

APPASSIONATO



50

The **Spirit** of 50

A CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE VAM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Creating **Inspired** Spaces for **Learning** and **Exploration**

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RECOUNTS FOND
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GRANT (P. 14)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Welcome to the Winter 2019 edition of *Appassionato* that recognizes the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni. This edition showcases one of the cornerstones of VAM's 50th Anniversary celebrations, an ambitious Campaign to renovate key elements of VAM's facilities and create an inspiring educational environment. We celebrate a distinguished alumnus, Tate Zawadiuk, on the heels of winning the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition, and hear stories by students assisted by the Emerging Artist Grant.

50 years is no small accomplishment; I would like to express sincerest gratitude to our faculty, students, families, and supporters that have propelled us into our second half-century of musical excellence and enjoyment, training not only first-rate musicians but future leaders who impact their community thanks to their ongoing relationship with music and the performing arts.

Musically Yours,

Joseph Elworthy, VAM President & CEO

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





THE SPIRIT OF 50

A CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE VAM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate its 50th year of excellence in music education, VAM is launching the Spirit of 50 Campaign, a milestone fundraising initiative that will see the renovation and enhancement of multiple spaces to inspire learning, exploration and collaboration. “Whereas previous funding projects and the capital campaign from three years ago were centered on transforming our performance spaces (Koerner Recital Hall, Mary Olson Hall), this Campaign is all about enhancing VAM’s learning spaces,” says Gloria Wong, VAM’s Director of Development and International Relations.

The scope of the Spirit of 50 Campaign is multifaceted: “There are many more components to this renovation and transformation than that for the Koerner Recital Hall project. It took longer to formalize the scope, but at this point all the front-end design is complete, the budget is in place, and the artist renderings magnificently reflect the depth and breadth of this project that continues VAM’s journey of success and growth. And now we embark on the Spirit of 50 – the \$1 Million fundraising campaign to boldly shape the next 50 years of VAM,” says Gloria Wong.

The Spirit of 50 Campaign will realize **four brand new studio spaces**. With ever increasing enrollment, VAM is absolutely bursting at the seams. Now more than ever, there is a need to expand, stretch, and extend its physical spaces to accommodate all of the activities that VAM offers to encourage musical creativity and exploration. In the creation of four brand new studios, the ideas for maximizing every available square inch were generated by Klondike Contracting with whom VAM has a wonderful working relationship. “Their knowledge of the building inside and out gained from leading the expert renovations of Mary Olson Hall, the two new large ensemble rooms on the lower floor, and Koerner Recital Hall gave us all the confidence to identify some spaces and ask Klondike Contracting to work their magic.” The result: one large studio that will house two grand pianos will be created out of the space by the elevator; one studio off the Centre Lounge; two studios created from re-configuring a little-used area of the Library and combining this with a section just outside the Library doors.

The Library itself will be refocused as a **Learning Center**. How students learn today is so very different with their use

of online resources and their use of computers and tablets. Connectivity is essential as are comfortable seating options. With that in mind, the new Learning Centre will have plenty of power for plug-ins, and a variety of seating styles offered: seats at large tables, counter-seats, study booths and nooks. The Learning Centre will be an inviting quiet study zone area, in contrast to the Center Lounge, an area that will also undergo a transformation.

The Center Lounge is where students and their families congregate, an area for conversation, to read, work and rest. This renovation will see the enhancement of the Centre Lounge that will offer a more comfortable and flexible environment for students and their families to gather. In the design are a large 2-sided couch, different types of chairs and seating options, tables for homework, areas for eating, and a large TV screen for communicating information and messaging. Effective WiFi throughout the area will be a most welcoming feature as will be all the washrooms on the upper floor that will be completely renovated.

The Faculty Lounge will also benefit from a refurbishment. This is where VAM's hard-working faculty go to recharge, and squeeze in their meals between teaching lessons. "We want them to have a comfortable space to refresh, and it made excellent sense to do this upgrading in the same Campaign."

Two large classrooms directly off the existing Library will be reconfigured to function as **seminar/meeting rooms as well as classrooms**. The multifunctional aspect of these two rooms will serve VAM's college and pre-college students effectively and will also provide a much needed area to hold larger meetings.

Lastly, the Spirit of 50 Campaign will fund improved permanent external and internal signage. "VAM's internal way-finding is not very intuitive. It is quite a complicated building with an upper and lower floor, and multiple corridors to navigate. By way of an example, when a first-time visitor arrives, they are greeted by multiple entrance doors, sets of stairs, and more doors. At the first

SCOPE:

- Create a New Learning Centre
- Enhance Lounge Areas for VAM students and families
- Update and Refresh Faculty Lounge
- Redesign Multifunctional Large Classrooms/Seminar & Meeting Rooms
- Create Four New Teaching Studios
- Renovation of Restroom Amenities
- Add new VAM External and Internal Signage



CAMPAIGN GOAL:
\$1 MILLION

CAMPAIGN FINISH LINE:
December 2020

PROJECTED WORK DATE:
Summer 2021



landing, a door reveals the Koerner Recital Hall foyer. Beautiful and stunning as it is, this is not the Reception Area one seeks. At the next landing are two more doors – one to an interior corridor, and the other which finally takes you to the Reception and Front Office. All by way of saying that with new way-finding signage, VAM will be able to eliminate confusion and extend our welcome immediately at the entrance.”

The Spirit of 50 Campaign follows on the enormous success of the Koerner Recital Hall renovation. The sense of community that came together to achieve something so profoundly transformative is deeply heartening for VAM. Says Gloria Wong: “In the best sense, fund-development initiatives, capital campaigns are all about building a community and this is what we are proudest of. It is this community that encourages us with their belief in the enduring value of music education, the uncompromising quality of VAM’s offerings that we share with the community, the vibrant and nurturing environment that we provide for students of all ages and backgrounds, and the care and integrity of the organization.”

There are many ways to support the Spirit of 50 Campaign and be a VAM Champion in its 50th Anniversary: donations in any amount that is meaningful; becoming a Building Block donor to build the foundation for VAM’s next 50

years and beyond; Sponsor a Studio as an individual, a family, a student-parent group, or an alumni group with a dedication of a teaching studio; and naming opportunities for select areas of prominence.

It is through the vision of VAM’s founders – Elsje de Ridder Armstrong, Iby Koerner, and Art Phillips – alongside so many gifts made by donors from all walks of life that VAM exists at the magnificent site of Vanier Park. Honouring and maximizing that vision remains a fundamental priority 50 years on. Today, it will be the generosity of a new collective community of donors that will now strengthen and enhance VAM’s important learning spaces to build a legacy for students and their VAM experience, and ensure community well-being through supporting a vibrant centre for music education.

The Spirit of 50 invites you to help boldly shape the next 50 years of VAM and to join us in making this monumental moment a reality.

You can make a tax deductible donation in any amount meaningful to you. Your contribution will stand as a legacy for generations of musicians. To contribute to the Spirit of 50 Campaign you can:

- Donate online: vam.ca/spiritof50
- Complete the printable Donation Form at vam.ca/spiritof50 and mail it to
Vancouver Academy of Music
1270 Chestnut Street
Vancouver BC V6J 4R9
- Contact VAM at: 604.734.2301
- In person: Vancouver Academy of Music office



PATH TO SUCCESS: ALUMNA SILVIA FRASER RECOUNTS FOND MEMORIES OF VAM

When I arrived at the Academy I felt as if the gates of paradise had opened. I couldn't believe that I was finally surrounded by others who *actually* wanted to study music! Being a social creature by nature, I gravitated towards every instrument except the piano (I'm sure, much to Mr. Lee's chagrin, given the enormous amount of technical catching up I had to do) and fell headlong in love with accompanying.

It was a place which combined excellence with fun - which has since become my preferred pedagogical combination. If motivation only comes from external pressure, you exhaust yourself. If, however, you keep constantly connected with your own deep response to music, then your resources are limitless.

Was it possible that I had too much fun? I remember vividly sneaking back onto the stage to be part of the orchestral photo at the Orpheum...behind the marimba (the piano had been removed). I remember stepping in for David Walsh as stage manager for the opera scenes; singing solfège on English Bay at 5am after having studied all night; chamber music parties *chez* Takazawa; spending heavenly hours in the listening room; dashing onto the opera stage with a flashlight to help Chris Foley when the lights went out mid-performance!

This was of course all in combination with receiving world-class tuition from Lee Kum-Sing. Everywhere I travel in Europe people recognize his name: it was even a colleague who told me about his legendary masterclass in Belgium. Studio classes - Beethoven slow movements, Chopin Nocturnes, Bartók For Children - were not to chase proficiency but to truly discover the essence of a work, the feel, the touch, the sound. Masterclasses can often turn into mini-competitions but these were completely devoted to learning.

It was thanks to my wonderful aunt, Judy Fraser, that I was introduced more fully to the cello. With an extremely talented class, she kept me busy and introduced me to the other stellar Academy teacher: it was energizing playing with all those talented kids! It was during this time that I discovered my own love of coaching... to focus on solving what I hadn't been able to solve at their age... to give those without confidence the ability to try ... to loosen those who were too stiff, too bound. I thought, if singers have coaches, why can't string players as well? I've continued this with every single string class that I've worked with since, up to the highest echelons and with students who win international competitions. The higher up you go, the more intense the pressure, so they are often the most thankful to have the ideas/encouragement/focus.... and of course a few laughs. (*Continued, p. 13*)

Congratulations!

COMPETITION WINNERS & PRE-COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

APRIL - OCTOBER, 2019

2018 BARBARA CLAGUE FESTIVAL OF SONG

Name	Award	Teacher
Jordana Solstice Goddard	Grand Prize (\$700)	Robyn Driedger-Klassen
Jonathon Chan	Senior Category: First Place (\$300)	Caroline Jang
Cynthia Lian	Junior Category: First Place (\$200)	Joslin Romphf Dennis

2019 KAY MEEK COMPETITION

Name	Award	Teacher
Alice Lee, cello	Kay Meek Scholarship (\$1,500)	Joseph Elworthy
Megan Cheng, cello	Alex Drennan Scholarship (\$1,300)	Joseph Elworthy
Catherine Teng, violin	Provincial Chapter IODE Scholarship (\$1,100)	Domagoj Ivanovic
Phoebe Cheng, violin	VAM Scholarship (\$1,000)	Nicholas Wright
Brandon Jong, piano	VAM Scholarship (\$1,000)	Rebecca Kelly
Katie Purcell, viola	VAM Scholarship (\$1,000)	Isabelle Roland

2019 ELSJE DE RIDDER ARMSTRONG CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

Names	Award	Coach
Alice Lee, Megan Cheng, Henry From	Elsje de Ridder Armstrong Memorial Scholarship (\$1000)	Joseph Elworthy
Mio Nakajo, Tasmin Carlow-Ujiie, Matthieu Foresi	Iby Koerner Scholarship (\$500)	Nicki Stieda
Sebastian Hyland, Hannah Elworthy, Heather Elworthy, Trevis Wong	Provincial Chapter IODE Scholarship (\$500)	Joseph Elworthy
Mio Nakajo, Norah Mix, Madeleine Capek, Tasmin Carlow-Ujiie	VAM Scholarship (\$250)	Nicki Stieda
Esther Van Rooi, Alice Lee, Sonya Tsou	VAM Scholarship (\$250)	Rebecca Wenham

2018 ALTO CLEF FESTIVAL

Names

Heather Elworthy, Davin Mar, Katie Purcell
Toby Mar, Lincoln St. John
Abby Chow, Kasia Kin-Leung, Daniel Sze-Yuen Young

Awards

\$200 scholarships
\$100 scholarships
\$50 scholarships

2018/19 SUZUKI SCHOLARSHIPS

Name

Eva Jarvis, violin
Miki Miyake, violin
Zachary Wong, piano
Kaitlyn Chan, piano
Gabrielle Haslett, cello

Category

Marian Schreiber Memorial Scholarship (\$600)
Chua Tiampo Memorial Scholarship (\$600)
Marguerite M. Echaus Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
VAM Suzuki Piano Scholarship (\$200)
VAM Suzuki Cello Scholarship (\$150)

Teacher

Lawrie Hill
Nicki Stieda
Teresa Ho
Djina Stojkov
Audrey Nodwell

2019/20 VAMJS & VAMIS CONCERTO COMPETITIONS

Name

Junwoo (Justin) Ha, violin
Tomo Hiroyasu, violin
Aaron Kang, violin
Eric Zhu, clarinet
Adrian Lee, cello
Fumiyuki Okochi, cello
Michiyo Yu, violin
Jeffrey Kang, violin

Category

VAMIS Concerto Competition Winner
VAMIS Concerto Competition Winner
VAMIS Concerto Competition Winner
VAMIS Concerto Competition Alternate Winner
VAMJS Concerto Competition Winner
VAMJS Concerto Competition Winner
VAMJS Concerto Competition Winner
VAMJS Concerto Competition Alternate Winner

Teacher

Ji Eun Jenny Lim
Nataly Pogrebetsky
Domagoj Ivanovic
Christopher Lee
Mary Thomson
Joseph Elworthy
Ashley Plaut
Domagoj Ivanovic

VAM Choral Program



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VAM ALUMNUS IN WINNING QUARTET AT BANFF COMPETITION

This past summer, cellist and VAM alumnus Tate Zawadiuk, as a member of the Viano String Quartet, won first prize at the Banff International String Quartet Competition (BISQC). BISQC is quite arguably the most prestigious string quartet competition in the world, (“kind of like the Olympics for string quartets” according to VAM faculty cellist Rebecca Wenham, herself a winner at BISQC). In this year’s competition, for the first time in its history, the first prize was shared by two competing quartets: Viano (US/Canada) and the Marmen Quartet (UK). “The Marmen Quartet are actually good friends, we knew them from two previous competitions,” says Tate. “It is somehow a bit odd to be judging musicians. There is so much hard work and preparation, but then there is also luck.”

Tate began playing the cello at the age of 4 and studied with VAM’s Mary Thomson for ten years. He later studied with Ariel Barnes and is now studying at the Colburn Conservatory of Music in Los Angeles where the Viano Quartet is the Quartet in Residence. Tate is both a chamber musician and a soloist; recently he performed as a soloist with James Ehnes and the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for their Centennial Celebration Gala Concert. He has also performed as a soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vancouver Philharmonic, the

New Westminster Symphony, the Richmond Symphony, the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra and the VAM Symphony Orchestra. He plans to continue pursuing both tracks in his musical life.

The Viano Quartet first got together when Tate was a freshman at Colburn: “We had to do a chamber audition, so we were put together by teachers, and we clicked as a group.” Before their success at BISQC this past summer, the quartet received the Grand Prize at the 2019 ENKOR International Music Competition and second prize at the 2019 Yellow Springs Chamber Music Competition. At the 2018 Wigmore Hall International String Quartet Competition they received Third Prize, the Haydn Prize for the best performance of a Haydn quartet, and the Sidney Griller Award for the best performance of the compulsory work, Thomas Ades’ “The Four Quarters”. They received the Silver Medal at the 2018 Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition and Third Prize at the 9th Osaka International Chamber Music Competition in 2017.

“We started thinking about the Banff competition maybe two years ago. Preparing for this competition is different from preparing for a concert because there is so much more music. Fortunately we had repertoire from previous



VAM Chamber Music Masterclasses

Viano String Quartet

Winners, 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition

February 27, 2020, 6:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall at VAM

Free admission for auditors



Rolston String Quartet

Winners, 2016 Banff International String Quartet Competition

April 17, 2020, 5:00pm

Koerner Recital Hall at VAM

Free admission for auditors

competitions, so we kept the best ones and filled in the gaps. The first round of submissions is by video recording. The rest of the rounds are in the competition week. There were ten groups in total in the final week. The week itself was phenomenal; the whole town is full of chamber music lovers, we share meals with audience members, and the organizers work really hard. It is very well organized, very well run.”

During the competition week, the quartets perform a Recital Round (including a Haydn quartet and one written after 1905), a Romantic Round (one quartet from the Romantic or Nationalistic repertoire), a Canadian Commission Round (this year a new work by Matthew Whittall), a SchubertPlus Round (a Schubert quartet and additional repertoire of choice), and the top three groups perform a final round of a Beethoven

quartet. All the performances tend to be very well attended, and the final rounds were sold out, so “the full audiences made it feel more like a concert performance,” says Tate.

“The standout moment for me”, concludes Tate, “was when they announced that we both [the Viano and Marmen Quartets] would share first prize. There is a great video clip of all our faces. It was such a good outcome!”

The Viano Quartet will begin their winners’ performances in January with concerts in Germany including Berlin and Hamburg. Other performances, including debuts in Beijing, Brussels, New York City and Vancouver will follow over the next three years.

VAM Performance Exam Results: Spring 2019

Distinguished

Belluk-Orlikow, Liliana (Joseph Elworthy) - Advanced Senior Performer's Certificate, Cello
Cenerelli, Carl (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 3, Cello
Chan, Jonathon (Amanda Chan) - Senior Class 2 with Honours, Piano
Chan, Kevin (Rebecca Kelly) - Senior Class 2, Piano
Chen, Chloe (Teresa Ho) - Intermediate Class 2, Piano
DeLisle, Paloma (Katie Rife) - Senior Class 3, Percussion
Duan, Joy Xinran (Amanda Chan) - Intermediate Class 2, Piano
Elworthy, Hannah (Marcus Goddard) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate with Honours, Trumpet
Elworthy, Heather (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 2 with Honours, Viola
Huang, Jay (Katie Rife) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Percussion
Kang, Aaron (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Violin
Ku, Jeffrey Shuai (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Violin
Kwan, Jeffrey (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Senior Performer's Certificate, Violin
Lau, Hamilton (Amanda Chan) - Senior Performer's Certificate with Honours, Piano
Li, Derek (Rebecca Kelly) - Senior Class 2, Piano
Lian, Jielinna (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 1, Cello
Liu, Carol (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 2, Cello
Liu, Joshua (Amanda Chan) - Senior Performer's Certificate with Honours, Piano
Lu, Qiuzy Nini (Joseph Elworthy) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Cello
Ngui, Adam (Rebecca Kelly) - Intermediate Class 1, Piano
Okochi, Kenta (Lawrie Hill) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Violin
Rantawan, Audra (Lorraine Ambrose) - Senior Class 2, Piano
Teng, Catherine (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Senior Performer's Certificate with Honours, Violin
Tsang, Valerie (Amanda Chan) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Piano
Wang, Rosalind (Nicholas Wright) - Advanced Senior Performer's Certificate, Violin
Wei, Sophia (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Senior Class 1, Violin
Wong, Zachary Him Yui (Teresa Ho) - Senior Class 2, Piano
Wright, Augustin (Rebecca Kelly) - Senior Performer's Certificate, Piano
Zhang, Jocelyn (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Class 3, Cello
Zhang, Timmy (Amanda Chan) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Piano

Excellent

Andres, Everett (Teresa Ho) - Intermediate Class 3, Piano
Baxter, Jackson (Donna Lee) - Intermediate Class 3, Piano
Gladders, Ella (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Cello
Ivanovic, Stella (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Intermediate Class 1, Violin
Jones, Beatrice (Rebecca Kelly) - Intermediate Class 2, Piano
Jones, Clare (Rebecca Kelly) - Junior Class 3, Piano
Jones, Flora (Rebecca Kelly) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Piano
Kang, Jeffrey (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Intermediate Class 1, Violin
Lau, Emily (Lawrie Hill) - Senior Class 1, Violin
Li, Daniel (Djina Stojkov) - Senior Class 1, Piano
Li, Derek (Djina Stojkov) - Senior Class 1, Piano
Lin, Frank (Teresa Ho) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Piano
Lu, Vanessa (Teresa Ho) - Senior Class 2, Piano
Luan, Joanna (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Class 3, Cello
Meyer, Matthew (Donna Lee) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Piano
Naus, Andrew (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Class 3, Cello
Qu, Serena (Joseph Elworthy) - Junior Class 3, Cello
Qu, Serena (Amanda Chan) - Junior Class 3, Piano
Tian, May (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Cello
Tso, Elias (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 1 with Honours, Cello
Wang, Mildred (Lawrie Hill) - Senior Class 2, Violin
Wang, Yan Ting (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 1, Cello
Wong, Arthur (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 1, Cello
Yan, Lang (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Cello
Zhang, Jayden (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Class 1, Cello
Zhang, Timmy (Joseph Elworthy) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Cello

Satisfactory

Campbell, Anne (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 3, Cello
Crawford, Allan (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Class 2, Cello
David, Shira (Kristl Armstrong) - Intermediate Class 3, Cello
Gillham, Maaya (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Performer's Certificate, Cello
Guo, Lucas (Joseph Elworthy) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Cello
Hung, Ken (Domagoj Ivanovic) - Senior Class 2, Violin
Jiang, Aaron (Joseph Elworthy) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Cello
Yu, Grace (Edward Top) - Junior Performer's Certificate, Violin
Yu, Liam (Joseph Elworthy) - Senior Class 1, Cello
Zhang, Aidan (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Class 3, Cello
Zhao, Renee (Joseph Elworthy) - Intermediate Class 3, Cello

Alumna Silvia Fraser shares fond memories of VAM (continued from p. 7)

As well as basically giving me an apprenticeship in accompanying, my amazing Aunt Judy also taught me cello, giving me the gift of insight into string playing. Mr. Lee's face when I showed up to the Christmas party to play carols on my cello! It was, however, all this training at the Academy which allowed me to sail into my first job, at the world-renowned Chetham's School of Music, at the age of 26!

I have to mention something: the ability to study subjects other than music. Although we learned and loved history and theory, I had free reign to explore: literature, art history, eastern religion, native culture, even paleo-anthropology! These all remain vivid intellectual interests to this day - and my students look at me enviously when I tell them about it!

I have been blessed by not only marrying my favourite voice type (baritone) but also having two gorgeous girls. It was a shock at the beginning to realise that I had to actually pay someone so I could practise, but both my husband and I realized that it was vitally important for me to maintain both my career and musical identity. And my goodness has it paid off! I am so grateful and excited... playing Martinu live on TV

from memory, doing a New York debut with Christian, my then-fiancé, playing for my musical heroes such as Vladimir Ashkenazy, founding a duo course, playing for Pierre Amoyal's class, doing concerts with Renaud Capuçon, the latter with whom I work every other week..., recording a CD with our best man in the same studio where Victoria de los Angeles recorded *La Vida Breve*, playing in Paris to great reviews... I can hardly believe it's me. The pleasure of creating rapports with truly great musicians is unbelievably rewarding, as is the excitement of working with students that you recognize from magazine covers, and the sheer pleasure of re-discovering why you love music every single day.

I hope it's not out of place to offer my sincere thanks to the Academy for every minute, every hour and every day of learning.

VAM 2019/20 Honour Society

VAM recognizes the following students for their musical accomplishments and impact on the community through volunteerism:

Jonathon Chan
Phoebe Cheng
Justin Chow
Heather Elworthy
Sebastian Hyland

Hamilton Lau
Joshua Liu
Catherine Teng
Elias Tso
Trevis Wong



2019 EMERGING ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENTS: RYAN WANG AT CASALMAGGIORE

This summer I attended the Casalmaggiore International Music Festival (CIMF) for the fifth year in a row! Over three weeks, I participated in chamber rehearsals and masterclasses, took private lessons and attended concerts at venues all around northern Italy. Over the course of the festival, I played solo and in chamber groups. I was also invited to join the festival orchestra in a performance of Mendelssohn's *Piano Concerto No. 2* which was extremely exciting. However, the highlight for me was performing with the Festival Strings.

I was extremely grateful to be chosen. I have always enjoyed chamber music because one can make beautiful music in an intimate setting. My ensemble played the Mendelssohn *Trio in D Minor* for piano, violin, and cello and we got together every day, sometimes even twice a day. It was a huge commitment, but getting to know people from different places around the world was a really rewarding and enriching experience. The best part for me was getting mentored by different professors with different musical interpretations. Some professors were really funny and brought humour to the music. For example, there was one master cellist who loves food, so he related everything to a culinary experience; to emphasize rubato in a musical passage, he would pretend to stretch noodles between his fingers!

At the festival, there were many learning opportunities. Not only did I attend piano classes, but I also experienced violin and cello workshops. I attended master classes every day. I enjoyed these a lot because of both the familiar and new faces. We supported each other and gave feedback based on our performances. Every lesson was really inspirational and throughout my four hours of practice each day, I worked hard to achieve what my professors wanted me to bring to the music. At the end of the festival I was voted the Best Musician Award by the CIMF audience and awarded a 500-euro scholarship. I was extremely honoured and grateful!

After the festival, I travelled to Singapore for a charity concert. I arrived in Singapore at 5 am and had a rehearsal from 7:30-10:00 that evening with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. Near the end, exhaustion set in, but the conductor's funny facial expressions kept me alert. I performed an entire recital including a Mendelssohn concerto. We raised \$200,000 Singapore Dollars for the Children's Cancer Foundation of Singapore. I really appreciated the audience and donors for making this a successful event. The Canadian High Commissioner of Singapore came to my concert. She was extremely supportive and proud of me representing Canada. And it also turned out that she was the sister of my Grade 2 homeroom teacher!

2019 EMERGING ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENTS: CHESTNUT STRING QUARTET IN BANFF



The Chestnut String Quartet (CSQ) is made up of VAM students Sebastian Hyland (1st violin), Hannah Elworthy (2nd violin), Heather Elworthy (viola) and Trevis Wong (cello). The quartet formed in 2013, and was coached by Joseph Elworthy for the last six years. In the summer of 2019, they received coaching from Nancy DiNovo, and are currently coached by Rebecca Wenham.

In addition to performing regularly at VAM recitals, CSQ has competed in local competitions, including: Kiwanis Music Competition (first place, West Coast Chamber Music Award - 2019), Chilliwack Lions Club Festival (first places with gold certificates, Chilliwack Lions Club Trophy - 2019), Elsje De Ridder Armstrong Competition (second place, VAM Scholarship - 2019), Richmond Music Festival (first place - 2018), and BC Provincial Competition (third place - 2019). In fall of 2018, CSQ travelled to Hong Kong to take part in a music fest at the opening of the Haw Par Music School.

CSQ actively volunteers in the community performing benefit concerts for UNICEF fundraisers as well as the City of Vancouver's Winter Wander event at Vanier Park. CSQ annually share their holiday spirit by performing at seniors' homes throughout Greater Vancouver. In 2019, CSQ volunteered as teaching assistants for VAM's Harry Potter Orchestra summer orchestra camp. CSQ members

have been recognized as members of VAM's Honour Society for these volunteering efforts.

With the support of an Emerging Artist Grant from VAM, the Chestnut String Quartet (CSQ) attended the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition Young Musicians Program, where they were one of three young string quartets. Collectively, the quartet describes their experience:

"We attended numerous concerts and lectures, and received coaching from the Rolston String Quartet (2016 winners of BISQC), Barry Shiffman (founding member of the St. Lawrence String Quartet) and Ronelle Schaufele (Artistic Advisor of BISQC). We also participated in a special masterclass led by Joel Krosnick (former cellist of the Juilliard String Quartet) that was attended by over 400 audience members. We gave performances throughout the Banff Centre and around the township of Banff, including on the peak of Sulphur Mountain!

Our coaching sessions with expert BISQC faculty provided unique insight into our prepared repertoire, as well as tips on how to improve our individual and collective instrumental skills. The Rolston String Quartet introduced new ideas on what it means to be "together," and to not only communicate visually but also through breathing. As well, they explained how the harmonic progression of the

RCM Examination Results

Gold Medal

Leung, Emily (Caroline Jang), Grade 5 Voice
Yang, Eric (Joslin Romphf Dennis), Grade 4 Voice
Yee, Kai (Joslin Romphf Dennis), Grade 2 Voice

First Class Honours with Distinction

Baxter, Jackson (Donna Lee), Grade 1 Piano
Davoudi, Shireen, (Alana Chan), Grade 5 Theory
Fong, Samantha (Martha Brickman), Grade 5 Piano
Jarvis, Eva, (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT History
Jarvis, Eva, (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 History
Liang, Kody (Rebecca Kelly), LLCM Piano Performance
Mok, Erwin, (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 5 Rudiments
Ngui, Adam Chi An (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Nocente, Elizabeth (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 1 Piano
Wang, Tracy Quanxin, (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Rudiments
Wright, Augustin (Rebecca Kelly), FLCM Piano Performance
Xie, Christopher (Martha Brickman), Grade 5 Piano

First Class Honours

Azizi, Ryan (Alana Chan), Grade 3 Piano
Chatila, Sultan (Noel McRobbie), Grade 7 Piano
Cheng, Chloe (Donna Lee), Grade 7 Piano
Cheng, Jessica (Mary Thomson), Grade 8 Cello
Cheng, Jessica (Donna Lee), Grade 7 Piano

Fu, Josh (Donna Lee), Grade 5 Piano
Han, Emily (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Piano
Jarvis, Eva, (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 9 Harmony
Jones, Flora Marian (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Kim, Jiseok (Angela Schiwy), Grade 3 Piano
Lau, Alvin (Noel McRobbie), Grade 9 Piano
Leung, Connor (Donna Lee), Grade 6 Piano
Li, Derek (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Piano
Louie, Jake (Noel McRobbie), Grade 8 Piano
Lui, Victor (Audrey Nodwell), Grade 10 Cello
Ng, John Paul (Mary Thomson), ARCT Cello
Tia, Sebastian (Alana Chan), Grade 10 Piano
Warren, Ashley (Angela Schiwy), Grade 6 Piano
Wickenden, Sean (Brenda Campbell), Grade 5 Piano
Wong, Cameron Cayley (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 8 Piano
Wood, Madeline (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 4 Piano
Yuan, Kingsley (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 3 Piano

Honours

Cenerelli, Carl (Joseph Elworthy), Grade 10 Cello
Chan, Kevin (Rebecca Kelly), Grade 10 Piano
Davoudi, Shireen (Alana Chan), Grade 5 Piano
Fu, Cyrus (Donna Lee), Grade 8 Piano
Keller, Matthew (Rebecca Kelly), ARCT Piano
Krezeski, Mia (Brenda Campbell), Grade 8 Piano
Rakshanfar, Behrad (Brenda Campbell), Grade 7 Piano
Wong, Trevis (Joseph Elworthy), Grade 10 Cello



KOERNER
PIANO
TRIO

Koerner Piano Trio: Bohemian Dances

APRIL 5, 2PM | KOERNER RECITAL HALL

Beethoven, 'Kakadu' Variations, Op. 121a

Josef Suk, Trio Op. 2 C minor

Dvorák, Trio No. 1 Op. 21 in B-Flat Major

Tickets: koernerpianotrio.com

piece can influence the decisions that we make concerning shaping. Mr. Shiffman explained various techniques to help address issues concerning pacing and tempo. Mr. Krosnick drew upon his vast performance experience with the string quartet repertoire and expanded our imaginations as to the range of colours and interpretive options available to us.

In addition to the numerous concerts and lectures we participated in, our eight days at Banff were very enjoyable. Learning and rehearsing surrounded by nature (including an audience of elk!) was truly an incredible experience. We are so grateful to VAM and supporters of the Emerging Artist Grant for enabling us to have this transformative encounter.”

CSQ Cellist Trevis Wong has been playing for ten years and is a student of Joseph Elworthy. He describes his experience at Banff as extraordinary: “Not only was the learning experience completely unique and unforgettable, but also being able to attend the triennial competition held at the Banff Centre. Apart from the wonderful music and incredible living experience, there was much else to enjoy about our trip: the scenery, the nature, the friendliness of the people, the food, and especially the overall environment in which to make music. To participate in all the activities and performances surrounded by amazing musicians from all around the world who have gathered in the town, in a national park, really enriched our playing as a young ensemble.” Trevis’ favourite string quartet is Haydn’s *String Quartet Op. 20, No. 5*, and his favourite string composer is Beethoven.

Heather Elworthy has been playing viola for nine years and studies with Isabelle Roland. She says, “Wandering the exquisite campus of the Banff Centre for the Arts and Creativity was a sensational experience, especially for the first time. I was immersed in the exhilarating learning environment created by my mentors. I particularly enjoyed my coaching sessions with Barry Shiffman and the Rolston String Quartet as my quartet developed chamber music techniques such as “breathing together”

and feeling the inner pulse. However, the most memorable experience from my stay at Banff was conversing with Joel Krosnick, the mentor-in-residence. I distinctly remember Mr. Krosnick’s response when I asked him his opinion on the performances given by the competing quartets: ‘When I take off my adjudicating hat, I am simply an audience member, soaking in the beautiful music, phrase by phrase.’ “Heather’s personal favourite at the moment is Shostakovich’s *String Quartet No. 8*, and she also enjoys playing Brahms.

Hannah Elworthy has been playing the violin for ten years and is a student of Esther Hwang. “I really enjoyed my time at Banff! I heard many chamber groups, all of which played pieces that I love. My quartet spent time together performing outdoors, attending lectures, and eating meals together, which helped us bond as an ensemble. I was inspired by the competing groups and was motivated to spend my free time practicing; our practice hut was surrounded by the beautiful Banff scenery. We were so fortunate to have this experience. My time at the Banff Centre was unforgettable and is a fond memory I will look back upon for years to come.” Hannah enjoys the music of Ravel, and her favourite quartet piece at the moment is Borodin’s *String Quartet No. 2*.

Violinist Sebastian Hyland has been playing for ten years, and has studied with Lawrie Hill and Nicholas Wright. His favourite string composer is Mendelssohn, and in particular his *String Quartet No. 6*. Sebastian says of his Banff experience, “BISQC was an unforgettable experience for all of us. The beautiful campus at the base of Tunnel Mountain was a perfect location for a week of music-making. One of my most insightful experiences at Banff was speaking with the mentor-in-residence at BISQC, Mr. Joel Krosnick. BISQC was a remarkable learning experience, and we would like to thank VAM’s Emerging Artist Grant for making it possible.”

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ALANA CHAN (piano faculty) was recently selected as one of the top four emerging conductors in Canada, and was featured in the “RBC Canadian Conductors Showcase”, conducting the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in October.

YU-HSIN CHEN (AD viola graduate, Isabelle Roland) is pursuing her master’s degree with Jutta Punchmaller at the University of Montréal.

MEGAN CHENG (YACP cello, Joseph Elworthy) won the Richmond Festival Concerto Challenge and will play Tchaikovsky Rococo Variations with the Richmond Orchestra in February, 2020.

AYDAN CON (alumnus, Rebecca Kelly and Lorraine Ambrose) received a 2019 Outstanding Leader Award from UBC.

HENRY FROM (YACP piano, Amanda Chan; composition, Edward Top) was featured in CBC’s 30 Hot Canadian Musicians Under 30. Also, his winning composition of the 2020 Canadian Music Centre Prairie Region Emerging Composer Competition, *Isle of Pic* will be performed at the 2020 Winnipeg New Music Festival by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Orchestral compositions Petawawa Gorges by **HENRY FROM** (YACP composition, Edward Top), The Monster in the Closet by **MATTHIEU FORESI** (composition, Edward Top), and 727 by **LUCAS O’BRIEN** (YACP composition, Edward Top) have been selected for the 2020 VSO Jean Coulthard Readings on March 4.

DAVID GIBBONS (AD voice graduate, David Meek), and **MARKO IVKOVIC** (AD clarinet graduate, Christopher Lee) have been accepted to the University of British Columbia for their master’s degrees.

JORDANA GODDARD (YACP voice, Robyn Driedger-Klassen), **CALVIN KRUGER** (YACP horn, Andrew Mee), and **KEVIN LI** (YACP horn, Richard Mingus) have been accepted to the University of Toronto for their Bachelor of Music degrees.

JOEL GOH (flute, Mark McGregor) participated in the Tanglewood Flute Workshop in Boston, studying with Boston Lyric Opera’s principal flutist, Linda Toote.

CYRENA HUANG (cello faculty) and **MARK LUCHKOW** (violin/viola faculty) celebrate the birth of their son, Gaspar Xavier Luchkow-Huang, born on June 26, 2019. Congratulations!

Elysian Trio (with flute faculty **PAUL HUNG**, violin/viola faculty **SARAK KWOK**, and harpist Vivian Chen) will perform at the Celebrate Canada Music Day on November 24, featuring three world premieres by emerging Canadian composers.

EVA JARVIS and **ROBERT JARVIS** (piano and violin, Rebecca Kelly and Lawrie Hill) performed at a private reception for the Lions Gate Hospital Board of Directors.

ALINA KHVATOVA (MPD violin graduate, Dale Barltrop), and **ONYOU LEE** (MPD viola graduate, Andrew Dawes) have been accepted to McGill University for their master’s degrees.

Tenor **LYNDON LADEUR** (AD student, Robyn Driedger-Klassen) has been accepted into the Vancouver Opera Chorus.

EMILY LEUNG (voice, Caroline Jang) has been nominated as a merited participant to represent the Vancouver Kiwanis Music Festival at the 2019 Performing Arts BC Festival.

SEONGEUN LIM (AD piano graduate, Noel McRobbie) has been accepted to the Manhattan School of Music for her master's degree.

VICTOR MANGAS (YACP clarinet) has been accepted to McGill University for his Bachelor of Music degree.

MILES MANTLE (guitar, Hanh Nguyen) recently performed at the October 5, 2019 Happy Melody Benefit concert for the Lung Cancer BC Society Foundation.

MARK MCGREGOR (flute faculty) recently completed an Asian tour with Vancouver's Sound of Dragon Ensemble, including performances at the Ding Yi Chinese Chamber Music Festival in Singapore and solo performances in Pindingshan, China.

SOPHIA MYLES (YACP composition, Edward Top) was interviewed at the 2019 Kumon Student Conference in Chicago, where she spoke about her learning experiences at Kumon and her music composing.

JONATHAN NA (AD violin graduate, Domagoj Ivanovic) has been accepted to the University of Ottawa for his master's degree.

JONATHAN LO (cello alumnus, Audrey Nodwell) recently performed at the 2019 Banff International String Quartet Competition with the Rolston String Quartet and they were met with resounding standing ovation.

TIANA ROPCHAN (YACP oboe, Geronimo Mendoza) has been accepted to the University of British Columbia for her Bachelor of Music degree.

Composition Magic by **EDWARD TOP** (composition, faculty) was premiered in Zagreb, Croatia, performed by the Cantus Ansambl and conducted by Owen Underhill, on September 23, 2019. Magic includes pre-recorded samples by VAM violin students **GRACE YU**, **JOYCE YU**, and **ELLIOTT TOP** (violin, Edward Top).

SONYA TSOU (piano, Bogdan Dulu) received a certificate of merit award at the first World Piano Teachers Association Finland International Piano Competition.

TRACY QUANXIN WANG (flute, Mark McGregor) participated in the inaugural Summer Flute Week at the VSO School of Music, studying with Mark McGregor and VSO associate principal flute, Chris James.

YIPING WANG (AD piano graduate, Amanda Chan) has been accepted to the University of California, Los Angeles, for her Doctor of Musical Arts degree.

ELIZABETH WOOD (voice, Joslin Romphf Dennis) attended an artist residency in St. Petersburg in June and featured a recorded aria in an art installation.

SUMMER YANG (violin, Robin Wenham) won a gold medal at the Guangdong Provincial Children's String Competition in Guangzhou, China.



2019/20 Calendar Highlights

VAM Vocal Theatre Production

Friday and Saturday, November 29 and 30, 7:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

Holiday Orchestral Concerts

Saturday, December 7
Pre-Junior & Junior Orchestras: 6:00pm
Intermediate Orchestra: 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

Faculty Chamber Series: Distant Journeys

Sunday, December 8, 2:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Tickets: vam.ca/events

College Program Concert

Friday, December 13, 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

Holiday Choral Concert

Saturday, December 15, 2:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

Edith Lando Gifted Youth Competition Finals

Sunday, February 23, 2:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

VAMSO: Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

Sunday, March 1, 2pm
Orpheum Theatre | Tickets: vamso.ca

Jerold Gerbrecht Woodwind & Brass Competition Finals

Thursday, March 5, 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

Spring Orchestral Concerts

Saturday, March 7
Pre-Junior & Junior Orchestras: 6:00pm
Intermediate Orchestra: 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

Vanier Park Strings: Sacred and Profane Dances

Monday, March 9, 7:30pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission

VAM Vocal Theatre Production

Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14, 7:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall | Free Admission