



Vancouver Academy of Music

Orchestral Program

Performing in a symphony orchestra is one of the most exhilarating experiences a young musician will encounter. The team aspect of orchestral playing - each member offering their individual skill for a collective purpose - instills life skills that have far reaching benefits. The VAM Orchestral Program is comprised of three levels of orchestral training that aim to strike a balance between excellence and enjoyment. The VAM Orchestral Program offers a unique learning environment where rehearsals are led by a conductor and a supporting team of instructors from VAM's String, Brass, Woodwind and Percussion faculty who provide personalized instruction for orchestra members.

Auditions

The VAM Orchestral Program holds auditions throughout the month of June. Auditions are open to all students regardless of whether they study at VAM or not. Auditions are free of charge, and are conducted in a supportive and encouraging environment that is intended to spur young musicians' interest in orchestral studies. The audition requirements are a piece of the candidate's choosing, major and minor scales, and sight-reading. It is possible for students to audition during the year based on vacancies.

To schedule an audition please email:
executivedirector@vam.ca

Fees

Registered VAM students are offered the Orchestral Program at no cost based as part of VAM's Bonus Class system. Students not studying at VAM pay \$250 per semester.



VAM Orchestral Program Faculty

- VAMSO Music Director and Conductor - Leslie Dala
- VAMSO Proteus Winds - Cris Inguanti and Sophie Dansereau
- VAMSO Brass - Al Cannon and Brian G'froerer
- VAMSO Strings - Nicholas Wright, Jason Ho, Joseph Elworthy
- VAMSO Percussion - Martin Fisk
- VAMIS Conductor - Joseph Elworthy
- VAMIS Proteus Winds - AK Coope
- VAMIS Brass - Al Cannon
- VAMJS Conductor - DeAnne Eisch
- VAMJS Proteus Winds - Erin Marks and Heather Beaty
- VAMJS Brass - Al Cannon



Vancouver Academy of Music

1270 Chestnut Street Vancouver, BC V6J 4R9

Tel: 604.734.2301 Fax: 604.731.1920

executivedirector@vam.ca

www.vam.ca

Orchestral Program



VAM Junior Symphony

The VAM Junior Symphony introduces students to the basic principles of orchestral playing: pitch, rhythm, ensemble, performance directions, and sight reading. VAMJS is conducted by DeAnne Eisch, a vastly experienced violin teacher and orchestral musician who frequently performs with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. VAMJS rehearses on Thursdays, 5:00-6:30, and give three concerts per year at VAM's Koerner Recital Hall, including the popular Concerto Extravaganza concert featuring soloists from within VAMJS, as well as annually participating at the VAM Showcase Gala Concert at the historic Orpheum Theatre.

*“Junior Symphony is a really fun way to use your skills to collaborate and be part of a team effort for making music”
-Omar Kassam*



VAM Intermediate Symphony

The VAM Intermediate Symphony explores how composite orchestral parts – strings, winds, brass, and percussion – combine to create a symphonic sound palette. VAMIS is conducted by Joseph Elworthy, Executive Director of VAM, Head of the VAM Cello Department, and a long-serving member of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. VAMIS rehearses on Thursdays, 5:00-7:00, and give three concerts per year at VAM's Koerner Recital Hall, including the popular Concerto Extravaganza concert featuring soloists from within VAMIS, as well as annually participating at the VAM Showcase Gala Concert at the historic Orpheum Theatre.

“Intermediate Symphony allows me to be a part of something bigger than myself and is a supportive environment to learn and grow without feeling intimidated. It always amazes me to listen to recordings of our concerts and hear the improvements we made throughout the year.” -Jennifer Son

VAM Symphony Orchestra

The VAM Symphony Orchestra (VAMSO) is led by music director, Maestro Leslie Dala, one of Canada's most promising conductors who enjoys an international career in addition to his role as Music Director of the Vancouver Bach Choir and Associate Conductor and Chorus Director with Vancouver Opera. Recent guest artists to who have worked with VAMSO include Bramwell Tovey, Tania Miller, Dale Barltrop, and Ken Hseih. Recent VAMSO graduates have continued their training at leading conservatories and universities such as Juilliard, Yale, Curtis, and Harvard. Many VAMSO alumni populate the world's finest orchestras: London, Berlin, Montreal, Vancouver and Boston. VAMSO rehearses on Fridays, 4:30-7:00, and perform three times a year at the Orpheum Theatre.

“Playing in VAMSO allowed me to experience orchestral playing at a whole new level. VAMSO is the only youth orchestra that most closely resembles a professional orchestra. How often does a 17 year-old student get an opportunity play three times a year on the Orpheum stage. The first thing my friends tell me after a VAMSO concert: “You’re so lucky!” -Brian Kang