



KEEPING FAITH

NEW BRUNSWICK YOUTH ORCHESTRA • FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATION





Our “Keeping Faith” visual wordmark,
presented in English, French, German and
Czech, was commissioned by the
New Brunswick Youth Orchestra (NBYO)
to honour and respect the countries and
cultures visited on the commemoration tour.



Keeping Faith
Gardons espoir
In Zuversicht
S'vrou

KEEPING FAITH

A reflection for the fallen and those who remember





We keep faith with the fallen
and with their families,
the broken, the broken-hearted.

We keep faith with the volunteers and conscripts,
the victors, the vanquished, all victims
who carried secrets and scars to their graves.

We keep faith with the hamlets and villages, towns and cities
who gave their best,
emptied of a generation of hope and vigour,
or leveled by conflict that engulfed their homes.

We keep faith with our home and native land,
which went to battle as child and returned as adult,
a nation forged from fire, as the hammer of war struck resolve,
courage and sacrifice.

TO KEEP FAITH?

We remember,
forever, we mourn the loss, we count the cost,
in lives and hopes and dreams exploded.

We look,
and do not look away.
We contemplate the grimmest scenes, reflect on what they mean
And honour courage there displayed.









We mark a victory, acknowledge the price,
and recognize the pain and loss, for every side, all paid so dear
in body and soul and futures gone.

We treasure the record of those who said yes,
the conscripts and wary volunteers,
the eager warriors,
the bold adventurers, the merely willing,
for none could know what lay in store on foreign shores.

We engrave their names and tell their tales,
wear the flower and salute their flag, and pause,
sobered again by the price they paid.

And lifting our eyes
from trenches and mud,
from bullets and blood,
we ask what must we do
so gains are not lost,
nor lessons unlearned,
and the dead robbed of life yet again.

WHAT CAN BE DONE? WHAT MUST WE DO?

No answer comes, but hope.

No guarantee but vision.

No way forward, but the promise of youth.

No choice to make except to understand and be understood.

To meet, to bond, to share in the world beyond our walls.









And as bomb blasts fade,
quiet notes sound and calm our fears;
gunfire yields to the swelling harmony
of common bonds and expert skill;
straining towards the elusive opus of peace,
we learn, rehearse, practice and perform,
until faith is truly kept,
lasting and secure.

- by Larry Matthews
(for the NBYO First World War Commemoration)



KEEPING FAITH: COMMEMORATION & BEYOND

Reflecting on the First World War leads to the jarring realization that if our Orchestra members had been alive 100 years ago, many would have been in the heart of combat. All would be supporting the war effort from home. A very large number would have died, and each of them, their families and communities, would have paid a price.

Our young people have very different lives, not just from the passage of time, but because of a foundation of sacrifice and pain. We often hear that Canada came of age as an independent nation during the First World War, but the price of maturity was high.

So the NBYO is joining the effort to keep faith with veterans, and their families and communities. We are using print, video and an original composition commissioned and performed by the NBYO to help people of all ages connect with the story of New Brunswick and Canada during “the war to end all wars.”

The power of music, amplified by youth and their passion will help embed the facts and lessons of war in our hearts as well as our heads. We keep faith by raising awareness among today's young people – among all of us really – of the importance of cultivating tolerance, international understanding and peace.

Today, some Canadians continue to make the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace, a sobering facet of our modern age. We turn to them with appreciation and support. Yet we cannot leave the task only to those on the front lines. Educating ourselves to treasure what we have, and recognize what it cost, and then to choose roads to peace also honours the legacy we receive.

So we invite you to reflect on the price paid by so many, and to revel in the music. Through the “Keeping Faith” tour, the NBYO strives to replace the clamour of battle with the sound of music that resonates with the idealism, genius, hope and promise of our youth.



- *Ken MacLeod,*
President / CEO, NBYO
*(on behalf of the musicians and Board of Directors
of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra)*

A DREAM OF DAWN

The centerpiece of the NBYO Commemoration Tour is the orchestral work, “A Dream of Dawn”, by respected Canadian composer Kevin Lau, commissioned by the NBYO to mark the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the First World War.

Lau describes the commission as a project of gratitude, a commemoration, through music, of a generation who served and sacrificed. “My intention”, said Lau, “is not to paint a musical portrait of war, or to literalize a particular chronology of events, but rather to compliment—in meditative fashion—the reflections of those listeners pondering war in all its paradoxical facets.

“My goal, through music, is to recognize the horrors of human conflict while affirming our profound search for harmony in ourselves and abroad.”

What better path to finding harmony than by harnessing the idealism, genius, hope and promise of our youth, to build the world of which their century-old counterparts could only dream – a dream of dawn.



KEVIN LAU

COMPOSER

Described as a “self-assured voice” (Barczablog) with a “masterful control over his idiom” (Classical Music Sentinel), Kevin Lau is quickly establishing himself as one of Canada’s forefront emerging composers. His music has been commissioned and performed by over twenty ensembles including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Mississauga Symphony Orchestra, Hannaford Street Silver Band, and Afiara Quartet. Most recently, he was commissioned by the National Ballet of Canada to create a full-length ballet score based on Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s novel *Le Petit Prince* (with original choreography by Guillaume Côté.) His music is commercially available on Naxos Canadian Classics (featuring the Mercer-Park Duo) and Cambria Records (featuring violinist Conrad Chow.)

Kevin is also active as a film composer, conductor, pianist, and arranger. In 2007, Kevin co-founded the Sneak Peek Orchestra (with conductor Victor Cheng), where he remained artistic director till 2014. Since receiving his doctorate music composition from the University of Toronto under the supervision of Christos Hatzis, he has served as composer-in-residence for the Mississauga Symphony Orchestra (2010-12) and the Banff Centre (2012). He is currently the Toronto Symphony Orchestra’s Affiliate Composer (2012-15).





*26th Battalion and
Ammunition Column
leaving the port of
Saint John, NB*

PROPELLED INTO THE FUTURE: NEW BRUNSWICK AND THE GREAT WAR

*Prepared for the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra
by Brent Wilson*

Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society,
University of New Brunswick

On the Eve of War

“When Britain is at war, Canada is at war, there is no distinction.”

That declaration by Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier in 1910, four years before the onset of the First World War, resonated deeply with the people of New Brunswick. For most, it was keeping faith with their heritage, their home and their beliefs. But the coming war would also catapult New Brunswickers and all Canadians into a new and different era.

In 1914 New Brunswick was a small province, with a population of about 371,000 people. Still largely rural with several urban centres like Saint John, Moncton and Fredericton, its economy depended heavily on agriculture. Many New Brunswickers also engaged in lumbering

and fishing. Shipbuilding was an important industry while communities such as Chipman and Minto carried out mining operations.

Provincial society was still largely traditional, although changes were occurring. On the eve of the war most New Brunswickers had been born in the province. Many had descended from English, Scots or Irish immigrants and were intensely loyal to Britain, while others traced their roots to Acadian ancestors. At the same time many young New Brunswickers had begun to move away, often in search of work, and the overall population was getting older. Although out-migration was partly offset by new immigrants, New Brunswick's relative decline in population stood in marked contrast to the rapid growth taking place in many other parts of the country.

Called to Arms

Canada joined the Great War on August 4, 1914 when Britain's ultimatum to Germany to withdraw its invading forces from Belgium expired. The news evoked strong patriotic enthusiasm in New Brunswick, especially in urban areas. Many put empire before nation and were proud to support Britain in its struggle against Germany. It was widely believed that this would be a short war and the troops would soon return home victorious.

Although New Brunswick was a long way from the battlefields of Europe, the threat of war was not so distant. The province's Atlantic and Gulf of St. Lawrence coasts and shipping were potentially vulnerable to enemy raiders and later submarines. The Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy patrolled the coastal waters and the militia manned fortifications defending the port of Saint John throughout the war.

Marshaling the troops for overseas service would take some time, but New Brunswickers responded immediately. When, on August 6, the federal government called for volunteers for a first contingent, many members from the province's militia units and veterans of the Boer War came forward out of a sense of patriotism and/or duty, or in quest of adventure. In August and September, they traveled to Camp Valcartier in Quebec where these first New Brunswick volunteers — the "originals" — helped to form, among other units, the 12th Infantry Battalion and the Divisional Heavy Battery and Ammunition Column. Both proceeded to Britain in October.

The second contingent also began mobilizing in October. New Brunswickers responding to this call formed the 26th New Brunswick Battalion, CEF, the province's only infantry battalion at the front for most of the war, and the 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column. Both sailed from Saint John for Britain in June 1915.

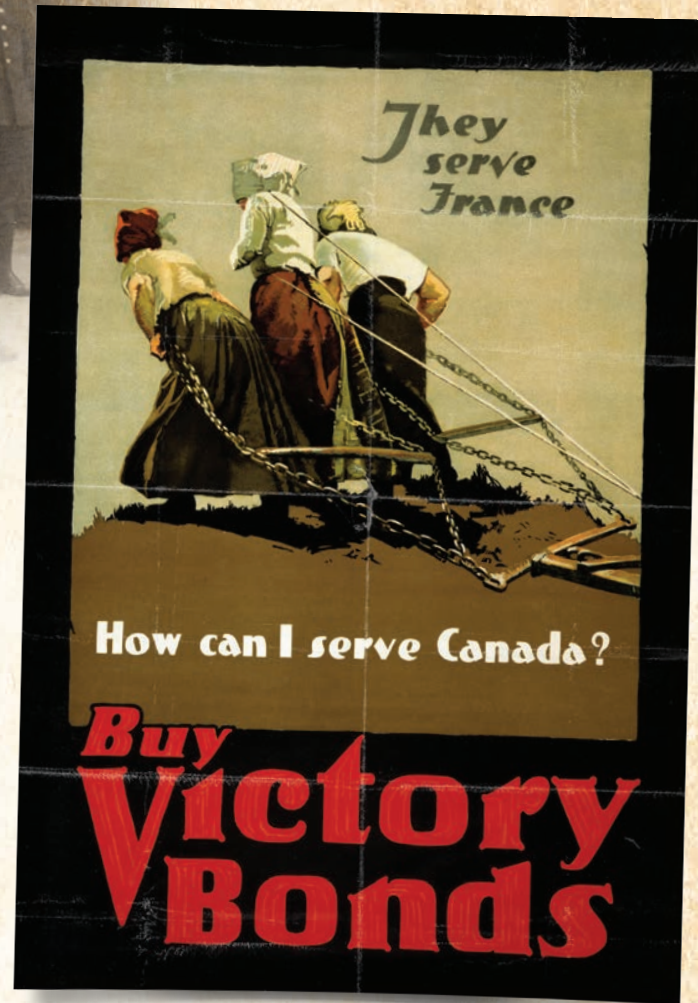
*Large crowd gathers
to watch the 26th
Battalion leave
Saint John, NB*





As soldiers were enlisting, civilians on the home front took up the call. Politicians, clergy, teachers, and newspaper editors used their influence and positions to encourage youth to join up. The young men responded, including many students from the University of New Brunswick.

To demonstrate support for their soldiers serving overseas many wrote letters, knitted socks, and sent local newspapers to the troops. Others helped raise funds for the Red Cross, the Patriotic Fund for widows and orphans of deceased soldiers, and for Belgian Relief, or to help buy a machine gun, or equip a medical field ambulance. These efforts expanded and eventually the government launched highly-publicized Victory Bond drives to help finance the national war effort.



Duty, loyalty and sacrifice

Over the next two years it became clear that Canada was engaged in a grinding total war that would not soon end. New Brunswickers stepped up their recruitment and during 1915 and 1916 they raised many more military units, including at least nine more infantry battalions, several field and heavy artillery batteries, as well as field ambulance and forestry corps units. In Britain many of these units were typically broken up for reinforcement drafts, and in due time many more boys from New Brunswick found themselves at the front in France and Belgium (Flanders). By the end of the war 27,061 New Brunswickers had joined up, 17,016 of whom went overseas.

The war effort at home gained momentum as people stepped forward to “do their duty.” Non-government volunteer civilian organizations like the Red Cross Society were front-and-center in supporting the effort. Women’s organizations like the Women’s Institute continued sending comforts to soldiers abroad and supporting soldiers’ families at home. “Loyalty and sacrifice” became their guiding principles. Lady Alice Tilley, the wife of Sir Leonard Tilley

— one of New Brunswick’s Fathers of Confederation and a former lieutenant-governor — was an active fundraiser and organizer for the war effort, especially with the Red Cross.

New Brunswick farmers took on the challenge of increasing food production, which was made doubly difficult by labour force shortages created by large-scale enlistments. Yet our farmers delivered tens of thousands of bushels of produce, especially potatoes, to Britain. New Brunswick also contributed to the country’s rapidly expanding munitions industries by converting foundries like T. M. McAvity and Sons in Saint John to shell manufacturing. Here again as in other sectors, women played a key role in this achievement by joining the work force in larger numbers, many for the first time in their lives.

By early 1917, New Brunswick’s soldiers had begun to fight in battles like Second Ypres, Festubert, Mount Sorrel, the Somme, and Vimy Ridge. Family after family began receiving the dreaded notification of the death or injury of loved ones, and the enormous human cost of this war became increasingly clear on the battlefields and at home.

During the attack on the village of Courcellette, France on the Somme on September 15, 1916 — the 26th Battalion's first major battle — the unit suffered 325 casualties, including 80 soldiers killed and 245 wounded, its largest losses in a single battle during the war. The fighting continued for another three weeks: By the time the battalion left the Somme in early October they had lost over 500 men, half their strength.

New Brunswick-recruited soldiers were proud of their home province. Early in the war, reinforcements for New Brunswick units, particularly the 26th, came from many provinces and some worried that they were losing their provincial identity. However, a major reorganization of the Canadian reinforcement system ensured that New Brunswickers were used to replenish provincial units.

Camp Sussex, NB became the base for the 1st Depot Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John McAvity, created to receive recruits from New Brunswick and then forward them overseas for assignment to front line units. The battalion's staff was composed largely of soldiers repatriated home to recover from wounds and sickness before returning to duty.

The return of wounded soldiers made the realities of war even more tangible. Their needs inspired the formation of civilian organizations to welcome these soldiers home. As well, a convalescent hospital was eventually set up in Fredericton, NB to help soldiers recover from their wounds and prepare for re-integration into civilian society. For many of the wounded, this required months of rehabilitation.



No. 1 Section, Divisional Ammunition Column and No. 3 Section Ammunition Park Detail, 2nd Canadian Division - Fredericton, NB

Triumph and Tragedy

During the last 18 months of the war, significant changes became evident in New Brunswick and throughout the country. Pre-war social reform causes bore fruit during the war, including female suffrage. In 1917, many Canadian women received the vote, although it was not introduced provincially until 1919. More and more people joined organizations opposed to the sale and use of alcohol; already a strong political issue before 1914, it gained momentum when abstinence became linked to the sacrifices demanded by the war effort and the need to conserve. "Prohibition" was introduced provincially in 1917 and federally in 1918.

Canada's contribution to the Allied war effort, especially around victories on the battlefield at places like Vimy Ridge, generated a growing sense of unity and nationalism, especially among English-speakers from urban area.

The war had the effect of integrating the region more fully into the larger Canadian economy and making Maritimers feel more Canadian.

However, this success came at great cost, counted in daily sacrifices, the loss of loved ones, and the general disruption to life. People remained deeply committed to the war effort, yet their enthusiasm sometimes flagged.

Also, by 1917 recruitment was declining, and conscription was introduced in August. This decision created bitter divisions within the country, especially along cultural and linguistic lines. Some New Brunswickers opposed this step, including some Acadians, which caused cultural and political divisions within the province.





Pipe and drum band of the 236th Overseas Battalion (The New Brunswick Kilties – Sir Sam's Own) recruiting in Bangor, Maine

When combined with the growing list of casualties, the sense of success felt in the closing days of the war was mixed with a sense of uncertainty and widespread grief.

The longer-term impact of the war on the province, including its economy was mixed. Pre-war unemployment had ended, followed by a brief period of economic prosperity. But the economic boost was transitory. By the end of the war and in the early

years of peace it became apparent that Maritimers in general were falling behind the rest of the country economically. This was part of a longer-term trend that had begun before the war and continued afterwards. In time it gave rise to a sense of regional disparity. Cherishing their New Brunswick identity, strongly loyal to Britain and newly-passionate about Canada as a nation, many wondered what lay ahead for their home province.



What no one could miss was the road they had journeyed. By the time most of the troops had returned home in early 1919 the province had been at war for four and a half years. New Brunswickers had experienced both the triumph of victory and the tragedy of loss and sacrifice.



THE SOUNDTRACK OF THE HOME FRONT

In 1914 Charles F. Harrison & Co. (Vancouver and Toronto) composed and published “The Best Old Flag on Earth” for piano and voice. This was an early example of a spate of popular patriotic war songs sung across the country. The titles reflect the home-bound view of the war and the emerging Canadian sense of identity, including “Boys from Canada,” “Canada, Fall In!,” and “The Hearts of the World Love Canada.”

KEY EVENTS

1914

1915

1916

19

■ AUGUST 4, 1914

The British Empire, including Canada, enters the Great War.

■ OCTOBER 3, 1914

The First Canadian Contingent numbering 31,200 soldiers sails from Quebec City for Britain.

■ APRIL 22, 1915

The Second Battle of Ypres begins during which Canadian soldiers suffer heavy casualties caused by Germany's first use of chlorine gas.

■ JUNE 13, 1915

The 26th New Brunswick Battalion, CEF leaves Saint John for Britain.

■ 1915

\$100 million dollars' worth of Victory Bonds are issued in Canada and quickly purchased.

■ DECEMBER 8, 1915

John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields" is first published in Punch magazine.

■ JANUARY 28, 1916

Manitoba leads the way with the enfranchisement of women provincially, followed by Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

■ SEPTEMBER 15, 1916

Canadian troops capture the village of Courcelette during the Battle of the Somme, the costliest campaign of the war for the Canadian Corps.

■ APRIL 9, 1917

Canadian troops capture Vimy Ridge, the first time all four divisions of the Canadian Corps fight together.

■ AUGUST 29, 1917

Military Service Act introduces conscription throughout Canada.

■ **SEPTEMBER 20, 1917**

Wartime Elections Act passes giving some women the vote federally for the first time, which they exercise in the federal election held on December 17, 1917.

■ **NOVEMBER 6, 1917**

Canadian troops capture the village of Passchendaele, having endured appalling conditions and suffering with 16,400 dead and wounded.

■ **NOVEMBER 20, 1917**

Canada's first Income Tax Act becomes law.

■ **AUGUST 8-18, 1918**

The Battle of Amiens marks the start of the Hundred Days Campaign that culminates in the defeat of the German Army.

■ **AUGUST 26, 1918**

The Battle of Arras opens and the Canadian Corps begins its advance through the Hindenburg Line, Germany's last line of defence.

■ **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 1918**

During the last months of the war two New Brunswickers are awarded the Victoria Cross — the highest medal for valour in battle: Private Herman Good from Bathurst, NB and Lieutenant Milton Gregg from Mountain Dale, NB.

■ **NOVEMBER 11, 1918**

Armistice takes effect and ends the fighting on the Western Front.

■ **MAY 17, 1919**

The 26th Battalion and 2nd Divisional Ammunition Column arrive in Saint John after being overseas for almost 4 years.

■ **DECEMBER – JANUARY 1919**

The 26th Battalion joins the Canadian contingent of the Allied army of occupation in Germany.



INSPIRING EXCELLENCE THE NBYO

Founded in 1965 as Canada's first provincial youth orchestra, the mission of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra (NBYO) is to 'inspire excellence among children and youth through the learning and performance of orchestral music.'

The provincial youth orchestra includes eighty of the province's most talented musicians, ages 12-24, and chosen annually by audition. Members are coached and mentored by an outstanding faculty of professional musicians, directed by Music Director and Conductor Antonio Delgado.

The NBYO teaches a love for great music and inspires commitment and a drive for excellence, lessons and values with lifetime benefits for our students, whatever career they choose.

CONDUCTOR ANTONIO DELGADO

“Full of vivacity and sparkle,” (Diario El Nacional. Caracas) Maestro Antonio Delgado owes much of his musical education to the world-renowned El Sistema program (National System of Youth and Children’s Orchestras of Venezuela).

Though Delgado began on the violin, he soon discovered his love and talent for conducting. Maestro Delgado began his conducting studies with Maestro Rodolfo Saglimbeni and pursued further training at the Canford School of Music in Wimborne, England where he learned from Maestro George Hurst, among others.

From 2005 to 2010 Delgado was Musical Director of the largest South American theatre, Teresa Carreño, during which time he conducted a diverse range of music, garnering particular acclaim for his “very elegant musical direction and his absolute mastery” of ballet and opera scores (Diario La Voz. Caracas). Though he has conducted every major orchestra in Venezuela, Delgado has not hoarded his talents, as performance dates in Ecuador, Puerto Rico, Canada and Panama clearly attest.

Since July 2010, Delgado has been Musical Director and Conductor of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra and of NBYO’s Sistema New Brunswick.





NBYO MILESTONES

In the past 10 years, NBYO's achievements have distinguished the orchestra in New Brunswick, Canada and internationally. In addition to the annual schedule of performances in New Brunswick, the NBYO:

- *Commissioned and performed the world premier of 'St. Croix Island Suite' commemorating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of French settlers in 1604*
- *Performed at Carnegie Hall (2003)*
- *Performed internationally in Italy (2005), China (2007), Austria (2011), and Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic (2014)*
- *Recorded six CDs*
- *Won the ECMA for Classical Recording of the year (2008)*

- *Was featured in two documentary films broadcast nationally on CBC television*
- *Competed in the Summa Cum Laude International Youth Music Competition in Vienna, in 2011 – winning first place in the orchestra division, with 'outstanding distinction', and competing again in 2014*

CDs and DVDs

- *Première (2003)*
- *Virtuoso Italia (2005)*
- *Forbidden City Tour (2007)*
- *Blues on the Boulevard (2009)*
- *Musikfreunde: Friends of Music (2011)*
- *Keeping Faith (2014)*



NEW BRUNSWICK • NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

ENGAGING MORE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

NBYO's Sistema New Brunswick is a program in social development through music operating during the school year, five days a week, three hours per day. Inspired by the visionary El Sistema program from Venezuela, Sistema NB is now in its sixth year and is the largest program of its kind in Canada.

More than 700 children and youth are making music and learning important academic and life skills in four orchestra centres in New Brunswick: Moncton, Saint John, Richibucto and the Tobique First Nation.







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KEEPING FAITH







To mark the 100th anniversary of Canada entering into the First World War in 1914, the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra embarked on a journey of remembrance through music and reflection.

Keeping Faith is the theme for this commemoration tour, with special 2014-2015 performances in Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, throughout New Brunswick and in our nation's capital, for the official opening of the Canadian War Museum's new permanent exhibition, *The Home Front, 1917*.

This book has been designed to accompany our tour and to help add context to the special musical composition that was commissioned to both memorialize the fallen, and to celebrate a hope-filled future.

Funded by

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