

FALL
2016

APPASSIONATO



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IN MEMORY: BING THOM

It is with heavy hearts that VAM recognizes the tragic passing of Bing Thom. In addition to championing many causes to improve the quality of life for Vancouver, Bing was a profound supporter of the performing arts, especially music, with clarinet being his instrument of choice. Mr. Thom cared deeply about VAM, frequently commenting “a great city must have a great music school”. He worked tirelessly in support of VAM’s growth and was instrumental in opening up opportunities for VAM in Asia through the Haw Par Music Foundation in Hong Kong. VAM Symphony Orchestra’s February 19th concert at the Orpheum Theatre will be dedicated in memory of Bing Thom.

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



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Pictured, left to right: YACP students Simon Gidora, Kurt Chen, Katie Purcell, and Olivia Cho enjoying a sunny day in Vanier Park.



VAM'S YOUNG ARTIST COLLEGIATE PROGRAM

VAM'S YOUNG ARTIST COLLEGIATE PROGRAM (YACP) launches its inaugural year this fall following a pilot year in 2015-2016. YACP provides a bridge connecting VAM's college and pre-college programs. Joseph Elworthy, who runs this program with the invaluable assistance of Dr. Ruth Enns, says, "Finding a way to connect the two streams has been discussed virtually since the inception of S.K. Lee College in 1989."

YACP is designed to provide high-achieving pre-college students an opportunity to experience what being a music major at university entails. As all YACP students attend high school on a full-time basis, the program stretches a semester's worth of university over a single academic year. The students learn the same material as the college students, from the same teachers, but the course pacing is slightly different. There are no expectations for YACP students to go on to study music at university. "In fact," says Elworthy, "one of most compelling strengths of YACP is the unique educational opportunity it presents for students to consider where music fits in their post secondary plans."

YACP intake allows for a maximum of 10 students per year. The screening process for applicants is rigorous: a live audition, a written Music Theory & Music History

placement test, and an interview with the YACP Selection Committee where students demonstrate their academic readiness, emotional maturity, and their desire to be challenged by YACP's accelerated learning environment. Despite the program's newborn status, competition for acceptance is extremely high as YACP provides not only a unique curriculum but also substantial scholarship and bursary support thanks to VAM donors who recognize the progressive aims of this program.

"I personally find every aspect very interesting! Every course really does help round us as musicians and give us further insight into our craft."

Simon Gidora, YACP student

Participation in YACP provided unique educational opportunities this past summer that included a teaching mentorship program in Hong Kong (as part of VAM's strategic role in the Haw Par Music Foundation), as well as a residency opportunity at the Banff Centre during the Banff International String Quartet Competition. A group of YACP instrumentalists participated in a showcase on October 1st based on

the recommendations of their respective private teachers. The showcase platform was just one of many performance opportunities for YACP students, as artistic growth is best fostered on the concert stage.

Students in the YACP program take college-level courses in Music Theory, Ear Training and Music History in addition to their private instrumental instruction, orchestra and chamber music activities. YACP participant Simon Gidora notes, "Most of the students are in their last couple of years of high school and are busy preparing for post-secondary applications (and auditions) on top of all their other schoolwork. While this does make for a very heavy workload, most of us would be doing a lot of the same activities and courses regardless, and YACP really helps consolidate it all into a nice package while furthering the depth of our studies in many of these areas."

Joseph Elworthy further says of the program, "It is an exciting development in VAM's history that we have found a way to synchronize our accredited post-secondary program with the educational aims of our most ambitious and talented pre-college students."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

JAMES TU AT THE INDIANA UNIVERSITY JACOBS SCHOOL OF MUSIC SUMMER PROGRAM

James Qi Wei Tu, student of Lorraine Ambrose, had a very productive and eventful summer. James was invited to study at the prestigious Indiana University Jacobs School of Music summer program. The program, rated as one of the top ten summer music programs in North America for the past five years, offers an opportunity for pre-college students to immerse themselves in their chosen discipline with some of the finest music educators of today. James studied with world-renowned faculty and guest artists, including Professors Menahem Pressler, Karen Taylor, Christopher Hardings, David Carledge, Sylvia Scott, Daniel Schenes, and Ruth Morrow. James performed Chopin's *Scherzo No. 2* for distinguished Professor of Music (Piano) and Dean Charles H. Web Chair in Music, Menahem Pressler,

in masterclass. Further, James was given opportunity to perform Schumann's *Carnaval*, Balakirev's *Islamey*, and Mozart's *Sonata in D for Klavier zu vier handen*, KV. 381.

James Tu started piano lessons at the age of five. He received first class honors with distinction in his ARCT Performers' (96 percent), ATCL Performers' (93 percent) and LTCL Performers' (92 percent). James has been awarded numerous scholarships and awards from various music festivals including the Burnaby Clef Society, Kiwanis Music Festival and the Vancouver Women's Musical Club. Currently James is preparing for university auditions and completing a Fellowship examination of Trinity College, London.

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ILLUMINATING MOZART & MENDELSSOHN

Nov. 20, 2pm | *Mozart, Pärt, Mendelssohn*

WISTFUL REFLECTIONS

Feb. 12, 2pm | *Haydn, Coulthard, Dvořák*

REVERIES OF FRANCE

June 4, 7pm | *Debussy, Ravel, Tailleferre*

Koerner Recital Hall at VAM

Tickets and info: koernerpianotrio.com

VAM WELCOMES KOERNER PIANO TRIO AS NEW ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE

THREE COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS, each head of their instrumental department at VAM, each an exquisite player in their own right; what could be more natural than coming together in an ensemble that promotes freedom of individual personalities yet still allows the deep satisfaction that is obtained from focused musical collaboration? Nicholas Wright (Co-Head of the Violin department) and Joseph Elworthy (Co-Head of the Cello department), previously members of Koerner Quartet, are carrying the torch forward to a new configuration and are joined by Amanda Chan, Head of the Piano department, to form the Koerner Piano Trio as the new VAM ensemble-in-residence. The trio is named in honour of Ms. Iby Koerner, one of the founders of VAM.

Elworthy offers, “The piano trio as a form is an entirely more soloistic genre of chamber music than the quartet. We

are all very well suited to the nature of the piano trio repertoire, and are excited at the prospect of working together.” Of the reconfiguration, he says, “Playing in a string quartet is one of the most gratifying experiences a string player will encounter, but it is also a full-time pursuit that requires hours and hours of daily rehearsal, which is a major challenge if the quartet members are balancing other professional commitments.” In an interview for the Vancouver Sun, Chan says, “The timing couldn’t be more perfect, because we have established our careers; a new challenge and a new venture is possible now when it wouldn’t have been 10 years ago.”

The trio looks forward to presenting three concerts this season, each featuring some staples of the piano trio repertoire, but also a ‘hidden gem’ that is likely to be new and unfamiliar to the audience. The first concert will

spotlight Estonian composer Arvo Pärt’s *Mozart-Adagio*, based on the slow movement of Mozart’s *Piano Sonata No. 2, K. 280*. Also on the first program are Mozart’s *Piano Trio in B-flat Major* and Mendelssohn’s *Piano Trio in D Minor*. The winter concert turns to introspection as Haydn’s playful “Gypsy” trio, Dvorak’s solemn “Dumky” trio and Jean Coulthard’s plaintive *Lyric Trio* offer a full range of emotional expression. Summer is heralded by a program of ‘luxuriant daydreams tinged with pensive elegance’, with Gabriel Fauré’s *Piano Trio in D Minor*, Maurice Ravel’s *Piano Trio in A Minor*, and a hidden gem by French composer Germaine Tailleferre.

CONGRATULATIONS COMPETITION WINNERS & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

2016 KAY MEEK COMPETITION

AWARDS	Kay Meek Scholarship (\$1,000)	RECIPIENTS	Caitlin Wong, violin	TEACHERS	Nicholas Wright
	Alex Drennan Scholarship (\$1,000)		Sean Gao, violin		Nicholas Wright
	Provincial Chapter, I.O.D.E. Scholarship (\$1,000)		Yangyu Wu, piano		Lee Kum-Sing
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$1,000)		Augustin Wright, piano		Amanda Chan
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$1,000)		Sarah Baek, cello		Joseph Elworthy
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$1,000)		Simon Gidora, violin		David Gillham

2016 ORPHEUM THEATRE CONCERTO COMPETITION

WINNERS	Corina Deng, violin	TEACHERS	Lawrie Hill
	Henry From, piano		Donna Lee-Leung and Amanda Chan
	Alison Kim, violin		Taras Gabora*
	Esther Kwon, flute		Mark McGregor
	Tony Nan, oboe		Roger Cole
	Ryan Zhu, piano		Ken Broadway* and Ralph Markham*
	Yangyu Wu, piano (1st runner up)		Lee Kum-Sing
	Rachel Wei, piano (2nd runner up)		Lorraine Ambrose
	Aydan Con, piano (3rd runner up)		Mark Anderson*

2016 ELSJE DE RIDDER ARMSTRONG CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

AWARDS	Elsje de Ridder Armstrong Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)	RECIPIENTS	Rosalind Wang, Vinci Chen, Sophia Cui	TEACHERS	Andrew Dawes, coach
	Iby Koerner Memorial Scholarship (\$500)		Simon Gidora, Juliet Feng, Xuan Qi		Andrew Mee, coach
	Provincial Chapter, I.O.D.E. Scholarship (\$500)		David Lee, Kurt Chen, Lucian Barz, Olivia Cho		Isabelle Roland, coach
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Caitlin Wong, Sarah Baek, Augustin Wright		Evelyn Creaser, coach
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Vicky Zhang, Ji Hea Yun		Christie Reside, coach
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Juliana Angel, Nathelie Sam, Key Ruan		Lee Duckles, coach
	Vancouver Academy of Music Scholarship (\$250)		Alice Lee, Katie Purcell, Joss Sion, Henry From		Andrew Dawes, coach

2016/17 SUZUKI SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS	Marian Schreiber Memorial Scholarship (\$400)	RECIPIENTS	Clement Cheung, violin	TEACHERS	Lawrie Hill
	Chua Tiampo Memorial Scholarship (\$400)		Katharine Lee, violin		Evelyn Creaser
	Chua Tiampo Memorial Scholarship (\$400)		Mildred Wang, violin		Lawrie Hill
	Marguerite M. Echaus Memorial Scholarship (\$250)		Henry From, piano		Donna Lee-Leung, Amanda Chan
	Marguerite M. Echaus Memorial Scholarship (\$250)		Joshua Liu, piano		Teresa Ho
	Stuart McCallum Memorial (\$200)		Yuki Mitsui, piano		Martha Brickman
	Walter E. Kelly Memorial (\$150)		Kyle Sum, cello		Audrey Nodwell

2016 BARBARA CLAGUE FESTIVAL OF SONG

AWARDS	Grand Prize (\$400)	RECIPIENTS	Simon Gidora	TEACHERS	Alan Corbishley
	Senior Category (\$200)		Tamara Chang		Caroline Jang
	Senior Category (\$200)		Mia Kindrachuk		Caroline Jang
	Junior Category (\$200)		Emily Leung		Caroline Jang
	Junior Category (\$200)		Keiyshia Ting		Caroline Jang

2016 JEROLD GERBRECHT WOODWIND & BRASS COMPETITION

AWARDS	\$300 Scholarship	RECIPIENTS	Alex Chernata, clarinet	TEACHERS	Christopher Lee
	\$300 Scholarship		Yoel Kristian, flute		Brenda Fedoruk
	\$100 Scholarship		Jeongho Goh, clarinet		Christopher Lee
	\$100 Scholarship		Shin Yoong Bae, clarinet		Christopher Lee
	\$100 Scholarship		Kevin Li, french horn		Carla Hallett*
	\$100 Scholarship		Jimin Kim, flute		Mark McGregor

2016/17 VIOLIN SEMINAR SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS	Most Improved, Advanced Masterclass (\$250)	RECIPIENTS	Rosalind Wang	TEACHERS	Nicholas Wright
	Best Technique, Intermediate Masterclass (\$250)		Mildred Wang		Lawrie Hill
	Most Technical Progress, Intermediate Masterclass (\$250)		Juliana Angel		Jason Ho

* denotes non-VAM teachers



In August 2016, three VAM faculty and four students from VAM's Young Artist Collegiate Program travelled to Hong Kong to act as faculty for the Haw Par Music Foundation Summer String Orchestra. Simon Gidora and DeAnne Eisch share their experiences below.

POSTCARDS FROM HONG KONG

SIMON GIDORA, YACP STUDENT

Not only was this my first trip to Hong Kong, but also my first trip outside of North America, which made this much more exciting and special. The purpose of our trip was to teach at the annual Summer Soundfest music camp of the Haw Par Music Foundation. I was one of four pre-collegiate students invited to participate, together with Kurt Chen, Olivia Cho and Katie Purcell. We acted as youth leaders and teaching assistants to VAM faculty Joseph Elworthy, Lawrie Hill and DeAnne Eisch.

Our days of teaching were very full and productive. From Monday to Friday we had sectional rehearsals from 9:00 to 10:30am and full orchestra rehearsal

from 10:30 to noon. After lunch there was a seminar from 1:00 to 2:00, master class from 2:00 to 3:30, and finally full orchestra again until 5:00. On Saturday we had our dress rehearsal/run through, and on Sunday we played a concert. We performed 25 minutes of music – including Peter Warlock's *Capriol Suite* and movie music from *Pirates of the Caribbean* and Disney's *Frozen*.

The four of us from Vancouver were also invited to sit with the section leaders of the Music for Our Youth (MOY) orchestra, which also performed in that concert. This was a very cool experience as they were performing some traditional Chinese music with a mix of western and Chinese instruments, and we were basically sight

reading the music; the small rehearsal we did have was held in Cantonese, so we really experienced the universality of music and how you can play music with anyone. The whole concert went fantastically! All the hard work from the week really paid off.

On the day after we arrived in Hong Kong, Mr. Elworthy took us all up on a gondola ride to see the Big Buddha. The gondola ride was thrilling, and the mountaintop village and tourist attraction was great. It was one of the most fun adventures we had on our trip.

The whole experience was enriching on both a musical and personal level. Working alongside the VAM faculty I

got to experience both the student and mentor side of the camp. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and positive attitude of the students, and what we worked on and accomplished during our week together was truly first rate. Visiting Hong Kong, with its vibrant culture and many beautiful sights, was an experience I won't soon forget and I feel incredibly lucky to have been given the chance to visit the city as part of this VAM venture.

Simon Gidora, VAM violin student and member of the Young Artist Collegiate Program, was part of a seven-person teaching contingent that travelled to Hong Kong to act as faculty for the Haw Par Music Foundation Summer String Orchestra Camp this past August. Originally from the Sunshine Coast, Simon is in his final year of high school. When not playing music he spends as much time as possible outdoors, where he enjoys running and hiking. He also enjoys playing badminton and pool.

DEANNE EISCH, VIOLIN FACULTY

In August, Joseph Elworthy, Lawrie Hill and I travelled to Hong Kong to act as faculty for the Haw Par Summer String Orchestra Camp, a week-long intensive Summer String Orchestra Camp offering an exciting musical experience and platform for cultural exchange. We were ably assisted by VAM YACP students Kurt Chen, Simon Gidora, Katie Purcell and Olivia Cho. This is the third year that VAM faculty members and students participated in the camp.

The Haw Par Music Foundation is a not-for-profit educational organization founded in 2013 to provide a cultural environment for the people of Hong Kong to study Western and Chinese music as well as to conserve the unique Haw Par Mansion as a heritage landmark.

This year the string camp theme was "Popcorn & Pizzicato" featuring music from *Fantasia*, *Frozen* and *Pirates of the*

Caribbean in a concert on Sunday, August 14 at the Sheung Wan Civic Centre in Central Hong Kong. We all had a terrific experience working with the students, and we even fit in a little bit of sightseeing: a trip up to the Peak, Tian Tan Buddha and traditional night markets. We also consumed loads of dumplings and had a wonderful time!

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RCM EXAM RESULTS

GOLD MEDAL

Cheng, Phoebe (Lawrie Hill), Grade 10 Violin
Leung, Emily (Caroline Jang), Grade 2 Voice
Sun, Leo (AK Coope), Grade 6 Clarinet

FIRST CLASS HONOURS WITH DISTINCTION

Amini, Alexandra (Rebecca Kelly), Intermediate Rudiments
Chatila, Sultan (Angela Schiwy), Grade 3 Piano
Dahliwal, Rayna (Rebecca Kelly), Basic Rudiments
Jones, Beatrice (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Jong, Brandon (Amanda Chan), Grade 9 Piano
Jung, Jessica (Rebecca Kelly), Advanced Rudiments
Jung, Jessica (Rebecca Kelly), Basic Rudiments
Kenton, Matthias (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 1 Piano
Krezeski, Mia (Amanda Chan), Grade 5 Piano
Lau, Yasmine (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teachers' written Piano
Lee, Callista (Rebecca Kelly), Basic Rudiments
Liu, Joshua (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Teacher Elementary Piano
McAlpine, Adrienne (Caroline Jang), Basic Rudiments
Ngui, Adam (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Sam-Weng, Kingston (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Stein, Amelie (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 4 Piano
Su, Joshua (Rebecca Kelly), LLCM Performer Piano
Tsang, Valerie (Angela Schiwy), Grade 6 Piano
Wei, Ashley (Rebecca Kelly), LLCM Performer Piano

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Chan, Kelly (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 3 Piano
Chan, Kevin (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Chan, Michelle (Martha Brickman), Grade 10 Piano
Chan, Jonathon (Amanda Chan), Grade 8 Piano
Cheng, Kenny (Alana Chan), Grade 8 Piano
Chow, Christina (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Demeter, Emma Krista (Martha Brickman), Grade 4 Piano
Farhangnia, Baran (Angela Schiwy), Grade 7 Piano
Fong, Douglas (Martha Brickman), Grade 4 Piano
Forward, Carolyn (Caroline Jang), Grade 2 Voice
From, Henry (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 10 Piano
Gladders, Tobin (Amanda Chan), Grade 8 Piano
Jarvis, Éva (Rebecca Kelly), Advanced Rudiments
Jarvis, Éva (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Jeraj, Ayaan (Angela Schiwy), Grade 3 Piano

Jones, Flora (Rebecca Kelly), Intermediate Rudiments
Lau, Yasmine (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Teacher Elementary Piano
Liu, Evan (Alana Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Liu, Joshua (Teresa Ho), ARCT Teacher Elementary Piano
Lloyd, Cameron (Rebecca Kelly), Advanced History
Loganathan, Sruthy (Caroline Jang), Grade 2 Voice
Lohia, Meghna (Caroline Jang), Grade 5 Voice
Lu, Jasmine (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Teacher Elementary Piano
Luo, Elisa (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teachers' written Piano
Luo, Elisa (Rebecca Kelly, Teresa Ho), ARCT Teacher Elementary Piano
Luo, Frank (Rebecca Kelly, Teresa Ho), ARCT Teacher Elementary Piano
Mah, Lucas (Martha Brickman), Grade 8 Piano
Mohler-Camara, Eduardo (Martha Brickman), Grade 8 Piano
Mullin, Alexander (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 1 Piano
Ng, Declan (Martha Brickman), Grade 10 Piano
Ng, John-Paul (Teresa Ho), Grade 10 Piano
Poston, Andrew (Angela Schiwy), Grade 3 Piano
St. John, Lincoln (Angela Schiwy), Grade 5 Piano
Sum, Kyle (Audrey Nodwell), Grade 10 Cello
Ting, Keiyshia (Caroline Jang), Grade 2 Voice
Tountas, Christopher (Angela Schiwy), Grade 4 Piano
Wei, Christina (Amanda Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Wong, Louis (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 7 Piano
Yen, Timothy (Martha Brickman), Grade 6 Piano
Yen, Walter (Martha Brickman), Grade 7 Piano

HONOURS

Cao, Yuyang (Joseph Elworthy), ARCT Cello
Chen, Vinci (Joseph Elworthy), ARCT Cello
Liu, Ernest (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Teacher Elementary Piano
Zhang, Vivian (Joseph Elworthy), Grade 10 Cello
Lu, Joshua (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teachers' written Piano
Luo, Frank (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teachers' written Piano
Ng, John-Paul (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teachers' written Piano
Woo, Jordan (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

JONATHON CHAN (voice, Caroline Jang) played the role of Sebastian in *The Little Mermaid* by St. Francis Xavier School in June 2016.

MICHELLE CHAN (piano, Martha Brickman) received the B.C. Registered Teacher's Music Association senior bursary.

OLIVIA CHO (cello, Joseph Elworthy) will travel to Montreal this November to compete as a semi-finalist in the 2016 Manulife Montreal Symphony Orchestra Competition.

ROD CHOW (piano, Alana Chan) was presented the 2016 Live Design Award of Excellence for Architainment in New York City for his cross-disciplinary project integrating sound design, lighting, and architecture to visually realize classical music.

LINUS FONG (cello, Audrey Nodwell) received the Leslie Ponich Medallion at the 2016 Kiwanis Festival and performed in the Junior Matinee Gala.

HENRY FROM (piano, Donna Lee-Leung and Amanda Chan; composition, Edward Top; voice, Kathleen Allan) performed *Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 12* at the Biennial Conference of the Suzuki Association of the Americas. He also participated in Winnipeg's Rosamunde Summer Music Academy and performed at the Bellingham Festival of Music Annual General Meeting.

LEONARD AND THERESA GAO (voice, Caroline Jang) will be performing the roles of Lion and Munchkin in *The Wizard of Oz* with musical theatre group, Encore, in the summer of 2017.

Alumna **JESSE KIM** (violin, Lawrie Hill) was accepted to Yale University for graduate studies.

Alumni **JOCELYN LAI** and **NATALIE LO** (piano, Lorraine Ambrose) placed second and fourth (respectively) in the 2016 Shean Piano Competition.

NICOLAS LAROYE and **NICOLE PALETTA** (voice, Caroline Jang) will play the roles of Moose and Patsy in Vancouver College and Little Flower Academy's co-production of *Crazy For You* in November 2016.

Alumna **JULIE LIN** (violin, Lawrie Hill) was accepted into the pre-college program at Colburn Music Academy, Los Angeles.

Rolston String Quartet, with cellist and VAM alumnus **JONATHAN LO** (Audrey Nodwell), won first prize in the 2016 Banff International String Quartet Competition. They will soon be touring Europe and North America, producing a CD, and will receive a two-week residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

MEGHNA LOHIA (voice, Caroline Jang) will play the role of Roz in Crofton House's production of *9 to 5* in Spring of 2017.

In June 2016, **JANNA SAILOR** (violin faculty) founded Allegra Chamber Orchestra as Artistic Director, one of the world's first all-female orchestras.

AMBER TSANG (voice, Caroline Jang) was accepted to University of Toronto, McGill University, University of British Columbia, and Capilano University for Classical Voice and Vocal Jazz. She chose U of T and is currently studying Vocal Jazz.

VAM VIOLA ENSEMBLE (Heather Chester, Davin Mar, Dylan Yee, Shane Young) placed first in their class at the 2016 Kiwanis Festival.

Alumna **NAOMI WOO** (piano, Lorraine Ambrose) was awarded 2nd prize at the 2016 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition.



Chloé Hurst, Head of the Early Music Education Department at VAM, expands VAM's programs for children with two new courses: *Voyagers* (Ages 4-5) and *Navigators* (Ages 6-7). These courses use a blended approach of proven methods including Suzuki, Orff, and Kodaly, creating the foundation for the well-rounded skills needed for private instruction.

A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

There are some new kids on the block - kids' programs, that is!

CHLOÉ HURST, NEWLY-APPOINTED HEAD OF THE EARLY MUSIC EDUCATION (EME) DEPARTMENT and creative genius behind the existing Bach Babies, Mozart Mites and Rossini Rascals for children age 3 months to 4 years, is clearly enthusiastic about two new classes being offered in the EME department. "When I started here, we had the two programs, Orff and Kodaly, for kids starting at 3-1/2 to 4 years old. We had programs for youth, teens and adults, but nothing for the baby group. One day Joseph called me into his office and said, 'I have this idea. What do you think?' We brainstormed, came up with some ideas, and from that I developed the Bach Babies, Mozart Mites and Rossini Rascals. There was a really good response [to the classes], so we

thought, what if we were to expand those further, try something different, something new and exciting?

I had developed an outreach program, Orff on the Go, for schools, preschools and daycares where we bring a music class to school children, so I had that experience working with an older age group, experimenting with them, seeing what they enjoy, what grasps them. I was always using elements of both Orff and Kodaly together: the first thing you can do is sing, and Kodaly places a strong emphasis on singing. Then, percussion instruments are the Orff side, developing a sense of rhythm, reading basic notes and rests. I also added in training for the ear, such as starting to recognize intervals and the difference between

major and minor. This is very helpful for both of the main methods we have here at VAM – Suzuki and Royal Conservatory of Music – which both have elements of listening.

Further, what I found was missing from a lot of group music classes was exposure to composers, works of music, and other kinds of instruments. I wanted to bring these elements into the new classes, too. Every month we have an instrument family featured. Because this is the first month, we have an overview of the orchestra; we'll watch videos, listen to orchestral pieces, look at pictures, learn to pick out different instruments. Then we will have guest students and faculty come in to present instruments. The kids can hear them played and ask

questions about the instruments. A lot of kids are joining the classes because they haven't decided what instrument they want to play, and this gives them the opportunity to see what's out there.

We will also read stories about composers, choose pieces of music to listen to. I want to make some of the composers more 'household names'; our goal is maybe to remember their name, where they were born, a piece of music, maybe something interesting about them, for example, that Beethoven went deaf and wrote the whole ninth symphony by listening to it in his head! I have also tried to choose composers that are being featured in the VAMSO showcases. In the time leading up to the showcase we can focus on that composer and the particular piece of music that is being played."

The new Voyagers (ages 4 – 5) and Navigators (ages 6 – 7) classes combine all of these elements into an exploratory experience that expands the musical literacy of the kids. The classes have been tailored to complement the Suzuki and RCM streams of instruction, and also lead kids into the newly-developed choral program for students ages 8 and up. Says Hurst, "Kids coming out of this program could go into choir if they want to continue in an ensemble setting, or if they choose an instrument they can go into chamber groups or the orchestral program."

Hurst (herself a graduate of the VAM Orff program in the very same classroom where she now teaches) has enlisted the instructional support of VAM faculty member Caroline Jang for Voyagers and Navigators. Teaching with a colleague keeps Hurst focused: "I have to be very

organized. I can't go with my head full of ideas and repertoire. I have to pick them out so that Caroline has the same curriculum. It is really good, because it makes things move along, makes things progress. There are so many resources! I'm always looking for new stuff, going to music bookstores, talking to colleagues, and thank heavens for the internet! But each class depends on the kids, too. Some days you might have a really active bunch, so we have to do a lot of moving. You have to be flexible, you never know what the day is going to be like when you're dealing with kids. The other day I had a little girl ask, 'can we please dance to Beethoven?' Well of course we can!"

Voyager and Navigator classes are held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.



MUSIC EXPLORERS PROGRAM

BACH BABIES, MOZART MITES, ROSSINI RASCALS

Ages 3 months - 4 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.

VOYAGERS, NAVIGATORS

Ages 4-7 years

Explore everything in the world of music from composers around the globe to the fine detail of the notes, rhythms and instruments that make up our musical landscape. Take out those telescopes and find the many notes that live on the musical staff! Steer through rhythms using a wide variety of percussion instruments and leap from note to note while singing melodies. Voyagers and Navigators will be able to use expert navigation skills through the journey of how musical instruments work and sound.

For more information, visit vam.ca.

2016/17 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

WINTER ORCHESTRAL FESTIVAL

VAM Pre-Junior Strings & Junior Symphony:

Thursday, December 1, 7:30pm

Concertante & Camerata String Orchestras:

Sunday, December 4, 2:00pm

VAM Intermediate Symphony:

Thursday, December 8, 7:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

VAM VOCAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

Friday and Saturday, December 9-10, 7:30pm

Mary Olson Hall | Free admission

VIOLIN MASTERCLASS WITH MARK FEWER

Saturday, December 17, 2:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

VIOLIN MASTERCLASS WITH SIMONE LAMSMA

Thursday, January 12, 7:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

VOICE MASTERCLASS WITH ADRIENNE PIECZONKA

Wednesday, January 25, 1:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

STRAWBERRY & TEA

Saturday, February 4, 2pm and 4pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

BJORN & LORI HAREID SENIOR SECONDARY COMPETITION FINALS

Saturday, February 4, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

PETER & THE WOLF

NOV. 27, 2016 | 2PM

SYMPHONIE FANTASTIQUE

FEB. 19, 2017 | 2PM

A JOHN WILLIAMS TRIBUTE

MAY 7, 2017 | 2PM



ORPHEUM THEATRE | TICKETS AVAILABLE AT VAMSO.CA

**PHYLLIS SALTER PIANO COMPETITION
FINALS**

Saturday, February 11, 7:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

**KOERNER PIANO TRIO: WISTFUL
REFLECTIONS**

Sunday, February 12, 2:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall
Tickets: koernerpianotrio.com

**EDITH LANDO GIFTED YOUTH
COMPETITION FINALS**

Sunday, March 5, 2:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

VAM VOCAL THEATRE PRODUCTION

Friday and Saturday, March 10-11, 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

**JEROLD GERBRECHT WOODWIND &
BRASS COMPETITION FINALS**

Friday, March 31, 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

BARBARA CLAGUE FESTIVAL OF SONG

Sunday, April 9, 2:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

SPRING ORCHESTRAL FESTIVAL

Concertante & Camerata String Orchestras:
Sunday, April 23, 2:00pm
VAM Pre-Junior Strings & Junior Symphony:
Thursday, May 4, 7:30pm
VAM Intermediate Symphony:
Thursday, May 11, 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

**ELJSE DE RIDDER ARMSTRONG
CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION**

Saturday, April 29, 7:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

KAY MEEK COMPETITION FINALS

Saturday, May 27, 7:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

VAM
Vancouver Academy of Music
S.K. Lee College

**VAM SPRING CARNIVAL
& OPEN HOUSE**



MAY 6, 2017

10:00AM - 2:00PM

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

**2017 Marian Schreiber
Suzuki Festival
Concert**

Sunday, May 14, 2pm
Orpheum Theatre
Free Admission



KOERNER RECITAL HALL TRANSFORMED

YOUR PARTICIPATION CAN MEAN \$1 MILLION



Koerner Recital Hall – the heart of VAM – is poised for a transformation with this ambitious \$1 Million renovation to bring it forth into the 21st century.

The exceptional generosity of so many of you – our VAM supporters – has fueled the substantial progress made in VAM's ambitious fundraising campaign to renovate and bring Koerner Recital Hall into the 21st century. Together you have brought this Campaign to reach 88% of its \$1 Million goal. Thank You!

THERE IS STILL AN OPPORTUNITY TO
MAKE IT POSSIBLE - MAKE A DONATION - MAKE AN IMPACT

MAKE A TRANSFORMATIVE GIFT:

An exceptional performance environment for VAM students
An inspired concert venue for Vancouver's performing arts community.



CAMPAIGN: MAY 2016 > MAY 2017

TIMELINE: Renovation begins: July 2017
Completion: November 2017

FOR COMPLETE CAMPAIGN DETAILS AND TO DONATE VISIT VAM.CA/KOERNERHALLCAMPAIGN