

APPASSIONATO

IAN PARKER

APPOINTED
VAMSO MUSIC
DIRECTOR
& PRINCIPAL
CONDUCTOR



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APPASSIONATO

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FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Welcome to the Fall 2018 edition of *Appassionato* as VAM launches another promising season packed with exciting concerts and events. The accomplishments of our students and faculty captured in this newsletter are worthy of celebration and speak to the culture of musical excellence that permeates VAM.

This edition acknowledges multiple landmark transitions in VAM's leadership, with distinguished Suzuki pedagogues Nicki Stieda and Mark Luchkow taking the helm of VAM's Suzuki Violin Department and the introduction of Ian Parker as VAM Symphony Orchestra's Music Director & Principal Conductor, following his appearance as guest conductor in an enthralling all-Beethoven extravaganza. We are so delighted that Maestro Leslie Dala has assumed a role of Conductor Emeritus that will see him continue to conduct VAMSO at least once every two years. I would personally like to thank Leslie Dala for the fantastic dedication and artistry he has brought to VAMSO over the course of the past eight years. The body of repertoire covered over this span, and the standard of performance, speaks for itself in terms of Maestro Dala's transformative impact on VAMSO.

Thank you to the dedicated work of our faculty, students, supporters, and the VAM community at large for making possible all of the achievements which we are able to share with you in this newsletter. We are training not only first-rate musicians but future leaders who will make an appreciable difference for the community they serve thanks to their ongoing relationship with music and the performing arts. I look forward to greeting you at a future VAM concert and thank you for your support.

Musically Yours,
Joseph Elworthy, VAM President & CEO

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





MEET THE NEW VAMSO MUSIC DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR VAM WELCOMES IAN PARKER

It is Saturday afternoon and VAMSO is rehearsing in Mary Olson Hall. Holst's *The Planets* is on the menu, a fun programming choice for a student orchestra. The first sound you hear as you enter the hall is laughter, and the conductor enthusiastically encouraging the percussion section to "play it like you mean it!" VAMSO's new Music Director and Principal Conductor, Ian Parker, then proceeds to sing all the bassoon parts, while navigating the shoals of what turns out to be largely a read-through of this challenging work.

VAM is delighted to welcome Ian Parker to its community this fall. With one concert already under his belt this season – a challenging one, including works by five winners of the Young Composers Competition, and performances by six winners of VAM's Orpheum Theatre Concerto Competition – Ian is off to a strong start. "It was fantastic! I thought it

would be extremely challenging, working with new music, new composers, young soloists, but it went very well!"

Ian Parker is not in any way a new figure on the Vancouver – and international – music scene. He is firmly established musically on the global stage. Born in Vancouver to a family of pianists, he began his piano studies at age three with his father, Edward Parker. He holds both a Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Juilliard School, where he was a student of Yoheved Kaplinsky. He is a sought-after soloist who has appeared with the philharmonic orchestras of Buffalo, Calgary, Erie, Hamilton, and Louisiana, as well as the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra, the Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, and the symphonies of Cincinnati, Edmonton, Eugene, Greenwich, Honolulu, Kitchener-Waterloo, Long Beach, National (Washington,

D.C.), Okanagan, Pensacola, Quebec, Regina, Richmond, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Spokane, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Virginia, and Winnipeg. As a recitalist, Ian has performed across the US, Western Europe, Israel, and Canada. He has collaborated with the internationally renowned Vogler Quartet regularly since 2005 in tours across the US and Canada, as well as Ireland and Germany. He has begun appearing with the up-and-coming Attacca Quartet, and has collaborated with violinist Augustin Hadelich in concerts across the US and Canada. He has recently become Artistic Director on a new chamber music series at North Vancouver's Kay Meek Centre. He also has numerous recordings to his credit.

So how does a concert pianist of this calibre come to be the Music Director of VAMSO? "I think that question goes along the same lines as 'how do you become a conductor?'," says Ian. "I've asked this question for the last 15 years. I've wanted to conduct a symphony orchestra my whole life. This interest goes back to high school. I've never told a soul really, but I've been asking my friends so many questions, usually my professional friends who play in

an orchestra, 'how does one become a conductor?' Then I started noticing that every single conductor's story is so unique. There is of course a formal way, people who get a great education on all things conducting, but I knew I could never do that because I was so focused as a concert pianist through my college and post-college years. Then I remember working with a conductor who was very very good, and he managed to get the orchestra whipped into shape so quickly...and I found out that he was a percussion player. So I asked him, what's your story? And he said, 'I don't play anything but timpani. But you know, I sat at the back of the orchestra watching conductors come in, day in and day out, and I figured out, that's what you do, and that's what you don't do'.

Then one time about ten years ago I was playing with the Windsor Symphony. The conductor said to me 'what do you want to do Ian, you're such an accomplished pianist, what's next?' I told him, 'I'll tell you a secret, I've always wanted to conduct', and then he said, 'Oh, well then, you're a fine musician, why don't you come conduct my orchestra? You're great, your musical ideas are great,



Ian Parker (right) with Joseph Elworthy (left)



Ian conducting VAMSO

we've talked so much. Do a concert next season, whatever you want.' I was so excited and so terrified, but I thought OK here's my chance. So I made a bit of a programming mistake. I thought, to make this easier why don't I do four pieces, three of which I'm actually playing. I'll do an all-Bach concert, to keep it less thick, three keyboard concerti and a sinfonia. Well that turned out to be way more work, because I had to play three concertos instead of conducting. It turned out the easiest part of that concert was the sinfonia. In the concertos where I was playing and conducting at the same time my hands were busy on the piano, sometimes I was conducting with one hand, with my nose, with my head, and then I realized how much you can do with eye contact, and how much you can cue people and communicate just with facial expressions and body language. Then when I started sharing this experience with musicians and other conductors they all said that's exactly what you do! So I took some lessons with friends: Tania Miller, a dear friend who conducted the Victoria Symphony, Peter Rubardt who conducts in Florida and Mississippi, and Rosemary Thomson in the Okanagan.

Then I came to VAM as a masterclass teacher. I often sing when I teach, I get very passionately involved, I guess conducting in a certain way towards the pianist, trying to get my ideas across and then Joseph Elworthy took me aside and asked, 'have you ever conducted? Because what you're doing up there that's what I want, when I'm sitting there as a musician.' If you love the orchestral repertoire well, and know it well and know exactly how you want it and you can describe that, or sing it or show it in the body language a certain way or a clear way that you want a certain result, musicians will react, even the college orchestra students will react. Obviously in the case of a college or student orchestra you can be a little more specific in micromanaging because I am dealing with a younger group. So it all came about in this very accidental way."

After many years in New York, Ian moved his base back to the West Coast a few years ago. "I'm happy here. I

love Vancouver, I have a fantastic performing career as a pianist, I teach a few students privately (seven students), I run a chamber music series at Kay Meek Center. I can stay in the most beautiful city in the world and conduct an orchestra that I'm having a great time with, with colleagues that I love dearly, so I'm ecstatic." When he isn't engaged in musical pursuits, Ian is an avid downhill skier and cook. He also recently acquired a solid mahogany 38' power boat in which he has taken to exploring "the infinite beauty of the islands". VAM is thrilled to have Ian on board. A very warm welcome!

<p>VANCOUVER ACADEMY OF MUSIC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 2018/19 SEASON ORPHEUM SERIES</p>	
	<p>OCTOBER 7, 2018, 2PM NEXT GENERATION BC</p>
	<p>NOVEMBER 18, 2018, 2PM THE PLANETS</p>
	<p>FEBRUARY 10, 2019, 2PM PINES OF ROME</p>
	<p>MAY 12, 2019, 2PM FIREBIRD SUITE</p>
<p>V A M S O . C A</p>	

RCM EXAM RESULTS

GOLD MEDAL

Brandon Jong (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Navinda Juajarungjai (Joy Yeh), Grade 6 Harp
Jimin Kim (Mark McGregor), Grade 10 Flute
Alice Lee (Joy Yeh), Grade 10 Harp
Emily Leung (Caroline Jang), Grade 4 Voice
Esther Li (Brenda Fedoruk), Grade 3 Flute
Griffin Linklater (Hanh Nguyen), Grade 10 Guitar
Katie Purcell (Kathleen Allan), Grade 9 Voice



*Brandon Jong at the
RCM Gold Medal Recital*

FIRST CLASS HONOURS WITH DISTINCTION

Nolan Chan (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 1 Piano
Riley Chan (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Christina Chow (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 5 Piano
Sebastian Hyland (Amanda Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Mia Krezeski (Brenda Campbell), Grade 7 Piano
Cameron Kwan (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 1 Piano
Megan Nicole Lee (Martha Brickman), Grade 6 Piano
Erwin Mok (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 2 Piano
Kabir Murphy Rao (Sarah Tatto), Preparatory Voice
Lincoln St John (Alana Chan), Grade 7 Piano

Keyishia Ting (Juan Wang), Grade 3 Piano
Valerie Tsang (Angela Schiwy), Grade 9 Piano
Victoria Tsang (Angela Schiwy), Grade 7 Piano
Tycho Webber (Juan Wang), Grade 3 Piano
Carmen Wen (Joan Hurst), Grade 9 Piano
Augustin Wright (Rebecca Kelly), LLCM Performance Diploma, Piano
Yimin Yang (Alana Chan), Grade 1 Piano
Charles Yeung (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Aidan Zhang (Juan Wang), Grade 5 Piano

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Jackson Baxter (Donna Lee-Leung), Prep. B Piano
Alison Bird (Alana Chan), Grade 3 Piano
Jonathon Chan (Amanda Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Sultan Chatila (Angela Schiwy), Grade 6 Piano
Shireen Davoudi (Alana Chan), Grade 4 Piano
Emma Krista Demeter (Martha Brickman), Grade 6 Piano
Xinran Joy Duan (Amanda Chan), Grade 8 Piano
Baran Farhangnia (Angela Schiwy), Grade 9 Piano
Samantha Fong (Martha Brickman), Grade 4 Piano
Eva Jarvis (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Eun Seol Kim (Brenda Campbell), Grade 6 Piano
Brandon Krezeski (Hanh Nguyen), Grade 8 Guitar
Alvin Lau (Angela Schiwy), Grade 8 Piano
Joshua Liu (Rebecca Kelly/Amanda Chan),
ARCT Advanced Piano Pedagogy

Yuki Mitsui (Martha Brickman), Grade 8 Piano
Vanessa Pang (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 3 Piano
Abdisa Pourslani (Krystyna Tucka), Grade 3 Piano
Roxana Ramirez-Lazo (Alana Chan), Grade 1 Piano
Alec Read (Monica Lee), Grade 8 Piano
Angelina Sunwoo (Angela Schiwy), Grade 6 Piano
Chereen Ting (Donna Lee-Leung), Grade 3 Piano
Keyishia Ting (Frederik Robert), Grade 4 Voice
Christopher Tountas (Alana Chan), Grade 5 Piano
Trevis Wong (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 6 Piano
Madeline Wood (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 1 Piano
Christopher Xie (Martha Brickman), Grade 4 Piano
Parissa Yee (Krystyna Tucka), Grade 8 Piano
Timothy Yen (Martha Brickman), Grade 8 Piano

HONOURS

Aaron Choi (Martha Brickman), Grade 8 Piano
Douglas Fong (Martha Brickman), Grade 6 Piano
Matthew Kellar (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Evan Liu (Alana Chan), ARCT Piano

Daniel Ma (Donna Lee-Leung), ARCT Piano
John-Paul Ng (Teresa Ho), ARCT Piano
Xiaojing Candy Situ (Sarah Tatto), Grade 7 Voice
Amelie Stein (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 6 Piano

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS: 2017/18 EMERGING ARTIST GRANT WINNERS



For nearly 50 years, VAM has been a national leader in providing unique educational opportunities that have resulted in the cultivation of several generations of esteemed performing artists. In keeping with this tradition, the Emerging Artist Grant provides financial support for outstanding VAM students who are working toward a career in music performance. Up to \$25,000 is awarded annually in support of special career development projects.

Winners of VAM's 2017/18 Emerging Artist Grant Lukas Mikalajczyk (left), Lyndon Ladeur (middle) , and Kanade Tsurusawa (right) share their stores of projects funded by the Grant.

LUKAS MIKALAJCZYK, PIANO

Pianist Lukas Mikalajczyk, originally from Poland and currently being mentored by Professor Lee Kum Sing at VAM, was awarded a VAM Emerging Artist Grant this past spring. Lukas, who is one of Poland's most celebrated young pianists, most recently won the 2017 Vancouver International Music Competition, an inaugural event founded by the Canada International Arts & Music Society (CIAMS) to commemorate Canada's 150th anniversary. The

VIMC is the first large-scale international classical music competition in British Columbia, pioneering a platform for widespread intercultural music-making, while promoting Canadian composers around the globe. The competition hosted over 300 competitors from ten countries, and was overseen by a committee of artistic advisors and jurors of international renown.

Continued on next page

As a winner in the Platinum category of the 2017 VIMC, Lukas performed a recital in February 2018 at the Roy Barnett Recital Hall at UBC, playing Ravel, Rachmaninoff and Chopin. Further, CIAMS organized a winners' tour to Chicago in May 2018. The VAM Emerging Artist Grant was applied toward travel costs for this tour opportunity. At the tour concert, which was held at Buntrock Hall at the Chicago Symphony Center, Lukas played Chopin's *Waltz in A-flat Major, Op. 34, no. 1* and Chopin's *Polonaise in A-flat Major, Op. 53*.

Lukas studied in Katowice, Poland, at the Karol Szymanowski State Music School with Professor Anna Górecka. He then attended the Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music where, in 2017, he graduated with his master's degree under Professor Zbigniew Raubo. Lukas holds prizes from numerous competitions including his advance, in 2015, to the second round of the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland, which placed him among the world's top 30 best young pianists. Keep your ears open, VAM community, for opportunities to hear this emerging young talent!

LYNDON LADEUR, TENOR

A native of Squamish, BC, tenor Lyndon Ladeur was a recipient of a VAM Emerging Artist Grant this past spring. Lyndon, who is studying with Robyn Driedger-Klassen and is coached by Vancouver Opera's Tina Chang, applied the grant toward a trip to the UK during which he made his international debut in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondeliers* (produced by the Fraser Valley Stage) as part of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival in Harrogate, UK:

"I was performing the leading tenor role of Marco Palmieri, and I was committed to giving the best performance I could in an attempt to win an award. We landed four days prior to our performance, with one off day before we began rehearsals. While there, I decided to attend the two shows that the Professional Festival Company was putting on. It was such a tremendous learning experience to see what it took to be a professional in the Gilbert and Sullivan style. The animation of each character was so exuberant that you couldn't help but be enthralled by the performance.

Finally the day arrived and I was so incredibly excited. We got two and a half hours to rehearse with the orchestra for a three hour show, and then it was time to prepare for what would be the best experience of my life. The show went beautifully, and we were the only sold out show of the festival for this year. An 1100-seat theatre was full to see us perform all the way from Canada! It was a real privilege to perform for such a fabulous crowd, and what we found out later was a very appreciative adjudicator. He complimented the entire show, and made note of my singing voice, my dancing, and my constant ability to show the personality of my character.

I was so proud to have been well received, and later both he and the organizer of the professional group made the effort to find me at our cabaret night to continue showering me with praise."

Lyndon's efforts were duly rewarded. Upon his return to Vancouver he learned that he was the festival winner for Best Male Voice, and had also been nominated for Best Male Actor. "I was in complete shock and amazement that all my hard work at the Vancouver Academy of Music these last four years had led to international recognition. It may not be the largest competition in the opera world, but I left my mark in Europe, and it's all thanks to the consideration of the Committee for providing me the funds to make it all possible."

In November/December of this year Lyndon will perform his first Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* with Opera Mariposa. He will also be presenting a series of recitals with collaborative pianist Maria Jung. Keep your ears open for this rising young talent, VAM community!

KANADE TSURUSAWA, PIANO

I feel very fortunate to have been chosen as a recipient of an Emerging Artist Grant as a VAM student. With the scholarship, I attended the Casalmaggiore Music Festival in Italy. Casalmaggiore is an old city located in the north of Italy (in the middle of the boot) surrounded by cultural cities such as Cremona, Parma, Milan, and Venice. The music festival has been held every summer since 1997 (2018 was their 22nd year), and provides solo and chamber music opportunities as

well as masterclasses for young musicians. The participants of the festival come from all over the world, including Canada, Japan, Korea, Poland, Germany, USA, China, Taiwan, and many more.

After arriving at Santa Chiara, where we stayed, studied, and performed, I had a quite busy time. There were masterclasses to attend every day, and performances to give every two days. I submitted my repertoire when I applied for the festival and was able to perform the following: nine etudes by Chopin, a Mozart piano concerto, a whole set of Bach Sinfonien, and the Mozart *Kegelstatt Trio*. With at least two concerts every day, I had plenty of opportunities to perform. Each concert is full of local people and students. The locals welcome everyone regardless of nationality and race; they go to concerts and are very friendly in approaching the students. After practicing, I used the meal ticket, which can be used in designated local restaurants. There, I enjoyed talking with my friends or local people while eating very authentic and delicious Italian food, with a glass of wine and coffee. For desert, I went to gelato shops; probably I tasted all the flavors available. Since the city and the locals provided a comfortable environment, the students could relax and concentrate on their studies and

performances. My experiences throughout the festival were unforgettable; especially I remember very clearly how people applauded and smiled after my performance of the Mozart concerto in a full hall.

Exposure to new places taught me many new things. On this trip I also visited Paris and Florence. I experienced elements of European culture such as their food, language, architecture, mentality and atmosphere. This was very important to me since so much classical music is from Europe. Notre Dame in Paris and the Cathedral of Santa Maria in Florence stood out the most for me. They were true works of art; every little detail had a meaning. The designs, shapes, and colors reflected the history, culture and mentality of the people in that area. I believe that these life experiences enrich me as a human being and an artist, which enables me to see and understand the music in greater depth.

I would like to thank VAM for generously providing me with an Emerging Artist Grant; I hope this program continues and supports students in need of financial aid, allowing them to go through something new in life, and be able to share their stories.

2018/19 FEATURED EVENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7:00PM

VAM VOCAL THEATRE PRODUCTION
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2:00PM

FACULTY CHAMBER SERIES: CONTRASTS
Koerner Recital Hall | Tickets: vam.ca

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2:00PM

FACULTY CHAMBER SERIES: BRAHMS,
GLINKA, & SHOSTAKOVICH
Koerner Recital Hall | Tickets: vam.ca

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 10:00AM - 3:00PM

VAM SPRING CARNIVAL & OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2:00PM

KOERNER PIANO TRIO: THE PIANO TRIOS
OF SHOSTAKOVICH
Koerner Recital Hall
Tickets: koernerpianotrio.com

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2:00PM

MARIAN SCHREIBER SUZUKI FESTIVAL
CONCERT
Orpheum Theatre | Free Admission

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2:00PM

DAL RICHARDS SCHOOL OF SWING
SPRING GALA
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

CONGRATULATIONS COMPETITION WINNERS & PRE-COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!

2017 KAY MEEK COMPETITION

Name	Award	Teacher
Henry From, piano	Kay Meek Scholarship (\$1,000)	Amanda Chan
Augustin Wright, piano	Alex Drennan Scholarship (\$1,000)	Rebecca Kelly, Krystyna Tucka
Marko Ivkovic, clarinet	Provincial Chapter IODE Scholarship (\$1,000)	Christopher Lee
Log Lin, violin	VAM Scholarship (\$1,000)	Ji Eun Jenny Lim
Rosalind Wang, violin	VAM Scholarship (\$1,000)	Nicholas Wright
Lyndon Ladeur-Jhuty, tenor	VAM Scholarship (\$1,000)	Robyn Driedger-Klassen

2018 ELSJE DE RIDDER ARMSTRONG CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

Names	Award	Coach
Alice Lee, Megan Cheng, Henry From	Elsje de Ridder Armstrong Memorial Scholarship (\$500)	Joseph Elworthy
Max Hsu, Marko Ivkovic, Vicki Xie, Katie Purcell, Alexander Holliday	Iby Koerner Scholarship (\$500)	Geronimo Mendoza
Dinah Ayre, Jin Young Ahn, Su Hyun Choi	Provincial Chapter IODE Scholarship (\$250)	Robyn Driedger-Klassen
Rosalind Wang, Robert Choi, Augustin Wright	Provincial Chapter IODE Scholarship (\$250)	Joseph Elworthy
Mio Nakajo, Norah Mix, Cedric Phillips, Tasmin Carlow-Ujie	VAM Scholarship (\$250)	Nicki Stieda
Hannah Elworthy, Sebastian Hyland, Heather Elworthy, Trevis Wong	VAM Scholarship (\$250)	Joseph Elworthy
Vincenzo Iormetti, Yuqi Jiang	VAM Scholarship (\$250)	John Littlejohn

2018 YOUNG COMPOSERS COMPETITION

Name	Category	Teacher
Matthieu Foresi	Junior (ages 8-12)	Edward Top
Gabrielle Letkeman	Junior (ages 8-12)	Stefan Hintersteiner
Henry From	Intermediate (ages 13-17)	Edward Top
Dan Jeremy Reyes	Collegiate (ages 18-22)	
Jaya Story	Collegiate (ages 18-22)	Edward Top

2018 BARBARA CLAGUE FESTIVAL OF SONG

Name	Award	Teacher
Nicole Paletta	Senior Category: Grand Prize (\$400)	Frédéric Robert
Jordana Goddard	Senior Category: Second Place, Tied (\$200)	Robyn Driedger-Klassen
Nicolas Laroye	Senior Category: Second Place, Tied (\$200)	Frédéric Robert
Katie Purcell	Senior Category: Third Place (\$100)	Kathleen Allan
Farrah Chiqi Fang	Junior Category: Grand Prize (\$200)	Sarah Templeton
Baruni Singh	Junior Category: Second Place (\$100)	Chloé Hurst

2018 ORPHEUM THEATRE CONCERTO COMPETITION

Name	Category	Teacher
Edward Duan, piano	12 Years and Under Division	Kenneth Broadway
Rachel Wei, piano	12 Years and Under Division	Lorraine Ambrose
Austin Ng, piano	12 Years and Under Division, runner up	Libby Yu
Matthieu Foresi, piano	18 Years and Under Division	Tanya & Victor Shevtsov
Edward Su, piano	18 Years and Under Division	Ian Parker
Augustin Wright, piano	18 Years and Under Division, runner up	Rebecca Kelly
Lyndon Ladeur-Jhuty, tenor	24 Years and Under Division	Robyn Driedger-Klassen
Nicole Linaksita, piano	24 Years and Under Division	Corey Hamm
David Lee, violin	24 Years and Under Division, runner up	Taras Gabora

2018 ALTO CLEF FESTIVAL

Names	Awards
Heather Elworthy, Davin Mar, Katie Purcell	\$100 scholarships
Toby Mar, Lucas Mortensen, Cedric Phillips, Lincoln St. John	\$75 scholarships
Kasia Leung, Natalie Gadd, Kaitlyn Ho, Aubrey Paredes, Daniel Young, Abigail Chan, Martha Sinagowitz	\$50 scholarships

2017/18 SUZUKI SCHOLARSHIPS

Name	Category	Teacher
Emily Han, violin	Marian Schreiber Memorial Scholarship (\$600)	Lawrie Hill
Mio Nakajo, violin	Chua Tiampo Memorial Scholarship (\$600)	Nicki Stieda
Zachary Wong, piano	Marguerite M. Echaus Memorial Scholarship (\$500)	Teresa Ho
Kaitlyn Chan, piano	VAM Suzuki Piano Scholarship (\$200)	Djina Stojkov
Parker Toth, cello	VAM Suzuki Cello Scholarship (\$150)	Cyrena Huang
Dylan Yee	VAM Suzuki Viola Scholarship (\$150)	Mark Luchkow

RCM THEORY/HISTORY HONOUR ROLL

FIRST CLASS HONOURS WITH DISTINCTION

Kenny Cheng, ARCT History
Kenny Cheng, Grade 10 History
Rod Chow, Grade 7 Theory
Matthew Eang, Grade 10 History
Sebastian Hyland, Grade 10 History
Brandon Jong, ARCT History
Aaron Kang, Grade 8 Theory

Connor Leung, Grade 8 Theory
Griffin Linklater, Grade 9 History
John Paul Ng, ARCT Analysis
Adam Ngui, Grade 9 History
Preston She, Grade 9 History
Valerie Tsang, Grade 9 History
Victoria Tsang, Grade 8 Theory

Marcus Woo, Grade 10 History
Marcus Woo, Grade 9 History
Brian Zhang, ARCT Harmony

FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Kenny Cheng, ARCT Harmony
Kenny Cheng, Grade 10 Harmony
Kenny Cheng, Grade 9 Harmony
Kenny Cheng, Grade 9 History
Matthew Eang, ARCT Harmony
Alan Fung, Grade 10 History
Emily Han, ARCT Harmony
Sebastian Hyland, Grade 9 History

Eva Jarvis, Grade 10 History
Clarence Lau, Grade 8 Theory
Daniel Li, Grade 8 Theory
Derek Li, ARCT Harmony
Griffin Linklater, Grade 10 History
John Paul Ng, ARCT History
John Paul Ng, ARCT Harmony
Lauren Tam, ARCT Analysis

Esther Van Rooi, Grade 9 History
Rachel Wei, Grade 8 Theory
Nathan Wong, Grade 10 History
Jordan Woo, Grade 10 History
Augustin Wright, ARCT Analysis
Zhiqi Zhou, Grade 9 History

HONOURS

Jonathon Chan, Grade 9 Harmony
Jonathon Chan, Grade 10 Harmony
Kelly Chan, Grade 9 Harmony
Kevin Chan, Grade 9 History
Jessica Cheng, Grade 9 Harmony
Joy Duan, Grade 9 Harmony
Joy Duan, Grade 9 History
Jessica Jung, ARCT Harmony
Jessica Jung, Grade 10 Harmony
Heon Kang, Grade 9 History
Matthew Kellar, ARCT Analysis
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Derek Li, Grade 8 Theory
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Adam Ngui, Grade 9 Harmony
Lauren Tam, ARCT Harmony
Chelsea Tsang, Grade 9 Harmony
Esther Van Rooi, Grade 9 Harmony
Esther Van Rooi, Grade 10 Harmony
Nathan Wong, Grade 9 History
Trevis Wong, ARCT Harmony
Jensen Yee, ARCT Harmony

Parissa Yee, Grade 9 Harmony
Lavina Yuen, Grade 10 History
Zhiqi Zhou, Grade 10 History
Tomaz Zlindra, ARCT Harmony
Tomaz Zlindra, Grade 10 History

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ALANA CHAN (piano faculty) was appointed Assistant Conductor for the production of Mozart's Magic Flute and Marriage of Figaro in the Prague Summer Nights Festival. Other recent conducting engagements include the London Seranata SFUCO at the Taiwanfest 2018 Concert, and Opera Scenes Concert in Tabor, Czech Republic.

VAM violin students **EVA JARVIS** (Lawrie Hill), **ROBERT JARVIS** (Lawrie Hill), **EMILY LAU** (Lawrie Hill), **MIKI MIYAKE** (Nicki Stieda), and **MILDRED WANG** (Lawrie Hill) performed at the West Vancouver Arts Council 50th Anniversary celebration.

LYNDON LADEUR won the Senior Classical Voice and Vocal Variety competitions at the BC Provincial Performing Arts Festival.

NICOLAS LAROYE (voice, Frederik Robert) was accepted into the prestigious musical theater post-secondary college, AMDA (The American Musical and Dramatic Academy) in New York City and began studying in the Fall 2018.

GRIFFIN LINKLATER (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) received third place in the 18 and older division at the 2018 Northwest Guitar Festival in Spokane, Washington, the youngest competitor of 16 finalists. He was accepted into the Classical Guitar program at McGill University with scholarships.

DAVIN MAR (viola, Manti Poon) won the America Viola Society Festival Solo Competition (Junior Division), and was the only Canadian student invited to compete.

In November 2018 **MARK MCGREGOR** (flute faculty) performed as concerto soloist with the Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra (Chih-Sheng Chen, conductor) at the National Concert Hall in Taipei, Taiwan. Mark premiered a new concerto composed especially for him by the Canadian composer Farshid Samandari.

KATHRYN NICKFORD (voice, Frederik Robert) will perform the lead role of Fiordiligi in the production of Cosi Fan Tutte by Mozart with Opera Mariposa in December 2018.

MANTI POON (viola faculty) was appointed Associate Conductor for the Richmond Delta Youth Orchestra Intermediate Strings in September 2018.

AUGUSTIN WRIGHT (piano, Rebecca Kelly) studied with Max Levinson and Roberto Poli at the New England Conservatory in Boston during Summer 2018 and delivered a benefit concert for cancer research at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Below: Nolan Chan, Erwin Mok, Matthew Yeung, and Kingsley Yuan with big smiles after graduating VAM's Group Piano Program



FEATURED FACULTY

SPOTLIGHT ON NICKI STIEDA & MARK LUCHKOW

VAM is delighted to feature Nicki Stieda and Mark Luchkow as co-Heads of the Suzuki Violin Department. “Co-heading the VAM Suzuki Violin program with Mark is inspiring for both of us,” says Nicki. “We share a vision for an inclusive and exciting future for the VAM Suzuki strings programs.” Mark adds, “Nicki and I have a great working relationship, and it is so beneficial to do parts of our work in a social context: things like brainstorming and visioning or clarifying our observations. We are collaborative when we make and divide up our task lists; the internet has great tools for this”.

Both Nicki and Mark have been a part of VAM for many years. Nicki studied with Gwen Thompson at VAM and later at UBC. Following her studies in Vancouver, she moved to Amsterdam where she continued her studies with Herman Krebbers, concertmaster of the Concertgebouw Orchestra. She had the great fortune to work for 15 years as a full-time

orchestral musician in the Netherlands Radio Orchestra. Upon returning to Vancouver she made the decision to become a Suzuki violin teacher, and feels very fortunate to have been trained initially by Rosalind O’Keefe and subsequently by Cathy Lee, with whom she formally completed eight levels of Suzuki training.

Mark and his three siblings were raised in a family dedicated to “Talent Education” as it was called in Edmonton. For his parents, music was not just a hobby or a form of entertainment but an important value like learning to read or learning to be polite to people, and they put great effort into making music fun while building a consistent work ethic. Mark’s older brother and sister both played violin so he too begged for one by the time he was two years old. His younger brother also took up the cello. After a performance degree studying with Gerald Stanick at UBC Mark began

FORMER SUZUKI HEAD DEANNE EISCH MOVES TO THE BIG APPLE

DeAnne Eisch, long-time VAM faculty member and former head of the Suzuki String Department, is now Orchestra Personnel Manager with the New York Philharmonic (the oldest symphony orchestra in North America, this year celebrating its 175th anniversary!). DeAnne, who was the personnel manager for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra from 2011 until 2017, moved to New York last year to begin her new job in September. The whole VAM community wishes DeAnne continued success in New York!

Pictured: DeAnne with Kathleen Allan in New York



Suzuki teacher training in 2000 with Daphne Hughes and worked with several other notable trainers over the years such as Helen Brunner, Elizabeth Stuen-Walker and Edmund Sprunger. Mark notes, “We are very lucky to have access to the top educators that the Suzuki Association of the Americas provides. There is so much depth to teaching that it is a lifelong process of learning.”

The Suzuki Violin program currently includes about 80 students and 10 instructors, and its growth has prompted the recent addition of additional teachers. Nicki says, “Mark and I share the belief that children learn best when they know that they are a part of a team or a group. Integral to this is the team of Parent, Teacher and Child referred to as the Suzuki Triangle. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in classes. Performance classes are also encouraged, as are play-ins such as the Winter Party, the Achievement Levels performances and special performances such as the pre-Orpheum VAMSO concert. We are committed to creating fun and social environments for young children studying music, and doing everything we can to help the parents that are supporting their children’s efforts. The enthusiastic participation of a large number of students and parents at the recent Winter Party concert has encouraged us to create many more social and musical

events in the near future. We love seeing the joy on parents’ faces when they watch their children perform.”

When not engaged in musical activities, Mark practices with a traditional Yang Style Taijiquan group, and dabbles in amateur radio-electronics. Nicki attends yoga classes regularly, stays in close contact with her two children, who live in Montreal and Amsterdam, and enjoys hanging out with her husband.

Pictured: Mark and Nicki leading a Suzuki Group Class



AN INTERNATIONAL REACH

FACULTY ALANA CHAN ON HER VISIT TO HONG KONG

In October of 2018, I was in Hong Kong to judge the final round of the 20th Asia Piano Open Competition. It was my greatest pleasure and honor to join the jury panel with world renowned pianists and legendary pedagogues including Professor Zhu Ya Fan (Teacher of Lang Lang), Professor Park Sookryeon (Teacher of Seong Jin Cho), Professor Arie Vardi (Teacher of Yundi Li), Professor Lam Kin Keong (Conservatoire de Musique de Genève), Professor Wu Xiao Feng (Pädagogische Universität Nanjing), Antonio

Di Cristofano, Albert Mamriev, Paulo Vairo, Mary Wu, Ivan Yanakov, Raymond Young, Robin Zebaida. There were a total of 138 different classes in this competition, from Baroque to Contemporary Chinese Composers. The participants were of very high standard from around the world. The Asia Piano Open Competition is one of the highest standard and most influential piano competitions in Asia.



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

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- invest in our students with **scholarships and bursaries** to lift financial barriers;
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- \$1,000** – Quick responses to exceptional opportunities and projects that encourage innovations in teaching and learning;
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