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Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted and honoured to have been presented the 2016 Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra Outstanding Woodwind Player Award. I accept this award with the sincerest gratitude to the Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra for their tireless work in promoting music education across the country.

At the age of 4, I was formally introduced to music when I began violin and piano lessons. Since then, I have my love of music has flourished from countless hours of practice, rehearsal, and performance. Participating in all of the choral, jazz, and wind ensembles during my four years at Bayview Secondary School has instilled in me a great appreciation for the senses of community and accomplishment created by diverse types of ensemble music-making.

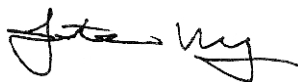
A major musical highlight of my life thus far has been playing with the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra for the past three seasons. The experiences of playing with many of the finest musicians in the GTA on performance tours to Shanghai and Chicago – and soon, New York – have given me great joy and ignited a passion for personal improvement in my clarinet playing and a desire for greater public performing experience.

All of these musical experiences spurred my auditioning for undergraduate music programs one year ago. I have now completed my first year of study at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music towards a Bachelor of Music, specializing in music education. This past year has been replete with new opportunities and plenty of fantastic music, and I eagerly await the experiences the next three years will bring.

The 2016 Friends of the NAC Orchestra Outstanding Woodwind Player Award is my first major award for clarinet performance. As such, I am greatly encouraged by this recognition to continue striving for musical excellence. The monetary award will go towards my purchase of a new clarinet this year.

Once again, thank you for this recognition and support.

Yours in music,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Wong', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Wong