

Keyboard

Piano, Jazz Piano, Pipe Organ, Harpsichord & Classical Accordion

The VCM keyboard department offers lessons to suit all ages, interests, and learning styles. Most students register for one-on-one studio lessons, but the Conservatory also offers a wide variety of group instruction for both children and adults. Group instruction is often a good choice for the beginner or elementary-level student. For children, select from Kelly Kirby, Suzuki or special classes for various ages. Adults may choose from classical or popular-based instruction, for students at all levels.

A specific teacher may be requested; otherwise the Department Head will recommend a teacher based on matching the student's needs with a particular faculty member's expertise. The VCM has keyboard instructors fluent in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.

Acting Department Head:

Linda Low

B. Mus with Distinction (Performance), Victoria
AVCM (Performance/Teaching); RMTA

Linda Low was twice a national finalist representing British Columbia in the Canadian Music Competition, and was a Silver Medalist with the Royal Conservatory of Music, scoring the highest examination mark in B.C. From a successful performing career, highlighted by a provincial tour with the Victoria Symphony as a guest soloist, Linda now enjoys a thriving career as a highly qualified teacher, examiner, adjudicator and clinician.



faculty

Vice-Principal Emerita

Winifred Scott Wood

Stella Barbon

June Bender

Kristine Beny

Roger Buksa

Anna Cal

Kelly Charlton

Susan de Burgh

Paloma de la Guerra

Michael Drislane

George Essihos

Erin Fisher

Nicholas Fairbank

Ingrid Henderson

Robert Holliston

May Ling Kwok

Nicole Lavalley

Ed LeBarron

Linda Low

Elizabeth Maclsaac

Michelle Mares

George McFetridge

Jennifer McGregor

Jelena Milojevic

Frances Perriam

Dr. Michael Redshaw

Ann Schau

Lynda Simms-McCliggot

Pam Smirl

Linda Stobbe

Dr. Jamie Syer

Laura Wood

Winifred Scott Wood

Michelle Yen-Howland



"Music is a gift that should be shared. Let us share our passion for music so that you too may experience the benefits that it brings."

Linda Low

Masterclasses are a great opportunity to learn from other VCM faculty, visiting guest artists and other students. In addition to the performance benefits, the chance to observe other performers and hear the tips and advice they receive are an invaluable part of your musical education.

Each VCM department hosts masterclasses – contact us for details:
 Phone 250.386.5311
 Email info@vcm.bc.ca
www.vcm.bc.ca

Individual Lessons

Individual private instruction is available in a variety of playing styles. Please phone 250.386.5311 or email info@vcm.bc.ca to be referred to an appropriate instructor.

Extra Activities

These experiences add to the richness of music education through sharing it with others – and participating is all about exploring the joy of making music! All keyboard students registered at the VCM are encouraged to participate in the following activities often at no extra charge:

- Weekly masterclasses given by a variety of VCM keyboard faculty members, including Vice-Principal Emerita Winifred Scott Wood;
- Ensemble playing (chamber music) with students of similar age and level;
- Performing in Saturday and Sunday concerts to gain experience as well as for examination and festival preparation;
- Canada Music Week concerts;
- Studio recitals and other special events organized by individual keyboard faculty members;
- Piano honours concerts for selected students;
- Events specifically oriented to adult players such as informal performance opportunities and masterclasses.

Piano Masterclasses

The VCM offers students regular opportunities to perform in masterclasses led by Conservatory faculty and guest artists. Many masterclasses are free for VCM registered students upon presentation of a valid VCM student card.

Instructors: Dean, Dr. Jamie Syer, Vice-Principal Emerita, Winifred Scott Wood, and other keyboard faculty members.

Junior Masterclass

Preliminary to Grade 7

Day and Time: Saturdays 1:30pm

Senior Masterclass

Grade 8 and up

Day and Time: Tuesdays 5:30pm

Friday Evening Masterclass

Led by members of the keyboard faculty, this class is available for students of all levels and is offered once a month from October to May. To register, please contact Micki Stirling, Animateur:

Email: stirling@vcm.bc.ca

Phone: 250.386.5311, ext. 255

Day and Time: Fridays 7:00pm

Piano Masterclass for External Students

The VCM offers piano masterclasses for students of BCRMTA teachers once a month from October through April. BC Registered Music Teachers in good standing are encouraged to register their students for these classes. To register, please contact Micki Stirling, Animateur:

Email: stirling@vcm.bc.ca

Phone: 250.386.5311, ext. 255

Instructors: Dr. Jamie Syer, Winifred Scott Wood and Linda Low

Fee: \$10 per student per class



Group Classes

Kelly Kirby Group Piano

4-6 year olds

This simple, fun and attractive approach to music is designed to capture the imagination of the young child. Kelly Kirby Piano is performance training in which ear-training, sight-reading, and piano playing are taught from the very first lesson. Singing, colouring, and crafts are incorporated into this note-reading method to compliment the musical elements taught. This is a year-long course; Term 1 is a prerequisite for Term 2.

Instructor: Linda Low
Duration: 17 weeks/term
Tuition: \$280.50/term

KB 412 01 Tue 4:00-4:55pm Sept 13 – Jan 17
Jan 31 – May 29

The Kelly Kirby Piano Method is also offered as private or semi-private lessons. Instructors include Linda Low, Stella Barbon, Erin Fisher and Nicole Lavallee. Please contact Linda Low, Coordinator, 250.386.5311, ext. 220, for more information.

Group Piano

3-9 year olds

Instructor: Pam Smirl
Duration: 16 weeks/term
Tuition: \$264/term

Prerequisite: These are year-long courses;
Term 1 is a prerequisite for Term 2

Group Piano for Toddlers and Preschoolers 3-4 year olds

This creative class is designed for a parent and their child to explore the piano together. Children will learn to find notes and be taught the basics of reading music, playing by ear and composing.

KB 419 00 Mon 1:30-2:25pm Sept 12 – Jan 16
Jan 23 – May 28
KB 419 01 Mon 3:00-3:55pm Sept 12 – Jan 16
Jan 23 – May 28

Group Piano for Beginners 4-6 year olds

This course focuses on reading and playing. Lessons will emphasize note-reading, ear and rhythm training, sight-reading and ensemble playing.

KB 410 02 Mon 4:00-4:55pm Sept 12 – Jan 16
Jan 23 – May 28

Group Piano for Beginners 7-9 year olds

Note-reading and playing are emphasized. Lessons will include ear and rhythm training, sight-reading, and ensemble playing. Optional examination preparation is offered.

KB 410 03 Mon 5:00-5:55pm Sept 12 – Jan 16
Jan 23 – May 28

Piano for Older Beginners 10-12 year olds

Instruction follows the VCM examination syllabus and includes ear and rhythm training, sight-reading, ensemble playing and exam preparation. Piano for Older Beginners is delivered as a semi-private lesson and requires a minimum enrolment of 2 students.

Instructor: Stella Barbon
Duration: Continuous intake; students may register at any time throughout the year
Tuition: \$53/hour (divided equally among the participants in each class)

KB 402 02 Consult instructor for lesson schedule

Suzuki Piano

With the Suzuki Piano method children learn to play by ear through repeated listening and immersion in a musical environment. Music reading is taught when the ear is sufficiently developed and the piano technique is secure. Parental involvement is required. The parent attends each lesson with the student, assists in daily practice, and plays the Suzuki CD at home. With the teacher's guidance, the parent learns how to help the child with the weekly assignments. Although designed for preschool beginners, the Suzuki Method can be successful at any age.

Piano Pedagogy for Experienced Teachers

Experienced teachers bring questions to discuss for possible solutions to teaching challenges. Classes are held on the second Friday of every month from September through April. The Royal Conservatory of Music Celebration Series Perspectives is used. Participants benefit from the wealth of experience and knowledge imparted by Mrs. Winifred Scott Wood, co-founder of the VCM and recipient of the 2009 CFMTA Hugheen Ferguson Distinguished Teacher Award.

Instructor: Winifred Scott Wood

Duration: 4 sessions/term

Second Friday of each month

Term 1: Sept 16, Oct 14, Nov 18 (in lieu of Remembrance Day) and Dec 9

Term 2: Jan 13, Feb 10, March 9, April 13

Tuition: \$160/term (or \$40/session)

KB 423 00 Fri 11:00am-1:00pm

Early Music and Performance Practice

Keyboard faculty teaching Early Music and Performance Practice and their instrument areas are:

Dr. Michael Redshaw: Fortepiano and
Classical Performance Practice

Nicholas Fairbank: Harpsichord and Organ

Find more Group Piano classes here:

Play Piano Today

Please refer to the Adult Continuing Education section, pg.11

Piano for Adult Beginners

Please refer to the Adult Continuing Education section, pg. 12

