



2026/27

.....
CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Welcome to the 2026/27 academic year at the Vancouver Academy of Music!



This season brings an inspiring year of performances, competitions, and community experiences celebrating the artistry and creativity of our students, faculty, and guest artists. From orchestral concerts at the Orpheum to intimate chamber performances and student showcases, there are many ways to experience music together.

With a vibrant mix of complimentary and ticketed events, we invite audiences of all ages to discover something new, connect through music, and be inspired.

Whether you're returning to a favourite tradition or experiencing VAM for the first time, there's a place for you here.

Musically yours,

Joseph Elworthy

President & CEO



Stay Updated with Our Latest Events!

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Get real-time updates on event details
3. Never miss out on the latest happenings at VAM

2026/27 FEATURED SERIES

VAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SERIES

The VAM Symphony Orchestra (VAMSO) is the flagship series of Vancouver Academy of Music's orchestral program, featuring our top-performing students in a professional-level setting. With four captivating performances each year, our young musicians take on iconic masterpieces that define the classical repertoire.



IAN PARKER PLAYS GERSHWIN

OCT 18, 2PM | ORPHEUM THEATRE

Ian Parker: Conductor, Piano



LEGENDS OF THE CONSOLE

NOV 08, 2PM | ORPHEUM THEATRE

Ian Parker: Conductor



RACHMANINOFF: SYMPHONIC DANCES

MAR 07, 2PM | ORPHEUM THEATRE

Ian Parker: Conductor | Isabella Wang: Violin



KERSON LEONG PLAYS TCHAIKOVSKY

MAY 02, 2PM | ORPHEUM THEATRE

Ian Parker: Conductor | Kerson Leong: Piano

**SEASON PASS ON SALE
UNTIL OCT 15!**

- All Four Concerts in One Purchase
- Consistent Seating



Competitions

VAM's annual competitions aim to identify the accomplishment of talented students and offer recognition for their hard work. Awards include opportunities to perform as soloist with one of VAM's orchestras and scholarships to assist students in advancing their musical studies.

Students wishing for more information may visit vam.ca/events/competitions or email niki.wingyan@vam.ca

GOLD MEDAL COMPETITION

Eligibility: VAM Performance Exams Winners

Competition Date: September 27

VAM WONDER PHILHARMONIC 1, 2 & INTERMEDIATE SYMPHONY CONCERTO COMPETITIONS

Eligibility: Registered members of VAMWP1, VAMWP2 & VAMIS

Application Deadline: October 19 | **Competition Date:** November 16

AMATI & STRADIVARI PLAYERS CONCERTO COMPETITION

Eligibility: Members of Amati & Stradivari Players

Application deadline: October 26 | **Competition date:** November 23

EDITH AND ESMOND LANDO GIFTED YOUTH COMPETITION

Eligibility: VAM students 13 and under as of December 31, 2025

Application Deadline: January 11 | **Competition Date:** February 08

Winner's Recital: February 28

JEROLD GERBRECHT WOODWIND & BRASS COMPETITION

Eligibility: VAM woodwind & brass students

Application Deadline: January 25 | **Competition Date:** February 22

YOUNG COMPOSERS' COMPETITION

Eligibility: VAM composition students

Application deadline: January 11 | **Competition date:** April 10 finalist reading session with VAM Symphony Orchestra

ELSJE DE RIDDER ARMSTRONG CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION

Eligibility: Ensembles in VAM's chamber music program

Application deadline: April 5 | **Competition date:** May 3

PHYLLIS SALTER PIANO COMPETITION

Eligibility: VAM piano students ages 26 and under

Application deadline: April 5 | **Competition date:** May 4

ALTO CLEF VIOLA FESTIVAL

Eligibility: VAM viola students

Application deadline: April 12 | **Competition date:** May 10

KAY MEEK COMPETITION

Eligibility: VAM students age 14 and over as of May 17, 2027

Application deadline: April 19 | **Competition date:** May 17-18

BARBARA CLAQUE FESTIVAL OF SONG

Eligibility: VAM voice students

Application deadline: April 26 | **Competition date:** May 23

BJORN & LORI HAREID CONCERTO COMPETITION

Eligibility: VAM students age 26 and under as of April 13, 2027

Application deadline: April 19 | **Competition date:** May 31-June 1



SEPTEMBER

SEP.
27

Gold Medal Competition

Koerner Recital Hall | 1:00PM

The Vancouver Academy of Music Gold Medal Competition is designed to identify young talented students who won gold medals in Performance Exam 2026, and afford them recognition and financial assistance.



2026 Gold Medal Competition

OCTOBER



Strawberry & Tea Student Concerts

Mary Olson Hall | 1:00PM & 3:00PM

Join the VAM community in this monthly series that features students from a variety of programs celebrating all levels of musical learning.

**OCT.
4**

VAM Symphony Orchestra: Ian Parker Plays Gershwin

Orpheum Theatre | 2:00PM

Welcome the '26/27 concert series with the Vancouver Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra. Experience an afternoon of wit, energy, and timeless melodies featuring the music of Bernstein and Gershwin. Bernstein's sparkling *Candide* Overture sets the stage for Gershwin's beloved *An American in Paris*, a colourful musical postcard inspired by the sights and sounds of the City of Light.

**OCT.
18**



Scan here to buy tickets for **VAMSO: Ian Parker Plays Gershwin**

For more information visit vamso.ca

Halloween Orchestral Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 11:00AM

Join VAM's preparatory orchestras and Intermediate symphony in a world of musical colours that brings stories to life with excitement and suspense. Come watch... if you dare!



**OCT.
24**

NOVEMBER



NOV.
1

Strawberry & Tea Student Concerts

Mary Olson Hall | 1:00PM & 3:00PM

Join the VAM community in this monthly series that features students from a variety of programs celebrating all levels of musical learning.

NOV.
1

College & YACP Fall Recitals

Koerner Recital Hall | **YACP:** 1:30PM & **College:** 3:30PM

Showcasing the highest level of education at VAM, the College Program Concert Series highlights exceptionally gifted high school students from the Young Artist Collegiate Program (YACP) and post-secondary students from our Music Performance Diploma and Artist Diploma programs.

NOV.
8

VAM Symphony Orchestra: Legends of the Console

Orpheum Theatre | 2:00PM

From the heroic adventures of The Legend of Zelda and the whimsical charm of Animal Crossing, to the epic landscapes of Skyrim, the emotional storytelling of The Last of Us, and the timeless melodies of Super Mario, this concert celebrates some of the most beloved video game soundtracks ever created. Join us as we celebrate the power of music to transport us to extraordinary worlds—one quest, one memory, and one melody at a time.



Scan here to buy tickets for **VAMSO: Legends of the Console**

For more information visit **vamso.ca**



Adult Strings Fall Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:30PM

NOV.
10

Come in from the crisp fall air and enjoy a heartwarming evening of music with our Adult Strings community! Bringing together musicians from across our ensembles, this performance showcases the music, skills, and ensemble playing they have developed throughout the term.

Academy Chamber Players: Fire & Shadow

Koerner Recital Hall | 2:00PM

NOV.
15

Step into a world of fire and shadow as VAM's esteemed faculty explore two strikingly different musical landscapes through the works of Dmitri Shostakovich and Antonín Dvořák. Shostakovich's haunting intensity and restless energy meet Dvořák's warmth and sweeping lyricism in a program alive with tension, reflection, spirited rhythms, and soaring melodies.

The Academy Chamber Players series celebrates the artistry of VAM's distinguished faculty, bringing their exceptional musicianship from the classroom to the concert stage.



ACADEMY
CHAMBER
PLAYERS

VAM FACULTY IN CONCERT

HarpFest

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:00PM

NOV.
20

Experience the enchanting sounds of the harp with VAM's award-winning faculty, talented students, and ensembles, enhanced by a special mini-recital from our guest artist. Be transported by the breathtaking sight and sound of multiple harps on stage for an unforgettable evening of musical beauty.

NOVEMBER



ELISEU SILVA,
VIOLIN



NOV.
27

Stradivari & Amati Players Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:00PM

Join us as our string ensembles present works by Dvořák, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Gershwin. Alongside featured commissioned premiers composed by VAM faculty and students. This fall concert will also feature a special guest appearance by Eliseu Silva



DECEMBER



Orchestral Program Holiday Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 11:00AM

Join VAM's Preparatory Orchestras and Intermediate Symphony for some festive tunes and holiday favourites.

DEC.
5

Adult Learning Program Soiree

Koerner Recital Hall | 1:30PM

One of VAM's fastest growing communities, the Adult Learning Program is a celebration of lifelong learning through music. Come hear a highlight of our adult learners in an afternoon gathering of music and conversation.

DEC.
6

Chamber Music Program Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 3:30PM

Featuring various groups from VAM's Chamber Music Program, join these young musicians as they present an evening of the intimate side of music-making often described as conversation between friends.

DEC.
6

Adult Orchestras Winter Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:30PM

Join us for a joyful winter concert celebrating our Adult Strings and Vanier Park Symphony community! Bringing together musicians from across our ensembles, this performance showcases the music, skills, and ensemble playing they have developed throughout the term.

DEC.
7

DEC.
12

Aldo Parisot Cello Ensemble Winter Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 9:30AM

VAM's Aldo Parisot Cello Ensemble returns for a winter morning of music showcasing the warmth and versatility of the cello. The ensemble brings the instrument's remarkable expressive range to life.

DEC.
19

Stradivari & Amati Players Holiday Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:00PM

Celebrate the holiday season with an evening of warmth, wonder, and timeless music! Join our Amati and Stradivari Players for a festive program featuring Corelli's beloved Christmas Concerto and Vivaldi's iconic Four Seasons, alongside special encores, improvisation, and holiday favourites. Featuring a special guest appearance by Mark Fewer.



WINTER BREAK BUILDING SCHEDULE

Building Closed on the following

- Dec 24 (Christmas Eve)
- Dec 25 (Christmas Day)
- Dec 26 (Boxing Day)
- Dec 27 and 28
- Dec 31 (New Years Eve)
- Jan 1 (New Years Day)
- Jan 2 and 3

Building Open on the following

- Dec 21
- Dec 22
- Dec 23
- Dec 29
- Dec 30





JANUARY

Songs of the Wasteland

Koerner Recital Hall | 2:00PM

This musical drama is the journey of Renia Perel - a story of tragedy, survival, hope, and healing. Echoing fragments of Jewish tradition and culture in 20th-century Europe. Songs of the Wasteland is dedicated to Holocaust Remembrance and honouring those who risked their welfare for the Jewish people.

This production features VAM faculty members in collaboration with leading Vancouver musicians.

**JAN.
24**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2027, 2:00PM

KOERNER RECITAL HALL AT VAM

Vancouver Academy of Music | 1270 Chestnut St, Vancouver



MUSIC BY RENIA PEREL

ARRANGED BY LARRY NICKEL

Strawberry & Tea Student Concerts

Mary Olson Hall | 1:00PM & 3:00PM

Join the VAM community in this monthly series that features students from a variety of programs celebrating all levels of musical learning.

**JAN.
31**

FEBRUARY

FEB.
14

Strawberry & Tea Student Concerts

Mary Olson Hall | 1:00PM & 3:00PM

Join the VAM community in this monthly series that features students from a variety of programs celebrating all levels of musical learning.



FEB.
28

Edith and Esmond Lando Gifted Youth Competition Winner's Recital

Koerner Recital Hall | 2:00PM

Named after two outstanding arts advocate and humanitarian, the Edith and Esmond Lando Gifted Youth Competition opens doors for the next generation. Eight talented students aged 14 and under are selected from the preliminary round to receive tuition scholarships and perform in this winner's concert.



MARCH

VAM Symphony Orchestra: Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances

Orpheum Theatre | 2:00PM

Experience an afternoon of sweeping melodies and symphonic brilliance with the Vancouver Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra. The program opens with the vibrant folk-inspired energy of Enescu's Romanian Rhapsody No. 1, followed by Kay Meek Competition winner Isabella Wang performing Sibelius' celebrated Violin Concerto in D minor. The afternoon concludes with Rachmaninoff's Symphonic Dances, his final orchestral masterpiece, filled with rhythmic vitality, lush orchestration, and haunting beauty.

MAR.
7



Scan here to buy
tickets for **VAMSO:**
Rachmaninoff's
Symphonic Dances

For more information
visit **vamso.ca**



MARCH

MAR.
8

Adult Orchestras Spring Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:30PM

Join VAM's adult orchestras for their Spring Concert, featuring a varied program of orchestral works. Led by faculty player-coaches, the ensembles explore celebrated repertoire while developing a deeper understanding of musical style, interpretation, and performance.



MAR.
13

Orchestral Program Spring Concerts

Koerner Recital Hall | 11:00AM

Celebrate the spring season and brighter days with VAM's Preparatory Orchestras and Intermediate Symphony.

SPRING BREAK & EASTER HOLIDAY BUILDING SCHEDULE

MARCH

- March 15 - 28: Regular building and office hours, except as noted for Easter Weekend

EASTER WEEKEND

- Mar 26 (Good Friday): building & office closed
- Mar 27: building open & office closed
- Mar 28 (Easter Sunday): building & office closed
- Mar 29 (Easter Monday): building open & office closed





APRIL



Strawberry & Tea Student Concerts

Mary Olson Hall | 1:00PM & 3:00PM

Join the VAM community in this monthly series that features students from a variety of programs celebrating all levels of musical learning.

**APR.
4**

College and YACP Spring Recitals

Koerner Recital Hall | **YACP:** 1:30PM & **College:** 3:30PM

Showcasing the highest level of education at VAM, the College Program Concert Series highlights exceptionally gifted high school students from the Young Artist Collegiate Program (YACP) and post-secondary students from our Music Performance Diploma and Artist Diploma programs.

**APR.
4**

MAY

MAY 2

VAM Symphony Orchestra: Kerson Leong Plays Tchaikovsky

Orpheum Theatre | 2:00PM

Celebrate the season finale with the timeless music of Tchaikovsky. The afternoon begins with selections from *Swan Lake* and the sweeping romance of *Romeo and Juliet*, bringing to life the composer's unforgettable melodies and dramatic storytelling. The spotlight then turns to internationally acclaimed violinist Kerson Leong for Tchaikovsky's celebrated Violin Concerto in D Major, a dazzling masterpiece of soaring lyricism, virtuosity, and emotional depth that brings the VAMSO season to a brilliant close.



Scan here to buy
tickets for **VAMSO:
Kerson Leong Plays
Tchaikovsky**

For more information
visit vamso.ca



MAY

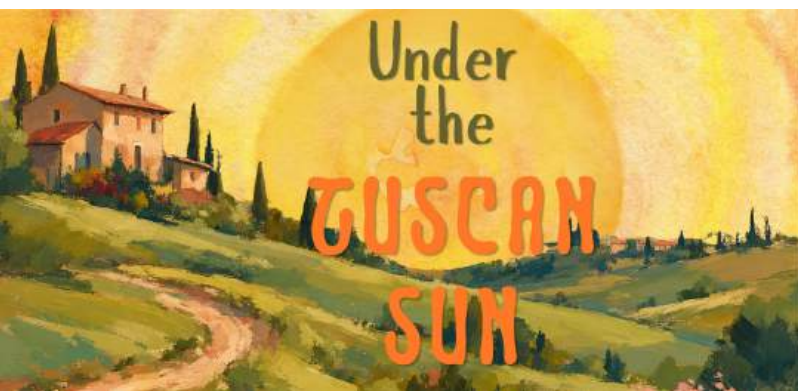
Academy Chamber Players: Under the Tuscan Sun

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:00PM

Let the music transport you to Italy, where sunlit landscapes, timeless elegance, and heartfelt romance come to life through the music of Boccherini, Puccini, and Tchaikovsky. Delicate charm gives way to the intimate sorrow of Crisantemi, before Souvenir de Florence fills the stage with sweeping passion, brilliant energy, and the radiant warmth of Tuscany.

The Academy Chamber Players series celebrates the artistry of VAM's distinguished faculty, bringing their exceptional musicianship from the classroom to the concert stage.

**MAY
15**



**ACADEMY
CHAMBER
PLAYERS**
VAM FACULTY IN CONCERT

Strawberry & Tea Student Concerts

Mary Olson Hall | 1:00PM & 3:00PM

Join the VAM community in this monthly series that features students from a variety of programs celebrating all levels of musical learning.

**MAY
16**

Adult Learning Program Soiree

Koerner Recital Hall | 1:30PM

One of VAM's fastest growing communities, the Adult Learning Program is a celebration of lifelong learning through music. Come hear a highlight of our adult learners in an evening gathering of music and conversation.

**MAY
16**

MAY

MAY
16

Chamber Music Program Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 3:30PM

Featuring various groups from VAM's Chamber Music Program, join these young musicians as they present an evening of the intimate side of music-making often described as conversation between friends.

MAY
23

Barbara Clague Festival of Song

Koerner Recital Hall | 2:00PM

VAM is honored to present the 13th Annual Barbara Clague Festival of Song, with the support from the Clague family, as well as numerous friends. The purpose of the Festival is to spotlight talented vocalists in all ages, fostering their musical development with \$1,200 in total scholarships awarded for 2026/27 VAM tuition.

MAY
29

Stradivari & Amati Strings Program Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 7:00PM

Join us as our string ensembles present works by Wolf, Janacek, and Purcell. Alongside featured commissioned premiers, composed by VAM faculty and students.

MAY
30

Orchestral Festival

Orpheum Theatre

Wonder Philharmonic 1 & 2, and Intermediate Symphony:

11:00AM

Vanier Park Symphony, Adult Strings:

3:00PM

Join VAM's orchestras and ensembles for a day of music-making and community. The morning showcases our young musicians from the VAM Wonder Philharmonic 1 & 2, and Intermediate Symphony.

In the afternoon, VAM's Vanier Park Symphony and Adult Beginner Strings take the stage, celebrating the joy of making music together at every age and stage.



JUNE

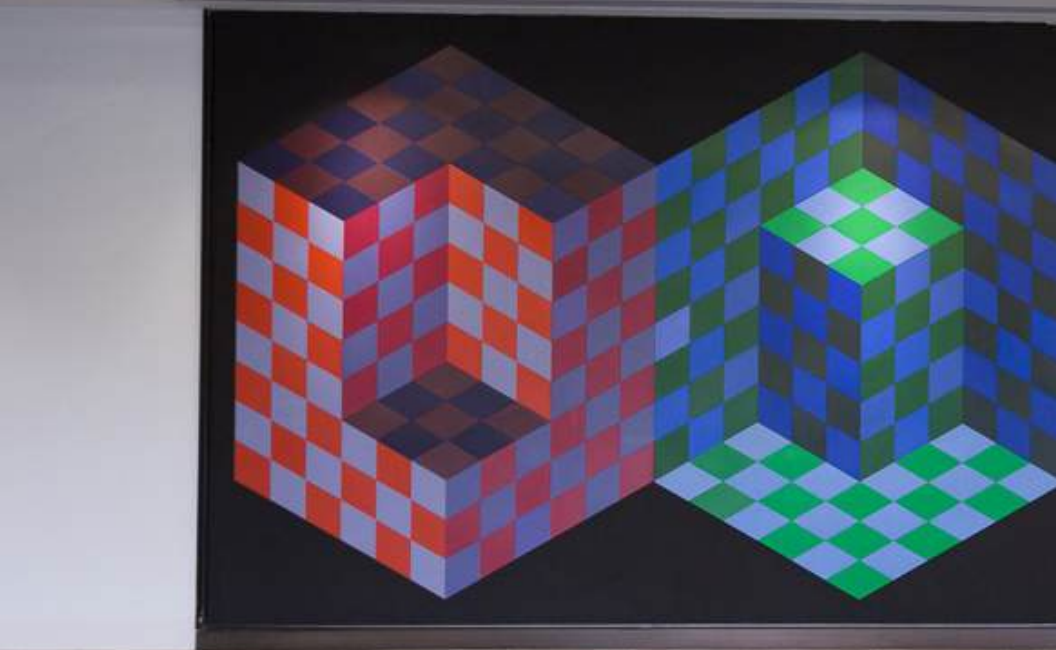


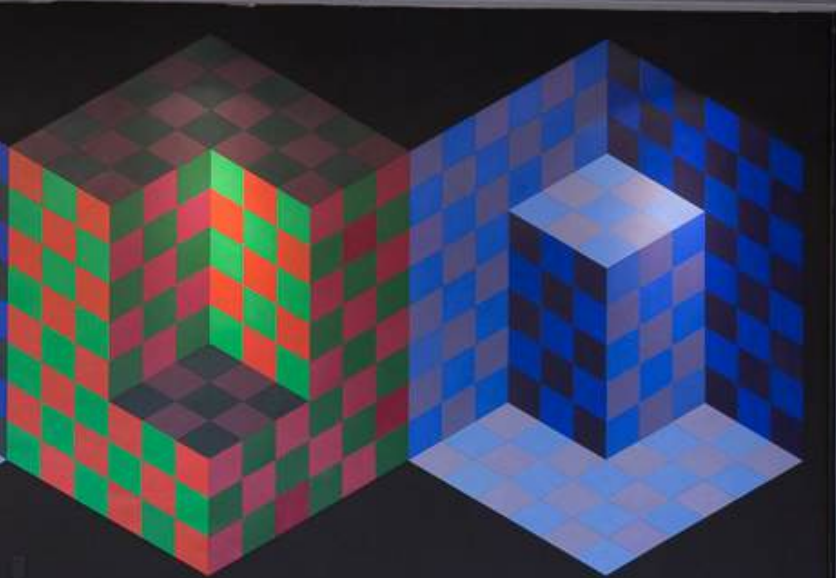
Aldo Parisot Cello Ensemble Summer Concert

Koerner Recital Hall | 9:30AM

VAM's Aldo Parisot Cello Ensemble returns for a summer morning of music celebrating the rich and expressive voice of the cello. Experience the instrument's remarkable range as the ensemble brings together lyrical melodies, vibrant energy, and resonant sound.

**JUN.
5**







VANCOUVER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC

1270 Chestnut Street
Vancouver BC V6J 4R9
604 734 2301 | vam.ca