

Declan Lavoie

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Mr. David Laister
Director of Awards and Bequests
KIP 5P9
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Laister and Friends of the NAC Orchestra,

I'm writing to express my gratitude for the scholarship that I was awarded thanks to your generous donation.

I am a 17 year old violinist and have been playing since around the age of five with my teachers Serhii Vyhovskyi and Elena Vyhovska. My mother, having participated in the local music festivals of her childhood, enrolled me in my first piano Kiwanis class when I was 6. I have participated ever year since. The festival is always a great experience, and it is interesting to hear the adjudicators' suggestions which can often give me a new perspective on a piece or musical phrase. Over the years I have won the Junior Strings Trophy (2012), the Intermediate Strings Trophy (2013, 2014), the Senior Strings Trophy (2016) and the Most Promising Musician Trophy (2014). I also won a gold medal at the 2015 OMFA provincials competition.

I am currently finishing up my grade 10 violin and will be entering open level classes next year. I had the privilege of performing at Ottawa International Chamberfest's Rising Stars Concert on July 24th where I was awarded one of four scholarships for the most outstanding performances. I performed the adagio movement of Max Bruch's 1st violin concerto.

Besides my solo musical endeavours I am the concert master of a 15 member violin ensemble in the Ottawa area called The Vyhovskyi Strings. We organize biannual fundraising concerts, and our latest was a collaboration with The School of Dance. It was a fundraiser for the Dragonfly program for dancers with Down Syndrome at the National Art Gallery.

I'm not entirely sure what role music will play once I leave for university, but I am considering doing a double major, hopefully at either McGill or the Université de Montréal. I do know however that music will be something that I continue for the rest of my life. The scholarship I was awarded will help fund my violin lessons and rehearsals with my accompanist for the 2016-2017 year. Once again, thank you for your support!

Sincerely,



Declan Lavoie