



# TAKE US ON A TEST DRIVE

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Dear Connoisseur,

Ontario communities have found the Northern Lights Steel Orchestra to be a powerful vehicle. Our music refreshes and energizes with dignity and purpose. On the musical highway of discovery, exploration, and excellence, the **nls**o is the ride. You hold the key. We await ignition.

We know you must employ prudence in booking something "fresh." Realizing we are a logistics challenge, let us suggest answers to your questions:

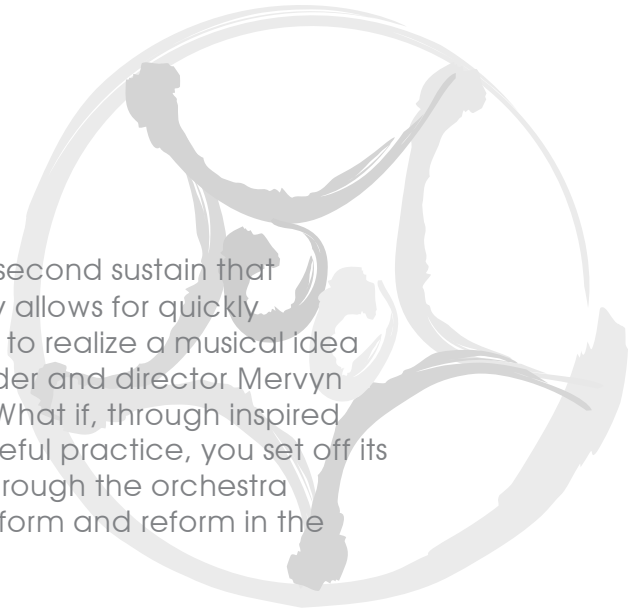
- Professional
- Musical excellence
- Unique
- Organized
- Affable
- Economical
- Reputable
- Adaptable

Take us on a test drive. Expect excellence. Experience elation.

Sincerely,

Roger Moody  
Promotions





A lively percussion instrument with a millisecond sustain that demands split second timing, the pan easily allows for quickly changing notes. Its quick-reflexed potential to realize a musical idea more than a native affinity led NLSO's founder and director Mervyn Jordan back to this Trinidadian instrument. What if, through inspired composition, diligent arrangement and careful practice, you set off its nitrous oxide? Intricate runs would sweep through the orchestra ignoring firebreaks. Complex chords would form and reform in the ephemeral flame!

Today, this flame rushes through big pieces with their complicated interplay of parts interweaving counterpoint over an ever-changing rhythm. And in these big pieces like Woman is Boss, Play One and More, Meet Me at the Feast, and Bees Melody the NLSO shows both agility and size.

Size? Picture seven soccer teams running through arpeggios in a forty by sixty foot tent. Or, it costs nearly as much as a concert grand piano just to tune and thoroughly blend the 200 instruments.

Rather than following a popular trend to overplay an instrument to distortion, Mervyn stresses dexterity and musicianship. "Middle voices: support the melody. Leads: don't play to hear yourselves. All pans: become one voice. Engine room: don't stick out."

From a 65 dB introduction to a 125 dB finale, the Northern Lights Steel Orchestra ever exudes warmth. Jordan's specific values have ensured this. After finding drums with the highest carbon content available, he then has them tuned for sweetness rather than bite. He takes no short cuts in materials, construction, tuning, or blending to make the NLSO the "French horn of the steel pan world."

The Northern Lights Steel Orchestra's rephrasing of "Caribbean steel band" to "steel orchestra" seems petty until an event with a "tropical party theme" invites us for the featured entertainment, and we mix a few calypso tunes into a three and a half hour repertoire as diverse as modern fusion and inspirational genius allow. With the aspirations of an orchestra and the intentions of pioneers, we're still struggling to find a word or phrase that defines our sound.



## ORCHESTRA SIZE

80 pannists with approximately 200 pan instruments  
 (We tailor the number and blend of instruments to fit the acoustical space.)  
 Outside: 40' x 60' tent  
 Inside: We fit your stage  
 Parking for two U-haul trucks with trailers, bus, and up to five sedans.

## STAGING SURFACE (OUTSIDE)

Firm, smooth, level grass, blacktop, or something similar  
 (Very dusty or sandy areas don't work.)  
 On grass we drive stakes (And must know if there's a sprinkler system beneath.)  
 On pavement you must provide 1000 gallons ballast water.  
 (Garden hoses fill our barrels too slowly; fire departments do best.)

## TIME REQUIREMENTS

Outside: 4 hours setup and 3 hours take down when using tent.  
 Inside: 1.5 hours setup and 1 hour take down with normal access.

## ELECTRICITY (OUTSIDE)

150' maximum extension (Or we need to bring our noisy generator.)  
 Minimum one 15 amp outlet.  
 Preferred two 15 amp outlets (decorating & PA)  
 After Dark: Four 15 amp outlets (lights & PA)

## COST

Not-for-profit, we believe to live is to give. Musicians, drivers, roadies, administrators, and agents volunteer their time. The NLSO lends the use of tent(s), PA equipment, instruments, staging, etc. However, we ask the hosting organization to assist in defraying direct expenses such as:

*Transportation:*

- Rentals (Two U-haul trucks and trailers)
- Bus Lease and/or compensation for private vehicles
- Fuel and mileage (U-hauls, bus and cars)

*Production Expenses (i.e. decorations, etc.)*

*Accommodations (as required)*

*Meals (as required) Most of the group are vegan (nondairy and vegetarians)*

In conclusion, distance traveled and days spent on tour primarily determine cost. Simply put, you need to give our promotions, back-room boys a call and hash it out with them. All they've given me permission to say is that if you need to ask... Call.



**NLSO**



*I have never enjoyed music more than I did tonight.*

Member, Cdn. Legion Women's Aux.

*I was very impressed with the ease it was to work with this group of people in organizing a special event. They were prompt, organized, efficient, and courteous; an outstanding group of individuals. Their efficiency spilled out into a spectacular performance. I was impressed not only with how courteous and helpful they were with me, but also with each other. The NLSO has performed for our summer event for two years and will be coming again this summer. We know what to expect. It is a pleasure working with an organization who pulls off what they say they will do. It is very well organized. All their different crews (sound, tent set-up, decorations, etc.) worked well together. Everyone had their job and did it well. We look forward to having them come back again.*

*Eva Miller*

Huntsville BIA

*Our students have never gotten into an event or performance of any kind like they did today.*

Teacher  
Wellesley High School

**You Rock.**

First Grader  
Evergreen Heights  
Educational Centre



**Option one: Brain storm with us.** We will work overtime to make your effort and money go farther.

Especially in middle and high schools, we have found it much easier to instruct after students have been blown away by a NLSO performance. Respecting instrument, instructor, and music, students then put their best into the opportunity and totally surprise themselves by their own potential. In every school we've been in, teachers have told us excitedly and repeatedly that they expected that these well behaved kids to "um, well, behave" during the workshop but couldn't imagine those trouble-makers over there who "have never gotten excited about anything to enjoy themselves so much. I've never seen x----x smile before!"

In most venues we find many very curious about steel pan. During the performance they heard an unexpected beauty come out of an unexpected source. It demonstrated more variety and potential than they expected. Now they want to at least once touch a note with a mallet. Even in fine arts centres people courteously allow themselves to be ushered out and then sneak back in a side entrance to ask for "just a quick tour."

So here's **Option two: Work out a way to weave performance and hands-on experience together.** At a school this may mean a NLSO performance Monday morning for the student body and then three days of workshops. All this followed Wednesday evening by a joint NLSO/ student performance for parents. At a fine arts centre, intermission might include a quick, guided tour of the orchestra with a few "student" pans for direct experience. Or, perhaps a Saturday night performance could be followed by a Sunday workshop before the next act needs the stage that night. Every event is different. We put our best into each one.

Digital cameras have given us a "photobase" of thousands of pictures. (Some are even O.K.) We use Photoshop, Illustrator, and Freehand, etc. **Option three: Request digital photos, illustrations, or other ingredients for promotional materials.** If we knew what file format you use and what you might want... Imagine taking a PDF file to your printer and coming back with posters without having the pre-press hassle.

**Option four: Help us choose what uniform to wear and decorations to use.** The more you share your goals the more we can help you reach them. Are we too zealous? Just raise your eye brows. We'll get the hint.



# Reservation

Please mail, fax, or refer to this request form while e-mailing or phoning. It will clarify our response.

## Hosting Organization

\_\_\_\_\_ Your Organization's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov./State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail



### Performance:

Describe Location \_\_\_\_\_ Type of event \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Site:  Indoor  Stage  Arena  \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Outdoor  Lawn  Street  Parking Lot

Event theme & Color scheme: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected attendance: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

### Workshop:

Your Group:  Civic  School  Church  \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Age by Grade:  K - 6  7 - 12  Adult

Location:  Gym  Classroom  Tent  \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Projected enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

When do you need our confirmation?

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

