

# Information Package

*The Nova Scotia Talent Trust believes that artistically gifted Nova Scotians should be able to secure funding to develop their talents!*

*Helping Tomorrow's Artists Today*



## Who We Are

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The Nova Scotia Talent Trust (NSTT) believes that artistically gifted Nova Scotians should be able to secure adequate funding to develop their talents. That's why the NSTT strives to provide scholarships to individuals who demonstrate exceptional potential and commitment to become established artists in their chosen fields. The NSTT is a not-for-profit registered charity with an independent Board of Directors.

The Nova Scotia Talent Trust helps to ensure the future of Nova Scotia's vibrant cultural life by supporting tomorrow's artists today. Applicants of any age may apply to the NSTT but support is reserved for those who are not yet established in their fields. The NSTT supports Nova Scotians who are undertaking programs of study which will advance their artistic development and those who are pursuing career paths that will lead them to become established artists.

*The Nova Scotia Talent Trust is located in downtown Halifax, on Barrington Street at the foot of Spring Garden Road*



## Our Mission

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To ensure the future of Nova Scotia's vibrant cultural life by supporting tomorrow's artists today.

## Our Vision

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The Nova Scotia Talent Trust will enhance its activities to ensure that artistically gifted Nova Scotians will be recognized, nurtured, celebrated and supported in the development of their talents as they contribute to cultural life and achieve their potential locally, nationally and internationally.

## Why We Do What We Do

The Nova Scotia Talent Trust believes that the arts are essential for a well-rounded and healthy society. That's why, for over seventy years, the NSTT has championed talented Nova Scotians. It all began in 1944, with the support of a single vocal artist, the renowned singer Portia White. Today, the NSTT supports artists in all disciplines.

As tuition fees in arts disciplines become increasingly prohibitive and as financial return is often the principle incentive for making career decisions, the NSTT's financial backing is becoming critical for Nova Scotian artists.

Choosing a career in the arts requires the kind of passion and commitment that demands recognition and support. The NSTT is one of only a handful of organizations that offers scholarships/awards to artists at the formative stage of their careers. It is unique in the province with the level of support it gives to emerging talent in all art forms.

In order to achieve a meaningful level of support for scholarship recipients, the Nova Scotia Talent Trust is committed to raising funds to realize this goal.

*Nova Scotia Talent Trust Special Awards Ceremony 2015  
Scholarship Recipient and 2015 RBC Emerging Artist  
Award winner Holly Rice, writer with His Honour Brigadier - General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD  
(Ret'd) Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia at Halifax  
Central Library.*



## Why Your Support Is So Important

Your financial contribution will enable the NSTT to continue and increase funding to help tomorrow's important artists when they need it most – today. More importantly, your support will validate Nova Scotia's emerging artists and their work.

In 1961 the average NSTT scholarship was \$600 (8 scholarships) Fifty years later, in 2011, the average NSTT scholarship was \$1,309 (55 scholarships). This is an increase of only \$709 in 50 years.

•1961	professional training, tuition fee	\$ 2,600
•2015*	professional training, tuition fee	\$ 36,250
	living expenses, single occupancy	\$ 15,000
	studio time	\$ 8,825
Total costs today		\$ 60,075

\* New England Conservatory of Music, Boston, Massachusetts

## Nova Scotia Talent Trust Board Member *Key Responsibilities & Core Values*

### Financial Overview :

The NSTT's annual budget is approximately \$140,000. The total scholarship and award funding level has remained the same for the past five years at an average of \$97,000.\*

Goals :

- to increase the amount of scholarship funding

\*further financial details available upon request.



### Five 'Quick Facts' about the NSTT

- 1) The Nova Scotia Talent Trust is an independent organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. Recognized professional artists in their field form an independent volunteer Scholarship Selection Committee of approx. twelve members to award scholarships and special awards.
- 2) The Nova Scotia Talent Trust has awarded a total of more than \$2 million in scholarships since 1944.
- 3) Recipients have used the funds to enrich their artistic experience, studying at institutions such as: the National Ballet School of Canada, the Banff Centre for the Arts, the National Theatre School of Canada, the Julliard School, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, the New England Conservatory of Music and the Canadian Film Centre.
- 4) NSTT recipients over the last 70 years include harpsichordist **Gordon Murray**, organist **John Grew**, soprano **Deborah Jeans**, actor **Don Allison**, painter **Jean Edmonds Hancock**, classical guitarist **Dale Kavanagh**, French horn player **David Parker**, soprano **Sue Doran**, filmmaker **Shandi Mitchell** and actress **Sara Orenstein**. More recently, artists have included dancer **Sarah Murphy**, composer **Cy Giacomini**, actor **Anne Marie Woods**, poet **Maureen Hull**, soprano **Jane Archibald**, luthier **Simon Shaw**, dancer **Ian Parsons** and cellist **Denise Djokic**.
- 5) In the past year the Nova Scotia Talent Trust has presented a total of \$104,750 in scholarships and special awards to 49 recipients.



# Nova Scotia Talent Trust Foundation

## What We Do

We would like to introduce you to a new member of the Nova Scotia Talent Trust family, the Nova Scotia Talent Trust **Foundation**. The NSTT **Foundation** is a not-for-profit organization, registered in Nova Scotia, with charitable status.

The impetus for establishing the NSTT **Foundation** was a generous legacy gift made by the Nova Scotia Coalition on Arts and Culture who wanted to ensure that their contribution would support the work of the Nova Scotia Talent Trust now and well into the future. This, along with the inevitable consequence of ever-increasing demands made on governments for funding, led us to see the importance of having an endowment fund to provide ongoing, stable funding for the Nova Scotia Talent Trust. The role of the NSTT **Foundation** is to steward significant resources and make the income available to the NSTT to fund artists in accordance with its mandate.

Now, in addition to supporting our developing artists on an annual basis through the Nova Scotia Talent Trust, you can also make a donation to the endowment fund through the NSTT **Foundation**. Contributions are eligible for a charitable donation receipt. They may be made as a one-time gift or pledged over time. Another way to consider support for the NSTT **Foundation** is through a bequest in your will. Thank-you in advance for considering this way of ensuring Nova Scotia artists in the future will continue to be able to reach their full potential.

A member of the volunteer Board of the **Foundation** would be happy to meet with you to discuss how best you can ensure the long-term future of the NSTT through this opportunity.

## NSTT Foundation Board of Directors

**Jane Smith**, Chair

**Peter Mushkat**, Secretary-Treasurer

**Timothy Matthews, Q.C.** Vice-chair

**Ann Kitz**

## Contact the NSTT Foundation

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P.O. Box 172, Halifax CRO  
Halifax, NS B3J 2M4

phone: (902) 492-6801  
fax: (902) 425-7364  
email: [admin@nsttfoundation.org](mailto:admin@nsttfoundation.org)

*The Nova Scotia Talent Trust Foundation is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency as a Charitable Organization (81474 3704 RR0001).*

*The Nova Scotia Talent Trust Foundation is registered with the Nova Scotia Registry of Joint Stock Companies (3263876).*

## Nova Scotia Talent Trust Former Scholarship Recipients

**Walter Borden** – Actor, Poet – In addition to film, television and radio work, he has recorded the critically acclaimed CD *Walter Borden Reads the Sonnets of William Shakespeare to the Music of Fernando Sor*. He is a recipient of the Order of Canada and the African Nova Scotian Music Association (ANSMA) Music Heritage Award for his mentoring and promoting two generations of African Nova Scotian musical talent, as well as the Portia White Prize.

**Barbara Hannigan** – Soprano, Conductor – *She is an artist who combines thrilling passion with exceptional technique. Much sought after in contemporary music - she has given over 75 world premières - she is no less brilliant and devoted a performer of Baroque and Classical music. Bringing freshness to older music and authority to new, she is among the very few singers whose every performance is an occasion.* – Paul Griffiths

**Janice Jackson** – Soprano – Janice Jackson is one of Canada's foremost interpreters of contemporary vocal repertoire. She has performed in modern music festivals and concert halls around the world, sung over 180 world premieres, appeared as a guest artist with numerous modern music ensembles. A highlight during 2011 was the world premiere of Tim Brady's *We're Hardcore*, seven songs based on poetry by the Tragically Hip's Gordon Downie with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

**Veronique MacKenzie** – Dancer, Choreographer – MacKenzie has been one of Nova Scotia's most eclectic choreographers for more than 20 years having created for film, television and the stage. She has performed across the country creating multi-disciplinary and site-specific productions. A recipient of one of Nova Scotia's prestigious Established Artist Awards she continues to create collaborative work as well as immerse herself in the exploration of the comedic and traditional genres.

**Alasdair MacLean** – Composer – MacLean's compositions have been played across Canada and in the US, Britain, France, China and Japan. He was appointed the first ever composer-in-residence with Symphony Nova Scotia 1996-2000. MacLean's tenure provided six new works for orchestra or chorus and orchestra, and a piano concerto commissioned by the CBC. His piece *One Becoming* was featured in Redstar Film's portrait of Denise Djokic, *Seven Days, Seven Nights*.

**Shandi Mitchell** – Author, Filmmaker – Mitchell graduated from Dalhousie University with a degree in English and Theatre. Her award-winning short films have been featured at festivals across North America. In 2008, she was awarded the Canada Council's Victor Martin-Lynch Staunton Endowment in Media Arts. Her debut novel *Under This Unbroken Sky* has sold in nine countries. Her debut feature film *The Disappeared* was shown in all major Film Festivals across Canada. Shawn Doyle won Best Actor Award 2013 for his role in *The Disappeared*.

**Ian Parsons** – Dancer – Parsons began his dance training at the Maritime Conservatory of the Performing Arts and went on to attend Canada's National Ballet School, graduating in 2007. He stayed at the National Ballet of Canada as an apprentice. In 2009, he joined Les Ballets de Monte Carlo in Monaco. In June 2012, he relocated to London to pursue a musical theatre career; dancing in *Les Misérables* (Film) and *Cabaret*.

**E. Alex Pierce** – Author – Her poetry collection, *Vox Humana*, was published by Brick in 2011. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing (poetry) from Warren Wilson College, NC, and is currently Series Editor for the CBU Press' *The Essential Cape Breton Library*. Pierce has won numerous awards for both poetry and creative non-fiction, and conducts writing workshops across Canada. *Whatever the subject, the real strength of Pierce's work lies in the richness of its landscape which is forever opening out before us, transfigured by an inner music and wonder and light* – John Glenday.

**Colleen Wolstenholme** – Jewellery, Painting, Sculpture, Embroidery, Digital Collage – She received a Bachelor of Fine Art in 1986 from NSCAD and a Master of Fine Art in 1992 from the State University of New York, The College at New Paltz. Her pharmaceutically inspired sculptures and jewellery gained prominence internationally and her work has been widely featured in magazines and journals, as well as being reviewed in numerous art publications.

## Nova Scotia Talent Trust

### Testimonials From Past NSTT Scholarship Recipients/Award Winners:

*Please accept my thanks for your support in my education and work. This award was unexpected and a complete vote of confidence that I needed.*

*The first NSTT scholarship I got taught me a lot about the publishing side of writing, and the second scholarship was towards the honing of my craft. I think there is something incredibly precise and lean about a short story, and with the support of the Nova Scotia Talent Trust, I have been able to poke and prod at its form, trying again and again to shape each story I write better. I cannot express how great the Nova Scotia Talent Trust is and has been to me.*

*All the Best, and Many Thanks,*

**- Pearl Chan**



**Pearl Chan, writer and Editor at the Impressment Gang, Halifax, 2014 winner of the RBC Emerging Artist Award.**

*Thank you so much for the confidence and support you have shown me in awarding me the 2014 Robert George Jackson Award. I am honoured to be recognized for excellence in dance, an art I have been practicing since I was three years old and have always considered my passion.*

*This gift has allowed me to pursue what I love and has given me a sign that I am on the right track! It is wonderful to be able to say that my hard work has paid off. I am extremely grateful for the recognition and financial support.*

*Thank-you!*

*Sincerely,*

**- Chloe Hart**



**Chloe Hart, dancer, 2014 winner of the Robert George Jackson Award**



*Words cannot express my thanks and gratitude for this incredible and completely unexpected support & validation as an artist and as a composer. Thank you so much to everyone involved for this incredibly generous award - I promise to do my absolute best to continually strive to live up to the responsibility of such a momentous gift. Please accept my sincerest thanks for your confidence in me as a composer and as a Nova Scotian artist – this truly means the world to me, and the support is far above anything I ever imagined.*

*It is further all the more significant to me because it has come from my home province. As I finish my master's degree this spring of 2015 in Vancouver, this huge gift of financial stability and artistic affirmation could not have come at a better time for my career, and I guarantee that this award in its entirety will go towards my efforts at becoming a better, more effective, more capable and relevant Nova Scotian artist and, specifically, a Nova Scotian composer. I will always strive to represent Nova Scotia to the absolute best of my ability. I am indebted to everyone at the 2011 Canada Games Legacy Fund and the Nova Scotia Talent Trust for this amazing support.*

*Sincerely,*

**- Lucas Oickle**

**Lucas Oickle, composer, 2014 winner of the 2011 Canada Games Emerging Artist of Excellence Award**

**Nova Scotia Talent Trust**  
**- Board of Directors - 2016/17 -**

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**George M. Clarke**  
Lawyer, Boyne & Clarke  
Dartmouth, NS

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**(Development Committee Chair)**  
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Retired Broadcaster  
Sambro, NS

**Erin Sparks (Vice Chair)**  
Art Program Officer  
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**Catherine (Cate) Weis**  
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Kentville, NS

**Leila Kovacevic (Secretary)**  
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Dartmouth, NS

**E. Alex Pierce**  
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**Jacob Caines**  
Art Administrator  
Halifax, NS

**- Board Governance - Honourary & Lifetime Appointments -**

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**His Honour Brigadier - General**  
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**(Ret'd)**  
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia  
Halifax, NS  
*Honourary Chair*

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Financial Planner,  
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Executive Director

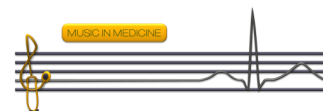
~ Jacqueline Steudler



# Nova Scotia Talent Trust Community

## Our Community Partners

The Nova Scotia Talent Trust gratefully acknowledges the support of the following corporate and community partners:



The Nova Scotia Talent Trust recognizes the support of Arts Nova Scotia. We are pleased to work in partnership with the province to develop and promote our cultural resources for all Nova Scotians.

## Nova Scotia Talent Trust Web & Contact Information

### On the Web

For more information please visit our website at

**[www.nstalenttrust.ns.ca](http://www.nstalenttrust.ns.ca)**

Join Us! on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nstalenttrust](http://www.facebook.com/nstalenttrust)

### Contact us...

#### Jacqueline Steudler, Executive Director

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