

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2019

**Victoria Conservatory of Music Presents: New Orford String Quartet**

VICTORIA –The Victoria Conservatory of Music is thrilled to welcome to the internationally renowned New Orford String Quartet back to the Alix Goolden Hall stage on Thursday, April 4. The quartet, Andrew Wan on violin, VCM alumni Jonathan Crow on violin, Eric Nowlin on viola and Brian Manker on cello, will be performing selections by Brahms, Beethoven, and a new work by Canadian composer [Uriel Vanchestein](#), for the concert in this year's new VCM Presents Chamber Music series.

Four musicians with equally stellar pedigrees formed the New Orford String Quartet with the goal of developing a new model for a touring string quartet. Their concept – to bring four elite orchestral leaders together on a regular basis over many years to perform chamber music at the highest level – has resulted in a quartet that maintains a remarkably fresh perspective while bringing a palpable sense of joy to each performance. The *Toronto Star* has described this outcome as “nothing short of electrifying.”

“We are all very proud of our Alum Jonathan Crow, a former student of our founding String teacher Sydney Humphreys. In addition to the amazing success Jonathan has seen as soloist, concert master of major Canadian orchestras, and as renowned chamber musician with the New Orford String Quartet, I am very thankful to him for the amount of dedication he shows bringing new Canadian works to the stage, and sharing the beauty of chamber music with young musicians through his teaching, and performance,” said Stephen Green, Dean, Victoria Conservatory of Music.

Consisting of the concertmasters of both the Toronto and Montreal Symphony Orchestras, the MSO's principal cellist, and the Detroit Symphony's principal violist, the New Orford String Quartet has seen astonishing success, giving annual concerts for national CBC broadcast and receiving unanimous critical acclaim, including two Opus Awards for Concert of the Year, and a 2017 JUNO Award for Canada's top Chamber Music Recording. Recent seasons have featured return engagements in Chicago, Montreal and Toronto, as well as their New York City debut on Lincoln Center's Great Performers series.

The original Orford String Quartet gave its first public concert in 1965, and became one of the best-known and most illustrious chamber music ensembles. After more than 2,000 concerts on six continents, the Orford String Quartet gave its last concert in 1991. Two decades later, in July 2009, the New Orford String Quartet took up this mantle, giving its first concert for a sold-out audience at the Orford Arts Centre. The New Orford has since gone on to perform concerts throughout North America and lead residencies at the University of Toronto, Schulich School of Music, Mount Royal University, and Syracuse University.

Tickets for *VCM Presents: Masters, Friends and Mentors* are \$20.35 to \$25.85. Free admission for under 18. To buy tickets; Order Online: [TicketFly](#) Order by Phone: 250-386-5311. Or tickets available at: VCM Front Desk, 900 Johnson St. Victoria, BC

About the Victoria Conservatory of Music:

Founded in 1964, the Victoria Conservatory of Music is one of Canada's most innovative and progressive music schools. Its mission is to enrich lives through music in a thriving community accessible to all. The VCM is a Centre for Excellence and enjoyment of music through education, performance and music therapy, serving its community of over 3700 students and music therapy clients of all ages, through six outstanding program areas: The Ann & George Nation Conservatory School of Classical Music; The Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music; the School of Music Technology and Creativity; and the departments of Postsecondary Studies, Music Therapy, and Early Childhood Music. VCM's Music Outreach initiatives further enrich the lives of over 1000 children in day-cares, preschools, and Elementary schools throughout the Greater Victoria Area. The VCM is a non-profit organization located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information visit us online at: [vcm.bc.ca](#)

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