

# FALL 2014

Vancouver Academy of Music

After talking to key leadership donors, it was proposed that the refurbished ORR be renamed the Mary Olson Hall, in honour of VAM's former Director of Development, for her many years of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >>>>>>>>>>



Ian MacIntosh (VAM Chair), Dr. Alex Drennan (VAM long-time donor), Mary Olson, Dr. & Mrs. Edward and Eugenie Yeung (VAM long-time donors) and Joseph Elworthy (VAM Executive Director) gathered for a photo op with the brand-new Steinway piano at the inaugural gathering of the Mary Olson Hall.



## Vancouver Academy of Music

### VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC

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### APPASSIONATO

Writer/Editor: Barbara Dominik  
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**IAN  
MACINTOSH**  
CHAIR OF  
THE BOARD  
OF TRUSTEES

My term as the Chair of the VAM Board of Trustees expires at the upcoming AGM and I'm delighted to announce that Mr. Yuen Pau Woo will take over as Chair. Pau is eminently qualified for this position and I'm sure he will continue to lead our Board in new and exciting directions. I am equally delighted to announce that Dr. Raymond Dong will serve as the Vice Chair. He and Pau will make an excellent team.

The Board has accomplished a lot in the past three years: the Haw Par Mansion project in Hong Kong allowed us to look carefully at our school and has brought a number of new opportunities for students and faculty. We have made some major changes in programming, and welcomed new leaders in a number of core instructional areas. The renovation of Mary Olson Hall, and the gorgeous Steinway concert grand that now resides there, came about entirely through the philanthropy of some of our wonderful donors.

It has been my absolute pleasure to work closely with our Executive Director Joseph Elworthy. Joseph puts his heart and soul into making sure that everything that goes on at VAM exemplifies excellence. He sets very high standards for the school and for himself and I'm sure that he will continue to lead VAM in exciting directions.

Thank you to my fellow Trustees for their guidance, candour and hard work. Many of them will continue to work with Pau and Raymond. I will continue on the Board as the Past Chair and look forward to seeing VAM continue to excel.

**IAN MACINTOSH**  
CHAIR, VAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**JOSEPH  
ELWORTHY**  
VAM  
EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR

As the 2014/15 school year is off to a blistering start, it is always enjoyable to restart the VAM printing press with another edition of the school newsletter. I believe this particular edition of *Appassionato* captures the vibrancy of our school: from the reincarnation of the ORR into the Mary Olson Hall, to our first Hong Kong outreach program with SummerFest 2014, to a profile of VAM's beloved candyman, Tony Previté. Music is a communally appreciated art form and the articles in this newsletter speak to the importance that community plays as the foundation of VAM's success. To borrow a phrase from our Director of Development, Gloria Wong, a big part of what we share with the community is our programming and programs. The past few years have allowed us to scrutinize the programs at VAM, to see how we can enhance that connection. This fall we have several additions to our programming, including classes in Learning Mandarin through Music, and the Dal Richards School of Swing, which includes a jazz orchestra and introductory classes in Swing. VAM's primary aim remains to nurture the personal development of our students through an engaged relationship with music and the performing arts; this relationship can take many forms, and we strive to offer a solid foundation, and also exposure to the wide variety of activities that today's exciting musical world has to offer. I look forward to greeting you at a future VAM concert and thank you for your support.

Musically yours,

**JOSEPH ELWORTHY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Melissa Bideau (soprano) and Wen Wen Du perform at the inaugural concert of the Mary Olson Hall.

dedication and service to VAM. Mary says, "When I was invited to accept the honour of having the hall named for me, I felt extremely honoured and very humbled...and also excited."

**"It is a joy to have this inspiring new place aptly named after one of VAM's most devoted ambassadors." – Les Dala**

Mary, who officially retired from VAM in 2012 after 32 years of association, came to Vancouver from England in 1959. After volunteering extensively with the Women's Committee of the newly-formed Vancouver Opera, she served on the Vancouver Opera Board, and later on the Board of the Vancouver Symphony. She joined the Board of Endeavor (originally called SIWASH, founded by Eleanor Malkin), an annual gala fund-raising auction which has raised millions of dollars over the years to support Vancouver arts and health services organizations. She subsequently gave up the position on the Board of Endeavor to become the Assistant to the Executive Director of that organization. During her tenure which included mentoring three generations of students, she also acted as VAM's archivist.

Although the Mary Olson Hall came into immediate use at the start of the VAM fall semester, an official re-opening and re-naming reception and concert, attended by a small group of donors and

guests, was held on October 5th, with performances by VAM alumni Wen Wen Du, Melissa Bideau,

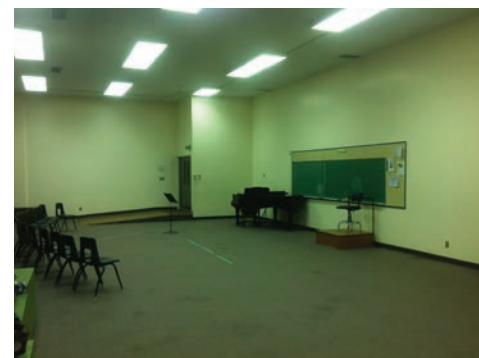
Joseph Elworthy, Leslie Dala, and the Koerner Quartet.

"Joseph invited me to see the hall before the opening, so I came in on the Friday," says Mary. "I thought there would be a small plaque above the door, which there was, and

then when I walked in, I saw in big letters, 'Mary Olson Hall'. It was quite overwhelming. I've had an extremely lucky life. It has led to many opportunities and connections to so many talented and generous people."

VAM seems to inspire lasting associations and loyalties in those who come through its doors; it seems highly fitting to acknowledge and honour those who, like Mary Olson, feel that "working here at VAM was really much more than a job, it became a life."

#### The hall before and after renovation



# VAM IN HONG KONG

## 2014 Haw Par Summer String Orchestra Camp



In August, VAM's quartet-in-residence, the Koerner Quartet, and four string students from VAM's college program, dubbed the VAM Rising Stars Quartet (Sunny She, violin; Esther Hwang, violin; On You Lee, viola; Trisha Doo, cello), travelled to Hong Kong to act as faculty and mentors at the inaugural Haw Par Summer String Orchestra Festival, SummerFest 2014. Forty of Hong Kong's most ambitious young string players (age 12 – 18) were selected to work in an intensive course that focused on advanced orchestral playing techniques

### At the end of the day, it was all about the friendships formed through music.

in addition to daily master classes and technique classes directed at polishing each participant's instrumental control. The rigorous musical activities were balanced with a number of open-forum talks, entitled *Global Themes*, where topics ranging from heritage preservation to environmental stewardship were discussed by industry

leaders, as conceived by curriculum coordinator Gloria Wong (VAM Director of International Relations).

At the end of the day, it was all about the friendships formed through music. The students of the VAM Rising Stars Quartet were outstanding ambassadors for the school, delivering excellent performances around Hong Kong and ably assisting and mentoring the camp participants. The Koerner Quartet fulfilled a demanding schedule where 14-hour days were the norm: day-long festival activities followed by evening performances, media appearances, and a recording session. With this hectic schedule, there was only limited time for experiencing Hong Kong's spectacular attractions, but of course enjoying the amazing local cuisine was a priority on everyone's list. The 2014 Haw Par Summer String Orchestra Camp closed with a wonderful performance on August 10th in front of 800 patrons and supporters at the Yip Kit Chuen Concert



Hall at the prestigious Diocesan Boys' School.

The inaugural Haw Par Summer String Orchestra Festival is VAM's first educational offering in Hong Kong, and follows a successful two-year application process that will see VAM gain a foothold in Asia through the renovation of an iconic 1930s building, the Haw Par Mansion. Plans are already in the works to repeat and expand this successful offering in summer 2015 with an added Vancouver component taking place at VAM.

When Mr. Elworthy invited me to his office and told me of the opportunity to accompany the Koerner Quartet to Hong Kong to study and perform, I was absolutely overjoyed. I would get to perform, eat and hang out with great friends from VAM every day. At the camp, it was very interesting to discuss music with students who had very different musical training compared to what we were used to in North America and at VAM. Witnessing the camp orchestra improve on a daily basis, performing chamber music side by side with the Koerner Quartet, and meeting new friends who were a bit shy but very sincere made the visit to Hong Kong a definite highlight of my life.



## MY HONG KONG MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

By On You Lee, viola

This last summer I was invited to participate in VAM's joint project with the Haw Par SummerFest 2014 in Hong Kong. I am so grateful for this wonderful opportunity; being a part of this new project is a huge stepping stone in my career as a violinist. Working with such distinguished musicians as the Koerner Quartet made a lasting impression. It was a fun and memorable experience which I shared with my colleagues.

Having the chance to grow and develop my violin skills in a foreign environment was truly inspiring (and tasty!). At first, I was surprised by the cultural differences. I remember on the first day, the room was dead silent. It almost felt like a ghost town! In my experience with teaching in Canada, a room full of children at this age would be pretty noisy! The participants were very reserved, but as time went by they began to open up. It was incredible to see how our shared passion for music brought us together despite cultural differences.

It was certainly a give-and-take; the children taught me just as much as I taught them. This was not so much a trip as a journey in which I grew as a mentor, musician, and most importantly, as an individual.



## MY HONG KONG TRIP

By Esther Hwang, violin

This past summer, I was given the opportunity to participate as a teacher's assistant for the Koerner Quartet at the Haw Par SummerFest 2014 in Hong Kong. My expectations were high, but I didn't really know what to expect. I thought I would help the kids, and maybe lead a technique class or sectional whenever other matters occupied one of the faculty members. However, this experience exceeded my expectations. Through the Hong Kong participants, I learned the most priceless lesson: I realized how much I took the faculty at VAM for granted. Everyone at the festival was so eager to learn from us! One of the participants even told me how jealous he was that in Vancouver we get to learn from such amazing musicians as the Koerner Quartet. I realized how fortunate we are to have such a strong faculty here at the Academy, ready to help whenever needed. Through this experience, I got to help the participants but I also learned and grew as a musician. I am so honoured that I was given this opportunity.



## MY HONG KONG EXPERIENCE

By Trisha Doo, cello

# OUTGOING VAM CHAIR IAN MACINTOSH LOVES THE NEW BUZZ



Ian MacIntosh, a long-time avid sailor, and his wife Leila can be found out on their 39' sailboat for much of the summer.

Ian MacIntosh, now in the final few weeks of his three-year tenure as Chair of VAM's Board of Directors, feels there is a new excitement in the air at VAM. *Appassionato* asked Ian to tell the VAM community a bit about himself, and his role on the Board and as Chair.

## *In brief, what is your background?*

I was born and raised in a family of four children in Edmonton, Alberta but my extended family lives mostly in Cape Breton Island, Halifax area and north-west New Brunswick. As a child I got

to spend several summers there, and I was introduced to the wonderful musical world of the Maritimes. Our home always had music playing - mostly fiddle music with some good celtic singers thrown in for good measure.

My father was a petroleum geologist and travelled extensively around Alberta and the North. My mother was an English teacher and one of the founders of the ESL program in Edmonton. My first job was on an oil rig in the middle of nowhere.

I studied business at the U of Alberta, then law at Queens. From there I worked on Bay Street as a corporate lawyer. I moved to BC in 1990 when our law firm opened an office in Vancouver. I had a very enjoyable law practice in Nelson for eight years, then lived in Victoria for a while before returning to Vancouver in 2002. My wife Leila and I now run a mineral resources development business which is active worldwide. We travel a lot and get to work in many interesting places.

I am fortunate to be married to one of the most wonderful women in the world. Leila is my soul mate and my biggest supporter. She has helped me with many VAM projects and attended many VAM functions, and looks after other aspects of our life so that I have enough time for VAM.

## *Are you a musician?*

Yes, I was one of those kids who asked to play the piano at age five, so my parents bought an apartment-sized

*"I like to stand at the Orpheum stage door after the concerts and watch as the kids come out. They are happy, they had fun. At the end of the day you want them to take it away and enjoy it." – Ian MacIntosh*

piano. I studied RCM piano and played in a number of stage and jazz bands over the years. I played the trombone in school and played in all the school bands, even in a marching band for a while. Many of my friends played music so we used to get together and jam a lot. I still play the piano regularly. It has been one of my primary forms of relaxing throughout my life.

*How and when did you first become associated with VAM?*

I was asked to meet with [former Chair] Eric Wilson to discuss VAM and its Board. I met with the Board in June 2006 and agreed to join.

*What does the VAM Board of Directors look for in its members?*

We look for diversity – age, gender, ethnicity, perspective and skill sets. They don't necessarily have to have

kids here; they need to be interested in what the school does, and be willing to participate. The Board was very active these past few years, as there were big changes and projects to work on. We are a non-profit organization, so we aren't out to make money, but we aren't out to lose money either. We formed committees to look at every aspect of VAM's operation to see how we can do things better. Those Board members who put in a lot of time also get a lot back in the satisfaction of seeing the school thrive.

*When you became Chair, what was your vision? Have you realized it, or is it work in progress?*

I agreed to become Chair in November 2011 in order to work closely with Joseph Elworthy, the new Executive Director. I admired Joseph's enthusiasm and professionalism. At that time,

I saw a need for a major revitalization in VAM and felt that Joseph could make that happen, but that he would need strong support from the Board. VAM had been successful to that point, but needed some rejuvenation. It was time to analyze our operations, to review our programming and music leadership, to consider how we were teaching and to make sure that we were going to be able to remain at the top of our game.

Within a week of my becoming Chair, the Board seized on an opportunity to be involved in the creation of a new music school in Hong Kong. That project allowed us to analyze every aspect of our operations and to be intensely introspective about VAM. We had a blank slate to work with and we looked intensely at how we were doing things at VAM, ultimately to consider how things could best be done

at the new school. It was an immense amount of work but I believe it has been and will continue to be transformative for VAM.

My vision was to raise VAM's profile in the community, to have it a vibrant and exciting place for music and music education, to have it regarded as the best music school in Western Canada and to continue to attract and retain excellent faculty. We have made great progress over the past few years and I honestly feel that the school has grown tremendously. There is a new excitement at VAM and I want that buzz to continue. We've realized a number of my goals but we are not sitting still by any means – we will continue to grow and to foster a happy and healthy environment for our students, staff and parents.

## Samantha Quon, Development & Marketing Associate

Samantha Quon joined VAM in May 2012 as an Administrative Assistant and subsequently moved into the Administrative & Website Manager role. In 2013, she became the Development & Marketing Manager. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree (Flute) from the University of British Columbia.

At VAM, Samantha oversees the marketing and fundraising programs. This includes

writing posts for the Facebook and Twitter pages, maintaining the website, writing the newsletter and proofreading and coordinating concert programs. Her aim is to spread VAM's mission of cultivating musical excellence, unite the VAM community through music and let Vancouver know how awesome VAM's students are!

In her spare time, Samantha enjoys attending arts & cultural events around town, trying out new restaurants and perfecting the art of street jazz and hip hop-style dance.



# SCHOLARSHIP & COMPETITION NEWS

## KAY MEEK ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Kay Meek Scholarship

Grace Sohn, cello

Eva Bene Scholarship

Saul Domingos-Morales, guitar

Alice Diane Bray

Memorial Scholarship

Katrina Goh, soprano

Dr. Alex Drennan Scholarship

Sharon Xiaohan Yang, piano

Beckie McDonald

Stewart Scholarship

Sa Rang (Diana) Kim, violin

IODE Scholarship

Tian Fei, piano

## NAMED BURSARY BALLET SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2014-2015

Peggy Joyce Kennedy

Gerbrecht Scholarship

Mary From, Rebecca Gregg

Deborah Izen Scholarship

Gabrielle MacInnes

Ann Krieger Scholarship

Jacqueline Inaba

Alexander Molnar Scholarship

Nikolina Miletic

## SENIOR SECONDARY COMPETITION

Bjorn & Lori Hareid Scholarship

Melody Ye Yuan (non VAM), violin

Loyal Protestant

Association Scholarship

Albert Seo, cello

Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

Volunteers Scholarship

Tate Zawadiuk, cello

Renee Chen Scholarship

Trisha Doo, cello

Roderick H. McRae

Memorial Scholarship

Julie Lin, violin

Michael & Mary Shields Scholarship

Hye Won Sohn, cello

## JEROLD GERBRECHT WOODWIND & BRASS COMPETITION FOR 2014-2015

Junior Category

Nathaniel Lum, flute

Senior Category, First Place:

Andy Seonghyeon Kim, oboe

Second Place:

Theophilus Ko, oboe;

Evan Wendell, trumpet

## VAMSO PROVINCIAL CONCERTO COMPETITION

held May 31/June 1, 2014

Finalists performed as soloists with

VAMSO on October 19, 2014

Piano:

Jack Le, Eric Xi Xin Liang,

Edward Su, Ryan Zhu

Strings:

Chloe Kim, violin,

Tate Zawadiuk, cello

Winds, Brass & Voice:

Hanson Jaeho Kang, clarinet

Grand Prize Winner, \$1000:

(selected at October 19

Concerto Extravaganza Concert)

Eric Xi Xin Liang, piano

## 2014 RCM GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS

Andrew Lang, Grade 1 Violin

Meghna Lohia, Grade 3 Voice

Aric Shi, Grade 2 Cello



## DR. RUTH ENNS, COLLEGE REGISTRAR

VAM is very pleased to announce that Dr. Ruth Enns has taken on the role of College Registrar for the S.K. Lee College at VAM. The college offers a four-year Music Performance Diploma/B.Mus. program for high school graduates, and a two-year Artist Diploma for students with a B.Mus. degree. Dr. Enns will oversee these programs from application through graduation. Her office manages program development and provincial accreditation, as well as such things as auditions, study permits and transcripts.

Dr. Enns earned a Ph.D. in Musicology from UBC, and a Master's degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J.; she has been teaching music history at VAM for over twenty years. As well as publishing articles, she has worked with organizations such as Early Music Vancouver, UBC, the Vancouver Chopin Society and Abendmusik Choir. She has helped raise three children. Along with teaching, her passions include playing piano, opera, and walking the forest trails with her husband.

# VAM'S CANDYMAN TONY PREVITÉ CELEBRATES HIS 94TH BIRTHDAY

VAM's beloved candyman celebrated his 94th birthday last February. Tony was born in 1920, just after the war to end all wars, at the dawn of the 'roaring twenties' ("which I didn't get to experience much"). His childhood and youth saw the rise of the automobile and the telephone, the jazz age, the Stock Market crash of 1929, and the great depression, events that to most of us seem as remote as, say, Confederation or the Industrial Revolution. *Appassionato* asked Tony to tell us a bit about his life before VAM:

"My family name, Previté, is actually spelled with an accent. When my great-great grandfather came from Sicily to Paris to take up a job, Italians weren't that popular in France, so he put an accent on the name to make it sound French. Then when he went to England he kept it on. I was born on Feb 5, 1920. I had an older brother and a sister, and we were brought up by a nurse, we never saw a great deal of our parents. That was fairly common for people that we knew. We didn't have the nearness to our parents that children have today, which is a great shame. We had a pretty good childhood though. Large house, huge garden. We lived about 30 miles south of London, a mile or so from the nearest village. My father went off to London every day by train. When I was very young I would go to the station to meet him in a pony cart.

The house my family lived in was called Osney Lodge. We had a butler, a cook, a kitchen maid, house maids. I don't think it occurred to us that we were very

privileged. It wasn't unusual to have servants; most people we knew had them. I went back to living there after the war, but that had all disappeared, the staff had gone. After my father died in 1951 my mother sold the house and it was divided up into two residences. I think it is a pig farm now; my son-in-law found it on the internet.

We had a very happy childhood, except for school. I didn't like school. The boarding school I went to when I was nine was an enormous house, with a swimming pool. We had to swim every morning before breakfast. Punishments were very severe. I had a couple of canings at prep school. The first time it upset me so much I was sick all over the headmaster. Then I went to Charterhouse, the big public school [founded in 1611]. That was a formidable place, very strict. We had to have all the buttons on our uniforms done up. After a year you were allowed to have one button undone, after two years, two buttons and so on.

My father wanted me to go to university, but I wasn't very clever, I didn't see the point. But when I was about 13 or 14 my mother took me to a play in London, with John Gielgud. I was so impressed and delighted I thought, 'that's the life for me'. I auditioned and got into the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London. I was there for two years and then the war started. I had a medical exam, and waited and waited; finally I wrote to the Academy asking if I could come back. On the day I got their reply saying I could, by the same post



I also got my calling up papers for the army.

I spent the war in East Africa. I was very fortunate, because I never really saw any action at all. It was Italian troops in East Africa, and they were all retreating like mad, so I was lucky!

After I came back from the war my first acting job was in Henley-on-Thames, and I did parts in repertory companies up and down. I grew up in the age of Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, Michael Redgrave, all those great names. Most of them started off in a small way in theatre, in repertory companies, that's where everyone got their training. After a while I realized I wasn't going to make it as an actor. It is a really difficult profession. Of the people I knew when I was at the RADA I can only think of two people who really did well.

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One was a really good comedy actor called Ian Carmichael. He was always in work. He was a great friend of mine; I kept in touch with him until he died (on my 90th birthday). Anyway, after I gave it up I didn't miss the acting, but I missed the theatres – I thought they were wonderful places.

After that I went into the family business. In Trinidad there is a pitch lake, a natural deposit of asphalt. The family business, started in the 1880s, was to dig up the pitch and import it into England to put on the roads. I worked there for a time, and then I took up photography. I liked that, did it professionally until I retired. I worked in a studio in Selfridges, and in a portrait studio, and for a fellow doing black-and-white printing.

I have two daughters. My older daughter lives in Malvern, in the town where Elgar lived. She looks after teachers who work with children with disabilities. My younger daughter is the head of the Dance department at the University of Calgary. And I have four grandchildren: two granddaughters and two grandsons. One of my granddaughters is in Cambridge doing her Masters, in European and Chinese History. She wants to be a history professor. I'm very glad that she enjoys her education.

My younger daughter was out here in BC, and after I retired she suggested I come here, so I did, in March '86. Then I looked around for a job; the first one I got was awful, telephoning people to persuade them to buy the newspaper. That didn't last very long. Then I got a job persuading people to have their photo taken. That was alright until one day the manager said, 'today we're going to phone all the people who have said they don't want their photographs taken, and we're going to persuade them to have them taken.' And I said, not me, I've had enough. So then my daughter saw an advert in the Courier looking for someone to run the shop here. I thought that might be interesting. I got the job, and here I am.

To start with, it was a small gift shop where we sold music, also some instruments. Later I enlarged it to include books for the senior students. Eventually the Board decided to close the shop because it wasn't making any money. But when they announced it was going to close, there was an uproar, people wrote letters, the students complained, so they allowed me to stay on and just sell candies after lessons. And that's why I'm still here. I can't see any reason for leaving. I do ten hours a week. Walking to and from the bus stop gives me exercise. If you're working, there is always something to look forward to, a weekend or a holiday.

I enjoy watching Downton Abbey. We weren't quite up in that class, but it is very well portrayed. The man who writes it, Julian Fellowes, is married to the daughter of an Earl, so he knows the people, what it's like."

Next time you stop for a quick candy snack, why not have a chat with Tony about the bygone era that is his past?



## HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY TO JUDY FRASER!

On Sunday August 31st the cello community turned out in great numbers on the occasion of Judy Fraser's 80th birthday. Over 100 past and present students, colleagues and friends attended a celebration at VAM's Koerner Recital Hall that included, spectacularly, a giant cupcake cello cake, as well as music, refreshments, speeches, video messages and a whole lot of good wishes for Judy.

Judy has been a distinguished faculty member of VAM since 1972. She received her training at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England, afterwards becoming principal cello with the London Festival Ballet. Returning to Vancouver, she has played with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the CBC Vancouver Chamber Orchestra, the Vancouver Opera, was a founding member and manager of the Baroque Strings of Vancouver, and a founding member of the Vancouver Cello Club, in which she is still active today. She has given masterclasses around the world, organized numerous Cellofests at the Banff Centre with international master cellists, and taught at numerous music camps, colleges and schools around British Columbia.

The VAM community extends its best wishes to Judy in her 81st year!

# A WARM WELCOME TO GLORIA WONG

Director of Development & International Relations



Many of you have already met VAM's new Director of Development and International Relations, Gloria Wong. Since January of 2014, Gloria has been pouring her considerable energy and amazing enthusiasm into her multi-faceted role working on resource and program development. "I can't ask for a more fulfilling mix of everything I love," she says.

Gloria has a Master of Music degree in piano performance from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where she was invited to study with Leon Fleisher and Ann Schein on a full tuition scholarship. She continued her studies at the Royal Academy of Music in London, and was mentored by Robert Silverman at the University of British Columbia under

a Killam pre-doctoral fellowship. Around this time, Gloria began to explore the production side of performance "the other side of the coin", she says. "The Vancouver Recital Society caught my eye; the organization presented phenomenal musicians, and were leaders in presenting the debuts of so many artists who would become classical music icons. Being a small organization, I was able to learn how all the pieces fit together. I volunteered with them, became hooked, and was hired as the Production Assistant for the Vancouver Chamber Music Festival. It was tremendously energizing and a very tangible expression of everything I loved – creating pathways and the best possible environment for art, music and audiences to connect. I began to learn the business of concert presenting."

"Eventually I had to make a choice. Many thought I was crazy to give up on performance and teaching. I asked myself 'what do I see myself excited about doing in the next few years?' I had started using my expertise to write program notes, give pre-concert talks, and plan programming. I had a marvellous opportunity to learn everything I could about the business side, and the marketing of music. I took an intense short program at SFU, but mainly learned on the job. It is really about the same things you bring to life, being pro-active, common sense, and building relationships."

"I spent 18 years with the Recital Society and for many of those years, I led the organization's artistic and operational management becoming as comfortable with artistic content as business realities. The one has to inform the other for the whole to be sustainable."

Gloria next spent two years as Associate Director of Donor Relations and Events at the VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation. "It gave me a very different perspective – unlike the arts, we had an entire team devoted solely to donor relations and fundraising events. It was a very structured environment. I absorbed a lot and was able to use creativity in a very different context. But, I missed the arts enormously; through conversations with Joseph [Elworthy], I came on board at VAM in January."

"Since I started, in addition to building a fundraising infrastructure, we have been working on development for the  
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new school in Hong Kong where we are charged with developing the curriculum. Programming is what makes my brain bling – programs are in the best sense what we share with the community.

Joseph has also asked me to teach a fourth-year college course in Career Development. I am very excited to be sharing career strategies with students, and to provide them with tools to navigate their career path. Students get to the end of their music studies and are faced with “what’s next”. I talk about how to be entrepreneurial, the creativity and the business of building a sustainable music-related career.”

“From the donor development perspective, there is nothing more magical and meaningful than when donors are invested and engaged by their philanthropic priorities. The new Mary Olson Hall is a fantastic example. For this renovation project, we had two

lead donors each with a phenomenal philanthropic outlook, and both who wished to remain anonymous. They have provided an inspiring space to make great art, and a space that will be enjoyed for generations. Fundraising is truly about nurturing genuine relationships, building trust and forging a lasting connection. Mary [Olson] has been phenomenal at building these relationships; this place is her legacy, and I am honoured to carry that forward.”

On the topic of donations, Gloria notes that every gift regardless of amount will make a meaningful difference: \$50 provides a good-quality music stand; \$200 keeps a piano tuned for a year; \$500 provides 2 orchestral scores and parts for a VAM concert; and \$1,000 funds a student enrichment workshop or masterclass. Her next funding priority is to raise funds for a new sound system to enhance VAM’s performance spaces.

Many concerts and guest speaker events rely on a well-functioning sound system. Our students also need good audio/video capabilities to produce their audition and competition portfolios, so we need to bring this up to a level that matches the excellence of our students and faculty.”

“I have been extremely lucky to have been able to enjoy several varied careers in the arts as a professional musician, educator, and arts manager. I feel extremely lucky to truly love my work, and am fortunate to have Joseph as such an inspired and exceptional colleague. Every organization enjoys many different life cycles. I think we are entering a new phase of VAM’s life cycle as we head toward its 50th year anniversary. There is so much invigorating energy!” VAM is extremely fortunate to have Gloria on the team, contributing in no small way to that wonderful energy.

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## VAM GOES TO THE MOVIES: *IF I STAY*

VAM cello student Gabrielle Haslett, (Audrey Nodwell) and VAM cello alumna Haigan Day (Audrey Nodwell) appear in the movie *If I Stay*, which opened in Cineplex Odeon Theaters in August.

In the movie, 17-year-old cellist Mia Hall, (Chloe Grace Moretz) is about to go off to Juilliard when there is a tragic accident. Flashbacks in her life (young Mia played by Gabrielle Haslett) show how she first fell in love with the cello and set up

her relationship with her punk-rocker family.

As the main star doesn’t actually play the cello, Haigan Day acts as a body double; Hollywood does its “camera magic” by super-imposing the face of Chloe Grace Moretz onto the cello-playing body of Haigan.

*If I Stay* was filmed in and around Vancouver, and you will see familiar landmarks, such as the Orpheum Theater (especially the ceiling), Pyatt Hall,

Steveston, and those familiar Vancouver streets.

This is a movie about belonging, friendship, and the powerful love of music. It is intense, emotional, and a must-see for music lovers...or just go see it at the theatre and cheer for the cellists!



Here we see the two REAL cellists, Gabrielle and Haigan, on the set (Templeton High School), both as Mia Hall. Notice both Gabrielle and Haigan have the same hair. That was no accident!

# PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

◆ **VAM alumna Rosanna Butterfield** (Judy Fraser) is currently in her third season at the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida. In October, she won her orchestra's audition for the cello solo in Brahms' Second Piano Concerto, with pianist Yefim Bronfman and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas. The Friday night performance was one of the NWS' WALLCAST™ concerts, which projects the performance onto a 7000-square-foot screen outside the hall, creating a free open-air experience for up to 2000 audience members.

◆ **Saul Domingos-Morales** (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) will perform Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* with VAMSO as part of the Showcase Concert. Saul also won the Eva Bene scholarship from the Kay Meek Competition that was held in June.

◆ **Henry From & Mary From** (piano, Donna Lee-Leung) participated in the 10-day-long Rosamunde Summer Music Academy camp in Winnipeg. Highlights included masterclasses and lessons

with VAM alumni Gwen Hoebig and Darryl Friesen. Henry was awarded a full tuition scholarship (\$1,000) for next year's Summer Academy.

◆ **James Forward and Leonard Gao** (voice, Caroline Jang) made their Vancouver Opera debut as part of the Children's Chorus for the VO's recent production of *Carmen*.

◆ **Gabrielle Haslett** (cello, Audrey Nodwell) and VAM alumna **Haigan Day** (cello, Audrey Nodwell) appear in the movie *If I Stay*, now showing in Cineplex Odeon Theaters (August 2014).

◆ **Clare Hii** (piano, Rebecca Kelly) won the Intermediate Piano Class at the 2014 Performing Arts BC Provincial Festival, which took place in Powell River, BC in May 2014.

◆ **Eric Xi Xin Liang** (piano, Amanda Chan) had a very busy summer, participating in many different musical activities. Among his highlights were awards and distinctions from the National Piano and National Canadian Piano Divisions at the 2014 Performing

Arts BC Provincial Festival, Canadian Music Competition and the BCRMTA Provincial Music Writing Competition. Eric won the Grand Prize at VAM's province-wide Concerto Extravaganza in October 2014.

◆ **Brandon Krezeski** (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) was nominated to compete in the Provincial Kiwanis Festival in Penticton in June.

◆ **Trio Rosette** (**Esther Hwang**, violin, **Trisha Doo**, cello, **Linda Ruan**, piano) have progressed to the live audition round of the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition, one of the top chamber music competitions for young musicians in the world. The trio will be auditioning in New York on December 19, 2014.

◆ **Grace Sohn** (cello, Joseph Elworthy) and **Eric Xi Xin Liang** (piano, Amanda Chan) have been invited to perform at the Royal Conservatory of Music Convocation on November 16th at the Chan Centre.

◆ **Evan Wendell** (trumpet, Alexander Cannon) attended

Interlochen Summer Arts Camp in Michigan this summer on a scholarship.

◆ **Augustin Wright** (piano, Amanda Chan) spent two months in Europe this past summer expanding his musical horizons. First, he started in Ibiza, Spain, working with the German pianists Ingmar Schwindt and Melissa Pawlik. Then in August, he spent two weeks at the Vianden International Music festival in Luxembourg, working with renowned music professors Dr. Rossman, Professor Kriedger and Professor Lindsey. He even got interviewed by European newspaper *L'essentiel.lu* about his experience!

◆ **Luke Kim** (Joseph Elworthy) and **Rebecca Wenham** (Judith Fraser), both VAM alumni, were selected to do a trial period for the position of Principal Cello with the Vancouver Opera Orchestra. Each musician will play in the Principal Cello seat for a year before a final decision is made. Good luck to both musicians!

# VAM MOM'S COMMITMENT PAYS OFF WITH HAPPY, CONFIDENT STUDENTS



Fourteen-year-old Ragul Loganathan and his younger sister Sruthy have been making music with VAM for most of their lives. Their mother, Vanathy, becomes animated as she talks about her kids and what music has meant to them.

"When Ragul was in kindergarten, I thought his finger skills could use some help, so I bought him a toy keyboard. I wasn't sure how interested he would be, but he loved it. I realized he was really trying to make music, not just banging on the keys." Ragul has been studying with Krystyna Tucka since starting at VAM, and is now in Year 7 of the RCM program. This year he is also taking music history and counterpoint. "He'd heard that history and

counterpoint were going to be difficult, but I was so proud because he didn't say he didn't want to take them, he said he would have to work hard!" Ragul has also been playing percussion with his school band since Grade 4 and is playing in the Grade 12 band in his high school. "He can play lots of percussion instruments", say his mom. "The teachers say such great things, that he shows good leadership, and is so confident. It was such a good first step to put him in the music program here at VAM."

Sruthy, age ten, loves to perform. She has performed at the VAM Open House, and at the Strawberry and Tea afternoons. "She is looking forward to doing more," says her mom. When

Sruthy was an infant, she required neurosurgery that left her left side physically compromised. "Sruthy describes it as, 'I need some extra help' " Vanathy says." When Ragul started at VAM, and I saw other kids playing instruments, I felt bad for her, but wasn't sure how much she could handle. Nicole Hurst, Registrar told me about the Kodaly program. After the first few sessions Sruthy's Kodaly teacher told me, 'your daughter has a beautiful voice, please utilize that,' and she told me about the Vancouver Bach Children's Choir. I talked to them; I was a bit nervous, because I wasn't sure whether they would be able to support her, but she tried out and got accepted. She has been singing with them for six years now." Sruthy is taking theory and voice at VAM and has done the RCM Level 1 exam (achieving 88%, her mom proudly adds). "Music has done so much for her," says Vanathy, "for her memory training – an area that doctors suggested would need supporting – and for her confidence. When she first performed I cried! She was so confident. And singing makes her happy."

The Loganathan family immigrated to Canada from Sri Lanka when Ragul was two. "When we decided to come to Canada, my country was in a war situation. We didn't know what would happen, and we were thinking about the future for our kids. My parents couldn't afford music training when I was small. But I'm a great reader. I've read a lot about how music helps people to relax, and how it is very good for brain development. I had heard that VAM had a bursary program – something that wasn't available back in Sri Lanka – so I inquired about it. I was told, we had to commit for a year before we could apply. I am confident about my kids, I know them, so I thought I would make that commitment for them." That commitment seems to have paid off in spades for Ragul and Sruthy, and for VAM, too, in knowing that it is fulfilling its goal of helping its students to enjoy music for life.

# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

PERFORMANCES IN THE KOERNER RECITAL HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## DEC 2014

THURSDAY, DEC 4,  
7:00 PM

VAM Pre-Junior, Junior  
& Intermediate Symphony  
Winter Concert

TUESDAY, DEC 16,  
7:30 PM

Concertante String  
Orchestra Concert

## JAN 2015

SUNDAY, JAN 11,  
2:00 PM

Ballet Performance  
Ensemble Recital

JAN 19 – 31

Royal Conservatory  
of Music Exams  
VAM

SUNDAY, JAN 25,  
2:00 PM

Bjorn & Lori Hareid Senior  
Secondary Competition  
Winners' Recital

## FEB 2015

SATURDAY, FEB 14,  
7:00 PM

Phyllis E. Salter Piano  
Competition

SUNDAY, FEB 15,  
2:00 PM

Koerner Quartet "Notes of  
Love & Protest"

FRIDAY, FEB 20,  
7:00 PM

Igudesman & Joo Workshop

SUNDAY, FEB 22,  
2:00 PM

VAMSO Orpheum Concert  
Orpheum Theatre

## MAR 2015

SUNDAY, MAR 1,  
2:00 PM

Edith Lando Gifted Youth  
Scholarship Recital

MAR 12–14, 7:30 PM;  
MAR 15, 2:00 PM

VAM Opera Studio, Scenes  
Performances

## APR 2015

FRIDAY, APR 10,  
7:30 PM

Jerold Gerbrecht Winds &  
Brass Competition

SUNDAY, APR 12,  
2:00 PM

Barbara Clague Festival  
of Song

APR 13–18

Royal Conservatory  
of Music Exams  
VAM

2014/15 SEASON

## KOERNER QUARTET

### Notes of Love & Protest

Jocelyn Morlock *Vermilion*  
Elvis Costello *Juliet Letters*  
Benjamin Britten *String Quartet*  
*No. 2 in C Major*

Alan MacDonald, baritone

**KOERNER RECITAL HALL**  
at the Vancouver Academy of Music (VAM)  
1270 Chestnut Street at Vanier Park

Tickets and info: [koernerquartet.com](http://koernerquartet.com)

SUN  
FEB  
15  
2015  
2pm



A GALA EVENING OF SUMPTUOUS DINING  
AND MUSICAL BRILLIANCE *to benefit*  
**THE VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC**

The Vancouver Academy of Music's Board of Trustees and Executive Director, Joseph Elworthy invite you to a Fundraising Gala Dinner Concert hosted by Vancouver businessman and music aficionado, Mr. Peter Wall.

Enjoy an electrifying evening of music alongside a delectable full-course dinner and support VAM!

**Featured Artist**

**SIMONE OSBORNE** soprano

**Special Guests**

**LESLIE DALA** piano

**VANCOUVER BACH CHILDREN'S CHORUS**  
**RIISING STARS FROM**  
**VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC**

Friday, January 30, 2015  
Wall Centre Hotel

Pavilion Ballroom  
1050 Burrard Street, Vancouver

6:30 COCKTAILS | 7:00 CONCERT | 8:00 DINNER

*Formal Dress*

Tickets \$250 (tax receiptable portion: \$165)

With your attendance, 100% of your ticket amount will benefit the Vancouver Academy of Music.

**RSVP at: [vancouveracademyofmusic.com/  
event-registration/?ee=428](http://vancouveracademyofmusic.com/event-registration/?ee=428)**

The evening is part of Peter Wall's signature Gala Dinner Concert Series with 100% of the ticket proceeds supporting Vancouver arts organizations. The Vancouver Academy of Music is one of this gala's beneficiary organizations.