



### **NAOMI FORD WINS DEBUT ATLANTIC'S 2018 AWARD FOR MUSICAL EXCELLENCE**

The winner of the Debut Atlantic 2018 Award for Musical Excellence is flutist Naomi Ford from Riverview, NB. In recognition of the award, Naomi has been invited to perform at Indian River Festival's Youth Legacy Celebration as well as Barachois Summer Music, and a Debut Atlantic concert during the 2018.19 season.

Naomi, now 18, began her flute studies at the age of 8 and has since received many accolades. She has won numerous awards from festivals such as the New Brunswick Competitive Festival of Music, New Brunswick Federation of Music Festivals Inc., and the 2017 National Music Festival where she placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the woodwind category and subsequently won the Grand Award Competition. She has been awarded bursaries from the NBYO, ArtsNB and Jeunesses Musicales, and was selected to participate in the Jeunesse Musicale NB Emerging Artist Tour 2018. The Debut Atlantic award adjudicator complemented Naomi's playing by saying "Not only did they show full command of the instrument, but especially true artistry and maturity in their playing and in the choice of repertoire."

A member of the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra, Naomi was chosen as a featured soloist in their 2017-18 season. In 2017 she attended the Domaine Forget International Music and Dance Academy and has been accepted to the 2018 National Youth Orchestra of Canada where she will take part in NYOC's Migrations Tour, performing in 8 cities through Canada and Europe.

Naomi has graduated grade 12 and studied flute with Karin Aurell. She continues her flute studies at the University level, and to fulfill her passion by playing orchestral and chamber music professionally.

Established in 1999, the Debut Atlantic Award for Musical Excellence is awarded annually to an Atlantic Canadian high school music student, chosen by a member of our distinguished alumni. The award recognizes talented youth and is designed to support and encourage the development of young musicians in Atlantic Canada. The Award consists of a \$1,000 cash prize and an opportunity for the recipient to perform as a special guest at a Debut Atlantic concert, as well as additional performance and mentorship opportunities.

Congratulations Naomi!