

Jonelle Sills — Silver Linings: Local Opportunities and Time for Reflection

For sure, so definitely, like I said, I think its forced people to be more creative and engaged with their direct communities, maybe since they can't fly out superstars from across the world, because of COVID-19. So, they look a little bit more locally to work with their seasons. Like, that's why I was able to sing with NAC, so that was a great opportunity and that was such a great part of my learning, you know, all those works I did, it was my first time doing with an orchestra. So, it was amazing to do it with [the] NAC—like they're amazing, right—so, you know, talking about a silver lining, that's a great opportunity. So, because of Covid they had to realize: okay, well, we can't, you know, get all the great people that we like to that maybe are not in Canada, but hey, there's 30 artists that are emerging that we can come alongside and come and support them, and work with them, you know. And I know some of the artists and I know that they're all intelligent and hardworking musicians. And maybe they don't have as much experience as maybe the regular superstars that are like, all on their walls backstage [of the NAC], but they have the potential to be that, so it's really great that.... Covid is not great, but it's great that COVID has allowed that to happen. And then also, like I was saying, it has given us some time to really reflect on, you know—why we sing? Who we sing for? And if we want to sing and I think that, or I hope that people feel okay with whatever choice that, you know, that they go forward with. And I think it kind of has grounded us and given us a little bit more time, because in North America there's like this grind mentality—like, if you're not, you know, if you're sleeping more than eight hours, and you're not working hard enough, or if you are sleeping eight hours, you know, if you're not stressed, if you're not like really grinding or doing the most, then you're not doing a lot, which sometimes is like the reality of being a musician, you're grinding a lot. But it has really stopped everybody. I mean, people are working more now, which is great. But I think for the first two months, most people were just like, chilling out, because they had to, which is important. And I think I did that, and just take a breath and re-evaluate things and then, you know, now I can have some time to learn some really hard repertoire that I've always wanted to learn and I can just take my time, yeah.