



Vancouver Academy of Music
S.K. Lee College

SPRING 2017

APPASSIONATO



JONATHAN CHAN JOINS VAM FACULTY

VAM ALUMNUS RETURNS TO VANCOUVER AFTER MAKING A MARK IN
THE UNITED KINGDOM (P. 3)

Ariel Barnes takes position
at Nuremberg Symphony
Orchestra (p. 5)

Alumnus Jonathan
Braunstein reflects on Judith
Fraser's ongoing teaching
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Lisa Amini redefines
creativity and breaks barriers
with Brain Boosters program
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APPASSIONATO

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VAM CHAIR YUEN PAU WOO APPOINTED TO SENATE OF CANADA

The Vancouver Academy of Music would like to congratulate Board Chair Yuen Pau Woo on his appointment in November 2016 to the Senate of Canada. Pau, whose four children are VAM alumni, has been associated with VAM for the past 14 years, served on our Board for the last four, and has been its Chair since the Fall 2014. During his term, there have been so many exciting developments at VAM as he and the Board continue to work closely with Joseph Elworthy, the faculty, and staff to provide high-quality music education to the community. All the best from the VAM community, Pau!

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



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STRINGS, COVERS, AND INFINITE SOUL

VAM alumnus Jonathan Chan crafts a musical career in the Social Media Age



"The music business has changed. The marketing was a learning curve for us. Social media is huge. If you want to get yourself out there, you can't be afraid to do anything." -Jonathan Chan

"I WOULD SAY I GOT LUCKY. When I went to Guildhall, I was 18. My teacher there was David Takeno, and he was all about the music. My mom asked, 'Will he do competitions?' and he said 'No, you don't learn music for the sake of competing. That's not music. If you want to do that I'll help you, but I don't want to know about it.' He got quite discouraged during my second year, because I was still all 'flash and dash'. It wasn't until he shone a light on the fact that this isn't music that I realized that, while people can appreciate flash and dash, this will not get you very far; when people go to concerts, they want to feel and imagine things.

In the last year of my undergraduate studies, I applied for the Gold Medal Competition at Guildhall without telling him. Even though I didn't expect to get far, I got to the final round. When he found out, he lectured me for about half an hour about why competitions are not important. Then during the following lesson he said to me, 'I realize

I've been teaching you wrong for three years. Now this is what we're going to do: you're going to do a master's degree and you are going to do whatever you want to do, but you have to convince me. If you can't convince me, then you are going to have to find another way.' That really freed me up. I've only had three teachers: David, Taras Gabora and Lawrie Hill, and I've learned so much from those three. I've been very lucky."

Jonathan has just moved back to the West Coast after spending eight years studying and working as a musician in London. A graduate of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, he studied violin with Professor Takeno and piano with Ms. Caroline Palmer. He obtained his Bachelor of Music Honours degree and Guildhall Artist Master of Performance degree, graduating with distinction in both disciplines while earning the Donald Weeks Memorial Prize for achieving the highest mark in the Final Year Violin Recitals. In addition to these honours, Jonathan was also chosen as one of three finalists to perform in the Barbican Hall for the Guildhall School's prestigious Gold Medal Competition, performing Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* with James Judd and the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra. His achievements while in

school garnered him recognition by the Worshipful Company of Musicians and he was awarded with their distinguished Silver Medal.

"I was playing strictly classical music up until three years ago. London is very competitive; there are a lot of classical musicians, so I started expanding. I taught for quite a bit, and then I started doing work in areas like jazz, pop, and session work backing vocalists. Then I started a group with one of my best friends who I've known since I was 12, Jan Bislin. He was at VAM as well; he quit playing for a few years, but I pulled him back in. He is at Guildhall now, just finishing his last year. Jan is a master improviser, really free with his playing, whereas I came from a more strict classical background. There was an improvisation class at Guildhall, but it wasn't until I started playing with Jan that I learned there is no such thing as 'right' and 'wrong', just how you transition, get out of things, enjoy and embrace the clashes and dissonances. We started doing covers [of pop songs] just for fun, and then we went on YouTube."

The duo, under the name Momento, formed in 2013. They have performed in the UK, North America, Switzerland, Germany and the Czech Republic. Branching out beyond classical music, they explore the world of popular classics, rock, jazz, hip hop, pop and electronic music.

"The music business has changed," says Jonathan. "The marketing was a learning curve for us. Social media is huge. If you want to get yourself out there, you can't be afraid to do anything.

(Continued p. 4)

VAM Alumnus

member of winning

quartet at Banff

International String

Quartet Competition



IN SEPTEMBER OF 2016, the all-Canadian Rolston Quartet, made up of Luri Lee (1st violin), Jeffrey Dyrda (2nd violin), Hezekiah Leung (viola) and Jonathan Lo (cello and former VAM student of Audrey Nodwell) took first place honours over a field of ten quartets from around the world to win the prestigious Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC). The Rolston Quartet prevailed over nine other quartets to take top honours.

The quartet were also awarded the Esterházy Foundation Prize (a recital in Haydn Hall and the Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria, including artist fee and travel expenses) and the Lunenburg

Academy of Music Performance Prize (a fully funded, four-week residency in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia providing the opportunity to work and perform with the academy's distinguished faculty, to create and present broad community outreach programming, and to perform in its 1895 concert hall)

In the BISQC 2016 newsletter, BISQC Executive Director Barry Shiffman says, "Word is out that this quartet is HOT! Presenters are approaching us saying 'we want them'." In the same publication, the Rolston Quartet's manager for Canada Andrew Kwan says, "In my 25 years as an artist manager in this country, there has

not been this level of enthusiasm for a chamber group as there has been in the past two months for the Rolston String Quartet."

The Rolston String Quartet's winner's tour will include over 50 concerts in Europe and North America in 2017 and 2018. The quartet has just completed a tour of Germany that included performances in Hamburg, Bremen, Nuremberg, and Berlin. In March they are scheduled to perform south of the border in Virginia, California, Texas, and Washington, DC.

(Continued from p. 3)

We've had to market ourselves, read articles, talk to people, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter. If you go online and look at some of the performers, you're baffled; how do they have a million views, over a hundred thousand subscribers, when there are 14-year-olds at VAM who can play as well or better? They just really know how to work social media. They blog, get people to blog about them, share on so many digital media. The world has become faster.

It is all about views, likes, and numbers. In Music, too; in the past, if labels found a talent, they would sign them, cultivate them, and help them become the artist. Now they won't sign you if you don't have 50,000 to 100,000 people following you already. It is too risky.

In college you are still told, 'audition for orchestras and enter competitions if you want to be a soloist'. There should be more classes to help people market themselves. The performance part is never a problem for most classical musicians, but the marketing has become more than 50% of what I do. I would much rather go out for a walk, but you have to do it."

At the moment, Jonathan and Jan are working long-distance to finish a collection of Memento's covers and some original work that they hope to release in the next few months. Jan will be returning to Vancouver at the end of his final year at Guildhall, and the duo are also working on more original material, including electronic music and vocals, for their debut album to be released in 2018. "A friend has invested in us and enabled us to get some equipment, just

in the last two months. I'm living at my mom's place – I've turned our old playroom into a music studio," says Jonathan. "We are in the middle of a transition. We're called Memento, but that name is too common. If you make it difficult for people to find you, they aren't going to look for you – another lesson that we learned." So together with the music creation, the duo has some work to do rebranding.

Jonathan has already reconnected with VAM: "I've just met with Joseph; he has offered me a position on VAM's faculty and wants to help find a platform for Jan's and my voice. We don't exactly have an idea as yet as to what form that will take." VAM can definitely look forward to hearing from Jonathan, Jan and Memento in the future.



VAM BIDS *AUF WIEDERSEHEN* TO CELLO DEPARTMENT CO-HEAD **ARIEL BARNES**

IN MARCH, ARIEL BARNES, who has been on the faculty of VAM for the past five years (three as cello department Co-head) is pulling up stakes, loading up the wagon and heading off to Europe with his wife and two daughters. Ariel is taking up the position in the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra (Nürnberger Symphoniker). “For the last 16 years it’s been a dream of mine to live and work in one of the birthplaces of European Art Music. I’ve also had the desire to learn more languages and feel the best way best way to go about that is to immerse myself,” says Ariel. “This is a longer term prospect, with the intention of moving indefinitely. My focus will be to continue growing as an artist, discover new lands with my family, and of course work on my German.”

The city of Nuremberg will be all the richer! During his time in Vancouver (to list just a few of his accomplishments), Ariel has been active in solo performance, chamber music, orchestral playing, teaching, recording, and chamber music festivals nationally and internationally. A passionate proponent of 21st-century art music, he has premiered over 50 works by Canadian composers, notably in collaboration with harpist Heidi Krutzen in the Couloir project. He has earned kudos for his solo and chamber music recordings (including a Juno Award nomination and two Western Canada Music Awards), is played regularly on CBC Radio 2 and BBC Radio 3, and was one of six cellists across Canada selected by the CBC for their Canadian Bach Cello Suite Project. We feel certain that Ariel

For their Orchestra Profiles on the Nürnberger Symphoniker website (a Proust-style questionnaire), the musicians are asked, “What would you have become if you had not become a musician?” To this question Ariel responds, “A musician! I would have needed a second life to find out.”

will soon be engaging in any number of new and exciting projects in his new home! VAM wishes Ariel and his family all the best fortune in their upcoming adventure!



VAM's Mary Buckerfield White Choral Program

Vancouver's newest premiere choral experience

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Fun rehearsal environment, foundations of ensemble singing, musicianship

VANIER PARK VOICES

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All levels welcome, supportive learning environment

RAINCITY CHORUS

Ages 13-18

Challenging repertoire, focus on vocal technique, collaborative environment

VAM SCHOLA CANTORUM

Experienced singers 18+

Fast-paced rehearsals, challenging repertoire

2017/18 Registration May 2017! Book an audition at vam.ca.

CONGRATULATIONS COMPETITION WINNERS!

VAM JUNIOR SYMPHONY CONCERTO COMPETITION

NOVEMBER 25, 2016

RECIPIENTS	Maya B. Delen, violin	TEACHERS	Robin Wenham
	Zen Pin Shang Liu, violin		Robin Wenham
	Kenta Okochi, violin		Lawrie Hill

VAM INTERMEDIATE SYMPHONY CONCERTO COMPETITION

DECEMBER 2, 2016

RECIPIENTS	Matthew Sean Lee, cello	TEACHERS	Joseph Elworthy
	Francis Nicolaas Sadleir, clarinet		A. K. Coope

25TH BJORN & LORI HAREID SENIOR SECONDARY COMPETITION: STRINGS

FEBRUARY 4, 2017

AWARDS	Bjorn & Lori Hareid Scholarship (\$1,500)	RECIPIENTS	Grace Hyewon Sohn	TEACHERS	Ariel Barnes
	Loyal Protestant Association Scholarship (\$1,500)		Olivia Cho		Joseph Elworthy
	VAM Scholarship (\$1,000)		Sean Gao		Nicholas Wright, David Gillham
	Roderick H. McRae Memorial Scholarship (\$500)		Dylan Thomas Yee		Mark Luchkow
	Michael & Mary Shields Scholarship (\$500)		Jennifer Lim		Judith Fraser

PHYLLIS SALTER PIANO COMPETITION

FEBRUARY 11, 2017

AWARDS	\$1,500 scholarship	RECIPIENTS	Austin Con	TEACHERS	Lorraine Ambrose
	\$1,200 scholarship		Zabrina Ng		Saida Matyukov
	\$700 scholarship		Hamilton Lau		Amanda Chan
	\$400 scholarship		Augustin Wright		Bogdan Dulu
	\$300 scholarship		Jiwon Han		Chiharu Iinuma
	\$300 scholarship		Caitlin Wong		Lorraine Ambrose

THE 27TH ANNUAL EDITH LANDO GIFTED YOUTH COMPETITION

MARCH 5, 2017

AWARDS	Edith Lando Gifted Youth Scholarship (\$1,000)	RECIPIENTS	Rachel Wei, piano	TEACHERS	Lorraine Ambrose
	Eugenie & Edward Yeung Scholarship (\$500)		Henry From, piano		Donna Lee-Leung
	Yashwant & Tarun Damji Sidpra Memorial Scholarship (\$250)		Ivy Lin, piano		Amanda Chan
	Harold & Florence Morris Scholarship (\$250)		Corina Deng, violin		Nicholas Wright
	Malcolm G. Aikman Scholarship (\$250)		Brandon Jong, piano		Amanda Chan
	Ann Lesley Bain Memorial Scholarship (\$250)		Mio Nakajo, violin		Nicki Stieda
	Dr. & Mrs. Joseph H. Cohen Scholarship (\$250)		Yaming Zhu, violin		Andrew Dawes
	Seymour & Janet Vineberg Memorial Scholarship (\$250)		Megan Cheng, cello		Joseph Elworthy

RCM EXAM RESULTS

GOLD MEDAL

Karwowska, Sylwia (Robyn Driedger-Klassen), ARCT Performance, Voice

FIRST CLASS HONOURS WITH DISTINCTION

Bird, Alison (Alana Chan), Grade 1 Piano
Fu, Cyrus (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 5 Piano
Jones, Flora Marian (Rebecca Kelly), Advanced Rudiments
Liu, Joshua (Amanda Chan), ARCT Performance, Piano
Mok, Gillian (Rebecca Kelly), Advanced Rudiments
Tsang, Victoria (Angela Schiwy), Grade 4 Piano

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Cheng, Jason (Martha Brickman), Grade 7 Piano
Chow, Emily (Lorraine Ambrose), ARCT Performance, Piano
Ho, Julia (Martha Brickman), Grade 10 Piano
Hyland, Sebastian (Amanda Chan), Grade 8 Piano
Lee, Alyson (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Li, Derek (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Lu, Jasmine (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teacher's Pedagogy (written)
Mantle, Luke (Amanda Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Ng, John Paul (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teacher's Pedagogy (practical)
Wei, Yi (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Elementary Teacher's Pedagogy (practical)
Wen, Chelsea (Angela Schiwy), Grade 8 Piano

HONOURS

Leung, Connor (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 4 Piano
Qu, Michelle (Amanda Chan), ARCT Performance, Piano



Judith Fraser with Jonathan Braunstein (left), a long-time VAM alumnus. Judith now teaches Jonathan's daughter Mila (right): "when you have a parent who plays the instrument and they are in the room, it is very funny to watch. Last spring Mila turned around one day and said, 'Dad, put a zip in it!' She has quite a strong personality!"

REFLECTIONS ON A STUDY WITH JUDITH

by Jonathan Braunstein

I STARTED PLAYING AT 4 YEARS OLD.

My uncle in Ontario played cello and as I admired him I think I had a desire to play cello, so my parents took me to look for an instrument at a sale at VAM. We met Judith Fraser there who, in addition to helping us pick out a cello, looked at my hands and decided that I had potential. She took me on as a student and the rest is 'history'. Judy was a great fit for me and a big inspiration with my cello and music career. She also taught my younger brother as a cellist for a few

years, taught my mother for a year or so, and coached my sister (who played the flute) in chamber ensemble.

I played with Judy from age 4 until 17 when I left for university to study science. During that time, I played in chamber groups, with the VAM Symphony Orchestra, and did solo performances. I considered going into music as a career when I finished high school and was accepted to University of Michigan, but instead went down a different path, eventually ending up

in medicine. I know Judy was quite disappointed with this decision and she reminds me of her opinion that I should have gone into music on a regular basis! I have continued to play cello since then but in recent years it has taken a bit of a backseat to the other busy events in life, and I'm just waiting for a bit more time in my life to have a resurgence in my ability to play. After my formal training I've ended up using cello in other parts of my life, playing with friends periodically in a band, at many of my friends' weddings, etc. Right now I mostly play with my daughter Mila when she's practicing at home, although I'm hoping to pick up more time for music soon. Music, whether classical or other, has always been an important part of my life and my training with Judy and at VAM really enabled me to enjoy and engage in music in ways I otherwise wouldn't have been able to.

Mila also started cello at the age of 4. Judy was the obvious choice to be her teacher and this is Mila's third year of study with Judy in private lessons (she's now almost 7 years old). Judy has really been a part of our family over the years and once I had children I knew that having Judy teach at least one of them would be very fitting. Judy has this knack for really engaging young kids with the cello and with music that I admire; she seems to be able to get Mila to really focus and engage in ways that I only wish I could when I am practicing with Mila at home. She's a very active kid so it's often a bit of a challenge to get her to sit still and play cello, but she really enjoys playing with Judy and attending her regular concerts at VAM. This obviously comes from Judy's passion for music and teaching and her years of experience teaching young kids. Mila and Judy have really connected and it's quite a pleasure attending Mila's lessons and seeing how she feeds off Judy's enthusiasm for music and how much she really enjoys her time with Judy. I can't imagine there are too many



cello teachers out there over 80 years old who have as much energy as Judy does, or who get down on their knees on the floor with their young students to teach them at their level. Having had a few other music and cello teachers over the years during and after my time at VAM, I can say for certain that she has a passion for music and teaching that is very unique.

A long-time member of VAM's faculty, Judith's studio is full of photos and photo collages of the many students she has had over the years: "I sometimes get Mila to go around and find all the pictures of Jonathan when she comes to her lesson."

KOERNER PIANO TRIO PRESENTS REVERIES OF FRANCE

KOERNER
PIANO
TRIO



GABRIEL FAURE

Piano Trio, Op. 120

GERMAINE TAILLEFERRE

Piano Trio

MAURICE RAVEL

Piano Trio in A Minor

June 4, 7pm | Koerner Recital Hall

Tickets: koernerpianotrio.com

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

TERESA BOWES (piano, Amanda Chan) and **HENRY FROM** (piano, Donna Lee-Leung) were accepted with scholarship awards into the 2017 Orford Music Summer Academy.

This summer, **JIM-ISAAC CHUA** (piano, Lee Kum-Sing) will be teaching, giving workshops, and performing concert tours across Myanmar and the Philippines in addition to performances in the United States.

Faculty members **A.K. COOPE** (clarinet), **CHRISTIE RESIDE** (flute), and **REBECCA WHITLING** (violin), members of renowned new music sextet Standing Wave, recently performed Jennifer Higdon's Concerto *On a Wire* at the VSO's New Music Festival and an all-Nicole Lizée program at Vancouver's International Push Festival and Montreal's New Music Festival. Their latest CD, *New Wave*, has just been released.

Composition *String Quartet No. 1* by **HENRY FROM** (composition, Top) was performed at the 2017 Sonic Boom Festival by the Black Dog Quartet.

In March 2017, **PROFESSOR LEE KUM-SING** (faculty, piano) gave lectures and masterclasses at the Performing Arts Academy in Hong Kong in addition to lectures and masterclasses in conservatories and universities in Guangzhou and Xiamen. His topics included music as an international language, the importance of music in life, and Chopin's mazurkas.

CAITLIN LEUNG, **ERIKA LIU**, and **SAVANNAH TAMBELLINI** (harp, Joy Yeh) performed at the Vancouver Playhouse as part of the TCCS fundraising concert for children in need.

VICTOR MANGAS (clarinet, A. K. Coope) attended the National Music Camp at Interlochen in Summer 2016 and is a winner of this season's VYSO Senior Concerto Competition.

Last summer, **ISIDORA NOJKOVIC** and **NICO STEPHENSON** (alumni, Audrey Nodwell) taught free music camps in various communities in rural Yukon as part of the Yukon Cello Project.

Nine-year-old **RYAN WANG** (piano, Lee Kum-Sing) will embark on a concert tour this Spring including performances for a solo recital and radio recording in Hong Kong, a solo recital in Guangzhou, as soloist with the Xiamen Philharmonic Orchestra in Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 1*, and a centennial celebration at Chug Ling High School. This summer he will participate in the Casalmaggiore Summer Festival in Italy performing recitals and *Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2* with the Festival Orchestra.

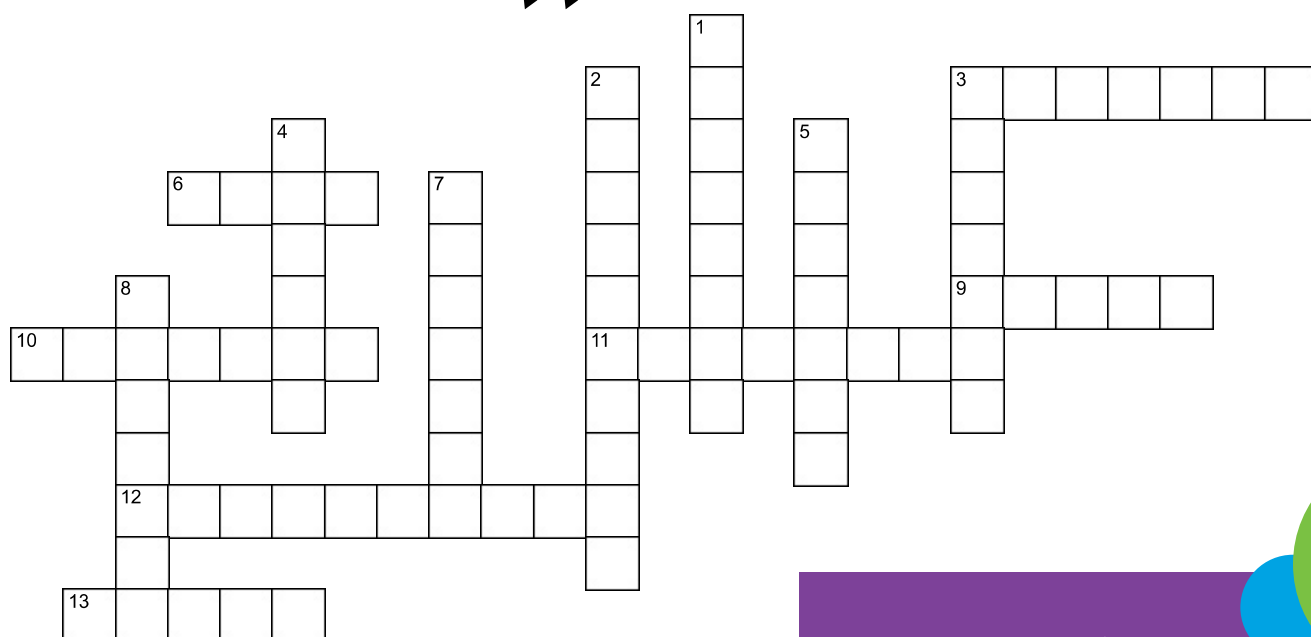
CHRISTOPHER KIN MING WONG (faculty, piano) adjudicated at the Chilliwack Lions Club Music and Dance Festival and will be this year's Junior Division adjudicator at the BCRMTA Student Performer's Guild Festival.

AUGUSTIN WRIGHT (piano, Bogdan Dulu; cello, Joseph Elworthy) participated in the award-winning show 'Virtuose', played his third performance in Carnegie Hall, and in March performed a benefit concert for the Koerner Recital Hall Fundraising Campaign at the Silk Purse Gallery.

DR. JOY YEH (faculty, harp) performed as a soloist with the Prince George Symphony Orchestra and Vancouver Metropolitan Orchestra. She also gave a masterclass at the Prince George Conservatory of Music and at Taiwan Harp Center. The Camac Prize Harp Competition, the first international harp competition in Taiwan, invited Dr. Yeh to be on the jury and to perform at the closing concert.

Scherzetto

Crossword Capriccio



ACROSS

- 3 Composer of "La bohème"
- 6 Number of strings on a violin
- 9 Staged musical work with singers in costume
- 10 A chamber group with four members
- 11 The distance between two notes
- 12 (2 words) Dynamic marking, "moderately loud"
- 13 Known as "Father of the Symphony"

DOWN

- 1 A work for solo instrument and orchestra
- 2 Schubert's incomplete "_____ Symphony"
- 3 A small flute
- 4 J. S. Bach wrote Preludes and _____
- 5 Mozart's country of origin
- 7 Italian term meaning 'brisk tempo'
- 8 Keyboard percussion instrument made of wood

Fun Facts

- Astronaut Chris Hadfield released an album of music recorded entirely in space!
- An organ in St. Burchard's Church in Germany is performing a work that will take 639 years to complete!
- The Octobass a large string instrument that plays very low notes - it is 12 feet tall, so big that two musicians are needed to play it!



Faculty member Lisa Amini overcomes barriers by integrating musical activities with academic studies

YOU SEE A HALL FULL OF DESKS, with children ranging in age from four to thirteen, sitting for two hours quietly, focused, and doing – if you can believe it – math! Many parents will shake their heads in doubt, saying, ‘this isn’t my child; my child can’t sit still for ten minutes, let alone two hours!’ Lisa Amini, the developer of VAM’s Brain Boosters program, has met these skeptical parents, and has shown them a different facet of their child, one of engagement and focus. “Every year I have a math competition for all my kids. There will be 40 students of all ages, sitting for two hours – even kindergarten kids!”

Lisa is a certified elementary teacher with an interest in brain development/neuroplasticity research, educational pedagogy and curriculum development. She received special training in teaching elementary literacy/language arts programs (reading comprehension, writing) and mathematics as well as

in social-emotional learning (SEL), self-regulation and ICT in education.

Lisa developed the Brain Boosters program in response to a personal need. After graduating from law school at UBC, Lisa had been practicing law in the US for twelve years in an 80-hour-a-week career when her daughter was born prematurely and diagnosed with delayed development and possible autism. “She spent the first year of her life here in Vancouver because I didn’t have the support I needed. The turning point came on her first birthday: I flew up after not seeing her for about four months, picked her up, and she had no idea who I was. At that point I had to decide whether I was going to be a parent to this child or not. I quit my job, came up here, and went through the process to find out what types of challenges she had. We went to the library, exposing her to stimuli; gave her dance, art, and other types of therapies where you

don’t need verbal skills (because she wasn’t vocal at all); I read to her and gave her math manipulatives to help with cognitive skills. I developed a system, even though I didn’t realize it at the time.”

“Looking at my career as a business attorney, and at my own childhood, I reflected back to see what skills my daughter needs in order to be self-sufficient – not so much the academics, but the soft skills, and started this idea of training math and cognitive skills. I brought in a laughter coach to make sure she would laugh and play and professionals from different walks of life for storytelling, art, and math. I wanted to highlight the fact that children need to have what we call a whole-brain approach.”

Lisa was in a support group with other parents of autistic children. When the other parents in the group observed the results that she was

getting, they became interested in her methodology. “Then I became interested in education. I went back to UBC and got an education degree and teaching licence.” Lisa was teaching in community centres when VAM found her: “At that time Joseph was coming in as Executive Director. I showed him my materials, and he said, ‘I want that’.”

The first module of Brain Boosters, for four- to seven-year-olds, incorporates math and music to ‘...develop cognitive and rational thinking while fostering natural curiosity for discovery and creativity’.

The development of the subsequent modules happened in a ‘totally organic’ manner, says Lisa. “I started with the little kids. Then, in response to feedback from parents, I expanded to the Brain Boosters: Math Wizards course, and from there into Language Arts and Science. School teachers do a lot of work, but there is never enough time in the school day to squeeze everything in. I got a group of students who really want to do science: last year we studied dinosaurs, built a volcano that they were able to take home and blow up, and studied the solar system.

Lisa with her Brain Boosters: Math Wizards class. “The small group setting is an extremely important part in a child’s life...and it is an important part of making them feel good about themselves...hearing their classmates motivate them and urge them on.”

The classes, which are multi-age groups, typically consist of about ten to twelve children. “The older kids take a leadership role and the younger ones look up to the older ones.” The classes target children of different academic need: some are academically strong and looking to advance their skills. Some need some remedial help, and other have significant learning challenges. All the children learn together and support and encourage each other: “The small group setting is an extremely important part in a child’s life... and it is an important part of making them feel good about themselves...hearing their classmates motivate them and urge them on.”



Lisa’s daughter, now 10, is a student at VAM. She started in the Suzuki violin program with Rosalind O’Keefe, and is now studying with DeAnne Eisch. “Music is a big part of her life... All the teachers here are immensely dedicated, and there is a real sense of community, walking in, feeling this huge appreciation for music. It is second to none.”



MUSIC EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Music classes for children ages 3 months to 7 years

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

2017/18 registration available May 2017!
For more information, visit vam.ca.



2016/17 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

VAM SCHOLA CANTORUM & VANCOUVER VIOLS

Saturday, April 8, 3:00pm

Mary Olson Hall | Free admission

BARBARA CLAGUE FESTIVAL OF SONG

Sunday, April 9, 2:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

SPRING ORCHESTRAL FESTIVAL

VAM Pre-Junior Strings & Junior Symphony:

Thursday, May 4, 7:30pm

VAM Intermediate Symphony:

Thursday, May 11, 7:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

ELSJE DE RIDDER ARMSTRONG CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

Saturday, April 29, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

BRAIN BOOSTERS MATH COMPETITION

Sunday, April 30, 9:00am-12:00pm

Mary Olson Hall

VAM SPRING CARNIVAL & OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 6, 10:00am-2:00pm

VAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: A JOHN WILLIAMS TRIBUTE

Sunday, May 7, 2:00pm

Orpheum Theatre | Tickets: vamso.ca

MARIAN SCHREIBER SUZUKI FESTIVAL CONCERT

Sunday, May 14, 2:00pm

Orpheum Theatre, 601 Smithe St | Free admission

VAM CHORAL FESTIVAL

Sunday, May 14, 2:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

ADULT LEARNING PROGRAM SOIREE CONCERT

Friday, May 26, 7:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

KAY MEEK COMPETITION FINALS

Saturday, May 27, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

DAL RICHARDS SCHOOL OF SWING SPRING GALA

Tuesday, May 30, 7:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Tickets: vam.ca

CELLO MASTERCLASS WITH DESMOND HOEBIG

Friday, June 2, 7:30pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Free admission

KOERNER PIANO TRIO: REVERIES OF FRANCE

Sunday, June 4, 7:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall | Tickets: koernerpianotrio.com

VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
2017/18 SEASON



LESLIE DALA



KATHLEEN ALLAN



IAN PARKER



CHRISTOPHER GAZE

OCTOBER 22, 2017

EROICA AND EMPEROR

An all-Beethoven program: *Fidelio Overture*, *Symphony No. 3* ("Eroica"), and *Piano Concerto No. 5* ("Emperor")

Ian Parker, piano and guest conductor

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

VERDI'S REQUIEM

Verdi's powerful masterwork featuring
Vancouver Bach Choir

Leslie Dala, conductor

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

BRAHMS SYMPHONY NO. 1

Brahms' *Symphony No. 1*, a concerto featuring the winner of VAM's 2017 Kay Meek Competition, and the world premiere of a work for turntable, electric violin, and orchestra by Jonathan Chan.

Leslie Dala, conductor | **Jonathan Chan**, electric violin

MAY 6, 2018

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

Camille Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*, Debussy's *Prélude à l'après-midi d'un faune*, and Poulenc's *Harpsichord Concerto*

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

KOERNER RECITAL HALL TRANSFORMED

YOUR PARTICIPATION CAN MEAN \$1 MILLION



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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 93% 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.

