



Mr. Taras Gabora, newly appointed Distinguished Professor at VAM, lives in a quiet residential neighbourhood in White Rock, BC with a gracious standard poodle named Don Giovanni.

VAM WELCOMES DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF VIOLIN, **TARAS GABORA**

Renowned pedagogue joins VAM faculty

THE CANADIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRY ON TARAS GABORA states that he was born in Yellow Creek, Saskatchewan. Gabora chuckles when I mention this: "Yellow Creek doesn't exist anymore. Nobody in Canada knows where that is. I grew up near Yorkton Saskatchewan. My father was a school teacher. There were no music teachers there, but I was lucky. In the neighbouring town, the wife of a United Church minister had played in the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and she got me started when I was quite young. My parents couldn't afford to send me anywhere to a good teacher, but when I was 14 they managed to send me to Winnipeg, where I stayed with friends." In Winnipeg from age 14 to 19 Gabora attended the University of Manitoba, and also played in the Winnipeg Symphony.

"When I was 19, I needed money to go to Europe to study, so I looked for a summer job that would earn enough. I

answered an ad for a mountain climber in the Yukon; the job was to carry survey equipment to the tops of mountains for surveyors. I had never seen a mountain; born on the prairies, the highest thing I had seen was a straw stack! But I lied when I responded to the ad. I got the job, and they sent me to the Yukon. Well, they pretty quickly realized I knew nothing about mountain climbing, but it was too expensive to send me back. I got to see the midnight sun, and I made enough money to go to Paris. My parents were horrified that I was going there with so little money, but I didn't know anything else. It was never a choice, it was a natural thing. When you have a passion for music it doesn't matter so much about the struggle."

"In Paris I went to René Benedetti, who was the big violin teacher there, a Paganini expert. I played for him, and he assigned me a number of pieces, one

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VAMSO CAMEOS ON NEW MUSIC CD BY JOCELYN MORLOCK



COMPOSER JOCELYN MORLOCK'S NEW CD *Halcyon* is a collection of works for instruments she loves performed by artists she admires and enjoys working with, chosen from a body of her work that spans almost 20 years. Many of the performers on the CD are very familiar to the VAM community: Joseph Elworthy, Ariel Barnes, Robyn Driedger-Klassen, Leslie Dala, and VAM's very own Symphony Orchestra. The double cello concerto *Aeromancy*, with soloists Elworthy and Barnes, is accompanied on the recording by VAMSO. In conversation with *Appassionato*, Morlock says, "It was massive good fortune to have VAMSO! The VSO had performed *Aeromancy* with Ari and Joseph, and we did an archival recording, but these recordings are not really of a quality you want to put on a CD. Then I was fortunate enough that Joseph and Ari, with Les Dala

who was conducting, were willing to perform the piece, and then we talked about why not also record it rather than just perform it? So we hired [recording engineer] Don Harder to record, we had a number of hours in the Orpheum. We did some live pre-recording, and recorded the concert live, then spliced the two together. So I was very, very lucky. It is not easy to get an orchestra to perform your piece, to give you that much time and attention. It took a while to get it all together. Joseph really spearheaded the process. He made sure they had a lot of rehearsal time. Les, too, was good about that, and both Joseph and Ari were very generous with their time. I'm really proud to have that on the CD."

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We acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia and the following partners:



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CONVERSATIONS WITH TARAS GABORA

continued from front cover

of them being the Paganini *Caprice No. 5*, which was way beyond me. I went away, came back next week, and started playing, but he stopped me right away. He said, ‘not like that’ and he took out his violin and he played at a speed that I could never have imagined anybody playing, it was incredible. This was no good to me. What I needed at that time was to learn all the mechanics, basic technique, how to hold the bow. It happened that George Enesco was in Italy just before he died. I played for him and he told me I should go to Vienna, which I did, and that was the best thing. Later I also studied with Yuri Yankelevich in Moscow, and I spent two years in Amsterdam with Szymon Goldberg, a great violinist. We toured all over Europe. That was my first professional job, although I played in the Vienna Opera Orchestra as a substitute.”

“For me, although I did chamber music, solo performances, everything, the teaching was very important, because I learned from my teaching. I started playing the violin quite late; you’ve got to learn the violin before you’re 20 or you’ll never learn it, and teaching it helped me.”

Gabora returned to Canada, settling in Montreal where he taught at the Montreal Conservatory and at McGill. Later he and his wife, soprano Gaelyne Gabora, moved to St. Louis and then to Oberlin Ohio, before finally arriving in British Columbia.

“My connection to the west coast came about because I taught at the summer music camp at Courtenay. My wife and I, with our dog, would drive across the country first from Montreal and then from St. Louis and Oberlin to come teach there. Each year we would take a few weeks after the camp to look around on the Island and the mainland, thinking we might want to move here. I got to know Jerold Gerbrecht [VAM’s former Executive Director], who was teaching

trumpet at Courtenay; we would go fishing together. When we finally moved to White Rock (in 2001) he got me involved with VAM. I taught there, and at UBC, and still teach privately at my house about 20 hours a week.”

“My whole life I taught at the college level, but since I’ve come here I am taking younger students. When they are 16 or 18, there is a lot of remedial work that is necessary, depending on their previous teaching. So in a way I enjoy very much starting the young kids. Then I am responsible for everything. One of my best students, Melody Ye Yuan, she came to me when she was 9, and studied with me for 10 years. Also, at the universities that I taught at, I didn’t like the politics. I want to do music, and the politics have nothing to do with the music.”

The mention of politics leads into a discussion of music competitions. “My students do competitions, but I explain what competitions are. When you do competitions you have to learn a few pieces over a short period of time, you have to play them as perfectly as possible with the technique that you have, no matter how you play, so you don’t have time to build technique. Students who go into competitions should go with their eyes open. Students should see it as an opportunity to work hard, and to perform. If you win, don’t think you are too good; if you don’t win, don’t be discouraged. Don’t worry about what the judges say. A different jury would have a different result. It is often very political.” Gabora, who has served on the juries of some of the most important international competitions (Tchaikovsky, Paganini three times, Yankelevich, Sarasate three times, Spivakov May 2017), continues, “If you start with 50 participants and the second round is fifteen, then you have to get rid of 35. At the international level the students are all very good, so how do you judge that? Well you have

almost no choice. If you hear a wrong note, a scratch, something out of tune, that student is out, even though they may be wonderful, and that’s just not music. Everybody has something to say in music, everybody has a voice.”

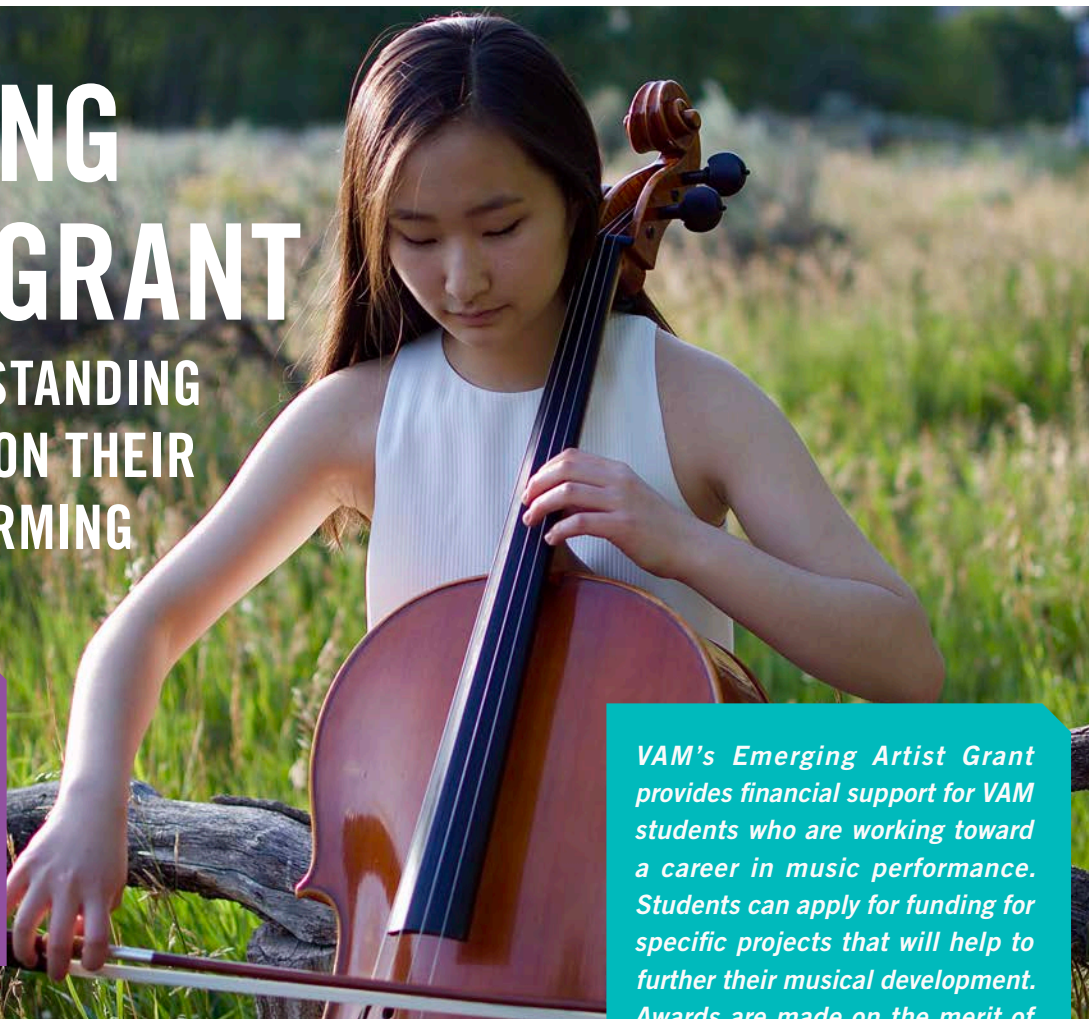
“I try to have my students perform. If they want to be musicians, their life is on a stage.” In the early 1990s, Gabora, together with renowned pianist Mario delli Ponti, established the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival, a summer intensive program for gifted music students from around the world. “The philosophy of the school is that it is for the students. I’ve taught at a lot of schools where the teachers give all the concerts. We have the students do all the concerts, several each day, five days a week. Last summer we had about 100 students from 30 countries. We have had fantastic students who are now making great careers.” Numerous VAM students have attended the Casalmaggiore festival over the years (check out Ryan Wang’s account of his experience this past summer, p. 5).

Gabora lives in a quiet residential neighbourhood in White Rock, BC with a gracious standard poodle named Don Giovanni. His house is filled with items that he has picked up over a lifetime of travel: “I love to travel, see people. I give masterclasses in Los Angeles; various places in Canada; Odessa, Ukraine; Baku, Azerbaijan. I like to go to China. When I’m not on an airplane every 4 to 5 weeks, I get nervous.” He particularly cherishes his trips to Vienna (approximately every six weeks), where he gives masterclasses and private lessons, and attends operas and concerts. “I recently saw two operas that I had never seen before – Prokofiev’s *The Gambler* and Debussy’s *Pelléas et Mélisande*. And of course there is the Vienna Philharmonic.”

EMERGING ARTIST GRANT

SUPPORTS OUTSTANDING
VAM STUDENTS ON THEIR
PATH TO PERFORMING
ARTS CAREERS

**2016/17 GRANT
RECIPIENTS:
OLIVIA CHO &
RYAN WANG**



VAM's Emerging Artist Grant provides financial support for VAM students who are working toward a career in music performance. Students can apply for funding for specific projects that will help to further their musical development. Awards are made on the merit of the proposed project, the scope of the project in relation to available funding, recommendation letters and a history of engagement in VAM activities. In 2017, Olivia Cho (above) and Ryan Wang (right) were awarded grants; the recipients are already well recognized in the VAM community and as emerging talents internationally.

OLIVIA CHO, CELLO

Olivia Cho, a long-time student of Joseph Elworthy, began her studies at the age of 5. In 2013, she placed first in the Canadian Music Competition and won the grand prize in VAM's Kay Meek Competition (at age 12, the youngest winner in the competition's history), making her solo debut with the VAMSO in February 2014. Also in 2014 she won the VAM Edith Lando Gifted Youth Competition. In 2015 she won the Richmond Music Festival Society Concerto Competition, and performed with the Richmond Orchestra. In 2015 she was also a semi-finalist in the 9th International Tchaikovsky Competition for Young Musicians, and the Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal Manulife Competition in 2016. This past spring she won the Bjorn and Lori Hareid Senior Secondary Competition. Olivia is in the Accelerated/Enriched Challenge program at Eric Hamber Secondary School, and is in the Young Artist Collegiate Program at VAM.

OLIVIA ON HER EXPERIENCE AT ASPEN MUSIC FESTIVAL

This past summer, I had the privilege of attending the Aspen Music Festival and School as a recipient of the Emerging Artist Grant from the Vancouver Academy of Music. Over the course of an extremely enriching two months at one of the largest and longest music festivals in North America, I took part in orchestra rehearsals and concerts, chamber music coachings and performances, studio classes and masterclasses, private lessons, and attended many concerts. I also competed in the Aspen Low Strings Concerto Competition, in which I was the youngest competitor and finalist.

Throughout the festival, I was placed in the Aspen Opera Center Orchestra and the Aspen Philharmonic Orchestra. I had the opportunity to work on huge works including Verdi's *La Traviata*, Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherezade*, Smetana's *Selections from Má vlast* (My

Fatherland), Brahms' *Symphony No. 1 in C minor*, and Stravinsky's *Petrushka*, as well as a number of modern works.

For chamber music, I was the cellist of a string quartet. My group members were all from different places: New York, Los Angeles, and Australia. Working closely together with people from all over the world connected by their passion for music was an incredibly valuable experience.

Continued on next page

Studio classes offered a unique learning environment in which the audience could also give feedback on the performance. This allowed for an interesting exchange of ideas, as well as exposure to new perspectives from people who I had never met before. For private lessons, I was in the studio of Darrett Adkins (professor at Oberlin Conservatory and the Juilliard School) and the studio of Richard Aaron (professor at the Juilliard School and the University of Michigan). I also had the opportunity to perform in several masterclasses throughout the festival. Every lesson was inspirational

and gave me something new to work on throughout the week.

Students at Aspen were able to attend many of the Festival's concerts for free. Some of the most notable concerts I attended were by David Finckel and Wu Han, Augustin Hadelich, Alisa Weilerstein, and the Aspen Opera Center. There were also a number of fantastic contemporary music concerts that I really enjoyed.

Overall, my time at Aspen is something that I will always hold dear to my heart.

I learned so many valuable lessons in the span of two months, and met many new friends who I still keep in touch with. Learning from faculty members and alongside peers from prestigious music schools around the world was an amazing experience. Attending the Aspen Music Festival & School was a vital catalyst in my development and networking as a musician, and I am incredibly grateful to my donors and the Vancouver Academy of Music for allowing me to have this opportunity.

RYAN WANG, PIANO



Left to right: Tham Meng Kong, Ryan Wang, Lee Kum-Sing

Ryan Wang, recently turned 10 years old, started playing piano at 4-1/2 years of age. "He really wanted to learn piano," says his mom. "He would go to the neighbours' house to play." His parents, neither of whom is a musician, finally bought him a piano and started him in music lessons. At age 7 he came to VAM to study with professor Lee Kum-Sing. In 2013 and 2014 he was awarded the most outstanding performance in the Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival. In 2013 he won first place and the Judges' Distinction award in the American Protégé International Music Talent Competition and was invited to perform at Carnegie Hall. In 2014 he was the first place and scholarship winner in his age category in the AADGT International Young Musician's Festival and the American

Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition. He has performed in Italy, Japan and China. Ryan has participated in the prestigious Casalmaggiore Music Festival in Italy for the past three years. In January 2018, Ryan will travel to Toronto to give a solo recital, and also to Play Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Toronto Festival Orchestra at the George Weston Recital Hall, Toronto Center for the Arts. In January he will also play a recital in New York. In March he will do a tour of three concerts in China, and in June 2018 he has been invited to give solo recitals in Singapore and Malaysia. Ryan is a student at Collingwood School. He enjoys his studies, plays field hockey in the West Vancouver Field Hockey Club, and enjoys surfing.

RYAN SHARES HIS MUSICAL SUMMER

During the summer, I went to Singapore and Italy. It was an unforgettable journey.

We left Vancouver on June 19th and arrived in Singapore on June 21st. It was such a long flight! On June 21st I had two interviews with local media, including the Straits Times and Lianhe Morning News. I also had a rehearsal with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra at 9pm. I was exhausted. However, I was so happy to meet the conductor Mr. Tham Meng Kong, and I thought that he was a very skilled conductor. It was not the first time for me to play with an orchestra, but I was still extremely excited. The sound of the orchestra was very full and beautiful. I enjoyed how the orchestra could provide such

a big sound. After the performance, I was very satisfied. I celebrated with the orchestra members, and the conductor invited me to play with his orchestra in Chicago! I was so overwhelmed. I was also invited to play a fundraising concert in Singapore in 2018. After the concert, I had an awesome time in Singapore. I went to Sentosa where I bungee jumped, surfed, and ziplined.

After Singapore, we went to Italy to the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival. This year, I played a solo recital, Beethoven's first piano concerto, and a Haydn trio. I loved the trio. For example, I learned that I have to communicate with the players all the time during playing. I also learned that each teacher has their own perspective of the music. I got to experience the views of a violin teacher, and my piano teacher. This was not my first time playing in a trio, but I felt so different this time, since I felt more alert and sensitive than before. I realized that for my piano part, there are different voices including piano, violin, viola and cello. Piano is such a great instrument, which produces such a large range of sound. This year, I won the first place Gabora Prize. I felt so happy and honored to be the recipient. I appreciate all the teachers who gave me advice and audiences that gave me applause. I made a lot of friends, who love music like me. Even though I was the youngest one at the festival, I felt so happy and lucky to discuss music with them. It is very interesting to listen to different people's opinion. Casalmaggiore is such a lovely place for music. It is safe, quiet, and peaceful. I wish to go back next year.



CATCHING UP WITH VAM ALUMNA TIANYU ZHOU

IN THE SPRING OF 2014, *Appassionato* talked with VAM piano student Tianyu Zhou about her plans after completing the Bachelor of Music program. At the time, Zhou, already an internationally-performing solo artist, planned to continue on to do the Artist's Diploma at VAM, and mentioned that she was traveling to Poland for a summer festival. Little did she suspect that that trip to Poland would change her plans and shape the course of her next few years! In a recent conversation, Tianyu says, "In the summer of 2014 I went to a masterclass in Poland at the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice. That is where I met my professor for my Masters degree, Wojciech Świątała. Not only is he a good teacher, he is absolutely one of the best pianists I had ever heard. From 2014 to 2015 I travelled to Poland a few times to study with him, and then in 2015 I began the Masters program with him. I just graduated from that this year."

One key thing has not changed in her life: "I prefer going on the stage and

sharing music with audiences," says Tianyu. Although many performers today are making use of social media to spread their music, she says, "My medium is the live performance." Of her different experiences in live performance she adds, "In China, theatres are so big; in the summer there are mainly parents with children coming to concerts. It is great that there are young people, growing audiences, but sometimes you have to be concentrated on the stage; when there are so many children you never know what happens. It can be a bit crazy. In Europe, there are so many concerts at a very high level, in every single corner, in so many amazing venues. Your playing can be inspired by the space. I played in an indoor garden in Poland, with trees and everything, birds singing while I was playing. It was amazing." In June of 2016, Tianyu performed at a concert to welcome Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan on an official visit with the President of Poland. The performance was held at the Royal Castle in Warsaw. Says

Tianyu, "It is the only concert I've experienced that had so much security! That was really cool."

Recently returned to Vancouver, which she intends to make her home base, Tianyu is embarking on her career as an independent artist. "I am still focusing on solo performance. I'm not going to any schools at the moment; I want to lay back a bit, play concerts. In November I am going to Switzerland because I got accepted to the Lucerne Piano Festival masterclass program – only eight pianists were selected out of probably hundreds. It is a big program, so I am preparing for that at the moment." She still loves Bach and Schumann, but these days with a slight preference for Schumann: "Sometimes when I practice, it is almost like a job, but when I play Schumann I don't want to stop".

RCM PRACTICAL EXAM RESULTS

GOLD MEDAL

Linklater, Griffin (Hanh Nguyen), Grade 8 Guitar
Purcell, Katie (Domagoj Ivanovic), Grade 9 Violin
Ting, Keiyshia (Caroline Jang), Grade 3 Voice

FIRST CLASS HONORS WITH DISTINCTION

Baxter, Jackson K. (Donna Lee-Leung), Prep. A Piano
Chan, Rene (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Cheng, Jessica (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 5 Piano
From, Henry (Donna Lee-Leung), ARCT Piano
Goddard, Jordana (Robyn Driedger-Klassen), Grade 5 Voice
Jeong, Yelynn (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 1 Piano
Jones, Flora (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Jung, Jessica (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Leung, Emily (Caroline Jang), Grade 3 Voice
Liu, Joshua (Amanda Chan), ARCT Piano
Mar, Toby (Manti Poon), Grade 6 Viola
Shafer, Jackson (Rebecca Kelly), DipLCM Piano
Speed, Tatiana (Robyn Driedger-Klassen), Grade 5 Voice
Warren, Ashley (Angela Schiwy), Grade 3 Piano
Wickenden, Sean (Angela Schiwy), Grade 3 Piano

FIRST CLASS HONORS

Chatila, Sultan (Angela Schiwy), Grade 5 Piano
Cheng, Chloe (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 5 Piano
Cheng, Kenny (Alana Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Duan, Joy Xinran (Amanda Chan), Grade 7 Piano
Eang, Matthew (Amanda Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Forward, Carolyn (Caroline Jang), Grade 3 Voice

Ghannad, Rose (Angela Schiwy), Grade 7 Piano
Gong, Imo (Caroline Jang), Grade 4 Voice
Han, Emily (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Hyland, Sebastian (Amanda Chan), Grade 8 Piano
Khosroshahi, Artin Manafi (Angela Schiwy), Grade 6 Piano
Lee, Alyson (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Li, Derek (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Loganathan, Sruthy (Caroline Jang), Grade 3 Voice
Maru, Avi (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
May, Jasmine (Manti Poon), Grade 4 Viola
McAlpine, Adrienne (Caroline Jang), Grade 4 Voice
Morano, Lauren (Caroline Jang), Grade 2 Piano
St. John, Lincoln (Angela Schiwy), Grade 6 Piano
Ting, Keiyshia (Caroline Jang), Grade 2 Piano
Tsang, Mitchell (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Vu, Sky (Angela Schiwy), Grade 10 Piano
Webber, Tycho (Juan Wang), Grade 2 Piano
Wong, Zachary (Teresa Ho), Grade 10 Piano
Wvong, Louis (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 8 Piano

HONORS

Davoudi, Shireen (Caroline Jang), Grade 3 Piano
England, Mary (Teresa Ho), Grade 9 Piano
Kellar, Matthew (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Lu, Jasmine (Teresa Ho), ARCT Piano
Luo, Frank (Teresa Ho), Grade 10 Piano
Zubkova, Kristina (Caroline Jang), Grade 1 Piano
Woo, Jordan (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano



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Amini, Alexandra (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 6 Theory
Chan, Kaitlyn (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Chan, Kelly (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Chang, Tiffany (Shirley Lum), ARCT History
Chen, Edward (Chloe Hurst), Grade 5 Theory
Cheng, Jessica (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Dong, Edward (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Duan, Xinran Joy (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Eang, Matthew (Ruth Enns), Grade 9 History
Gao, Ella (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Han, Emily (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 History
Han, Emily (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 History
He, Rachel (Chloe Hurst), Grade 5 Theory
He, Rachel (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Jones, Beatrice G. (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 5 Theory
Li, Derek (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 History
Li, Derek (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 History
Linklater, Griffin (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 Harmony
Lu, Nicole (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Martin, Lara (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Mok, Gillian (Shirley Lum), Grade 8 Theory
Mu, Leo (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Mu, Leo (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Murray, Anya (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Ngui, Adam Chian (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Pham, Tristan (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Shoji, Honoka (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
St. John, Lincoln (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Tsang, Valerie (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Tsang, Valerie (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Van Rooi, Esther (Shirley Lum), Grade 8 Theory
Wen, Shangjia Carmen (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Zhou, Zhiqi (Shirley Lum), Grade 8 Theory

FIRST CLASS HONORS

Amini, Alexandra (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Cheng, Chloe (Shirley Lum), Grade 8 Theory
Chin, Natalie (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Chin, Nicholas (Chloe Hurst), Grade 5 Theory
From, Henry (Edward Top), ARCT Analysis
Guo, Daniel (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 History
Guo, Daniel (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 History

Guo, Daniel (Shirley Lum), ARCT History
Lam, Nathan (Ruth Enns), Grade 9 History
Linklater, Griffin (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 Harmony
Luan, Alice (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Mantle, Luke (Shirley Lum), ARCT History
Ng, Kylie (Chloe Hurst), Grade 5 Theory
Ng, Kylie (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Park, Andrew (Shirley Lum), ARCT History
Park, Andrew (Shirley Lum), Counterpoint
Patel, Varun (Chloe Hurst), Grade 6 Theory
Phan, Benjamin (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Poon, Ethan (Shirley Lum), Grade 8 Theory
Sam-Weng, Kingston (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Spur, Brayden (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 History
St. John, Lincoln (Chloe Hurst), Grade 5 Theory
Wong, Cameron Cayley (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Woo, Marcus (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 Harmony
Zheng, Joseph (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 History
Zheng, Joseph (Shirley Lum), ARCT History
Zhou, Zhiqi (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 Harmony

HONORS

Fong, Douglas (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Guo, Daniel (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 Harmony
Hyland, Sebastian (Edward Top), Grade 10 Harmony
Jarvis, Robert (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 5 Theory
Kellar, Matthew (Shirley Lum), ARCT History
Lee, Matthew (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 Harmony
Lee, Matthew (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 History
Li, Leon (Chloe Hurst), Grade 8 Theory
Liu, Oliver (Shirley Lum), Grade 8 Theory
Ma, Emily (Edward Top), Grade 10 Harmony
Na, Elly JiYoung (Edward Top), Grade 8 Theory
Spur, Brayden (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 Harmony
Spur, Bryana (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 Harmony
St. John, Lincoln (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Theory
Wen, Chelsea (Edward Top), Grade 10 Harmony
Wong, Trevis (Shirley Lum), ARCT History
Woo, Jordan (Shirley Lum), Grade 10 Harmony
Yang, Bibiane (Shirley Lum), Grade 9 Harmony
Zheng, Jack (Shirley Lum), ARCT Analysis
Zheng, Joseph (Shirley Lum), Counterpoint

Morlock went into music almost accidentally at around age 14, when she saw the movie *Amadeus*, and thought, "I have to get myself into this world." As a child she loved to improvise on the piano, and studied the piano casually, 'taking lessons with the nice lady down the road'. "I had grade 8 piano when Brandon University let me in; I was not advanced, but they took a chance on me. And I got better and was doing a performance degree, but got tendonitis when I was around 22. I had still been improvising for my friends, and at that point someone said, 'why don't

you write down the stuff you've been improvising?' I realized by then that I was not going to be a pianist, so I started writing things down. Then Pat Carrabré, the composer, came from New York to be the Dean of the School of Music in Brandon. I ended up being his first composition student, and he was my first composition teacher. Pat gave me a push to get out of Brandon and go do music somewhere. I had kind of a small portfolio, but I got into UBC – they too took a chance on me. So a lot of luck, people coming into my life at the right time. When I was a teenager

I didn't even think there were living composers!"

Morlock has been the VSO Composer-in-Residence since 2014. These days she mainly writes on commission, and she currently has numerous projects on the go. "The way we try to work it, I try to find something I'm interested in rather than just 'a 10-minute orchestral piece'. We talk about what would be meaningful and holistic in the context of the concert. I like when things fit together, are connected, like tendrils growing towards each other."

VAM'S COMPOSITION DEPARTMENT TURNS FIVE

IN ITS FIRST FIVE YEARS, VAM's Composition Department has settled into a strong resource for young people interested in learning the art and craft of composing music. Edward Top, Head of the department, says, "I didn't know composing was an option until I was 18 or 19. Vancouver in general has so many festivals and concerts, and VAM in particular is a place where this is all possible. If you are in that kind of environment you are able to start earlier. You need parents that are committed, because composition is not that tangible; you don't go through RCM exams, it is more creative. I have three younger students around 12-14, who are really keen, writing all the time. One of them had a piece played by the VSO in their Jean Coulthard Readings. Another has been commissioned by Joseph [Elworthy] to write a cello piece for the inauguration of the new Recital Hall. With this group I do one-on-one sessions. I also have a collegiate group that has five students at the moment. We look at scores, listen to repertoire, do exercises such as developing motifs, rhythmic manipulations, at the moment we are looking at 12-tone writing. I try to do one or two recitals each year, one around Christmas, the other near the end of the year. It isn't easy to find performers, but we are in a school that has fantastic support, so we can usually pull it off."

The Composition Department will be holding its second Young Composers Competition this year. As with the first competition held in 2013/2014 (the department's inaugural year), there will be three age categories: Junior (ages 8 – 12), intermediate (ages 13 – 17) and collegiate (ages 18 – 22). The orchestration guidelines require that works be a maximum of 5 minutes in duration, and are orchestrated as a minimum for string orchestra, with optional woodwinds, brass and percussion.

Top is also very excited about a collaboration that will be taking place in the spring between the Composition Department and Vancouver's Standing Wave Ensemble, which is dedicated to commissioning and performing new works by Canadian and international composers. "Becky Whiting, the violinist in the ensemble (who is also on the faculty at VAM), approached me last year. They do a lot of outreach, educational projects, playing student pieces, the Sonic Boom festival [dedicated to featuring new works by emerging and established BC composers]. She said they were interested in doing a project at VAM with the composition students. We will hold two workshops, in February and April, and a concert in May. The earlier workshop in February is for

trying out, interacting, talking. The students will need to have made some decisions already, some sketches and ideas, some concrete pages to go over. Standing Wave might play a piece from their repertoire to introduce the group, their sound."

AK Coope, who plays clarinet in Standing Wave, speaks for the group: "Standing Wave is delighted to be collaborating, for the first time, with VAM's composition department. The Ensemble has commissioned over 80 works in its 25 year history, and we pride ourselves on our close working relationships with many of the composers whose works we have premiered. We have commissioned Edward Top three times over the past few years and have a great respect for him as both a composer and a teacher. In fact, his work, *Pots n' Pans Falling* is featured on our latest CD, *New Wave*. In the process of bringing a new musical work to life, collaboration between performers and composer is invaluable. It is particularly useful for composers to hear live performers play, demonstrate and answer questions up-close. We look forward to working with VAM's composition students in workshop settings and, ultimately, to bringing their unique musical ideas to life in our concert on May 16." Mark your calendars for this one!

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

DINAH AYRE (voice, Robyn Driedger-Klassen) was accepted as a full-time member of the highly distinguished Vancouver Chamber Choir.

ALANA CHAN (piano faculty) received Honorable Mention at the International Respighi Conducting Competition in New York. In September, she guest conducted the Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra and the Simon Fraser University Concert Orchestra, as well as served on the jury of the Vancouver International Music Competition's preliminary round.

MELODY COURAGE (voice, alumna) performed a lead role in the world premiere of City Opera Vancouver's *Missing* by composer Brian Current and librettist Marie Clements.

SHANTI-ELLA CRETU (flute, Mark McGregor) attended the Northern California Flute Camp this summer. This fall she begins her first year of the Bachelor of Music program at the University of British Columbia, studying with Brenda Fedoruk.

In 2016-2017, **BOGDAN DULU** (piano faculty) toured the Northwest Territories with British-Nigerian actor and singer Tayo Aluko with the theatre play *Call Mr. Robeson*, as well as Quebec and New Brunswick (19 solo recitals featuring music of Marc-André Hamelin) as a Jeunesses Musicales artist.

MATTHIEU FORESI (composition, Edward Top) has been picked for a reading of his orchestral piece, *The Hall of Fear*, during the Jean Coulthard Readings on February 19, 2018.

HENRY FROM (piano, Donna Lee-Leung) is part of a piano trio that has been invited by Morningside Music Bridge and Zefunot Culture to take part in a November 2017 tour to Israel playing concerts in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Ashdod, and Nazareth.

ESTHER HWANG (violin, alumna) is now a member of Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and has joined VAM faculty.

KALISSA LANDA toured in the UK with the Juno-award winning band, The Paperboys, in November. She is also celebrating the 25th anniversary of the band with shows across Canada and the US.

In June, Professor **LEE KUM-SING** (piano faculty) was invited to perform in Singapore with Singapore Symphony to celebrate his high school "The Chung Louis High School" 100 years anniversary concert. He repeated the same programme in the Summer in the Calsamagiorie Festival in Italy. In early 2018 Professor Lee will present lectures and open conversations with teachers and parents in Toronto, and in March 2018 he will present masterclasses and lectures in Hong Kong, Guangzhou, and Fujian Music Conservatories.

MONICA LEE (piano faculty) is now the co-artistic director of the Music Without Borders Society. The society is a non profit organization that features young, talented musicians in gala events and competitions, featuring solo with orchestra performances and masterclasses with renowned music professors and distinguished performing artists.

MARK MCGREGOR (flute faculty) recently completed a six-city cross-Canada tour, performing a programme of works for solo flute and flute/electronics by Canadian composers, including Nicole Lizée, James O'Callaghan, Greg Newsome, and Michael Oesterle.

NOEL MCROBBIE (piano faculty) had a residency at the University of South Florida September 17-20, which included a recital for the Steinway Piano Series and a master class for graduate piano students.

JOY YEH (harp faculty) was invited to premiere a Canadian work at the World Harp Congress in Hong Kong this summer. She will be the special guest at the concert of Laudate Singers to perform many harp and choir pieces and harp solo.



MUSIC EXPLORERS PROGRAM

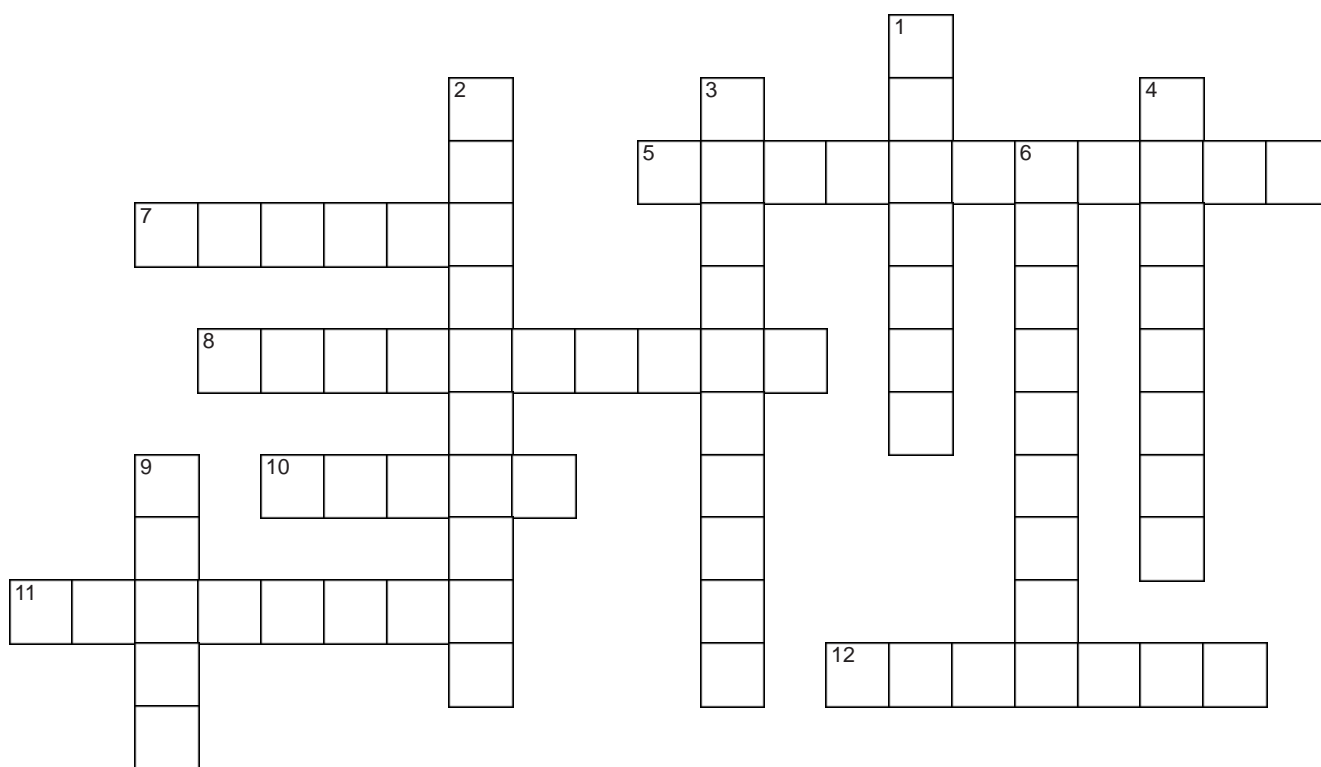
Music classes for children ages 3 months to 7 years

Join your child in their first explorations of the musical world! Watch your child develop coordination, confidence in solo performance, and the ability to work with others as they launch into a journey of discovery and enjoy the benefits of early music education.

Year-round registration available! Visit: vam.ca



Scherzetto



ACROSS

- 5 A piano predecessor
- 7 Used to cross a river, or, part of a violin
- 8 (2 words) "Outer Space" suite by Gustav Holst
- 10 Italian for "sweetly"
- 11 Brass instrument with a large slide
- 12 The highest voice in a choir

DOWN

- 1 Mozart's country of origin
- 2 (2 words) Sometimes called the "G Clef"
- 3 Composed "Carnival of the Animals"
- 4 Instrument family including flute, clarinet, and bassoon
- 6 Orchestra leader
- 9 Instrument that reads in alto clef

CONGRATULATIONS COMPETITION WINNERS & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

2017 KAY MEEK COMPETITION

AWARDS	Kay Meek Scholarship (\$1,000)	RECIPIENTS	Hamilton Lau, piano	TEACHERS	Amanda Chan
	Alex Drennan Scholarship (\$1,000)		Robert Choi, cello		Joseph Elworthy
	Provincial Chapter, I.O.D.E. Scholarship (\$1,000)		Sarah Dabin Baek, cello		Ariel Barnes
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$1,000)		Sean Gao, violin		David Gillham, Nicholas Wright
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$1,000)		Katie Purcell, viola		Isabelle Roland
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$1,000)		Adrian Kwan, violin		David Gillham

2017 ELSJE DE RIDDER ARMSTRONG CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

AWARDS	Elsje de Ridder Armstrong Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)	RECIPIENTS	Simon Gidora, Olivia Saurette, Yangyu Wu	TEACHERS	Ariel Barnes, coach
	Iby Koerner Memorial Scholarship (\$250)		Sean Gao, Caitlin Wong, Lucian Barz, Ashley Green		David Gillham
	Iby Koerner Memorial Scholarship (\$250)		Rosalind Wang, Adrian Kwon, Katie Purcell, Shauna Choi, Teresa Bowes		Joseph Elworthy
	Provincial Chapter, I.O.D.E. Scholarship (\$250)		Alice Lee, Megan Cheng, Henry From		Joseph Elworthy
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Victor Mangas, Olivia Cho, Augustin Wright		A.K. Coope, Bogdan Dulu
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Sebastian Hyland, Hannah Elworthy, Heather Elworthy, Trevis Wong		Joseph Elworthy
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Zabrina Ng, Yolanda Wang, Robert Choi, Christian Bailey		Bogdan Dulu
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Jinyoung Ahn, Jeongho Goh, YuQi Jiang		Isabelle Roland
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		David Lee, Kurt Chen, Lucian Barz, Olivia Cho		

2016/17 SUZUKI SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS	Marian Schreiber Memorial Scholarship (\$600)	RECIPIENTS	Charles Cheung, violin	TEACHERS	Lawrie Hill
	Chua Tiampo Memorial Scholarship (\$600)		Caroline Ho, violin		Lawrie Hill
	Marguerite M. Echaus Memorial Scholarship (\$500)		Henry From, piano		Amanda Chan, Donna Lee-Leung
	VAM Suzuki Piano Scholarship (\$200)		Zachary Him Yui Wong, piano		Teresa Ho
	VAM Suzuki Cello Scholarship (\$150)		Bradley Mah-Young, cello		Mary Thomson
	VAM Suzuki Viola Scholarship (\$150)		Dylan Yee, viola		Mark Luchkow
	VAM Suzuki Flute Scholarship (\$150)		Anya Murray, flute		Heather Beaty

2017 BARBARA CLAGUE FESTIVAL OF SONG

AWARDS	Grand Prize (\$400)	RECIPIENTS	Carolyn Forward	TEACHERS	Caroline Jang
	Second Place (\$200) - Tied		Jordana Solstice Goddard		Robyn Driedger-Klassen
	Second Place (\$200) - Tied		Katie Purcell		Kathleen Allan
	Third Place (\$200) - Tied		Jonathon Chan		Caroline Jang
	Third Place (\$200) - Tied		Sruthy Loganathan		Caroline Jang

2017 JEROLD GERBRECHT WOODWIND & BRASS COMPETITION

AWARDS	First Place Winner	RECIPIENTS	Victor Mangas, clarinet	TEACHERS	A. K. Coope
	Second Place Winner		Nathaniel Lum, flute		Heather Beaty
	Third Place Winner		Yoel Kristian, flute		Brenda Fedoruk
	Fourth Place Winner - Tied		Jackson Howard, trombone		Ellen Marple
	Fourth Place Winner - Tied		Hyung Min Song, clarinet		Christopher Lee

2016/17 VIOLIN SEMINAR SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS	Best Technique, Intermediate Masterclass (\$250)	RECIPIENTS	Sebastian Hyland
	Most Technical Progress, Intermediate Masterclass (\$250)		Eva Jarvis

AWARDS & COMPETITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

Irena Fok, Abdisa Pourslani, & Parissa Yee (piano, Krystyna Tucka) - Gold Diplomas, BCCM Festival

Simon Gidora (voice, Alan Corbishley) - representative of Sunshine Coast, Kiwanis Festival

Ryan Ho (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) - Silver Medals, RCM grade 2 category, Kiwanis Music Festival.

Brandon Krezeski (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) - Gold and Silver Medals, RCM grade 8 category, Kiwanis Music Festival.

Log Lin (violin, Jenny Lim) - First place, Intermediate Strings - Violin, BC Performing Arts Festival 2017

Griffin Linklater (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) - Gold Medal, at Kiwanis Music Festival in Vancouver and Provincial BC gold medal in Kamloops; Gold Medal at The Vancouver International Music Competition in Young Artists Strings Category

Erika Liu (harp, Joy Yeh) - Kiwanis Festival Medallion, Aoyama Harp of Canada Ltd. Rising Star Scholarship, & Most Promising New Artist Scholarship.

Miles Mantle (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) - Silver Medal, RCM grade 4 category, Kiwanis Music Festival.

Davin Mar (viola, Manti Poon) - Strings & Viola Scholarships, Kiwanis Music Festival; Silver Medal, Strings Junior Talent Category, and Best Performance of a Canadian Composition, Vancouver International Music Competition

Jacob Ollivier (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) - Gold Medal, RCM grade 10 category Kiwanis Music Festival.

Valen Tiernan (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) - Gold Medal, RCM grade 2 category, Kiwanis Music Festival

Mariana Valdés (voice, Robyn Driedger-Klassen) - third place, Sinaloa International Singing Competition VAM Viola Duo (Toby Mar & Davin Mar) - Duet Medallion, Kiwanis Music Festival

VAM Viola Quartet (Heather Chester, Locas Mortensen, Davin Mar, Dylan Yee) - Chamber Group Scholarship, Kiwanis Music Festival

Jensen Yee (piano, Krystyna Tucka) - Gold Medals, BCCM Festival

2017/18 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM SOIRÉE

Friday, November 24, 7:00pm

Mary Olson Hall | Free Admission

VANIER PARK STRINGS FALL CONCERT

Monday, November 27, 7:00pm

Mary Olson Hall | Free Admission

STRAWBERRY & TEA STUDENT CONCERT

Friday, December 1, 7:00pm

Mary Olson Hall | Free Admission

LET US ALL BE MERRY! VAM CHOIRS IN CONCERT

Saturday, December 9, 2:00pm

Canadian Memorial United Church | Free Admission

VAM PRE-JUNIOR & JUNIOR SYMPHONY HOLIDAY CONCERT

Saturday, December 9, 6:00pm

Canadian Memorial United Church | Free Admission

VAM INTERMEDIATE SYMPHONY HOLIDAY CONCERT

Saturday, December 9, 7:30pm

Canadian Memorial United Church | Free Admission

VAM VOCAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

Friday and Saturday, December 15-16, 7:30pm

Mary Olson Hall | Free Admission

VOICE AND PIANO MASTERCLASS WITH TARA ERRAUGHT AND JAMES BAILLIEU

Monday, January 15, 2:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

Co-presented with Vancouver Recital Society

Generously supported by Edith Lando Charitable Foundation

STRAWBERRY & TEA STUDENT CONCERT

Sunday, January 21, 2:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2017/18 SEASON

FEBRUARY 18, 2018, 2PM

BRAHMS' SYMPHONY NO. 1

Slowly rising from the tremendous shadow of Beethoven's symphonic works, Brahms' Symphony No. 1 was created with painstaking care over a period of 21 years. This powerful contribution to the orchestral canon, formidable in its own right, is presented alongside Grieg's Piano Concerto with 2017 Kay Meek Competition winner Hamilton Lau and a world premiere with violin duo Jonathan Chan and Jan Bislin.

Leslie Dala, conductor

Jonathan Chan and Jan Bislin, violin

MAY 6, 2018, 2PM

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

From the graceful reverie of a faun to the lumbering waltz of an elephant, the French flair for musical imagery pervades Debussy's dream-like Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune and Saint-Saëns' cavalcade of comical creatures, Carnival of the Animals. Featuring Poulenc's Concert champêtre for harpsichord and orchestra and VAM's Mary Buckerfield White Choral program in works by Gabriel Fauré.

Kathleen Allan, conductor | **Christopher Gaze**, narrator
Christina Hutten, harpsichord | **VAM Choirs**

**VAM CHORAL & BRASS PROGRAMS:
MUSIC OF THE SISTER QUEENS**

Friday, February 2, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

**PHYLLIS SALTER PIANO
COMPETITION FINALS**

Saturday, February 3, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

**VAM COMPOSITION DEPARTMENT:
STANDING WAVE COMPOSITION WORKSHOP**

Friday, February 9, 3:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

BJORN & LORI HAREID

SENIOR SECONDARY COMPETITION FINALS

Saturday, February 10, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

STRAWBERRY & TEA STUDENT CONCERT

Sunday, February 25, 2:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

VAM VOCAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

Friday and Saturday, March 2-3, 7:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

**YOUNG COMPOSERS' COMPETITION FINALS:
ORCHESTRAL READING SESSION**

Saturday, March 3, 2:30pm

Mary Olson Hall | Free Admission

**EDITH LANDO GIFTED YOUTH
COMPETITION FINALS**

Sunday, March 4, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

**JEROLD GERBRECHT WOODWIND & BRASS
COMPETITION FINALS**

Friday, March 9, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

VANIER PARK STRINGS SPRING CONCERT

Monday, March 12, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission



The poster features a decorative border with vertical stripes in green, blue, and purple. At the top center is the VAM logo, which includes the text 'VAM Vancouver Academy of Music S.K. Lee College' inside a stylized frame. Below the logo is a pink banner with the text 'VAM SPRING CARNIVAL & OPEN HOUSE' in white, bold, sans-serif font. To the left of the banner is a circular inset image showing a group of children playing musical instruments. To the right of the banner, the date 'MAY 5, 2018' is written in large, bold, black font, with the number '5' in blue. Below the date, the time '10:00AM - 2:00PM' is written in bold, black font. At the bottom right, the address 'VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC 604. 734. 2301 | www.vam.ca 1270 Chestnut Street Vancouver B.C. V6J 4R9' is written in bold, black font.

VAM SPRING CARNIVAL
& OPEN HOUSE

MAY 5, 2018

10:00AM - 2:00PM

VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC
604. 734. 2301 | www.vam.ca
1270 Chestnut Street
Vancouver B.C. V6J 4R9

**2018 Marian Schreiber
Suzuki Festival
Concert**

Sunday, May 27, 2pm
Orpheum Theatre
Free Admission





ANNUAL FUND

SUPPORT VAM'S UNSUNG HERO

Though not often flashy, prominent, nor the focus of attention, the Annual Fund is VAM's Unsung Hero whose unrestricted funds work so hard in the background to:

- meet **core and immediate needs** and be channelled to the areas of greatest opportunity;
- expand and deliver **vibrant programs** such as the Early Childhood Music Program, Orchestral Program, Choral Program, and the School of Swing;
- invest in our students with **scholarships and bursaries** to lift financial barriers;
- reach out to the **community** with VAM's signature VAM Symphony Orchestra Series at the Orpheum Theatre.

With your partnership as a VAM donor, you are the quiet heroes whose gifts make all of this possible. Every donation counts and supports the foundation on which creativity and cultural community-building can flourish.

Your gift can positively touch all of our students – here are some examples of what a donation can enable:

- \$75** – Buys 1 quality music stand and renews our fleet of indispensable companions at lessons and concerts;
- \$250** – Helps 1 piano keep its pitch and sing in-tune;
- \$500** – Purchase of parts and a conductor's score for 1 orchestral work rehearsed and performed in VAM's Orchestral Program;
- \$1,000** – Quick responses to exceptional opportunities and projects that encourage innovations in teaching and learning;
- \$5,000** – Supports the mounting and production of 1 VAM Symphony Orpheum Concert to connect the artistic excellence of our students with cultural community service.



Help us reach this year's goal of \$150,000. You need not be a musician to give the gift of music!

MAKE A DONATION TODAY – EVERY GIFT COUNTS: WWW.VAM.CA