

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

December 3, 2024 – 4pm

Wood Hall, Victoria Conservatory of Music

900 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC

Agenda

1. **Call to Order** – Governor Shelley Williams, Chair

2. **Approval of Agenda**

3. **Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2023 AGM**

4. **Chair’s Report** – Governor Shelley Williams, Chair

5. **Management Reports**
 - a) CEO’s Report

 - b) Dean’s report

6. **Financial Report**
 - a) Treasurer’s Report – written report of Governor Alison McCluskey, Treasurer

 - b) Presentation of 2023/24 Audited Financial Statements

7. **Appointment of Auditor for 2024/25**

8. **Election of Governors and Representatives**
 - a) Election of incoming Board Nominee

 - b) Election of non-voting Staff Representative

 - c) Election of Faculty Representative

9. **Other Business**

Adjournment

Governors present: Shannon von Kaldenberg, *Chair*; Alison McCluskey, *Treasurer*; Shelley Williams, *Secretary*; Brock Campbell; Richard Fisher; Geri Hinton; Kirk McNally; Bijan Neyestani; Amanda Wilson; (*incoming*); Neil Barman (*incoming*); Erica Mattson (*incoming*)

Honourary Governors

Present: Ed Chwyl, *Honourary Governor*

Staff/Faculty present: Nathan Medd, *CEO*; Stephen Green, *Dean*; Chris Kask, *CFO*; Jayne Hammond, *Director of Development*; Tereza Anderson, *Director of Marketing*; Micki Stirling, *Animateur*; Kelsey Gilker, *Assistant Registrar*; Erin Fraser, *Marketing Coordinator*

Scribe: Diana Merlano, *Executive Assistant*

Number of Members present: 27

Governor Shannon von Kaldenberg, *Chair*, acted as chair of the meeting and the meeting was called to order.

1. Call to order: 4:06pm

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: that the Agenda be adopted as distributed.

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

3. Approval of Minutes of December 7, 2022 AGM

Motion: that the minutes from the last Annual General Meeting on December 7, 2022 be approved as distributed.

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

4. Chair's Report

- The VCM has experienced growth and change in the last two years. Nathan Medd, our new CEO, is charting a course to further the 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. This team also now includes Steve Barker and Leah Baker.
- We reach the end of the final term for four long-standing members of the Conservatory's Board of Governors and for our Faculty and Student Representatives on the Board.
- The growth in scholarships and bursaries over this time has been remarkable. Led by a gift that created the Eric and Shirley Charman Young Musicians Bursary Fund, donors 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.
- Thank you to our departing Governors, Gareth Dickson, *Vice Chair*; Bijan Neyestani, *Chair of the Buildings Committee*; and Richard Fisher, *Chair of the Marketing Committee*. Thank you for the gift of your expertise.
- Thank you also to clarinetist and music educator Melissa Goodchild, *Faculty Representative*, and to emerging musician Tyler Henderson, 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. Thank you, everyone.

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

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

5. Management Reports

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

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 and build self-confidence, but also provide therapeutic pathways to healing and developing long-lasting relationships with music. A closer look at the year:

- **The Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music** plans to expand its programming, thanks to generous support received from the Henwood Family Foundation. Wes Carroll joined our artistic team as Music Program Developer, to work with Daniel Lapp. They are hard at work crafting new programs for the 2023-24 year:
 - Our first Hip Hop program in collaboration with the School of Music Technology and Creativity.
 - The new Celebrate Youth Award for Emerging Young Contemporary Music Artists focuses on the emerging singer-songwriter.
- **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 established as new tuition-based programs to be regularly offered as of the 2023-24 academic year.
- **The Ann & George Nation Conservatory School of Classical Music** had a very active year.
 - Colin Doroschuk joined us as new Head of Voice; he will also be the inaugural Director of Contemporary Voice Programming.
 - The Strings, Keyboard, and Winds-Brass Departments also had a very busy year, including the Summer Intensive programming.
 - The Conservatory has many student successes to be proud of, and of special note, the six amazing performances by the student soloists selected for the 2023 *Spark to Flame* concert held on February 25.
 - Many students from the Conservatory, including some in the *Young Artists Collegium Instrumental Program*, celebrated successes in 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. The newly minted Certificate in Advanced Independent Music Studies received its final approval in Spring 2023. The program will launch its pilot year in 2023-2024 and offer the first ever project-driven training opportunity for emerging artists who are stepping into a professional career in one or more areas of the music industry.
- **The Department of Early Childhood Music** over the past year has seen a welcome resurgence in community daycares and preschools. At the same time, our in-house ECME program has seen similar enrolment growth at both our Victoria and Langford locations.
- **The Department of Music Therapy** has seen a remarkable rebound over the past year in both new and returning clients. 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.

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

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

b. CEO's Report – Nathan Medd, CEO

- The Conservatory has maintained the distinction of being the largest music school in Western Canada with arguably the nation's most diverse and inclusive programming, during a trio of external challenges: first the pandemic, followed by public safety issues in the downtown core, and now, cost-of-business and cost-of-living impacts.
- Within the next two years, 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.
- Financially, the Conservatory significantly outperformed its operating budget, thanks to fine work by managers up and down the organization.
- There are also equipment highlights to mention: Thank you to Honourary Governor Gary Karr for the gift of Harmon Lewis' harpsichord and digital pipe organ, and to Martin Borg, *Chief Facilities Officer*, for overseeing the new roof atop Pendray Hall in the South Wing, the new LED lighting system in Alix Goolden Hall, and the adult change station in Music Therapy. And congratulations to Intrepid Theatre for the upgrade to lighting infrastructure in the Metro Studio.
- Thanks too to the Governors of the Conservatory, especially those who were serving their final year as I entered the organization: Bijan, Gareth, Richard, Shannon, Melissa, and Tyler. Congratulations to all on a successful year.

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

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

6. Finance Report

The Draft 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements were previously distributed.

a. Treasurer's Report - Governor Alison McCluskey, Treasurer

- The current economic climate and the lingering societal impacts of COVID 19 have been challenging for charities and in particular, arts organizations, including the VCM; we were also impacted in recent years by the difficult situation on Pandora Avenue. Despite these significant challenges, I am pleased 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.
- Due to 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.
- In 2022-23 the VCM received a \$498,000 boost from the BC Arts Council Resilience Supplement.
- Tuition revenues have grown and continue to be at the core of VCM operations. The August 31, 2023 Statement of Financial Position shows positive net operating fund 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 31st, 2023 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.

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

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

b. Presentation of 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements – Chris Kask, CFO

CFO Chris Kask reported on the Audited Financial Statements, year-end August 31, 2023.

- Of the five main funds on the balance sheet, the most activity takes place in Operating Fund. The Operating Fund finished with approximately \$1M in the bank; after debt and liabilities there is a net equity of approximately \$330K.

- Expenses went up slightly from the prior fiscal year (\$5.7M vs. \$5.4M) as programs and events continue to rebound from the Pandemic. With increased activity comes increased costs.
- 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 2022-23 Fiscal Year reached \$3.1M, a slight increase from the prior year.
- Under Development, fundraising revenues totaled \$2.6M, accounting for 43% of total revenues. This is a decrease from last year (2022 - 45%).
- 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.
- The VCM has been working to build its Endowment Funds at the Victoria Foundation, which will provide a higher steady income stream. The VCM is also the designated beneficiary of grant distributions from several other significant endowment funds at the Victoria Foundation.
- NOTE 10 represents funds held in trust for the VCM, which are not part of our Balance Sheet or books but are held on our behalf and are benefiting us. As of the AGM, not included in the Audited Financial Statements, the fund sits at \$14.9M. Roughly \$600K per year is currently distributed to us which is then disseminated through Operating, scholarships, and bursaries.

Motion: that the 2022/23 Audited Financial Statements as prepared by Grant Thornton LLP. be approved as distributed.

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

7. Appointment of Auditor for 2023/24

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 2023/2024 fiscal year.

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

8. Election of Governors

a. Election of Incoming Board Nominees

The Board Nominees' biographies were previously distributed. The nominees are:

- Amanda Wilson
- Neil Barman
- Erica Mattson

Motion: that these nominees be elected as Governors of the Victoria Conservatory of Music for a term of three years.

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

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

The following Governor has completed his first three-year term and is nominated for re-election:

- Kirk McNally

Motion: that Kirk McNally be elected to a second three-year term as a Governor of the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

Moved by Bijan Neyestani. Seconded by Governor McCluskey. None opposed, motion carried.

c. Election of Non-Voting Staff Representative

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

- Kelsey Gilker, Staff Representative (non-voting)

Motion: that Kelsey Gilker be elected as a non-voting Staff Representative for a one-year term.

Moved by Nathan Medd. Seconded by Governor Hinton. None opposed, motion carried.

10. **Other Business**

- No other business was raised.

11. **Adjournment**

Motion: that the December 5, 2023 Annual General Meeting be adjourned.

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

DRAFT

As I reflect on my first year as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, I am honoured to present this report at our 2024 Annual General Meeting. This year holds special significance for the Conservatory as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary – a milestone that allows us to both honour our history and look forward to our future.

Under the visionary leadership of our CEO, Nathan Medd, the Conservatory has continued to thrive. As Western Canada's largest music school, we take pride in offering an expansive range of programs. From classical and contemporary music to cutting-edge technology, post-secondary studies, early childhood music education, and the largest not-for-profit music therapy service in Canada, our programs reflect the diverse musical interests of our students and of our broader community.

At the heart of our work is a commitment to diversity – not only in our programming but also in our approach to fostering a welcoming, inclusive community. For the past two years, Ry Moran, our inaugural Guest Faculty, Music and Reconciliation, has led a deeply impactful artistic event in the Alix Goolden Performance Hall on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This year, we were proud to launch a new faculty-led concert series that celebrates inclusivity and equity, with a special focus on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. These and numerous other initiatives reflect our ongoing commitment to advancing diversity both within the Conservatory and in the wider community.

Accessibility remains another of our core priorities. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, our scholarships and bursaries have continued to grow. In 2024, over 200 students received financial assistance, while another 1,000 students benefitted from our free music education outreach programs in dozens of schools and centres across the region. These initiatives help ensure that music remains accessible to everyone, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Over the past year, the Board has worked closely with management and staff on key initiatives to support the Conservatory's continued growth and success, including:

- developing and adopting our new Strategic Plan, Music Lives Here, which will guide the Conservatory through the next three years;
- creating a comprehensive Board Orientation Package for new and returning Governors to ensure continued effective governance; and
- conducting a thorough Board and CEO assessment process to evaluate our leadership and governance practices.

As we gather for this Annual General Meeting, we also say farewell to several Governors who are retiring from the Board. It is with deep gratitude that we recognize their contributions:

- Brock Campbell joined the Board in 2022, bringing his financial expertise to the Finance Committee and serving as Secretary for a year. Brock stepped down recently; his sharp insights and sense of humour will be greatly missed.
- Jeremie Grandbois is retiring after serving as the Staff Representative on the Board for the past year. We are grateful to Jeremie for his monthly staff reports and his many other contributions to the Board.
- Geri Hinton is retiring after six years of dedicated service, including a year as Chair of the Artistic and Academic Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee. Geri's contributions have been immeasurable, and she will be missed by all of us.

- Shannon von Kaldenberg served on the Board for nine years, including four years as Chair. She led the Conservatory through some of its most challenging times, including the pandemic, the retirement of our long-standing CEO, Jane Butler McGregor, and the recruitment of our new CEO, Nathan Medd. Since stepping down as Chair in 2023 she has continued to offer invaluable counsel and support to the Conservatory.

In recognition of Shannon's exceptional service, the Board of Governors has unanimously approved her appointment as an Honourary Governor. This honour is reserved for individuals who have served on the Board with distinction and excellence, and Shannon is most deserving of this recognition.

As we look ahead, I wish to express my sincere thanks to those who have made our continued success possible:

- to our dedicated Board of Governors, whose expertise, time and financial support remain integral to the Conservatory's operation and growth;
- to our exceptional management team, staff and faculty, led by CEO Nathan Medd, for their commitment to ensuring that the Conservatory remains an accessible centre of excellence in music education, performance and therapy;
- and to our members, donors and Conservatory families, whose support over the past 60 years has been the foundation of our success. Whether through attending our concerts and events, enrolling in our programs or contributing financially, your generosity ensures that the Conservatory can continue to thrive and serve our community for many years to come.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I extend my deepest gratitude to all of you. Your ongoing support is vital to the future of the Conservatory, and I look forward to working together as we continue on our shared musical journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Williams

Board Chair, VCM Board of Governors

2024 was an extraordinary period that included the publication of a new strategic plan, a reinvigoration of our work in advancement, and big gains in governance capacity including new orientation tools. To strengthen our culture of evaluation, we established an annual Board and CEO assessment process, which is helping to prioritize our work together. A mesmerizing new documentary film, *Ari's Theme*, played in film festivals in Toronto and Vancouver before continuing to tour, showcasing the creative talent in our music therapy wing to audiences far and wide. The film is expected to have its Victoria premiere this coming February.

As we reflect on the past year, there is also much for you to look forward to: in music therapy, a new name, look, and feel for this unique service, which will claim the status it has achieved over its long history under the leadership of founding director, Dr. Johanne Brodeur. I'm so excited for the chance to highlight the incredible, life-changing work of our clinicians and music wellness faculty.

Top of mind for many of our supporters is our location. Our advocacy for the Harris Green neighbourhood continues with the belief that a vibrant centre for music is a key to the neighbourhood's future. By installing new heritage-inspired gates around our Victoria location beginning in November, and many upgrades throughout the building made possible thanks to investments from our donors, the Conservatory is preserving our heritage and revitalizing the learning environment.

With grant support, the Conservatory commissioned two separate architectural studies this past year. The first looks at the redevelopment potential of our Victoria site, and the steps to achieve such a vision are now being mapped out. In the second study, the Conservatory partnered with Our Place Society and other neighbours on the Pandora Avenue side of our site, and, in collaboration with senior staff at the City of Victoria, re-envisioned Pandora Green as a vibrant and inclusive commons. As of this writing, we are beginning now to share details of this concept, which we believe is transformational. Hopefully there will be more to report on this by next year.

Among several comings and goings, I want to recognize the impactful efforts of our departing CFO and Chief Operating Officer, Chris Kask, who will be taking on a new business opportunity at the end of this winter.

For more than ten years, Chris has had tremendous impact on the Conservatory, building a skillful registration and finance team, and guiding operations through an historic expansion of music education on Vancouver Island, including the launch of the Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music, the School of Music Technology, and the opening of the Conservatory's first studios in Langford. Chris' well-known passion for the very smallest parts of organizational machinery belies a record of unprecedented growth in the Conservatory's long-term funds over the past decade, resulting in an all-time high in scholarships bursaries being awarded to music students and music therapy participants in 2023-24.

Former Conservatory CEO, Jane Butler McGregor adds these words of tribute: "Chris Kask has been the backbone of the VCM's transformation and ongoing success. Not only has he been a masterful CFO but he has brought great strength and efficiency to daily operations with diligent attention to the overall financial health of the organization. I honestly can't imagine the VCM without Chris at its financial helm."

Lastly, I join Shelley Williams in saying thanks to our retiring Governors. You are each a tremendous credit to our community in general and the fine arts in particular. I know you will remain in our conversations!

Respectfully,

Nathan Medd

CEO

The 2023-2024 academic year ended in the midst of celebrating the Conservatory's 60th anniversary! Reflecting over the past 10 years since celebrating our 50th, where a new artistic and strategic vision fueled the creation of the Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music, the School of Music Technology and Creativity, the Ann & George Nation Conservatory School of Classical Music, and the launch of our first satellite location in Langford, we've seen these newly seeded initiatives grow and flourish. The community we serve has also grown, become more culturally diverse, while at the same time, facing an ever-increasing lack of affordable housing and unresolved homeless situation, which includes around our own building. Adding to that the continued trickle-down effect of the pandemic, most noticeably in our youngest and our postsecondary students, our work was cut out for us last year to ensure that everyone engaging with us experiences the joy and transformative power of music, no matter their age, level or ability. I have heard it said that were it not for the expansion and diversification of the Conservatory's otherwise traditional programming, we would not have been set up so well to weather the challenges we have seen over the more recent years.

Over the past year, a renewed focus on Music Therapy helped shine more light on the importance of adaptive learning, and with that, realizing we have truly the most extensive Music Therapy program in the land! It would take two AGMs to cover all the highlights of the past year, and even longer to cover all that we do at the Conservatory, and so I encourage you instead to explore our website, join our e-newsletter mailing list, follow us on social media, and most importantly, engage with us through music!

Here are some highlights from the past year:

- The Chwyl Family School of Contemporary Music participated for the first time in the Rifflandia Festival with a petting zoo at Kidlandia (Royal Athletic Park), staffed by four of our Contemporary Faculty, and including a student performance on the second largest stage. Later that month, our postsecondary students were feature performers at the Light Up The Hills lantern festival in Westhills park/Langford. In both cases, the public exposure was wonderful. These students were heard by thousands of visitors at these events.
- The Fall term also saw the first post-pandemic launch of the ChoirKids program in three local Elementary schools, and the introduction of the program at the Conservatory's Langford location. The program focuses on Elementary school ages (5 - 10), however, the version offered at our Langford location is for ages 8 - 12 and allows us to include kids in grade 6 Middle school. This free activity was immediately fully subscribed, in fact, over-enrolled with a waitlist, and allowed us to start growing a much-needed youth choir for that area. On April 28, ChoirKids participants performed on the Alix Goolden Performance Hall stage with the Arbutus Singers, the mixed adult choir that founded the ChoirKids program in 2008, and since asking the Conservatory to adopt the program in 2016, has continued to dedicate all of their concert ticket sales revenue towards this program. 2023-2024 saw a record amount of support come in for ChoirKids, \$20,000!
- The School of Music Technology and Creativity was able to bring even more positive change to our community through accessible, innovative, and relevant music programs, thanks to generous funding received from the Telus Friendly Future Foundation. The expansion of the SonicPi music coding program piloted earlier in 2023 was able to expand our reach, providing 3 times the number of instructional hours, delivering a more comprehensive and engaging program, and reaching 220 students across 5 schools!

- Colin Doroschuk, in his first year leading both the Classical Voice Dept. and the new Contemporary Voice Program, re-energized Voice at the Conservatory, with additional song competitions, and increasing enrollment by over 20%. He also launched the new Opera Quest production - The Soldier and the Sea - generously supported by the RBC Foundation Emerging Artists Project Fund. The music was composed by Colin himself, and the work premiered on June 28. This was a first of its kind initiative by the Conservatory to break down the stereotype of career training in opera, turning away from the 'pay to sing' program structure, and launching a new collaborative paid work opportunity for talented emerging singers.
- In response to the continued encampment and need for perimeter fencing around the Quadra and Pandora sides of our building, restricting the entrance to Alix Goolden Performance Hall, and with that the maximum audience allowed in the space, the decision was made to present the 2023 Daniel Lapp's Home for Christmas (20th anniversary) concerts at the Royal Theatre. This led to seeing the largest audience ever (both shows were very close to or completely sold out). We kept ticket prices affordable for our families and realized more net revenue than ever before. However, having seen that there is room to increase on that, some ticket prices are higher this year, while still preserving affordable options for families.

2023-24 was a wonderful year, and so in closing, I offer my sincere appreciation and thanks to all of our faculty, staff, and leadership, who help to keep the Victoria Conservatory of Music shining as a sparkling gem for all of Canada!

Stephen Green

Dean, Chief Artistic and Academic Officer

As I enter my second year as treasurer, I am encouraged and excited for the future of VCM. The last several years have had challenges as we navigate the lingering impacts of the COVID pandemic and the difficult situation on Pandora Avenue. As a result, the VCM has not been able to fully utilize the Alix Golden Performance Hall, negatively impacting related revenues. Despite these challenges, management, staff, and faculty of the VCM do an extraordinary job in delivering on VCM's mission and vision, which is reflected in the stability of tuition revenues, the foundation of the VCM.

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 Doane Grant Thornton LLP, who have issued an Unqualified Audit Report. The VCM follows the fund method of accounting.

For the year ending August 31, 2024, there is an overall excess of revenues over expenditures of \$789,160. This positive result is due to a significant endowment bequest received for scholarships and bursaries, which has been transferred to the VCM fund held at the Victoria Foundation. There is an operating Fund deficiency of revenues over expenses of \$180,788 (\$109,368 after interfund transfers).

The operating fund deficit is in part due to the impacts of the issues in the neighborhood resulting in lost facility and event revenue and for need increased security and related costs. There has also been investment in the building of a strong development team, important for the ongoing financial stability of the organization.

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 2023-24, in addition to the significant bequest for scholarships and bursaries, the VCM received several unrestricted bequests which have been used to support operations.

As we enter the 60th anniversary year of VCM, a significant milestone is also on the horizon, becoming debt free! At the end of the year, the outstanding debt on the VCM property was only \$216,223. Subsequent to year end, \$80,000 was received to make a further payment on the mortgage, leaving a balance of just over \$100,000. A huge thanks to the donor whose generosity in helping VCM pay down the mortgage over the years has been instrumental in achieving this milestone.

In addition to the \$6.4 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 31st were \$ 5 million and \$ 4.1 million, respectively. This represents an increase from the previous year of approximately \$1.1 million in the Operating Endowment Fund and \$1.5 million in the Scholarships and Bursaries Fund. These increases are due to bequests received and contributed to the funds held at the Victoria Foundation, 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 continue to provide a steady income stream into the future. 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 2023/24 annual distribution rate from these funds is 5%.

Alison McCluskey, CPA-CA

Treasurer, VCM Board of Governors

8. Election of Governors and Representatives

a) Election of incoming Board Nominee

Jennette Toews' career has focused on the management of federal and provincial health programs, policies and data across the life course, recently retiring as director of chronic disease surveillance at the Public Health Agency of Canada. She has significant experience in engaging with provincial and territorial governments as well as with Indigenous and non-governmental organizations. She managed the federal maternal and child health programs supporting vulnerable women and children and developed safety and security initiatives for at-risk seniors including initiating the national seniors falls prevention program and the first national report on seniors falls in Canada, which was adopted as a model by the World Health Organization. She has an enduring passion for music and has studied piano, flute, and voice and has taught flute and participated in several music ensembles, including the Calgary Youth Orchestra. Jennette has a deep appreciation for how music can enrich lives and bring community connections.

b) Election of non-voting Staff Representative

Bruce Craigie has spent 30 years in the trade and manufacturing industry, during which time he has worked in hospitals, care homes, hotels, factories, and new construction buildings. Since joining the VCM as Maintenance Manager, he has been able to lend his knowledge and skills to several capital projects. He looks forward to being part of the board as Staff Representative.

c) Election of Faculty Representative

Kyron Basu is a voice teacher and baritone. He has taught voice at the Victoria Conservatory of Music since 2016 and at the University of Victoria since 2020. He works with students with a broad range of experience levels and ages, and strives to create supportive and encouraging learning environments to nurture students' love of music. In addition to one-on-one voice lessons, Kyron has taught vocal pedagogy in the VCM's AIMS program, as well as Lyric Diction (substituting for Kiiri Michelsen).

An active performer in the Victoria area, Kyron has appeared as a soloist with groups such as Victoria Baroque, the Victoria Philharmonic Choir, the Sooke Philharmonic, Pacific Baroque Festival, Bach on the Rock, CapriCCio, and the Victoria Children's Choir.

Kyron holds an MA in Musicology with Performance and a BMus from UVic, where he studied under Benjamin Butterfield. During his MA, Kyron was a recipient of the SSHRC CGS-M scholarship for his musicological research, exploring the relationship between phonetics and crafting singable translations, particularly of German lieder. Kyron completed his Diploma in Music and AVCM in Vocal Pedagogy at the VCM, where he studied with Ingrid Attrot (voice) and Nancy Argenta (pedagogy).