Giving IS EASY!

- Fill in the enclosed form, insert into the self-addressed envelope and please, add a stamp.
- Give online by clicking “Support the NSO 70th” on the NSO’s website at: niagarasymphony.com
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  11 Bond Street, Suite 207
  St. Catharines, ON, L2R 4Z4
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NSO MUSIC DIRECTORS
Jan Wolanek (Founder; 1948-1957)
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The Story of the St Catharines Symphony Orchestra began one wintry day in 1947 when Conductor Jan Wolanek searched for interested people to form a symphony orchestra. By that spring the orchestra was ready to perform its first-ever concert at The Palace Theatre, which donated the venue. Guest soloist William T. Thompson played a Haydn piano concerto. Admission was free.

After 10 years, the orchestra had become well-known within the Niagara community. Educational outreach began; a three-concert series for school children was established; and in 1963 a Symphony Chorus was founded (now Chorus Niagara). World renowned guest artists Glenn Gould, Teresa Stratas, and Maureen Forester graced the stage.

In the Fall of 1967, after 20 years of performances at the Palace Theatre, the orchestra moved to its new home, Thistle Theatre at Brock University. Only a few years later (1975) the orchestra combined with the chorus to perform Mahler’s 2nd Symphony, presented in the largest gym at Brock because of the massive number of musicians, soloists and choristers on stage. An audience of 2,500 patrons, internationally renowned contralto Maureen Forester joined local vocalist Terri Pothier and conductor Leonard Atherton.

By the end of the 1977/78 concert season, and the 30th anniversary, the St. Catharines Symphony Association had become the Niagara Symphony Association, along with name changes to the affiliated organizations. The change was made to better represent the orchestra’s commitment to the entire Niagara Region.

The 1990’s saw the NSO secure a significant partnership with Brock University, becoming Orchestra in Residence there. Members of the orchestra continued to teach in the university music department and offer masterclasses.

It would be another 40 years before the symphony would perform Mahler 2 again, slated for Sunday, May 21, 2017, the finale of the NSO’s 69th season and fitting tribute to the history of this magnificent orchestra.

Music Director

At each and every concert for the past seven years, it has been my distinct honour to step onto the podium and lead the Niagara Symphony Orchestra as we continue to present the finest music and renowned artists to Niagara audiences. In this endeavour, we acknowledge a proud tradition and look ahead to celebrating the orchestra’s 70th anniversary in the momentous 2017-18 season.

As always, our partners on this musical odyssey are you, our audience. We constantly strive to gather superb musicians and programme thoughtful, engaging concerts; but we need the support of committed donors. We need those who believe passionately, as I do, that the NSO is worthy of your investment, that children blossom when exploring and making music, that our community is more robust when the arts flourish among us.

The leadership shown by Carol and David Appel is both humbling and inspiring. I invite you to join them and celebrate the NSO’s 70th anniversary with your own generous contribution.

On behalf of the committed musicians of the NSO, the children who will experience orchestral gems in the concert hall and the classroom, and the delighted audiences who will thrill to extraordinary classical music in their own community, I thank you for your belief in the Niagara Symphony Orchestra.

Bradley Thachuk
2010 - Present

To celebrate this landmark anniversary, renowned philanthropists, and generous symphony donors, Carol and David Appel have given a lead gift in support of this magnificent orchestra, with the hope that their example, and love of great music, will inspire others to mark this special year with a birthday gift for the NSO too.

Your Donation At Work!

- $200 funds 16 University or College students to attend a concert
- $600 rents 20 instruments at Summer Music Camp
- $1,000 covers the cost of having the NSO Story String Quartet play in schools throughout the region
- $3,000 helps cover the cost of the NSO’s Special Needs Resource Teacher at Summer Music Camp
- $10,000 subsidizes the cost of bringing world-class Guest Artists to you each season

Support the NSO’s creative concert programming, education outreach, and our future; watch us continue to grow and transcend cultural barriers for both adult and family audiences.

Your investment really is vital to the NSO and its strength as an artistic leader in the Niagara region. Every gift, no matter the size, contributes to achieving our goal to raise $70,000!

70 is going to be great! THANK YOU!