



Vancouver Academy of Music • S.K. Lee College

Concertmaster Apprenticeship Program

The role of concertmaster is a delicate balance between leader and mediator. On a practical level, the concertmaster is responsible for guiding the entire string section, which includes advance preparation of bowings and performance instructions, as well as a comprehensive knowledge of the orchestral score. In a more subtle manner, the concertmaster is a facilitator for the interpretive ideas of the conductor. CAP provides a unique opportunity for intensive study with Dale Barltrop, VSO Concertmaster, who is quickly garnering a reputation as one of North America's finest concertmasters.

About CAP:

- Post-secondary program for violinists pursuing Bachelor of Music, Music Performance Diploma or Artist Diploma at VAM's S.K. Lee College
- Up to 85% percent of tuition is covered by bursary and scholarship
- CAP is a highly selective program with very limited space
- Weekly lessons with Dale Barltrop
- Opportunities to observe professional rehearsals
- Concertmaster audition preparation
- Analysis of rehearsal management skills
- Opportunities to sit concertmaster of the VAM Symphony Orchestra under the guidance of Maestro Leslie Dala and Dale Barltrop



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violin Program

Nicholas Wright

Co-Head, Violin Department

Co-Head of VAM's Violin Department, Nicholas Wright's engagements as soloist, chamber and orchestral musician have taken him to most of the major concert halls in Europe, Asia and North America. As an orchestral musician Nicholas has worked with many of today's leading conductors including Bernard Haitink, Sir Simon Rattle, Valery Gergiev and Mstislav Rostropovich. He has worked extensively with the major chamber and symphony orchestras in London, including the English Chamber and London Philharmonic Orchestras. He performs regularly as guest concertmaster with orchestras such as the Bournemouth Symphony, BBC Concert and Ulster Orchestras. In 2003 he was made the youngest member of the London Symphony Orchestra where he held the first violin sub-principal position. In 2012, Nicholas was appointed Assistant Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.

A native of England, Nicholas received his training as a scholar at the Royal College of Music in London, studying initially with Prof. Itzhak Rashkovsky and later with Prof. Rodney Friend. In addition to winning prizes at the Royal College, Nicholas has been generously supported by grants from the Martin Musical Fund, the Craxton Memorial Fund and the Royal Overseas League. This has enabled him to study abroad with many eminent musicians including Ruggiero Ricci and Gil Shaham. Nicholas enjoys teaching and has given many masterclasses in the United Kingdom, USA and Canada. In 2012, he became first violinist of the VAM Quartet, the ensemble in residence at the Vancouver Academy of Music.



Guarneri Seminar

- Ages 14 and older
- RCM Grade 9 and higher
- Thursdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm
- Technique class: scales/arpeggios, etudes, orchestral excerpts (45 mins)
- Nicholas Wright Masterclass: discussion of musical style, interpretation and performance techniques; accompanist provided (45 mins)



Dale Barttrop

Director, Concertmaster Apprenticeship Program

Director of VAM's Concertmaster Apprenticeship Program (CAP), Australian violinist Dale Barttrop, has performed across North America, Europe and Australia. Appointed Concertmaster of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in 2009, he has appeared as both soloist and director with the VSO. Prior to his appointment in Vancouver, Barttrop served as Principal Second Violin in the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra for six years. During this time, Barttrop appeared regularly as soloist with the SPCO, including a performance of his own orchestration of Schubert's Rondo in B minor. He has also served as guest Concertmaster of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, guest Principal Second Violin of the Australian Chamber Orchestra and Associate Concertmaster of the Akron Symphony Orchestra in Ohio. Barttrop has performed at numerous music festivals across North America, including Mainly Mozart, Festival Mozaic, Music in the Vineyards, Yellow Barn, Kneisel Hall, Tanglewood and the New York String Seminar. He was a grand prizewinner at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and winner of the violin division of the American String Teachers Association National Solo Competition. Barttrop began his violin studies in Brisbane, Australia and made his solo debut with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra at the age of 15. He moved to the United States in 1998 to attend the University of Maryland and continued his studies at the Cleveland Institute of Music. His teachers have included William Preucil, Gerald Fischbach, members of the Guarneri Quartet, Elizabeth Morgan and Marcia Cox. Barttrop has taught at the University of British Columbia, the National Orchestral Institute in Maryland, the Australian National Academy of Music and the Australian Youth Orchestra.

Masterclass with Dale Barttrop

- Thursdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm (once a month)
- Performers recommended from Guarneri & Stradivari Seminars as well as CAP students
- Open for all VAM students, parents and faculty to attend
- Accompanist provided

Lawrie Hill

Co-Head, Violin Department

Co-Head of VAM's Violin Department, Lawrie Hill is one of Canada's most respected pedagogues, responsible for producing multiple generations of students who have been accepted to the most prestigious music schools, prizewinners of international competitions, and acclaimed professionals who populate orchestras and faculty rosters around the world. Lawrie has garnered a reputation for nurturing exceptionally promising young musical talents into poised and polished performers, applying many of the pedagogical principles she learned from her principal teachers: Gwen Thompson, Tom Rolston, Ronald Sheen, and Yasuko Eastman.

In addition to her significant teaching responsibilities, Ms. Hill has been a member of the Vancouver Opera Orchestra since 1985, and was a long standing member of the former CBC Radio Orchestra. Lawrie has toured many times with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and with several international shows, including: Phantom of the Opera, Les Miserables, Showboat, and The Music of the Night Tour. Other artists that Lawrie has performed with and for include: Pavarotti, Cecilia Bartoli, Natalie Cole, John Denver, Lyle Lovett, Sarah McLaughlin, Diana Krall, Ray Charles, Led Zepplin, Michael Buble, The Rankin Family, and many others. Ms. Hill was a devoted member of the former jazz string quartet, Babayaga for ten years.



Stradivari Seminar

- Ages 10-14
- RCM Grade 7-9
- Thursdays, 4:30pm-6:00pm
- Technique class: scales/arpeggios, etudes, orchestral excerpts (45 mins)
- Lawrie Hill Masterclass: discussion of musical style, interpretation and performance techniques; accompanist provided (45 mins)