



Woo Siblings Carry VAM's Vision of Music for Life

Naomi, Benjamin and Emma Woo, all alumni of VAM, are by any standard an outstanding trio of young people. All three have an impressive list of musical accomplishments gathered in their teen years, winning festivals and competitions singly and in chamber groups, and playing as soloists with orchestras and in recitals (check out the VAM Alumni section on the website). All three have a wide variety of interests, and a holistic vision of integrating music into their lives. All three are continuing their studies at prestigious schools, and all are making music – a lot!

After graduating from Yale University with a BA degree in math, philosophy and music and a MMus in piano performance, Naomi is spending a year at the University of Cambridge, UK, on a Cambridge Gates Scholarship. "I'm working in a new program, performance studies, with John Rink, one of the leading researchers in the field. I'm looking at the question, 'what makes performance creative?' There is a perception that writing music is creative, that the performer is only presenting the composer's ideas. As a performer, and having studied music academically, I find this a very interesting question."

Naomi also loves to conduct. She credits

Joseph Elworthy with her first conducting opportunity. "He arranged for me to conduct a rehearsal of the VAM intermediate string orchestra, the Shostakovich eighth string quartet. I knew everyone in the group, everyone was really supportive." A school project in which she interviewed Tania Miller, conductor of the Victoria Symphony, truly ignited the spark. "I took a conducting class in my second year at

"Going to VAM was like weekly family outings.

We'd spend the evenings there, meet friends there."

- Emma Woo

Yale, and later auditioned to conduct a student orchestra, the Berkeley College Orchestra. I was chosen, so I conducted them for two years. I also got to conduct musical theatre, and opera." During her stint at Yale Naomi produced numerous concerts and festivals, and she enjoys collaborating with other artists. "I've worked with experimental theatre, dance troupes, visual artists... for one show we had a painter on stage, actually a different one for each of three shows, each show was very different." In February 2013 Naomi performed Schubert's *Die Winterreise* with a singer at a house concert: "It was so incredible, half way through it started to snow! It was really chilling."

Benjamin is in a 5-year joint program with Harvard University and the New England Conservatory of Music. He graduated from Harvard last year, studying cognitive science, philosophy and music. "I wanted to continue in music, but also wanted another academic component. I created a self-made major, choosing classes in various fields of cognitive science (neurobiology, psychology, philosophy, psychoanalysis) and applying them to the question of why music affects us, how sound can have emotional impact. Musicians have always taken this for granted, but from a scientific viewpoint it is phenomenal."

He is completing his fifth year at the Conservatory in piano performance and composition: "I've been composing for five or six years. It's becoming an important part of my music making. The lines between performer and composer are getting pretty blurred, especially when composers call for improv, or performers play their own music...I'm also interested in how different genres (classical, pop, rock) speak to each other." Benjamin also enjoys teaching. "We all taught at the St. James Music Academy [in Vancouver's Downtown

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Message from the Chair



Ian MacIntosh
Chair of the
Board of Trustees

It's nice to see all of the happy faces in the hallways at VAM again after the summer break. Things are now in full swing at the school and everyone is well into the routine of fall.

The school administration and the Board of Trustees have been very busy this year. We are actively involved in seeing the new music school in Hong Kong come into existence. We have also been carefully reviewing the operations of VAM with a view to making sure that we're offering the best programming possible. There have been a number of personnel changes and we've added some new faculty that are allowing us to offer exciting new programs. We're also exploring relationships with some other music organizations with a view to seeing how we can create opportunities for our students and faculty.

The one constant comment that I hear a lot is that we have an excellent school. I want to thank our faculty for all of the hard work that they do to ensure that we maintain such an excellent reputation.

I would also like to recognize so many of our students that have graduated and gone on to pursue music education at other fine institutions. They are our ambassadors and they make us all proud.

I look forward to another year of excellence at VAM and to hearing some fine music played by our talented students.

Ian MacIntosh

Message from the Director

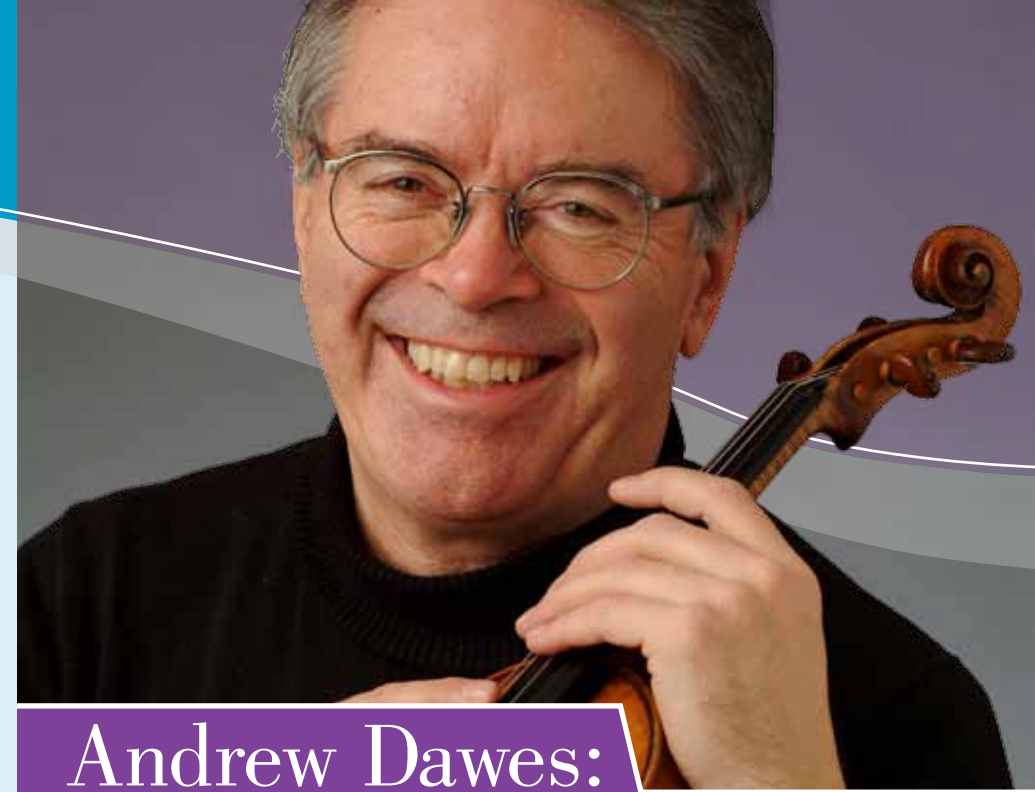


Joseph Elworthy
VAM Executive
Director

After a short hiatus, it is nice to get the VAM printing press rolling again with this edition of the school newsletter. *Appassionato* aims to provide an engaging synopsis of the many events taking place at VAM, whilst providing informative updates on students, faculty, patrons and alumni. There is so much good news to celebrate, which makes the task of selecting article topics pleasurable. We all love the success stories – glory in a prestigious competition, news of an international tour, admission to a prestigious school, an outstanding exam result. However, it is important that these external emblems of achievement do not overshadow VAM's primary aim: to nurture the personal development of our students through an engaged relationship with music and the performing arts. In this age of competing sound bites in the Twitter universe, how fortunate our students are to have a means of escaping the distractions of the tabloid marketplace by placing bow to string or finger to key for a movement of Bach or Brahms. I wish to commend the inspiring dedication of our VAM parents who recognize that music and the performing arts create an essential pillar in the formation of an enlightened person. I look forward to greeting you at a future VAM concert and thank you for your support.

Musically yours,

Joseph Elworthy



Andrew Dawes: Canada Honours a Truly Canadian Icon

Andrew Dawes opens his acceptance speech for the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Artistic Achievement in the spring of 2013 by saying, "It is humbling to be in the company of those receiving this award tonight and those recipients from previous years." Modesty and gratitude underly the conversation as he sits in his living room chatting about this recent honour. "The thing about the Governor General's award, there were probably 40 or 50 people nominated all across Canada, so actually to be chosen, the enormity hit me one day, that I should be picked out of all these people," he says. "It's always kind of odd getting awards for something that you like doing anyway, but to get the awards is really wonderful. I am always kind of surprised when I do get them."

In fact, Dawes is recognized as being among the best violinists that Canada has ever produced. The Governor General's award is the latest in a long list of awards that includes: the Canada Council Molson Prize (1976), the Order of Canada (1991), the Chalmers National Music Award (1994), the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal (2002), the Dorothy Somerset Award for Excellence in Performance and Development (2002), the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012), and numerous Juno awards and nominations.

Dawes "was fortunate to grow up in the beautiful ranch country of southern

Alberta". His mother encouraged him and his two sisters to study music. "I wasn't one of those kids who fell in love with the fiddle. I always loved horses, I wanted to ride. We moved to Calgary, and I studied violin there and I was good at it. I was a better fiddler than I was a horseback rider. So when I was 15, my teacher, Clayton Hare, moved to Portland, and I went with him to study. Then I went to Saskatoon, where I met Murray Adaskin. He was probably the closest I had to a mentor. I'd phone him up when I had big decisions to make."

"To play the violin, and to perform chamber music all my life has been a gift." – A. Dawes

Dawes continued his studies at the Geneva Conservatory of Music where he studied with world-renowned violinist and teacher Lorand Fenyves. "I did many competitions; I thought I was going to be a hotshot fiddler. When you win competitions you have a ton of concerts for about a year. I did a lot of touring by myself; you travel by train, play with one orchestra, then catch a train to the next town, and rehearse, eat by yourself, it's a bit lonely. It was Fenyves who suggested I start a string quartet, for my musical development. So in '65, Ken [Perkins] and I started the Orford Quartet. We thought we'd try it out for the summer, and then we decided to stay together. I just sort of fell in love with it. To be with three other guys who were funny, smart,

we were doing a lot of great material, going to all these amazing places. What I liked about the quartet was a real sense of integrity; everybody tried their very hardest, there was never any sabotage." The Orford String Quartet, active from June 1965 until July 1991, is legendary in the history of Canadian classical music.

"I left the quartet in '91, and was lucky enough to get a job teaching violin and chamber music at UBC. Then in '95, I got a phone call from the Tokyo string quartet, asking if I was free to come play. Playing with them was just like going home, like getting back on a horse. It was great fun. But at age 55 I thought it was time to decide how I was going to earn a living, so I played with them for about 18 months, and then went back to the University."

In 2006 Dawes developed focal dystonia, a nerve disorder that affects the fingers of his right hand: "It put paid to my playing. I decided that if I couldn't play like I used to, I wasn't going to do it anymore. So now I do a lot of teaching. And I've bought a sailboat."

In 2011, Joseph Elworthy asked Dawes to spearhead the Chamber Music Institute at VAM, with the aim of promoting intensive study of the chamber music repertoire. Now in its third year, some 80 children have applied. Arranging the groups can be challenging: coordinating schedules, locations, ages, playing levels, balance of instruments and communication technologies stretches the administrative talents of Dawes and VAM both. However, Dawes says "I really love teaching chamber music, even more than one-on-one. Teaching fiddle one-on-one you are always focussing on being in tune, on details of technique. Teaching chamber music you are more involved in the music." As he frequently teaches in the living room-cum-studio of his home, he adds, "It can be a bit snug for a group, we push the furniture around."

And finally about the music he says, "It is ineffable; you read books and so on, no one even comes close to describing what it's about. When you got it right, you had the sense of lifting up the edge of a curtain and peeking in at paradise."

Watch the National Film Board of Canada's short film: *Andrew Dawes: Dynamic Range* at www.nfb.ca.

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(Continued from page 1)

Eastside], and I've taught a bit here at Harvard, and been a tutor. Teaching is a natural part of learning; knowledge becomes meaningful when it is passed on to others." While at Harvard, Benjamin was a member of the all-male a cappella group, the Din and Tonics, touring with them to Europe, Asia and Australia. On Saturdays he leads a poetry workshop.

Emma just completed a two-year International Baccalaureate program at the United World College Atlantic College in South Wales, UK. "My musical experience at Atlantic College was quite different. We lived in a 12th century castle, very rural. I took lessons, but I had to be more self-reliant, learning music on my own. I missed VAM a lot; I had taken it for granted how much good quality music I had access to. For my studies, my community contribution was music therapy. I gave piano performances for people with dementia, and children with autism. I also co-ran an a cappella group with people from all around the world, from different musical traditions; it was very satisfying helping the group come together."

Emma is in her freshman year at Harvard, taking classes in science, global health and music. "We are very lucky to have all this musical education. For me, music has sort of run parallel to all the other things I've done in life. Because I was playing very intense pieces at quite a young age, it may have been the primary way that I associated feelings and emotions. Here at Harvard I'm singing in the university choir, and playing flute in the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra. Flute is my second instrument, so I never played in the VAM orchestras, like Ben and Naomi did; when I auditioned here I got in! I'm playing in a piano quartet. I'm going to try to make it to Ben's poetry workshop, although I don't have much experience with poetry."

All three remember the time spent at VAM with fondness. Naomi says, "Lorraine [Ambrose] is an incredible teacher. She really challenged me; she would give me a

really hard piece, and I didn't know it was supposed to be hard, so I'd just practice. She started every lesson with harmony exercises, which gave me an understanding of how music fits together." For Benjamin, "VAM was the community to my music-making. I got to know other kids who did music, it made the music so much more alive. Chamber music was fantastic, just really fun." And according to Emma, "Going to VAM was like weekly family outings. We'd spend the evenings there, meet friends there."

"We grew up in an environment where people were interested in many different things," says Emma. "Both of our parents, especially our mom, devoted so much of their lives to our education, our music education. She isn't a musician herself, yet decided that this was important for her children to do. It is very inspiring to me, and I'm thankful for it." The siblings share a supportive relationship, and a love of chamber music. While each one's principal instrument is piano, Naomi says, "I have fond memories of us singing together while we cleaned up the kitchen", and Emma notes, "We have lots of books of songs at home. When we go home, it isn't long before somebody has a book out and we're singing."

And in their future? "What I like is the variety, having lots going on," Naomi says. "While I'm at Cambridge I'm trying to take advantage of all the resources, in the music faculty and outside. I think I'll come up with a long-term plan when I leave. I'm lucky. I'm 23, I've been fortunate to have places where I can explore all the things that I'm passionate about." Of his plans Benjamin says, "I want to compose and play, I want to write – philosophy or poetry maybe – and I want to teach. If I can find a way to do all that I'll be happy." Emma's path is less defined as yet: "I've met a lot of terrific musicians who have in common that they don't necessarily want to just study music, who are doing joint degrees in a huge variety of fields. I can envision going to medical school, or working in global health, but I will always

have music in my life."

It is pretty certain that, no matter which path they tread, the three of them will shine in their endeavours. Encountering these bright, articulate, engaged young people, one can't help but be cheered at the prospects for the world's future. It is to VAM's great credit to have nurtured them and helped them on their way.



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LESLIE DALA, CONDUCTOR

a Celebration of British Masterpieces



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2013, 2:00PM

ORPHEUM THEATRE

Elgar
'Introduction
and Allegro'
for string quartet
and string orchestra

Holst
'The Planets'
Britten
'Young Person's
Guide to
the Orchestra'

FEATURING



Koerner Quartet at VAM



Christopher
Gaze, narrator



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Scholarship & Competition News

Annual Scholarship Competition, Scholarships for 2013-2014

Kay Meek Scholarship
Olivia Cho, cello

Eva Bene Scholarship
Melissa Bideau, soprano

Alice Diane Bray Memorial Scholarship
Lixia Li, piano, Jay Lin, guitar

Alex Drennan Scholarship
Sharon Yang, piano

Beckie McDonald Stewart Scholarship
Grace Sohn, cello

IODE Scholarship
Sun Sung Kong, piano

Named Scholarship Suzuki Scholarships for 2013-2014

Marguerite M. Echaus Memorial (2012/2013) Scholarship
Teresa Bowes, piano

Walter E. Kelly Memorial Scholarship
Kyle Sum, cello

Stuart McCallum Memorial Scholarship
Joshua Liu, piano

Marian Schreiber Memorial Scholarship
Elizabeth Hemlin, violin

Chua Tiampo Memorial Scholarship
Andrew Park, violin, Charles Zhu, violin

Gifted Youth Scholarship Awards, Scholarships for 2013-2014

Edith Lando Scholarship
Grace Sohn, cello

Eugenie & Edward Yeung Scholarship
Alexander Chen, piano

Malcolm G. Aikman Scholarship
Olivia Cho, cello

Ann Lesley Bain Memorial Scholarship
Emily Chow, piano

Dr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Cohen Scholarship
Augustin Wright, piano

Harold & Florence Morris Scholarship
Caitlin Wong, violin/piano

Seymour & Janet Vineberg Memorial Scholarship
Alison Kim, violin

Tarun Damji Sidpra Memorial Scholarship
Jackson Shafer, piano

Named Bursary Ballet Scholarships for 2013-2014

Peggy Joyce Kennedy Gerbrecht Scholarship
Evelyn Lukits, Felicia Wu

Deborah Izen Scholarship
Rebecca Gregg

Ann Krieger Scholarship
Jacqueline Inaba

Maria Molnar Scholarship
Gabrielle MacInnes

Phyllis Salter Scholarships for Piano Received February 2013

Sophia Cui, Bryan Wong, Sharon Wong, Matteo Damascelli, Tracey Liu

Barbara Clague Festival of Song Received March 2013

Olivia Morgan Lang, Maddi Cook, Zoe Elliott-Puil, James Forward, Ava Von Lipinski

Jerold Gerbrecht Woodwind & Brass Competition for 2013-2014

Brass Division

David Cheng, trombone
Evan James Wendell, trumpet
Ray Han, French Horn

Woodwind Division

Vicky Zhang, flute,
Andy Seonghyeon Kim, oboe,
Joon Yun, flute

VAMSO Concerto Competition on Fri. May 10, 2013

Winner
Albert Seo, cello

Second Place
Grace Sohn, cello

Third Place
Madeline Hocking, violin

Winner to be the soloist with VAMSO at Orpheum Showcase on May 4th, 2014

The following students won their titles at the Canadian Music Festival held in Sherbrooke, Quebec in July 2013.

Olivia Cho, cello, First

Albert Seo, cello, First

Grace Sohn, cello, Second

Tate Zawadiuk, cello, Second

Jack Li, clarinet, Second



Thank you for your continued support of the Vancouver Academy of Music!

These winners were invited to to perform at the Canadian Music Competition BC Chapter Award Winner's Showcase Concert on Nov. 3rd, 2013 in Vancouver

Olivia Cho, cello, First

Albert Seo, cello, First

Grace Sohn, cello, First

Provincial Representatives for Vancouver Kiwanis Festival:

Junior Strings
Julie Lin, violin

Junior Woodwinds
Jack Li, clarinet

Intermediate Strings
Nicole Chung, cello

Senior Strings
Nestor Chen, cello

The following VAM students were recommended to perform at the Performing Arts BC Provincial Music Festival in May 2013.

First Runner up:

Junior Strings
Alison Kim, violin

Intermediate Strings
Madeline Hocking, violin

Intermediate strings
Allen Hong Sheng Zhou, cello

Official Observers:

Shauna Choi, cello

Jaclyn Chung, cello

Wonyoung Na, cello

Roselyn Thom, cello

Grace Sohn, cello

Caroline Kim, cello

Arseny Tyulenev, cello

Evan Ishii-Delukas, cello

Give the Gift of Music

For 45 years the Vancouver Academy of Music has been dedicated to providing quality music education to people of all ages and backgrounds. Every donation enables VAM to provide support for programs such as:

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- Education and performance outreach events
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Luke Kim (cello, Joseph Elworthy) has been accepted to UCLA for graduate studies.

Preston Lim (cello, Joseph Elworthy) has been accepted to Princeton University for undergraduate studies.

Diane Yeo (cello, Joseph Elworthy) has been accepted to Oberlin Conservatory for undergraduate studies.

Katie Youn (cello, Joseph Elworthy) is starting her PhD at Boston University.

Hee Soo Yoon (violin, Andy Dawes and Lawrie Hill) has started studying with Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. Hee Soo was awarded a full scholarship at NEC.

Professor Lee Kum-Sing, Head of the piano department, will be giving lectures and masterclasses in a number of cities in Japan in October, including: Utsunomiya, Nagoya, Tokyo and Osaka. This is the 30th year anniversary of his visits to Japan. Professor Lee will be also giving masterclasses at Beijing Central Conservatory of Music, China in October and November. Professor Lee has been a regular visiting professor at Beijing Central Conservatory of Music since 1985.

Tian-Yu Zhou (piano, Professor Lee Kum-Sing) will be giving seven recitals in Japan and China: at Utsunomiya's Junior College of Music (2 concerts), Nagoya's Munetsugu Hall, Osaka's College of Music, a salon concert in Osaka and at Beijing Central Conservatory of Music (high school and college) in October and November.

Jessy Kim (violin, Lawrie Hill) is enjoying her second year at the Glen Gould School of the Royal Conservatory.

Yena Lee (violin, Lawrie Hill) has headed to Yale University to complete her Masters in Music.

Warren Zielinski (violin, Gwen Thompson) has an excellent career as a violinist in London, England.

Jonathan Chan (violin, Lawrie Hill), based in London England, is playing on a 1715 Dominicus Montagnana instrument on loan from the Canada Council Musical Instrument Bank. Competition to play these instruments is intense and is decided by a jury of professional musicians and peers.

Andrew Beer (violin, Lawrie Hill) has been appointed as concertmaster of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra.

Joshua Wenner (violin, Lawrie Hill) is studying cardiac medicine in Ottawa and still plays his violin.

Vladimir Choi (violin, Lawrie Hill) is studying paediatric medicine in Singapore and still performs violin recitals.

Darren Chew (violin, Lawrie Hill) is studying medicine in Ireland and continues to play his violin.

Cameron Andres (violin, Paul Meister) was recently cast as the shepherd's boy in Vancouver Opera's recent production of *Tosca*.



Jason Ho (Violin Faculty) has been appointed as the new Principal Second Violin of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra.



Within the last 40 years Eero Sorila has diligently photographed the city of Vancouver in all seasons. Over a million local postcard photographs by Eero on sheet film have been published and sold.



Eero with his home-made "aluminum box" camera with the Lions in the background. Photo: Home Album.

Adventure & Philanthropy: VAM is Lucky Number Ten

There is a Finnish saying, "Scenery is almost like food." According to this saying, Eero Sorila has spent much of his life at the banquet table. He has photographed countless monuments, natural and man-made, all over the world. He has published books of photos taken in his travels, together with essays of his adventures, and his images have been made into calendars and postcards. Photographer, author, student of history and languages, journeyman tradesman, teacher, he is above all an adventurer, travelling around the world with little but a small backpack and camera, often sleeping under the stars, and eagerly embracing each day of the unknown. "When I land in a foreign country, don't speak the language, don't know the people, no place to sleep, for many people that's terrible. For me the adventure is not knowing."

Eero Sorila (gently rolled 'r's and accents on the first syllables, Finnish-style) was born in Finland in 1944. His family immigrated to Canada in 1957, settling first in Sudbury and later moving to Montreal. In 1958, on a visit to a family friend in Sault Ste. Marie, young Eero saw three black-and-white photo images – Niagara falls in winter, a deer's head, and a boat docked on a lake by a pier – that inspired in him a lifelong passion. "I looked at them, and thought, 'wow, if I could do something like that someday.'" A newspaper delivery route, paying \$3 per week, enabled him to purchase his first camera, a second-hand East German-made Exa.

After graduating from high school, Eero

completed an apprenticeship as a sheet metal worker, saved up enough money to buy a 1965 two-door Chevrolet Impala, and in 1966 he headed west to Vancouver, where "the Pacific Ocean, blooming flowers, and a Finnish church gave me a warm welcome." He found work on construction projects and

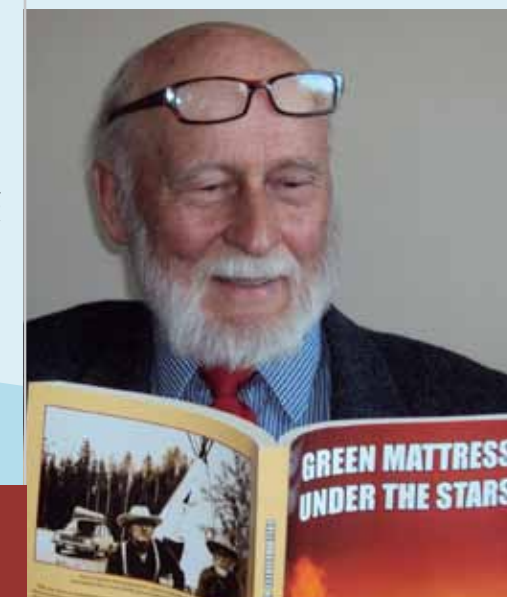
"In giving there is a great blessing. When I am removed from the stage of life, those young people who want to learn can be helped. That gives me great satisfaction." - Eero Sorila

in sheet metal shops, saved up \$500, and in 1968 headed south. This first trip, largely on foot through Central and South America, working passage across the Atlantic, and then hitchhiking through Europe to Lapland in Finland, took over a year.

On his return he went to work with a photographer friend who owned a photo studio, learning the technical side of the business, and in 1970 he opened his own photo studio in Gastown. "In 1971, Natural Color Productions, the big calendar and postcard company, called me and asked if I could take a postcard photograph in Hope, BC. Of course I said yes. The shot had to be taken with a big camera, but I had no big camera, and I had no car, so I called up my photographer friend and asked if I could borrow his camera, and another friend to see if he could drive me to Hope. Well, I took two shots, both of which were made into postcards. The rest is history. I closed the studio and became a landscape photographer."

Eero travels with a home-built large format camera. "Just a box with a lens", he says. "Too many buttons on modern cameras. When I travel, I even use the space inside the camera to pack my clothing. The one who travels the lightest travels farthest and I want to travel far." Aside from the

advantage of higher resolution with the large format (one of his images was enlarged to 10ft x 50ft!), he says an even more important element is the philosophy. "If I am shooting with a 35mm, or even more so with a digital, the mindset is to take 100 shots because there is no cost, so I become indifferent. With a big format, each image costs me \$10; I have to put



everything I have into that image." In 1998, while on a photo trip in Hawaii, Eero suffered a heart attack. The experience left him thankful for every new day, and with a deep desire to give back to other people. He started establishing scholarships at various institutions. "The VAM is the tenth one. I had nine, but then I wanted it to be a tidier number; ten is a good number. Music is very close to my heart, it is an important element, but some young people have financial limitations. So I phoned up the school and they connected me with Joseph [Elworthy]. We had a very good meeting. I asked many questions and liked what I heard. Then, instead of lingering, I said I was prepared to write a cheque immediately; I like to get things done. They were surprised! In giving there is a great blessing. When I am removed from the stage of life, those young people who want to learn can be helped. That gives me great satisfaction."

The large living room window of Eero's house frames a postcard view of Vancouver's North Shore. "It feeds my soul when I look out the window and see the mountains in the morning," he says. As for plans for the future: "My office is full of travel books, I'm excited to do the research. Yesterday I was thinking about how to get to Corsica, to photograph the house of Napoleon. I'm looking at Africa – Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Nigeria, Benin...there are still some countries I haven't been to. Had I been to every one, maybe I would be bored, but I haven't."

Calendar Highlights



November 2013

Friday, November 1, 7:30pm
Adult Learning Program Soirée

Sunday, November 3, 10:00am-2:00pm
Sonic Playground

Sunday, November 17, 2:00pm
VAMSO Orpheum Concert

Friday, November 22, 9:00am-3:30pm
Passport to Creativity

December 2013

Thursday, December 5, 7:30pm
VAM Junior & Intermediate Symphonies Winter Concert and Food Bank Fundraiser

Sunday, December 8, 2:00pm
Koerner Quartet Concert

Sunday, December 15, 2:00pm
Ballet Ensemble Performance

January 2014

Sunday, January 12, 2:00pm
Bjorn and Lori Hareid Senior Secondary Competition for Strings – Winners' Recital

January 13-25
Royal Conservatory of Music Practical Exams

February 2014

Sunday, February 2, 2:00pm
Phyllis E. Salter Piano Competition

Sunday, February 9, 2:00pm
Edith Lando Gifted Youth Scholarship Recital

Friday, February 21, 9:00am-3:30pm
Passport to Creativity

Sunday, February 23, 2:00pm
Suzuki Piano Achievement Levels Concert

Sunday, February 23, 2:00pm
VAMSO Orpheum Concert

March 2014

Sunday, March 2, 12:00pm
Kodaly Concert & Demonstration

Friday, March 7, 7:30pm
Koerner Quartet Concert

March 13-15, 7:30pm, March 16, 2:00pm
VAM Opera Studio, Scenes Performances



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VAM Bursaries Enable Dedicated Young People

Zachary Levin has been studying at VAM since the age of three. Starting in the Kodaly program, he moved to a "ruler and sponge" violin at age four, and then began instruction on his first real violin just before his fifth birthday. "My mother encouraged me to take both the piano and the violin,

bursaries that VAM has provided have been invaluable. The challenge is for VAM to enable brilliant teachers to instruct enthusiastic, eager students no matter what their financial background, and for no student to be left behind because of financial limitations. The financial support

"VAM has been a supportive teaching environment throughout my childhood; I've always felt welcomed and at home here." - Z. Levin

but my passion for the violin was there from the beginning. I really liked the warm resonant tones, and it seemed more exciting to play."

Now in grade 11 at St. George's Senior School, Zach is studying both violin and viola with Andrew Dawes. He hopes to continue studying music after high school, either in a university or conservatory environment. "Classical music will always be a central part of my future; playing, performing, attending concerts, and hopefully being able to give back to VAM and the arts. I want my contribution in the world to reflect my musical development which began at VAM."

Zach's mother Jocelyn has supported him in his music over the years: "I wanted to provide Zachary with the best possible classical music education," she says. "The

of the VAM community and the Board is definitely making a difference in Zachary's teenage years, as we have faced some financial challenges. We are truly grateful for VAM's contribution to Zachary's life and classical music development."

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VAM is proud to be the new Vancouver West centre for Royal Conservatory of Music examinations. For over 125 years, RCM has set the standard for musical assessment throughout Canada, as well as a recent 2012 expansion offering exams throughout the USA. www.rcmusic.ca

- January 13th-25th, 2014
- April 7th-11th, 2014
- June 9th-28th, 2014





Kenyan Outreach: How I spent my Summer Vacation

by Chloé Hurst, VAM Faculty Member

In the summer of 2013, I travelled to Kenya. Armed with donations, instruments, and VAM T-shirts, I spent five weeks teaching music at the New White House Academy in the town of Voi, about 200 km northwest of Mombasa.

Governmental educational resources are really stretched, so most schools don't offer music or arts. Although the students didn't have much general music knowledge, they were eager, and extremely fast learners. I taught recorder (a big thank you to everyone in the VAM community who donated an instrument!), and the Orff method using local percussion instruments, and formed a choir with the older classes, who were able to accompany themselves with percussion and recorder.

The five weeks culminated in a final concert for the teachers, staff and the district education officer, at which every class had a chance to perform. Without me knowing, some of the teachers arranged that everyone would wear their VAM T-shirts – they made sure all the shirts were washed, dried and ready to go! Also as a surprise, some of the older students formed a group and created a 'pre-show' for the concert that included songs they composed themselves, mostly in Kiswahili (the national language) with drum accompaniment and choreography. It struck me how musically enriched these

children are from growing up with their tribal music.

I first heard about NWHHA from my best friend, Megan Oduor. Megan had encountered the school earlier that year while volunteering in Kenya. Within minutes, Megan and I were discussing plans to help out the school, and in the fall of 2012, we organized a benefit concert in Vancouver, Sing for Hope. This evening of opera and musical theatre featured

“Looking at the sea of students wearing their pink and blue VAM T-shirts, ready to give their first music concert, was such a proud moment!”

– Chloé Hurst

members of the Vancouver Opera and VAM. In March 2013, we visited NWHHA for a week, to deliver the proceeds of the benefit concert and to teach music classes to the children. On our return, I wrote an update to all the people who had helped raise funds and awareness, among whom was Joseph Elworthy, VAM's Executive Director. To my delight, Mr. Elworthy was so taken by the work that he felt that VAM should lend a helping hand and “adopt” the school. Within a few weeks, a benefit concert was held, Mark Fewer and Friends, which featured a bill of amazing performers as well as a gallery of photos of the New White House Academy, taken by Brent Calis Photography©, for

auction, and a special display of photos of the children in most need of sponsorship.

The funds raised by the benefit concerts have helped to sponsor eight children at the school, repair water tanks, install rain gutters, and contribute to the running of the school to provide the children with a safe place to live, regular meals, and an education. This past October, the school successfully raised the funds to buy bricks for a new classroom to accommodate the next grade as the older children move up. One of the next goals is to supply the school with running water, as the current supply is delivered by trucks and stored in water tanks at the school.

Please keep an eye out for information on the next VAM benefit for the New White House Academy. NWHHA is sponsored and run by the Kenyan Children Help foundation, established in Switzerland in 2008. As of summer of 2013, approximately 150 children (many of them boarders) attend the school.

For more information on NWHHA, visit their website at:
www.kenyanchildrenhelp.ch
 (English option available on the website)
 or like the Facebook page,
 “New White House Academy”.

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