



1. **Call to Order – Governor Shannon von Kaldenberg, Chair**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2022 AGM**
4. **Chair’s Report – Governor Shannon von Kaldenberg**
5. **Management Reports**
  - a. Dean’s Report – Stephen Green
  - b. CEO’s Report – Nathan Medd
6. **Financial Report**
  - a. Treasurer’s Report – Governor Alison McCluskey
  - b. Presentation of 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements – Chris Kask, CFO
7. **Appointment of Auditor for 2023/24**
8. **Election of Governors and Representatives**
  - a. Election of incoming Board Nominees
  - b. Re-election of current Governors to a second term
  - c. Election of non-voting Staff Representative
9. **Other Business**
10. **Adjournment**

**Governors present:** Ed Chwyl, *Honorary Governor*; Brock Campbell; Roy Cullen, *Honorary Governor*; Richard Fisher; Geri Hinton; Alison McCluskey, *Treasurer*; Kirk McNally; Bijan Neyestani; Shannon von Kaldenberg, *Chair*; Shelley Williams, *Secretary*

**Staff/Faculty present:** Steve Barker, *Development Coordinator*; Stephen Green, *Dean*; Chris Kask, *CFO*; Tyler Henderson, *Student Representative (incoming)*; Nathan Medd, *CEO*; Joan Milley, *Development Officer*; Terri Myhr, *Director of Development*; Micki Stirling, *Animateur*

**Scribe:** Kelsey Gilker, *Executive Assistant*

Number of Members present: 18

**1. Call to order:** 4:02pm

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion: that the Agenda be adopted as distributed.**

Moved by Governor Stirling. Seconded by Governor Williams. None opposed, motion carried.

**3. Approval of Minutes of December 8, 2021 AGM.**

**Motion: that the minutes from the last Annual General Meeting on December 8, 2021 be approved as distributed.**

Moved by Micki Stirling. Seconded by Governor McNally. None opposed, motion carried.

**4. Chair's Address**

- The VCM did not miss a beat during COVID, as demonstrated by the high participation of our programs and innovations in digital programming.
- Thank you to the CEO Search Committee for their work last season. After 14 years Jane Butler McGregor announced her retirement and we are pleased to welcome Nathan Medd as the new CEO. Nathan joins us from the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.
- Financially speaking, we finished the fiscal year in the positive. Treasurer, Alison McCluskey and CFO Chris Kask will speak on this more momentarily.
- Welcome to new Board Governors Alison McCluskey and Brock Campbell, as well as new Student Representative Tyler Henderson.
- Thank you to our two departing Governors, Marci Hotsenpiller and Paul Nurse.
- Thank you to a few amazing contributors among our staff and faculty, including:
  - Alan Slade, Music Therapist
  - Erin Fraser, Marketing Coordinator
  - Bruce Craigie, Maintenance Manager
  - Sophia Kieferle, Venues Coordinator
  - Joan Milley, Development Officer
  - Alexia Melnychuk, Registrar
  - Micki Stirling, Animateur

**Motion: that the Chair's Report be accepted as presented.**

Moved by Governor Hinton. Seconded by Honorary Governor Chwyl. None opposed, motion carried.

## 5. Finance Report

The Draft 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements were previously distributed.

### a. **Treasurer's Report - Governor Alison McCluskey**

- The VCM's Operating Fund finished the 2021/22 fiscal year with an Operating surplus of just over \$105,000.
- The Financial Statements of the Victoria Conservatory of Music were prepared by staff in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The financial statements have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP, who have issued an Unqualified Audit Report.
- Due to strong leadership, the generous support of donors, government pandemic support and tight management of costs, the VCM is in a good financial position as we head into the next fiscal year.
- In addition to \$7.1M of assets shown on the Statement of Financial Position, the VCM has an Operating Endowment Fund and a Scholarships and Bursaries Endowment Fund at the Victoria Foundation of just under \$3.2M and \$2.1M respectively.
- The VCM is also a beneficiary of grant distributions from a number of other significant Endowment Funds held at the Victoria Foundation – Note 10 of the Financial Statements provides details of these Funds.

**Motion: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented.**

Moved by Honorary Governor Cullen. Seconded by Governor Fisher. None opposed, motion carried.

### b. **Presentation of 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements – Chris Kask, CFO**

CFO Chris Kask spoke to the Audited Financial Statements, year-end August 31, 2022.

- Of the five main funds on the balance sheet, the most activity takes place in Operating. The Operating Fund finished with approximately \$1M in the bank; after debt and liabilities, there is a net equity of approximately \$200K.
- The Endowment Fund, which is on our books and we control, sits at \$1.1M; the Restricted Fund currently stands at \$164K.
- Tuition revenues represent tuition fees from several different programming areas, such as the Collegium Program, Community Programs, Music Therapy & Wellness Programs and Postsecondary Programs. Tuitions for the 2021-22 fiscal year reached approximately \$3M, a slight increase from the year prior.
- Under Development, fundraising revenues totaled \$2.5M, accounting for 45% of total revenues. This is a significant decrease from last year, but only due to a bequest received in the prior fiscal year.
- Expenses went up slightly from the prior fiscal year (\$5.4M vs. \$5.2M) as programs and events continue to rebound from the pandemic. With increased activity comes increased costs.
- NOTE 10 represents funds held in trust for VCM, which are not part of our Balance Sheet or books, but held on our behalf and benefiting us. As of the AGM (not in the Audited Financial Statements) the fund sits at \$12.6M.

**Motion: that the 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by Grant Thornton LLP. be approved as distributed.**

Moved by Governor Neyestani. Seconded by Governor Fisher. None opposed, motion carried.

## 6. Appointment of Auditor for 2022/23

The VCM has been very pleased with the firm of Grant Thornton LLP and recommend that they be used for the coming year.

**Motion: that the VCM engage the firm of Grant Thornton LLP. as the auditor for the 2022/23 fiscal year.**

Moved by Governor Williams. Seconded by Governor McCluskey. None opposed, motion carried.

## 7. Management Reports

### a. **Dean's Report – Stephen Green**

- In September of 2021 we were optimistic about COVID restrictions ending, however that did not happen. Concerts and events moved forward in variety of formats:
  - Voice and Winds & Brass concerts were able to take place in-person.

- Daniel Lapp's *Joy of Life* had to be postponed to April and *Home for Christmas* went virtual via a music video.
- In March, we were able to produce *Spark to Flame*, with 30 students in the orchestra supporting 7 soloists.
- The Voice Department produced Opera Studio in Metro Studio Theatre once COVID restrictions had lifted.
- The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mother's Day Musical Garden Tour took place in May.
- Our summer programming was back in full swing and included a new partnership with St. Michael's University School, where the VCM ran the first ever Music Explorations Camp on their campus.
- Student highlights for the year included:
  - VCM Collegium chamber ensembles swept all three age categories of the National Music Festival Chamber Competition, as well as the two categories of the newly formed Canada West Competition.
  - Violinists Layla Park and Max Francis advanced to the finals of the Canada West competition and the Nationals Music Festival.
  - Pianist Johnathan Devey and cellist Lexie Krakowski were both named to the 2022 edition of CBC's 30 hot Canadian classical musicians under 30.
  - In the ECM department, classes rebounded as COVID restrictions lifted – it has been interesting to note that these children have experienced hardly any contact with other children outside of their immediate families, so it has been quite special to watch them come back together.
- On a personal note, this has been the last year of Jane Butler McGregor's tenure; under her leadership the VCM has become a beacon of creativity and I am so pleased to be a part of it!

**Motion: that the Dean's Report be accepted as presented.**

Moved by Honorary Governor Chwyl. Seconded by Governor Hinton. None opposed, motion carried.

#### **b. CEO's Report – Nathan Medd**

- Firstly, we wish to acknowledge our AGM is taking place on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees First Nations. The South Island powwow took place in our neighbourhood in September and featured incredible events that increase understanding across cultures – we hope to follow this example in years to come.
- Thank you to our retiring CEO, Jane Butler McGregor. It has been truly enjoyable discovering the amazing team that works here. I have come at a lucky financial time; however, the coming period will be more uncertain as the special funding supports put in place during the pandemic come to an end. We are fortunate at the Conservatory to have varied resources, so we are prepared to weather the coming period.
- The Victoria Conservatory of Music is the largest arts and culture organization on the island; furthermore, between here and Langford, we are the only multidisciplinary performing arts complex.
- The Conservatory is currently about halfway through its 2020-25 strategic plan – two highlights:
  - 2022 was the year to anchor the School of Music Technology and Creativity as a creative hub at the Conservatory – this has been achieved with arrival of the Department's first Artistic Director, Daniel Brandes, and his visionary programming.
  - Steady work has been done to address long-term financial stability. Between January 2020 and September 2022, the Operating Endowment Fund held by the Victoria Foundation has grown by 87% and the Scholarship and Bursary Endowment Fund has grown by 12%.
- Moving forward, there will be attention to commitments in the area of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility, as well as the Conservatory's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Motion: that the CEO's Report be accepted as presented.**

Moved by Micki Stirling. Seconded by Governor Campbell. None opposed, motion carried.

**8. Approval of Special Resolution (Bylaw Amendments)**

**Motion: that the proposed Special Resolutions be approved as presented.**

- The Special Resolutions are mainly housekeeping items – see Special Resolutions document in the AGM package for further details.

Moved by Governor McCluskey. Seconded by Micki Stirling. None opposed, motion carried.

**9. Election of Governors and Officers**

**a. Election of Incoming Board Nominees**

The Board Nominee's biographies were previously distributed. The Nominees are:

- Brock Campbell
- Alison McCluskey

**Motion: that this nominee be accepted as a Governor of the Victoria Conservatory of Music.**

Moved by Governor Williams. Seconded by Honorary Governor Chwyl. None opposed, motion carried.

**b. Re-election of current Governors to a second term**

The following Governors have completed their first three-year terms:

- Michael McEvoy
- Shelley Williams

**Motion: that these nominees be accepted for their second terms as Governors of the Victoria Conservatory of Music.**

Moved by Micki Stirling. Seconded by Governor McCluskey (incoming). None opposed, motion carried.

**c. Election of Student Representative**

The Student Representative has been nominated by their peers to stand for a one-year term:

- Tyler Henderson

**Motion: that this nominee be accepted as Student Representative of the Victoria Conservatory of Music.**

Moved by Governor McNally. Seconded by Governor Hinton. None opposed, motion carried.

**d. Election of Non-Voting Representatives**

Board Representatives have been nominated by their peers to stand for a one-year term:

- Kelsey Gilker, Staff Representative (non-voting)

**Motion: that Kelsey Gilker be voted in as a non-voting representative.**

Moved by Honorary Governor Cullen. Seconded by Honorary Governor Chwyl. None opposed, motion carried.

**10. Other Business**

- No other business was raised.

**11. Adjournment**

**Motion: that the December 7, 2022 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.**

Moved by Governor Williams. Seconded by Governor McNally. None opposed, motion carried.

It has been a year of growth and change for the Victoria Conservatory, with the retirement of long-serving CEO Jane Butler McGregor after 14 historic years. A comprehensive national search resulted in the appointment of this organization's new CEO Nathan Medd, who arrived during the last period. Nathan quickly began charting a course that will move our mission further forward – a mission of excellence in music education, performance and wellness on Vancouver Island.

It was a year that included much team building, including a total renewal of the Development team, with the retirement of Director of Development Terri Myhr, and the successful recruitment of Jayne Hammond, an alumna of our voice department who more recently was working with Manitoba Opera and the Red River College in Winnipeg. This team also now includes Steve Barker and Leah Baker and we are glad to have each of you here.

As we reach the end of a final term for four long-standing members of the Victoria Conservatory's Board of Governors – me included – and the end of term for our faculty and student representatives on the Board, it is worth reflecting on how far the organization has come with your support over the past eight years.

Where to begin? Since launching, the School of Music Technology and Creativity and the Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music have proven their value in the region, helping to drive new registrations. The Conservatory's first satellite location launched in fast-growing Westhills during this period, and emerged from the COVID slowdown stronger than ever.

The story of scholarships and bursaries over this time is even more remarkable. Led by a gift that created the Eric and Shirley Charman Young Musicians Bursary Fund, donors like you have established or grown a number of awards that supported deserving students and music therapy participants with a record total of \$211,000 disbursed this year.

These highlights only scratch the surface of all that has been accomplished.

My sincere appreciation and kudos to fellow retiring Governors:

Gareth Dickson, vice chair; Bijan Neyestani, chair of the Buildings Committee; Richard Fisher, chair of the Marketing Committee. Thank you for the gifts of your expertise, your stewardship, your passion, and more than a few evenings and weekends.

Thank you to clarinetist and music educator Melissa Goodchild for your insights on pedagogy and performance this year as the Board's faculty representative. And to emerging musician Tyler Henderson, who has truly become a fixture at our downtown location, and stepped up as student representative on the Board.

Serving the Conservatory has been a tremendous privilege, and I am pleased to continue my support just as so many of you do, as a yearly donor and member of the Encore Legacy Society. By remembering the Conservatory in both our annual and planned giving, each of you have played a vital part in advancing the Conservatory's mission of excellence in music education, performance, and wellness. Thank you, everyone.

**Shannon von Kaldenberg**

***Chair, VCM Board of Governors***

As we began the 2022-23 academic year, there was a general anticipation of it being the first “normal” year since the pandemic began in March 2020. The existence of music in our lives is something we largely take for granted and would have a hard time managing without. The last few years have made that very obvious. We can be proud about how the Victoria Conservatory of Music has managed to emerge from the pandemic without hardly skipping a beat. The Conservatory’s areas of programming continue to grow as unique community hubs that live and breathe music through the sharing of knowledge and experiences that inspire creative expression, build self-confidence, but also provide therapeutic pathways to healing and developing long-lasting relationships with music. It is that shared relationship that bonds us together during the most difficult of times, providing us with a sense of “normal”.

At the start of last year there was much discussion among faculty and artistic leadership about our students, especially the younger ones, middle, high school and postsecondary. Many seemed tired, overwhelmed, and having difficulty concentrating. Adult students of all ages were feeling anxiety and stress around the effects of inflation, the increased cost of living, rising interest rates and brewing conflicts around the world. This reinforced the importance of a student-centric environment and revealed just how much our programs to varying degrees either directly or indirectly reflect Wellness through Music, in addition to developing knowledge and skills in music. There is still much work to be done, however looking over the past year, it is very rewarding to see how our faculty and our programs engaged our students and helped reinvigorate, especially those who have had difficulty climbing out of the pandemic. Here is a closer look at the year:

**The Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music** launched a three-year plan to expand its programming and community reach, thanks to the very generous support received from the Henwood Family Foundation. Wes Carroll (contemporary and jazz guitarist, notably appearing as Roger Waters in Canada’s renowned Pink Floyd tribute band, the Pigs) joined our artistic team as Music Program Developer and Coordinator under Daniel Lapp, and together they are hard at work crafting new programs for the 2023-24 year, which will include our first ever Hip Hop program in collaboration with the School of Music Technology and Creativity. The year also saw the launch of the new Celebrate Youth Award for Emerging Young Contemporary Music Artists, a donor-funded award that focuses on the emerging singer-songwriter, in support of their journey towards a successful career in the music industry. The inaugural winners performed at the Celebrate Youth concert as part of Daniel Lapp’s Joy of Life Festival in the Alix Goolden Performance Hall.

**The School of Music Technology and Creativity** continued to grow its programming, seeing piloted initiatives including Recording & Production, Songwriting, Electronic Music, creative exploration with music coding software, and working with Ableton Live Digital Audio Workstation, establish themselves as new tuition-based programs to be regularly offered as of the 2023-24 academic year. One especially exciting initiative this year involved a group of middle school students participating in a SonicPi coding class, where students learned how to design and sequence any sounds or music they might imagine, and through Playtron snap-circuit kits, create sequencers to play and loop their compositions.

**The Ann & George Nation Conservatory School of Classical Music** had a very active year, seeing a few new additions to faculty, and towards the end of the year, a major success ending the two-year search for a new Head of Voice. Colin Doroschuk (started officially Sept 1 2023) has the unique background of being a classically trained singer with professional credentials and experience in the opera domain, including as director and producer, while also having achieved world recognition in the field of popular mainstream music as a founding member of the internationally-acclaimed, multiple Gold & Platinum recording, Grammy & Juno nominated, Canadian band Men Without Hats (Safety Dance!; Pop goes the World!). With this unique combination, Colin's appointment also includes being the inaugural Director of Contemporary Voice Programming under Artistic Director Daniel Lapp in the Contemporary School. We are looking forward with great anticipation as Colin navigates through his first year with us, energizing all areas of Voice programming at the Conservatory.

The Strings, Keyboard, and Winds-Brass Departments also had a very busy year, including the summer intensive programming. The Conservatory School has once again many student successes to be proud of, and of special note, the six amazing performances by the student soloists selected for 2023 Spark to Flame concert held on February 25. Students Camilo Aybar and Channing Mar (clarinet), Walter Rees and Layla Park (violin), Joanne Jiang (cello) and Vivien Ye (piano), performed under the baton of the venerable Maestro Timothy Vernon (one of our very first 8 Alumni). Many students from the Conservatory School, including the **Young Artists Collegium** Instrumental program, celebrated successes in the local, provincial, and national music festivals.

The **Department of Postsecondary Studies** saw more enrolment growth over the past year, especially with non-music major Camosun students registering for music electives. A continued shift was seen regarding the balance of interest our postsecondary student cohort declares between the Classical and Contemporary music genres, with the latter being more generously favoured. However, the underlying goal of having all music genres present within the same program (Foundations and Creativity Certificate or Diploma in Music Performance) is paying off as we have already seen close to a dozen students emerge from these programs, who are equally proficient and comfortable performing music from either genre. Adding to this success, the newly minted Certificate in Advanced Independent Music Studies received its final approval in spring 2023 from the Ministry of Advanced Skills Training's Professional Training Institutes's Branch. The program will launch its pilot year in 23-24, and offer the first ever project-driven training opportunity for emerging artists who are on the cusp of stepping into a professional career in one or more areas of the music industry.

Please see below a fulsome list of student successes from all of the above program areas.

The **Department of Early Childhood Music** over the past year has seen a much-welcomed resurgence in-community daycares and preschools reaching out either as existing clients wishing to resume or as new clients wishing to engage with the excellent programming we are known for. At the same time, our in-house ECME program has seen similar enrolment growth both at our Victoria and Langford locations. This has prompted the hiring of an additional instructor Annika Sauser to help manage the volume of classes!

The **Department of Music Therapy** has seen a remarkable rebound over the past year in both new and returning clients, prompting also the hiring of an additional therapist, Julian Amar. Therapy sessions are growing quickly at our Langford and Victoria locations. By extension, Dr. Johanne Brodeur's support towards shaping the programming offered through our Centre for Music Wellness, has over the past year also helped to shed more light on the ongoing use of adaptive music instruction within the Music Therapy Department. As mentioned at the start



of this report, the work we do fostering a student-centric environment reveals the increasing need for our programs to either directly or indirectly support students seeking wellness through music. As such, the Department of Music Therapy plays a central role both within the Conservatory as a whole, and also through reinforcing the organization's identity as the national leader in innovative music programming, and the largest of its kind in Canada offering a wholistic blend of accessible pathways through music for anyone to embark on.

## **Victoria Conservatory of Music – 2022-23 Notable Student Achievements**

### **Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Winners:**

- Layla Park\* (violin) / SENIOR STRINGS
- Camilo Aybar\* (clarinet) / INTERMEDIATE WOODWINDS
- Jelly Belly Trio\* – Layla Park (violin), Veronica Park (violin), and Felina Yang (piano) / INTERMEDIATE CHAMBER GROUP
- Michaela & Samantha Yee (violin, Collegium Alumni) / INTERMEDIATE INSTRUMENTAL DUETS
- Angela Pan, Janou Boutilier, Ada Chen, Isabella Xu, Elias Skripnichenko, Amani El Ouadghiri / INTERMEDIATE PIANO
- Cindy (Xintian) Jiang, Patrick Coolican, Sophie Sun, Malak El Ouadghiri, Amy Chen, Michelle George\*, Linda Zhou, Filbert Zhang, Anna Wautier, Carey Wang, Felina Yang\*, Johnathan Devey, Simon Eskildsen, and Richard Lee / SENIOR AND OPEN PIANO

### **Provincial Festival Winners and Honourable Mentions:**

- Chloe Williams (flute\*) / INTERMEDIATE & SENIOR WOODWINDS HONOURABLE MENTION
- Grace Chen\* and Keishen Zhang\* (violin) / JUNIOR INSTRUMENTAL DUETS WINNER
- Carey Wang (piano, Collegium Alumni) / SENIOR PIANO HONOURABLE MENTION
- Maisha Klette\* (voice) / ADJUSTICATOR'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER – INTERMEDIATE CLASSICAL VOICE
- Michelle George\* (voice) / ADJUSTICATOR'S CHOICE AWARD WINNER –JUNIOR CLASSICAL VOICE

### **National Music Festival:**

- Veronica Park\* (violin) / DEVELOPING ARTIST COMPETITOR
- Layla Park\* (violin) / EMERGING ARTIST WINNER; ROBERTO AND MARY WOOD SCHOLARSHIP
- Carey Wang (piano, Collegium Alumni) / EMERGING ARTIST COMPETITOR
- Camilo Aybar\* (clarinet) / DEVELOPING ARTIST COMPETITOR
- Adrian Chen (classical guitar) / DEVELOPING ARTIST WINNER; GOLD MEDAL FOR GRADE 10 ROYAL CONSERVATORY EXAM
- Tubman Trio\* – Max Francis (violin), Joanne Jiang (cello), and Jack Yang (piano) / JUNIOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE WINNERS
- Jelly Belly Trio\* - Layla Park (violin), Veronica Park (violin), and Felina Yang (piano) / SENIOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE WINNERS

- Cécile Chaminade Trio\* – Chloe Williams (flute), Bernice Leung (flute), and Ellah Shields (piano) / SENIOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE COMPETITORS

#### **National Fiddle Championships:**

- Max Francis\* (violin/fiddle) / NATIONAL OLD-TIME FIDDLER’S CONTEST JUNIOR DIVISION WINNER; BOB WILLS FIDDLE CONTEST JUNIOR DIVISION WINNER

#### **At the Conservatory:**

- Recording and Production Project Award - Tia Greenwood (cello, BC Fiddle Orchestra)
- Celebrate Youth Award for Emerging Young Contemporary Music Artists - Essencia Leandro (piano/voice, Postsecondary) / WINNER; Tia Greenwood (cello, BC Fiddle Orchestra) / RUNNER-UP
- 14<sup>TH</sup> Annual Margaret Abbott Memorial English Art Song Competition – Juhui Yoon (soprano) / FIRST PLACE SENIOR A
- 40<sup>TH</sup> Annual German Lieder Voice Competition – Aidan Holt (tenor) / FIRST PLACE SENIOR A
- Connor Wellmann (contemporary bass/clarinet/guitar in VCM/Camosun Diploma program) produced and presented a show stopping Tribute to Charlie Brown’s Christmas.
- Postsecondary Student Ensembles (combos) performed regularly in high profile jazz and after-hours series around Victoria and at Camosun College.

#### **In the Community:**

- Walter Rees\* (violin) / ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC GOLD MEDAL IN STRINGS
- Morgan Sheeley (guitar) / OLYNYK PRIZE WINNER; 2023 NORTHWEST GUITAR FESTIVAL COMPETITION WINNER
- Elana Lin\* (violin) / LOUIS SHERMAN CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER
- Camilo Aybar\* (clarinet) / COWICHAN CONSORT CONCERTO COMPETITION INTERMEDIATE WINNER; also performed with the Emily Carr String Quartet at Music: INSIDEOUT MOZART on April 22, 2023; will be the subject of a documentary titled *‘The Sound of a Pandemic’* from Empress Avenue Media
- Ellie Steele (clarinet) / Accepted into the music program at Memorial University
- Lexie Krakowski (cello, recent Alum) performed with pianist Arthur Rowe as guest collaborative artist in UVic’s Summer Music Festival, after performing Dvořák’s cello concerto on tour earlier in the year with Symphony New Brunswick.

\*Collegium student(s)

**Stephen Green**

**Dean, VCM**

Over my first year with the Victoria Conservatory, community members have been eager to talk about their relationships to music, and their connections with this special place. They are proud to learn that although the Conservatory has operated a bit under the radar for nearly 60 years, their centre for music on this island is in fact the largest music school in Western Canada, with arguably the nation's most diverse and inclusive programming.

The Conservatory has maintained these distinctions during a trio of external challenges: first the pandemic, followed by public safety issues in downtown cores, and now, cost-of-business and cost-of-living impacts.

25 years ago, the Victoria Conservatory's Board of Governors made a visionary investment in its future, anchoring in the Harris Green neighborhood by purchasing the historic Metropolitan Methodist church, which over time had grown into a 55,000 square foot campus. Today, it serves as one of the busiest arts and culture centres on Vancouver Island, with three performance venues and 55 studios and classrooms.

Within the next two years, the mortgage on this property will be paid off, and the Conservatory's mission will enter its seventh decade. To prepare, discussions have advanced for architectural rejuvenation that will modernize the Alix Goolden Performance Hall, and moreover, finish the job begun 25 years ago to transform the complex into a multi-venue, multi-disciplinary civic arts centre that meets the expectations of its visitors and users. This is our commitment to music lovers, and toward a resurgent Harris Green.

The successes of the 2022-23 period are numerous: The Ed and Mary Chwyl School of Contemporary Music, led by artistic director Daniel Lapp, continued its consistent growth in participation. The Collegium, led by Simon MacDonald, emerged strong from the pandemic slowdowns. And the Department of Postsecondary Studies, with director David Visentin, prepared to pilot a fourth-year learning track for pre-professional students, the Advanced Independent Music Studies, with generous support from Sheila Linder.

Financially, the Conservatory significantly outperformed its operating budget, thanks to fine work by managers up and down the organization. And a number of sustaining contributions were made to long-term funds held with the Victoria Foundation: \$385,000 was donated to establish the Roy Barnett Scholarship in Advanced Piano; and, a brand new fund with a starting amount of \$353,000 was created to support the operations of the Music Therapy clinic, led by Dr. Johanne Brodeur, with leading gifts by Dr. Allan Marcus and the estate of Joyce Brake. Thank you to these outstanding citizens.

There are also equipment highlights to mention! Thank you to Gary Karr for the gift of Harmon Lewis' exquisite harpsichord and digital pipe organ. Kudos to Martin Borg, Chief Facilities Officer, for overseeing the handsome new roof atop Pendray Hall in the South Wing, the new LED lighting system in Alix Goolden Hall, as well as the adult change station in Music Therapy. And congratulations to Intrepid Theatre for completing a major upgrade to lighting infrastructure in the Metro Studio.

Thanks too to the Governors of the Victoria Conservatory, especially those who were serving their final year as I entered the organization. Bijan, Gareth, Richard, Shannon, Melissa, and Tyler, you have each done this community a valuable service, and you will always think of music and musicians when you hear the words "pandemic" and "Pandora". Congratulations to all on a successful year past.

**Nathan Medd**

**CEO, VCM**

The current economic climate and the lingering societal impacts of COVID 19, have been challenging for charities, and in particular arts organizations. Arts organizations have been slower to recover than other industries, and the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on arts organizations may be longer term or even permanent. The VCM has also been impacted in recent years by the difficult situation on Pandora Avenue. Despite these significant challenges, I am incredibly pleased to be able to report that the VCM finished the 2022-23 fiscal year with an Operating surplus of \$167,000 and an overall Surplus of \$408,000.

The Financial Statements of the Victoria Conservatory of Music were prepared by staff in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. The financial statements have been audited by Grant Thornton LLP, who have issued an Unqualified Audit Report.

As a result of strong leadership, the commitment and talent of our staff, prudent financial management and the generous support of our donors, we head into the next fiscal year with some stability. The VCM has been fortunate to have received one-time large grants and unrestricted bequests that have been instrumental to VCM's positive financial results. In 2022-23 the VCM received a \$498,000 boost from the BC Arts Council Resilience Supplement.

Although there continue to be challenges with Facilities and Event rentals, which have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels, tuition revenues have grown and continue to be at the core of VCM operations. The ability of the VCM to successfully introduce innovative programs has offset some declines in other program areas. The August 31, 2023 Statement of Financial Position shows positive net operating assets of just over \$330,000. VCM's debt is now down to just over \$131,000.

In addition to the \$6.6 million of assets shown on the Statement of Financial Position, the VCM has an Operating Endowment Fund and a Scholarships and Bursaries Endowment Fund at the Victoria Foundation. The value of those funds on August 31<sup>st</sup> was around \$3.9 million and \$2.6 million, respectively. This represents an increase of approximately \$730,000 in the Operating Endowment Fund and \$550,000 in the Scholarships and Bursaries Fund from the previous year. These increases are due to bequests received and contributed to the funds held at the Victoria Foundation for the benefit of the VCM, as well as matching contributions from the federal Canadian Cultural Incentive Fund. The VCM has been working to build its Endowment Funds at the Victoria Foundation, which will provide a higher steady income stream. In addition to these two Funds, the VCM is also the designated beneficiary of the grant distributions from several other significant Endowment Funds at the Victoria Foundation. Note 10 to the Financial Statements provides the details of these Funds. The 2022/23 annual distribution rate from these funds is 5%.

**Alison McCluskey, CPA-CA**

***Treasurer, VCM Board of Governors***

## 8. Election of Governors and Officers

### a. Election of incoming Board Nominees

**Erica Mattson** (she/her) has 20+ years of experience helping governments, cultural institutions, non-profits, funders, philanthropists and purpose-driven organizations create transformative change for the people and communities they serve.

She brings 20 years of experience in strategic marketing and communications, fundraising, major events and campaigns and non-profit leadership and governance to the VCM, along with a deep appreciation for the power of music and the arts to transform the lives of individuals and communities.

Erica is a practicing visual artist, a lifelong music enthusiast and a parent of two school-aged kids. She runs an independent creative consultancy, serving as a strategic advisor and coach to leaders in the social impact and cultural sectors locally and nationally, as well as co-producing innovative research, systems change and sector development projects in collaboration with a network of artistic, academic and institutional partners.

**Amanda Wilson**, Amanda's varied career has encompassed public relations, communications and marketing for arts organizations on Vancouver Island and Toronto as well as businesses of all shapes and sizes. Through her work in local media and as the co-owner of Spark Strategic Group, she has become well known and connected within both the non-profit and business community in Victoria. Amanda is well versed in crafting engaging campaigns that drive revenue and awareness for brands and a big believer in authentic, honest strategies fueled by the selective and appropriate use of marketing tools.

**Neil Barman** is an architect in Victoria, BC Canada who originally moved to the city from Montreal approximately 35 years ago. He has worked with a number of architecture firms in Victoria and is now an industry product specialist with Vectorworks, Inc. a company that creates design software for architects, landscape architects, interior designers, and entertainment designers. In his role at Vectorworks he thoughtfully creates a variety of marketing resources to foster brand awareness, produces thought leadership material, guides customers towards the most effective use of Vectorworks software, as well as assists with the development of the software. His professional areas of interest are energy analysis, future-conscious building practices, project collaboration, and presentation methods. He is also a co-designer of Victoria's first LEED Platinum home, located at Harling Point. En route to practicing architecture he completed degrees in Environmental Studies and Architecture (Waterloo) and Visual Arts (UVic). He has always been interested in the arts and their connections to communities and has previously served on the Board of Intrepid Theatre.

#### **b. Election of current Governors to their second term:**

**Kirk McNally** is a recording engineer, music producer and sound artist living in Victoria, British Columbia on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen-speaking peoples, now known as the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. He received his Master's of Music in Sound Recording from McGill University. As a recording engineer he has held positions at the Tanglewood Music Centre (Lenox, MA), Reaction Studios (Toronto, ON), and the Warehouse Studio (Vancouver, BC), working with artists including, The Boston Symphony Orchestra, Bryan Adams and REM. Kirk is the assistant professor of Music Technology for the School of Music at the University of Victoria, where he is the program administrator for the school's undergraduate combined major program in music and computer science and the graduate program in music technology. His research and creative work has been supported by the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD), the Canada Council for the Arts, the University of Victoria's Learning and Teaching Centre, the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

#### **c. Election of non-voting Staff Representative**

**Kelsey Gilker** is an arts administrator, graphic designer and actor living in Victoria, British Columbia. Prior to moving to Victoria, Kelsey worked as Marketing & Membership Coordinator for the Kamloops Arts Council. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Thompson Rivers University and worked professionally across the country at Thousand Islands Playhouse, Theatre Calgary and Western Canada Theatre. Kelsey has been with the VCM since November 2017, first at Reception & Registration before moving into her current position of Executive Assistant & Assistant to the Registrar. When not at the VCM Kelsey works freelance as a graphic designer and enjoys all things arts and culture.

*No Faculty and Student Representative are up for election at this time.*