



May, 2010

Name
Address
City, PROV CODE

**“Of all the arts that serve mankind,
none is more powerful nor more universal than music.”**

*Edward Johnson
Canadian tenor, 1878 – 1959*

I'd like to share a story with you.

One day, I was walking along the main street in downtown Stratford, when a gentleman stopped me. “John,” he said, “I want to thank you for bringing music to our Stratford summers.”

Of course, I am always thrilled to hear from people who enjoy the musical feast we call Stratford Summer Music, but this gentleman's story went even deeper.

It seems his granddaughter loved music, and showed great promise as a brass musician during her high-school years. She dreamed of becoming a professional musician – but doubted there was a place for her in the “real” world outside her high-school band.

That all changed when her grandfather took her to a Summer Music concert that year. The concert showcased the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and when the granddaughter saw firsthand that other young women were playing in such an ensemble, she found the strength – and the inspiration – to make music her life's work.

Help celebrate a Summer Music milestone

As someone who has supported Summer Music in the past, you are part of this story too. For Summer Music, like all performing arts and cultural events, relies on donor support to make much of its programming possible. So thank you for your help in changing this young lady's life!

This year Summer Music celebrates its tenth anniversary. To mark this special occasion we've planned a fantastic season, full of all the thrilling musical experiences you've come to expect from your summer music festival.

But we can't do it without you. With ticket sales meeting just 15% of our expenses, and government support shrinking year after year, donor support is a vital source of funding for all the music you enjoy each year during Summer Music.

So I'm writing today to ask you to help **celebrate this special milestone by renewing your support.**

We call our supporters our "Friends" – and with good reason!

Your Friendship gift will help bring incredible international artists to Stratford for a full five weeks of music this summer – artists like Canadian superstar Ben Heppner, the Jeng Yi Drummers from Korea, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Copenhagen's world-famous Tivoli Boys Guard Band, and much more.

It will help fund dozens of outdoor concerts along the picturesque Avon River, and our wildly popular late-night cabarets in the historic Church restaurant.

Most importantly, it will help keep 42% of Summer Music concerts completely free of charge, and guarantee that no ticket will be priced higher than \$40.00.

Your support helps keep the music playing!

In ten short years, Stratford's "other" festival has grown to be one of the most important summer music festivals in Canada, bringing its unique blend of classical, jazz and modern music to a city already known around the world for its commitment to artistic excellence.

When you make a donation to Stratford Summer Music, you become part of this spirit of excellence. You help introduce new generations of musicians and music lovers to the great works of the classical and jazz repertoires, and you make a sound investment in the cultural fabric of our city and our country.

And, who knows? You might even change the life of a young musician with big dreams.

Please give generously. Thank you!

Sincerely,

John A. Miller
Artistic Producer

PS: It's easy to make your **tax-free** donation. Call us today at 519-271-2101, or toll-free at 1-866-288-4313. You can also donate online at www.stratfordsummermusic.ca, or simply fill in the attached form and send it back to us.

PPS: Any amount is *most* appreciated. But we are particularly interested in growing our Friends. A gift at this level will do the most to **keep Stratford Summer Music vibrant, exciting and affordable.**

Thank you for your support!