**News Release**

VIOLINIST KERSON LEONG AND MUSICIANS OF THE NAC ORCHESTRA GIVE BURSARY BENEFIT CONCERT, SUNDAY!

**March 19, 2014 – OTTAWA (Canada) –** Last year, Ottawa violinist Kerson Leong tore it up in the NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition, and won! This weekend, he’ll perform a concert of chamber music favourites with some of the musicians of the NAC Orchestra, with the proceeds going to this year’s NAC Orchestra Bursary.

The concert takes place this Sunday in Le Salon of the NAC on Sunday March 22 at 2 p.m. It’s a rare chance to hear such accomplished musicians in an intimate venue like the NAC’s Salon.

At the Bursary Benefit Concert Sunday, you’ll hear:

EWALD Quintet No.1 in B-flat minor, Op. 5

BRUCKNER Locus Iste

TOMASI Petite Suite for Four Horns

LOWELL SHAW Two Movements from "Quipperies" for Horn Quintet

LUDWIG MAURER Three Pieces for Brass Quintet

MOZART String Quintet in C Minor, K. 406

YSAŸE Violin Sonata, op. 27, No. 3 in D Minor “Ballade”

**Tickets are $20 and are available at the NAC Box Office and through Ticketmaster.**

The NAC Orchestra Bursary provides recognition and financial support to help further the development of young Canadian orchestral musicians who have connections to the National Capital Region.

**Roderick Bell** is current Chair of the NAC Orchestra Bursary Committee. Mr. Bell has undergraduate and post-graduate degrees in history. He recently retired from the Department of Foreign Affairs, where he had postings in Cairo, the UN Mission in New York, Tel Aviv, and Brazil, and as Canadian Ambassador to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Mr. Bell is a knowledgeable and passionate music lover; while posted abroad, he always sought to promote Canadian music and musicians, particularly younger musicians. Mr. Bell believes in the National Arts Centre’s community engagement programs, and that the encouragement of talented young people is truly essential.

The NAC Orchestra Bursary was established in 1979 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the National Arts Centre Orchestra and to thank the people of the National Capital Region for their support during the Orchestra’s first decade. The first NAC Orchestra Bursary Competition took place in 1981, when one prize of $1,000 was awarded. Thanks to the generosity of additional organizations and individuals, other prizes have been added, totaling $19,000 overall. The NACO Bursary Trust Fund provides funding for the NACO Bursary of $7,000; the NACO Vic Pomer Award contributes $2,000; and the NACO Special Prize for Best Orchestral Excerpts is worth $1000. The NACO Bursary Committee also has available three additional prizes to be awarded at the Jury’s discretion: the Harold Crabtree Foundation Award of $5,000; the Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra Award of $3,000, created in 1993 to celebrate the Orchestra’s 25th season; and the Piccolo Prix of $1,000 initiated in 2001 by Pasqualina (Pat) Adamo.

For additional information, visit the NAC website at [www.nac-cna.ca](http://www.nac-cna.ca/)

**-30-**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

|  |
| --- |
| Andrea HossackCommunications OfficerNational Arts Centre Orchestra(613) 947-7000, x335Cell : (613) 220-5487andrea.hossack@nac-cna.ca |