

June 2019 Newsletter

### 'She's awful little' but a 'great big girl in music'

- Victoria Daily Times, July 1960



Diane, aged 7. Awarded 95% in McGill University Grade 6 Piano.

She was a little girl with a big talent, first sitting down at the piano aged 4. By 1966, **Diane Crowther** was sitting next to Robin Wood at the VCM, then named the Victoria School of Music, and studied for over 10 years, achieving some of the highest music scores across Canada.

Diane's mother lovingly kept every program, press

clipping and exam result during an outstanding time for her daughter. Diane performed on a Mason & Risch, Canadian made piano, at the Victoria Music Festival in 1965. After the festival, the piano was offered for sale and Diane's parents made huge sacrifices to buy this special piano for Diane and to keep funding her musical education. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Music at UVic and, after receiving her BC Professional Teaching Certificate, Diane enjoyed a rewarding decade teaching young children music using the Kodály method. She also enjoyed many successive years performing locally. Diane's passion now is composing.

These are just some of the memories of her musical accomplishments, and for this reason Diane has remembered the Victoria Conservatory of Music as part of her legacy to the community. Knowing that parents can struggle to help musical children achieve their goals, Diane finds pleasure in knowing that the mission of the VCM, is to make music education accessible and affordable as possible to everyone.

“ Both my husband, Bruce McKenzie, and I are including the VCM in our Wills, knowing that a child or an adult, with musical talent can come to the VCM and receive assistance if there are financial barriers to their learning.”



Diane Crowther and her Mason & Risch, which she performed on as a 12 year old piano student, at the 1965 Victoria Music Festival.

Diane generously shared her story with the VCM and this has helped us in planning for the future. Diane and Bruce's unrestricted legacy gift will enable the VCM to grow and serve our community for future generations.

Legacies provide us with the confidence to plan ahead, enabling us to safeguard the future of the VCM. To make the most of your generosity, an **unrestricted** gift, which has no conditions, allows us to develop future plans with changing priorities. A **restricted** gift is only for a special purpose, for example a Scholarship or a capital project. Please let us know your plans so we can respect your wishes.

## Remembering Larry Ryan

His legacy will live on in our community



Larry Ryan (1931-2019)

Larry Ryan was well known to the VCM staff, faculty and students. Music was Larry's lifelong passion and he immersed himself into the arts and culture scene wherever he lived. After graduating from UBC, he worked for the Province of Ontario and became the first Executive Director of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and director of the Ontario Heritage

Trust, assisting in the acquisition and preservation of many important cultural properties and artifacts between 1967 and 1983. Despite a very demanding job, Larry was legendary in attending concerts and performances. He once went to San Francisco to see an opera and was back at work the next day!

When Larry retired to Victoria, his vast musical knowledge and appreciation, his many varied life experiences, and his witty outlook on life, made him a great number of friends. Every conversation with him was fun, interesting, caring and compassionate. We will miss Larry dearly at the VCM, sitting in the front row of so many of our student performances and always in awe of our local emerging young talent. Larry supported the VCM every year as a Crescendo Circle member, and he was also very open in telling us that he remembered us in his Will. Larry's wish for his legacy was to continue showcasing our young musicians, something that he was so very passionate about.

We are so grateful to have known Larry. He often told us that remembering the VCM in his Will was not only the right thing to do for the VCM, it was a wonderful legacy for him.

## The VCM's Endowment Fund

Another way to think of the future of music in our community

An endowment is set up for the purpose of perpetual benefit to a non-profit institution. The larger the endowment grows, the more reliable our income will be in the future. The Victoria Conservatory of Music Fund is an Endowment Fund held at the Victoria Foundation. Can you imagine what an impact this would make if we could substantially increase our endowment income in the next few years? It would ensure our sustainability by providing reliable funding, helping us to continue to offer our unique programming that makes us a centre of excellence in music education, performance and music therapy. The good news is, donations to our endowment fund have the potential for match funding by Canadian Heritage, Canada Cultural Investment Fund and Endowment Incentives Component, so your donations have twice the impact!



Please consider making a legacy gift to the VCM's Endowment Fund to benefit your community in this way.

We are here to provide information and support should you wish to include the VCM in your Legacy Planning. It would be our pleasure to talk with you and learn more about your connection with the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

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