

Artist in Residence Program Information

The National Music Centre's Artist in Residence program is designed to feed and nurture artistic creativity and technical innovation by providing artists at various levels of professional development with uninterrupted time and space, and the use of our unique collection and expertise to create new and innovative works.

Program Elements

This self-directed program seeks to enhance creative skills and personal progression by facilitating concentrated artistic exploration and discovery in a context that is tailored to each project and creative approach.

Definition

Artist = professional, established, and emerging musicians, bands, ensembles, composers/arrangers, songwriters, producers, technicians, educators, academics and interdisciplinary project participants.

Application Process

Please note: For the 2016 Fall and 2017 Winter AiR pilot program, the application deadline is May 31, 2016. Residencies will take place between October 2016—March 2017.

Selection Criteria

Artists will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Those who have demonstrated excellence, aptitude and drive in their chosen or prospective field of work.
- Those projects with artistic merit that show promise and originality.
- Those who propose creative use of the NMC collection, equipment, and resources.
- Those who help fulfill the NMC mandate to serve all levels of artistic development and diversity regarding gender, ethnicity, age, region, and musical genre.
- Potential impact of the project on the artist's career, audience, NMC, and Calgary
- Evaluation of community outreach potential.

Admissions

A committee comprised of staff, specialists, and industry professionals will convene to review applicant submissions and select successful participants.

Residency Period

Residencies typically range from 2 to 10 days depending on availability and the scope of the project. Residencies generally take place during the day, however, some hours may need to be negotiated around artist needs, resources, and other NMC programming.

Facilities

Artists in Residence are provided with:

- A period of focused time to concentrate on personal artistic development and work towards their proposed project.
- An opportunity to use, sample, and record unique instruments from the collection at NMC.
- Access to performance spaces for community outreach and engagement.
- Access to NMC's specialized Collections staff and their expertise.

Community Outreach

All artists participating in the Artist in Residence program are required to participate in some form of community outreach as part of their residency (i.e. performance, workshop, talk, mentorship, collaborative projects, or presenting works in progress).

Photo/Video/Media

All artists participating in the Artist in Residence program are required to provide a short video testimonial of their time spent in residence at NMC and to allow for photo and video documentation of their residency. This is to be used for promotional and archival purposes as a testimony for future residencies, and as a way of documenting the long-term care and maintenance of the collection. NMC will receive appropriate credit on all recordings worked on, or completed while in residence. NMC will handle all media requests on a case-by-case basis and at the discretion of the artist.

Travel, Housing and Meals

Transportation, accommodation, and meals are the responsibility of the artist.

Instruments/Equipment

Artists are required to fully clarify all equipment and instrument needs at the time of application. When possible, NMC will make best efforts to also provide access to instruments and equipment that are not specified in advance, but are discovered while the artist is in residence. Download and review the Instrument/Equipment List and indicate which instruments/equipment are required to fulfill your project needs. Please focus your selections to your top ten and rate them in order of importance, indicating the rationale behind your choices where possible.

Artists are also asked to bring (or discuss) any additional equipment, resources, devices and/or software not provided by NMC that may be essential to their residency, and specify these items at the time of application.

Recording Facilities

The NMC recording facility was designed by world-renowned studio design firm Pilchner-Schoustal

International Inc. NMC recording environments are integrated and connected using both digital and analogue technologies, providing a wide range of opportunities to enhance the creative process.

Special features:

- 3 main control rooms (production environments)
- 3 large studios (recording environments)
- 3 isolation sound booths
- 3 recording consoles: Rolling Stones Recording Mobile Studio, Olympic and Trident A-Range
- Acoustic sound lab (exploration into NMC's vast acoustic musical instrument collection)
- Electronic sound lab (exploration into NMC's vast electronic musical instrument collection)

Collection

The National Music Centre (NMC) is the only venue for the presentation, preservation, and amplification of music history. NMC is motivated to make music history accessible and continuing. **Our unique approach to a “living” collection of musical instruments aims to carefully balance the preservation of collection artifacts with opportunities for responsible artifact access.**

The Artist in Residence program is the main access point to our living collection of musical instruments. We believe in more than just the physical accessibility; intellectual, social, and historical information contained within an instrument cannot be fully realized unless played.

In order to achieve our mission, we developed several methods to safely provide interpretive and artist access to our living musical instrument collections. Our methods not only ensure a high level of care and protection for the instruments, they also align with our institution's vision to be a national catalyst for discovery, innovation, and renewal through music.