



April 23, 2020

Keep Music Growing at the Victoria Conservatory of Music

The Mother's Day Musical Garden Tour has been a treasured annual event in the community since 1982, bringing music lovers together to enjoy beautiful private gardens and delightful music from students of the Victoria Conservatory of Music (VCM). For the first time in its 38 year-long history, the VCM must cancel their most important annual fundraising event as advised by the Ministry of Health in the fight against COVID-19.

The event is an essential fundraising event for the Victoria Conservatory of Music. It raises necessary funding to ensure the VCM can continue to provide the exceptional teaching, innovative programming, music therapy, children's outreach programs, and quality performances.

To celebrate Mother's Day, pay tribute to your mother or someone special or an essential service provider by making a donation in their name in lieu of buying Garden Tour tickets (\$35 each). For each donation of \$35 or more, your tribute will be posted on the VCM website and for every \$140 (4 tickets) the VCM will "grow" their virtual garden. Although you may not be able to visit gardens this Mother's Day, you can still celebrate those special people in your life with a gift to music.

To learn more about this special campaign, visit <https://vcm.bc.ca/victoria-garden-tour/>

Donate today at Canada Helps! <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/t/48241>

The VCM is dedicating this "virtual" garden in memory of Ann Nation who, along with her husband George, combined their shared love of both gardening and music to create the Mother's Day Garden Tour in 1982 to raise funds for the VCM. Mrs. Alix Golden, Ann's mother, founded the Victoria Conservatory of Music in 1964.

For two decades, the dedicated couple, along with a committed group of friends and volunteers, organized every aspect of the tour – coordinating the gardens, publicity, sponsorship, plant sale, and offering tea and music to the hundreds and thousands of visitors who have attended the Garden Tour over these many years.

This year, the VCM planned to feature the garden of Chris Nation (Ann's son) in the Musical Garden Tour. As a part of the "virtual" garden tour, Chris's garden, and the *Alix Golden Rose* will be available to view on the VCM website this year and again, in person, during the 2021 Garden Tour next year.

Also, follow the VCM Facebook page every Sunday in the month of May, to enjoy current and past student and faculty performance videos. Turn up the sound and enjoy in your backyard or patio garden!

The VCM is grateful for the support of the community during this unprecedented time and hope that you will join them as they continue to bring the community together through the shared love our "Garden city" and the music that will always live deep in our hearts.

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 3,700 students and music therapy clients of all ages, through six outstanding program areas: The Ann and 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 1,000 children in daycares, 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