monthly donor program, NMC Tempo, was also greatly appreciated.

On Canada Day, we launched the Legacy Vinyl campaign, giving supporters the chance to purchase a 7-inch or 12-inch custom-inscribed record that will live on the walls of Studio Bell for 10 years. To the 37 music fans who bought a vinyl record and marked their place in history, we extend our heartfelt thanks. As the year came to an end, our community, once again, stepped up in by supporting our year-end Holiday Campaign.

The 2020 Annual Fundraising Gala: Rise Up!

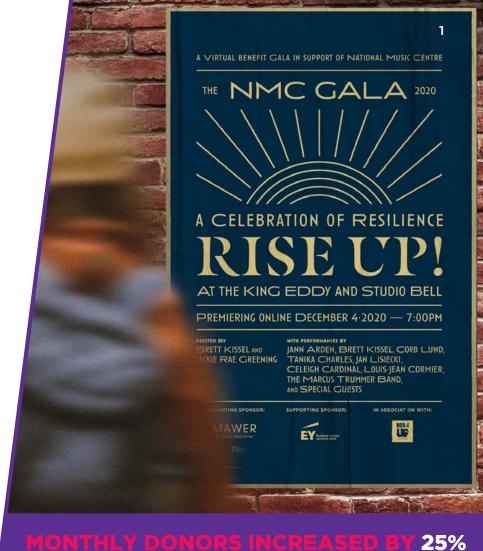
The annual fundraising gala was completely re-imagined in 2020 due to a second lockdown later in the year, as the Rise Up! A Celebration of Resilience, virtual gala. The starstudded gala featured performers from across Canada including Jann Arden, Brett Kissel, Tanika Charles, Louis-Jean Cormier, Corb Lund, Celeigh Cardinal, along with testimonial appearances by Tegan Quin, Raine Maida, Scott Helman, and more. From Montréal to Winnipeg, Toronto to Calgary, artists from around the country came together virtually to send their messages of hope and resilience through music and to recognize the impacts of National Music Centre on Canada's cultural landscape. Producing an entirely new virtual gala

was a tremendous learning experience for NMC and the investment will further fund development engagement for us in the future as the gala illustrated the impacts through important testimonials, that our programs are making on a local and national basis.

While the challenges of 2020 in fund

development were very difficult and the significant loss of revenue compared to 2019 has considerably reduced NMC's ability to serve the public as we did in pre-pandemic times, we are very grateful for all the support and compassion we did receive from existing and new donors including governments, foundations, corporations (i.e. community investment), corporate sponsors and individuals in 2020, especially from those in our hometown of Calgary. Thank you again for showing up at a critical time and we look forward to re-building NMC's programs, exhibitions and other public offerings with all of our financial supporters in the

- 1 Artistic rendering of the 2020 NMC Gala poster.
- 2 Jackie Rae Greening and Brett Kissel hosting the 2020 NMC Gala. Image: Bamboo Shoots



47% \$193K



FINANCE Adaptation in the face of adversity

The year 2020 brought significant challenges and opportunities related to the impact that COVID-19 had on NMC's operations and its finances. Studio Bell was closed to the public for approximately six months due to the strict adherence of various health regulations. Because of this, NMC's focus had to quickly change to preserve cash, negotiate deferrals with vendors and lenders, as well as secure additional funding support from donors as all earned revenues from services including admissions were halted, which dramatically affected cash flow.

Pre-pandemic, NMC's business model for operations was based on 65% fundraising (philanthropy, corporate community investment, foundations, sponsorship, government grants) and 35% earned revenues. With earned revenues indefinitely suspended and a significant demand for limited fundraising dollars throughout 2020, difficult decisions regarding staffing, revising operations, delaying or deferring programs and exhibitions had to be made. Furthermore, we also capitalized on as many government grants and subsidies that were available so that NMC would be able to keep enough expertise on staff to ramp up operations and reopen as quickly as possible pending any further health restrictions.

To invest in future audiences, NMC successfully pivoted its limited operations. It made strategic investments to stay connected to the community digitally by creating a new educational series, live streaming shows, a virtual fundraising gala, launching exhibitions online and investing in the creation of a digital platform in order to continue to serve NMC's charitable mandate. Overall, this investment in digital content

and in communications allowed NMC to remain active to the public and not go dormant, which maintained connection to the media as well as our core supporters.

NMC recorded income before interest and amortization of \$2 million versus \$3 million in 2019. Including interest and amortization, NMC reported a deficiency of revenue of \$3.1 million vs excess revenues of \$6 million in 2019. The 2020 revenue of \$8.5 million represents a 28% decrease over 2019 revenues of \$11.8 million. Donations were lower by \$1.8 million and sales of goods and services were lower by \$2.4 million, offset by an increase in government grants of \$1.0 million. The organization received significant COVID related assistance from all three levels of government in 2020, which has strengthened NMC's position to reopen to the public when health restrictions are lifted.

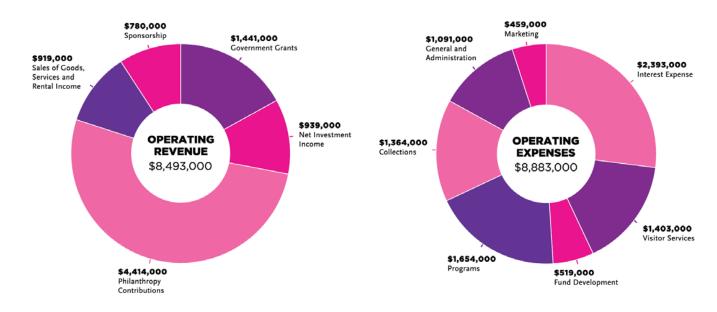
NMC finished the year with \$67 million of debt held by three parties related to the construction of Studio Bell. A minimal repayment of \$1,503 on the bank debt was made during the year vs \$8.8 million in 2019. A total of \$122.3 million has been pledged for the project, of which nearly all or \$122.0 million has been received. NMC continues to actively work on securing new funding to retire the debt over the coming years while continuing to operate and provide programs and services to the community. In 2020, NMC also began discussions to refinance the term loan of \$42 million that is due on June 30, 2021. Negotiations are expected to be complete in Q1/Q2 2021and the re-financing of the term loan will secure NMC additional time to ramp up when health restrictions are lifted and earned revenue can return to prepandemic levels.

At year end, NMC held a strong cash balance of \$1.4 million and \$11.8 million of investments of which \$10 million is restricted as collateral for bank debt. During the year, the restricted cash on hand of \$11.9 million at the end of 2019 was used to fund the short fall in cash of \$1.2 million for operating activities due to lower revenues and to fund investing activities of \$10.7 million which include net purchases of \$10.4 million of investments and \$330,000 of capital assets. The majority of the investments are held as collateral for the term loan and are intended to be used if needed to make the final lump sum payment of \$12 million that is due on the term loan on June 30, 2021.

Prior to the pandemic, our operational business model was working well and our earned revenues were steadily increasing as demand for our services was growing year over year from the time we opened Studio Bell in 2016. We are confident that we will be able to plan for earned revenues to return to pre-pandemic levels but not until 2023 and beyond as vaccinations occur and the public health restrictions are gradually lifted.

While this year brought an unforeseen obstacle in the form of a pandemic, NMC was able to adapt quickly and stabilize its operations while also pivoting its spending on strategic areas to continue to stay connected, relevant, and reach current and new audiences, both locally and nationally. For a relatively young, independent charitable organization, the difficult decisions made in 2020 were done to ensure that NMC would survive through the pandemic, so that it could rebuild again when the public health restrictions were lifted and a return to more predicable operations occurs.

Summary Operations Statement for 2020



\$1,371,000

ASSETS

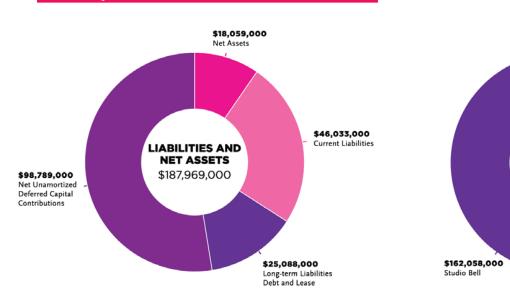
\$187,969,000

\$12,996,000

\$10,567,000

\$977.000

Summary Financial Position Statement for 2020



For more financial information, please contact: T 403.543.5115 | E info@nmc.ca

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Thank you to our supporters and donors for bringing Canadians together through music.

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Brent Podiluk Tim Polanik Karen Prentice Angel Prieto

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Will Ratliffe Elizabeth Reade Gerald Reid

Melanie Richard Wes & Deana Richardson

Carolyn & Larry Hursh Alanna Rinkl

Miranda Robinson Roberta Robinson Karen Roller

Sarah Romanuck Eric Rosenbaum Ward Rosin Wanda Rodd

Rhonda Roth - In Memory of Ben Patton

Mark Rouleau Katie Rountree

Mary Rozsa de Coquet

Jodie Rubel Susanne Ruberg-Gordon

Jasmine Rudakewich Irina Rudic

Cynthia Ruhrmann Murray Rundle

Greg Rusling Anne Saco Walid Sahbi

Lorraine Schmaltz

Felipe Salinas of Ben Patton Don Samson

Nicole Sandblom Ben Patton Doreen Sandercock

Amrita Sandhu **Chad Saunders** Josie Stiles Greg Sawatzky Kerry Stinson EJ Schiiler Patti Stobbe

Ryan Schmidt Diane Scott

Jim Scott Lauren Scott Louise Scott

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Robert Sevick Coralia Sevilla Maxwell Shedd

David Severson

Danny Shibley - In Memory of Ben Patton

Clarice Siebens **Britt Simmons**

Cynthia Sisk Edgar

Ieff Slack Renee Sloos Derek Small

Mogens & Nicki Smed

Drew Smith **Iacob Smith** Mike Smith Miss Alane Smith Sean Smith Tom Smith

Alison Smoole Dale Soloski- In Memory of

Ben Patton Tyler Soron **Antoinette Sossong**

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Cheru Stanzeleit - In Memory

Kristen Stark - In Memory of

Brian Stevenson George & Ellen Stewart

Kelly Stonehocker

Gail Strasser

Laurie & Doug Stother Erin Sudbury - In Memory of

Ben Patton Sarah Sunico Blair Sveinson

Lynda Swanson - In Memory of Stephen Flath

Kelly Swart-Davis - In Memory of Ben Patton Robert Sweluk Michael Sword Stephanie Talbot

Melanie Tamura - In Memory of Benjamin Patton

Melisa Tan **Elodie Taniere**

Walter and Kathy Tarnowetski -In Memory of Ben Patton

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James Tubman- In Honour of son Garnett Tubman

Lone Tuff - In Memory of Ben Patton

Sonia Tyhonchuk Karen Ussher

Erin Walker

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Tamizah Valji - In Memory of Ben Patton Linda Van Havere Ron Van Paridon Christine Vandenberghe Peeranut Visetsuth Gordon Vogt

Safara Walker - In Memory of

Ben Patton Robert Wallace Bonnie Wallis Brandon Wallis Jennifer Walsh Donna Waraksa **Brad Warner**

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Wayne Wegner Paul Weisbeck

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Patton David White

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Joshua White Adison Wiberg Cheryl Wilms James Wilson Ken Wilson Richard Winkelaar

Leonard Winzinowich Byron Wong Desmond Wong Paul Wong Donna Wood Brian Woodward Tammy Yee Yoonji Lee Jenn Young

Janet Youngdahl Jordan Zacher Vince Zafra Helen Zerai Yi Zhao

Anne Zinatelli

Organizations

3 Anonymous Organizations Alberta Foundation for the Arts

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