



↑ Floral oil painting by Eyan Higgins Jones, part of a September exhibit at Couch Gallery.

ART OF THE NEW

After getting a fine arts degree, **Tanya Horn** found herself “distracted” by five years in Europe, before returning to Canada and taking a sharp left turn into registered nursing. Four children and 17 years later, the Metchosin-based Horn finally felt ready to return to the art world. Lacking the driving passion needed to create serious art, Horn quickly realized that starting a gallery played to her interests and her strengths. She opened **Couch Gallery** on April 4 and has been keeping more than busy. “I’m interested in very contemporary art, and a lot of what I show is local because I tend to go with personal connections,” says Horn. That said, Horn’s business and life partner, **Ian Scanlan**, is an airline pilot — and with access to cheap flights, Horn has made lots of international connections too. One of her coups is Devon-based sculptor **Heather Jansch** (widow of renowned Scottish folk musician **Bert Jansch**), whose large bronze sculptures — cast from driftwood models — are both

beautiful and technically marvellous. Horn is very excited about her show for September, which features the large-scale animal-head portraits of San Francisco artist **Eyan Higgins Jones**. His paintings are made from oil paint, painstakingly air-brushed onto seven-by-eight-foot canvases. “The work that goes into one of these canvases is monumental,” says Horn. She will also be showing some of his smaller, brilliantly coloured floral works. “His flowers have an erotic, **Georgia O’Keeffe** quality,” she adds. “I think some Victorians will find this show a bit provocative.”

Running September 12-October 3 at 1010 Broad Street. For information, see Couch Gallery.

A CLASS ACT

The **Victoria Conservatory of Music** turned 50 this year, and there is much to celebrate. The financial catastrophe that almost sank it several years ago has been mitigated, the school is well regarded across the country, enrolment has increased to a robust 4,500 students



↑ Soprano and VCM faculty head Ingrid Attrot.

— and that doesn't include the just-opened School of Contemporary Music under artistic director **Daniel Lapp**. In acknowledgement of the school's multiple good fortunes, the VCM has scheduled five celebratory concerts, the second of which occurs this month. The **Jubilee Faculty Concert** showcases three of the Conservatory's most respected faculty heads: violist **Michael van der Sloot**, soprano **Ingrid Attrot** and pianist Robert Holliston. They will be performing an all-**Schumann** program, one that offers a wide range of repertoire from one of the 19th century's most revered musical figures. "This concert is an appreciation for the art of a complex Romantic composer," says VCM dean **Stephen Green**. As a bonus, **Robert Holliston**, well-known as an inspired musical lecturer, will introduce the works to be

→ Galician bagpiper Carlos Núñez is set to play with the Victoria Symphony this month.

played. According to Green, Schumann was particularly celebrated for his song cycles; he is excited that Attrot will be performing the superlative *Liederkreis*, based on the poetry of **Joseph Eichendorff**. "The work was written for his soon-to-be-wife Clara," explains Green. "They shared a passion and spiritual enthusiasm for his poems." Other works to be played include *Carnaval* for solo piano, *Märchenbilder* ("Fairy Tale Pictures") for viola and piano, and some chamber music works that will be performed with extra musicians.

Performing September 27 at Alix Goolden Hall, 900 Johnson Street. For tickets and information, either visit them online or call 250-386-5311.

PIPING HOT

The **Victoria Symphony** looks to Spain for its latest Pops concert, showcasing revered Galician bagpiper **Carlos Núñez**, who has been compared to both **John Coltrane** and **Jimi Hendrix** for his virtuosity and modern sensibility. He played with **The Chieftains** on several occasions, and was featured on their Grammy-winning CD *Santiago*, which explored the musical heritage of Galicia in northwestern Spain. "Núñez is world-class, absolutely," declares local musician **Rod McCrimmon**, a multi-instrumentalist who is also the DJ on **Eclectic Music**, a long-running show on CFUV. "Galician piping has sparked an increasing amount of interest in the last decade." Núñez performs on the *gaita*, which is smaller than the better-known highland

