



VICTORIA
CONSERVATORY
OF MUSIC



ALIX GOLDEN
PERFORMANCE HALL
at the Victoria Conservatory of Music

Victoria Conservatory of Music Venue Rentals

As of March 2023

vcm.bc.ca



Why Choose Us?

Historic building

Designed by Thomas Hooper in 1890, the Victoria Conservatory of Music building is representative of its original function as Metropolitan Methodist Church. Intended to comply with the historic Nonconformist standing of the Methodist Church, the rusticated appearance of heavy stone cladding and accentuated tower elements distinguish this building from all other religious structures in the city. As the first building and only church in Victoria designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque Style, this church reflects the height of North American architectural fashion at the time of its construction.

The interior architecture of the building is one of its key distinguishing features. Constructed following the standard Methodist amphitheatre plan, the sanctuary with its horseshoe-shaped gallery possesses numerous physical examples of superior craftsmanship: cast iron elements, stained glass windows, and decorative woodwork. The stone exterior of the building is essentially unchanged. The heritage spiral wooden staircases remain, as do the pews and much of the woodwork, as well as the stained glass windows. Like a castle, the building is put together with every shape imaginable: towers and turrets, great blocks of stone, arches, circles, and curlicues on the roof.

(Photo 2 - First Met Archives - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/firstmetarchives/albums/72157659929952873/>)

(Photo 3 - First Met Archives - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/firstmetarchives/23664570965/in/album-72157659929952873/>)



What We Offer

Two Venue Options

The Victoria Conservatory of Music offers two outstanding concert hall venues:

The **Alix Goolden Performance Hall** boasts many world-class concerts, book readings, and lectures. It is a popular venue for many local Vancouver Island artists - community orchestras, choirs, bands, and solo artists of all musical genres - who often hold their annual and seasonal performances here.

The **Robin and Winifred Wood Recital Hall** is ideal for smaller concerts, lectures, workshops, and meetings. It is our academic recital hall and is offered with limited availability.

Box Office

We include a full service box office for all ticketed events in Alix Goolden Performance Hall and Wood Recital Hall. Tickets are available online, by phone, or in person.

Events are promoted on the our online [events calendar](#), social media, and our Showpass Music Box Office at showpass.com/o/victoria-conservatory-of-music.

Services

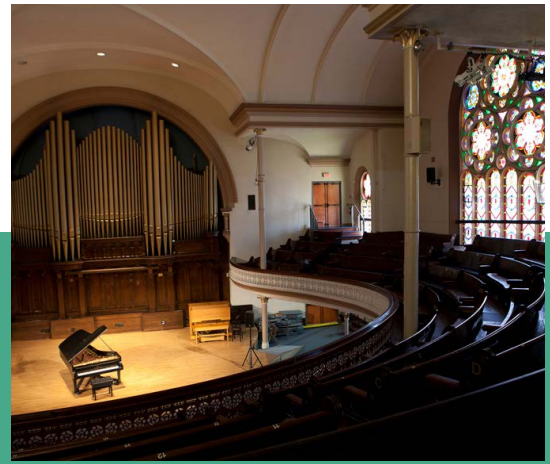
Our professional Venues services include Front of House staffing and volunteer ushers. Each hall is equipped with stage lighting, P.A. system, and stage equipment. Our Venues Manager will be happy to put together a service plan based on your event.

Tiered Pricing

Please contact us for more information on package and pricing options. We offer tiered rental rates and Non-profit/Education rate packages.

COVID-19 Update

The health and wellbeing of our community remains the priority of the Victoria Conservatory of Music. We continue to monitor and make updates as necessary to ensure the safety of all visitors to the Conservatory.





Alix Goolden Performance Hall

The award-winning Alix Goolden Performance Hall (AGPH) is a designated Heritage site in the heart of downtown Victoria. This elegant hall features the original 40-foot vaulted ceiling, filigree iron railings, carved wooden pews, and intricate stained glass windows, further enhancing the beautiful natural acoustics and unique experience for concertgoers.

Named in honour of the Victoria Conservatory of Music's founder, Mrs. Alix Goolden, AGPH hosts many acclaimed international performers, authors, and world-class concerts while also serving the needs of Conservatory students, faculty, and the local community. Victorians have consistently voted for AGPH as their favourite performance venue through the Monday Magazine M Awards.

Performers who have graced the stage include Bruce Cockburn, Emmy Lou Harris, The Zombies, Natalie MacMaster, Shakey Graves, Tommy Emmanuel, Jeremy Dutcher, Dan Mangan, Anton Kuerti, Richard Margison, Tafelmusik, Margaret Atwood, Shane Koyczan, Diane Gabaldan, Michael Ondaatje, and David Suzuki.



Seating

- Capacity: 800 (Main Floor: 440; Mezzanine: 360)
- General seating in original padded heritage pews, which curve 180° around stage front

Stage

- Semicircular cushioned maple hardwood thrust stage 40' wide by 28' deep

Backstage

- 500 sq. ft. green room off the lobby with minor kitchen facilities

Sound and Lighting

- Coloured stage lighting and P.A. system (Detailed technical specifications available upon request)

Piano

- 9 ft. Concert Grand

Other Services

- Rentable stage equipment
- Public washroom facilities
- Wheelchair accessibility
- Concession and ATM services



Robin and Winifred Wood Recital Hall

A more intimate ambiance is found in the smaller 100-seat Robin and Winifred Wood Recital Hall, formerly the Spencer Chapel, which provides space for small-scale music performances, solo recitals, lectures, and rehearsals. It is dedicated in memory of Principal Emeritus Robin Wood (d. 2004) and Vice Principal Emerita Winifred Scott Wood (d. 2012), who together made an outstanding and lasting musical contribution to the Conservatory and to our community from 1965 until Mrs. Wood's passing.

This charming space features zig-zag walls and stained glass windows depicting uniquely West Coast scenes: a logging truck zooming down a mountain road; a fishing boat at anchor; bathers enjoying the beach.



Seating

- Capacity: 100
(Conference chair seating)

Stage

- 27' at widest point by 15.5' deep
- Hardwood stage

Sound and Lighting

- Coloured stage lighting and P.A. system (Detailed technical specifications available upon request)

Piano

- Yamaha 7 ft Concert Grand Piano

Other Services

- Ceiling mounted HD projector with backstage projection wall
- Performance/conference chairs, music stands, tables, podiums, and lecturns
- Public Washrooms
- Wheelchair accessibility

Other Rental Options

Conference, Event, or Meeting Space

Space is available to rent for everything from small meetings for a few hours to all-day presentations. Our venues team will help to guarantee the smooth success of your event.

Our event spaces are ideal for non-ticketed, daytime events. We offer competitively priced packages that can be tailored to your individual requirements whether on a daily or hourly basis.

Graduation and Award Ceremonies

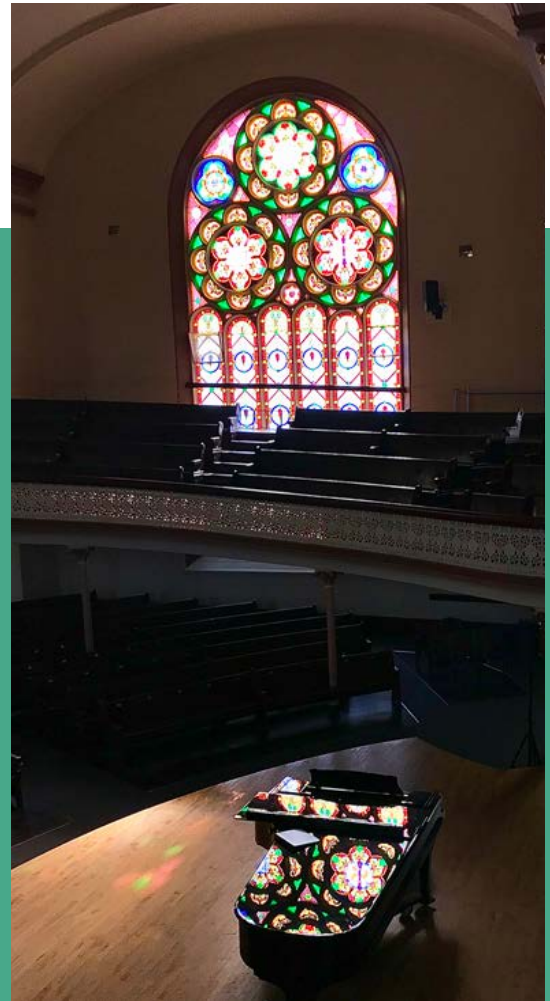
A popular graduation ceremony venue for schools of all sizes, the Alix Goolden Performance Hall features great views from both the balcony and mezzanine seating areas. The Green Room can accommodate graduation preparations and additional rooms or spaces can be rented for post-ceremony receptions. Book your graduation in advance for the best availability.

Filming Location

The Victoria Conservatory of Music, Alix Goolden Performance Hall, and Wood Recital Hall are listed with the Vancouver Island South Film & Media Commission under Location ID #10102954.

Described as a “New York Dance stage”, Alix Goolden Performance Hall has been featured in a variety of films such as:

- *Emile* (2003), Motion Picture Director/Writer: Carl Bessai; Stars: Ian McKellen, Devorah Kara Unger, Theo Crane. AGPH is featured as an awards ceremony in the [trailer at 20 seconds and 1:14 seconds](#).
- *I Want to Marry Ryan Banks* (2004), Motion Picture Director: Sheldon Larry; Writer: Chad Hodge; Stars: Jason Priestley, Bradley Cooper, Emma Caulfield Ford. AGPH is featured in [one of the final scenes](#) after the wedding ceremony as they leave the Hall and walk out to their limousine.
- *Pup Star* (2016), Director: Robert Vince; Writers: Kirsten Hansen and Anna McRoberts; Stars: Carla Jimenez, Makenzie Moss, Susie Wall. AGPH is featured as a performance stage in the [trailer at the 2 minute mark](#).
- *West My Friend* music video (2020), West My Friend, an original indie-folk trio from Victoria BC, released their fourth album "In Constellation" in September 2019. The album was recorded with a 53-person symphony orchestra, and West My Friend brought it [live to the stage](#) with the addition of The Choir and VCM Senior String Orchestra to an enthusiastic audience in AGPH.



Pup Star



West My Friend

Weddings

The Alix Goolden Performance Hall is one of the only non-denominational sanctuary spaces in the Victoria area and offers a breathtaking, old charm backdrop for weddings and photos. The interior architecture is one of its key distinguishing features. Constructed following the standard Methodist amphitheater plan, the Hall with its horseshoe-shaped gallery possesses numerous physical examples relating to Thomas Hooper's design, including stained glass windows, cast iron piers and decorative elements, and authentic woodwork on the pews. The hall has had BC heritage designation since 1979.

AGPH is ideal for wedding ceremonies. With a large stage and concert grand piano, the hall provides outstanding acoustics for speeches and music. The original church pews on the main floor and upper balcony, offer clear visibility to the stage and seating for up to 800 guests.

Wedding packages include: Venues House Manager, a wedding rehearsal, tables, public address mic, and stage lighting.

Wedding rates are inclusive of:

- Taxes
- Tables
- Experienced Venues staff member
- Wedding rehearsal

Rehearsals and ceremonies:

- Up to two hours, subject to venue availability

The Victoria Conservatory of Music and its performance halls are legally required to charge the SOCAN and Re:Sound royalty fees at any event where music is being played. The fee is in addition to the package fee: SOCAN \$95.00 / Re:Sound: \$50.00



Contact Us

The Victoria Conservatory of Music is located on the traditional lands of the Songhees, Esquimalt, WSÁNEĆ, and Beecher Bay Nations, where we are privileged to learn, work, and perform.

For more information, please contact us directly.

Melody Benbow

Bookings & Venues Manager

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