



AN INVESTMENT IN EXCELLENCE

During Election 2011, Ontario's 65 orchestras are asking all parties to:

- Affirm the important role, contribution and effectiveness of the Ontario Arts Council and the Ontario Trillium Foundation in enriching the artistic life of Ontario communities
- Sustain, and over time increase, Ontario's investment in the arts
- Provide the policies and conditions to ensure that arts education remains a vital and universally accessible part of Ontario's school curriculum.

Why? Because orchestras are a good investment.

A community's orchestra is an integral part of its social and economic fabric, bringing people together to make the places they live more vibrant and healthy. Every year, performances by Ontario orchestras reach almost 1 million Ontarians directly; as well, orchestras – and the musicians they engage – partner with schools, health care facilities, municipalities, corporate groups, service clubs, art galleries and museums, churches and others to enrich community life. Orchestras are economic drivers, education partners, community builders, and a source of pride in towns and regions right across the province.

Government investment in Ontario's symphony orchestras pays direct dividends back to the province. Orchestras create jobs in the communities where they are located – and the labour-intensive nature of a symphony gives it the highest multiplier of any economic sector.

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra is a world leader in the field of historically-informed performance, has a discography of over 80 recordings, and regularly represents Ontario on the stages of the world's great concert halls. In 2011-12, they will perform at home in Toronto and in Europe, Australia, the United States – and Parry Sound, Port Hope, and Mindemoya (Manitoulin Island), ON.

The critically-acclaimed **Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony** works with Pathways to Education, an organization that enhances the opportunities for success for students from vulnerable communities. In partnership with Pathways, the KWS team delivers a program that includes music lessons by professional teachers, the loan of instruments, performance opportunities, and tickets to KWS concerts for the students and their families.

Seven professional musicians live, work and pay taxes in the City of Timmins (population 42,997), thanks in part to the **Timmins Symphony Orchestra**. They provide leadership to the volunteer musicians in the orchestra, inspire the 45 singers in the Timmins Symphony Chorus, perform in a series of chamber music concerts, and teach over 300 students – from pre-kindergarten to seniors – at the Timmins Symphony School of Music.

The **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** is receiving both national and international acclaim for its determined pursuit of artistic excellence and a more diverse audience. A recent item in the LA Times notes that “going to the symphony has become a normal thing to do for under 35s in Toronto,” and the New York Times praised a recent TSO performance at Carnegie Hall, saying that music director Peter Oundjian’s “dramatic shaping of [Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7] illuminated its searing passions, and the orchestra responded with a remarkable fluidity and power”. The TSO’s curriculum-linked education programs and teaching materials have received national praise.

The **Ottawa Youth Orchestra Academy**, which celebrates its 30th anniversary in 2012, engages 26 expert musicians to lead and inspire its two full orchestras, eight instrumental ensembles for strings, winds, brass and harp, and introductory instrumental and pre-school programs – programs that engage over 300 participants each year. Graduates from the OYOA are playing in professional orchestras across North America. As well, the OYOA has a close relationship with Orkidstra, a Sistema-inspired program in the national capital region that provides high-quality and intensive music training to children at risk.

The **Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra** – the largest arts organization in northern Ontario – just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Every year, the TBSO tours across a region larger than France, bringing great symphonic music to schools and communities from Kenora to Chapleau, including many First Nations communities and schools operated by the Nishnawbe-Aski Education Authority.

Ontario orchestras derive a remarkable 80% of their revenues from ticket sales and fundraising initiatives. The Ontario Arts Council contributes 6.3%, with the balance coming from two other levels of government and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Government funding plays a small but critical role in sustaining Ontario’s orchestras – ensuring that orchestras have the ability to plan long term, keep programs accessible, build relationships with community partners, and invest in – and inspire – innovation. Another way of looking at it: every dollar invested by the Ontario Arts Council in orchestras leverages an additional \$11.24 through ticket sales or private donations.

Orchestras are an essential part of the fabric of Ontario communities. The Government of Ontario, by sustaining arts investment and facilitating arts-friendly educational policy, will ensure that orchestras continue to serve Ontario communities for years to come.

