



VICTORIA
CONSERVATORY
OF MUSIC



Community Impact Report 2025



VICTORIA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

To Our Dear Friends,

As we look back on an extraordinary year at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, our hearts are filled with gratitude. **Everything in this Community Impact Report happened because of you**—our friends, donors, and champions—who believe in the power of music to transform lives.

From stage to screen, the year overflowed with unforgettable moments, like the foot-stomping joy of *Home for Christmas*, the brilliance of young performers in *Spark to Flame*, and the moving hometown premiere of *Ari's Theme*. Together, we opened a bold new chapter with the launch of the Centre for Music Therapy and Wellness, expanding the ways music can inspire, heal, and connect.

You helped make the Mother's Day Musical Garden Tour its most successful ever. You were with us as *OperaQuest: Jehanne* took audiences on a journey of song and dance, and as summer programs like the Earth Song Choral Summer Intensive and Art Song Ecosystem brought voices together around themes of music and nature.

Beyond the stage, your support has renewed and revitalized our music spaces. This year saw the installation of heritage-inspired gates, refreshed landscaping, repairs to the Conservatory's historic stained-glass windows, and the creation of a vibrant mural on Johnson Street by Kwakwaka'wakw artist Francis Dick. Major planning is underway as we prepare to take on running the theatre known as the Metro Studio next summer, ensuring it continues to thrive as a hub of artistic activity. Each project reflects our deep care for the spaces where music is made and shared.

Our new Dean, **Tricia Baldwin**, and the acclaimed artistic leadership team are guiding the Conservatory toward a bold new era. Our purpose is clear: to ensure every child in Greater Victoria has access to high-quality music education. Music is essential to childhood, promoting creativity, confidence, and connection.

Thank you for your support in sharing these gifts more widely than ever before.

Nathan Medd
CEO

Shelley Williams
Board Chair





“This is a beautiful organization with a beautiful heart.”

TRICIA BALDWIN, DEAN

Photo credit: M. Dault

I am having the time of my life at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Thanks to your generosity, the Conservatory is filled with openness, commitment, hard work, adventure, and a gigantic love of music. I am deeply grateful to everyone—past and present—who has built this inspiring place of music and learning.

Looking ahead, our inspired priorities are clear: **ACCESS** and **EXCELLENCE**. We can only achieve them with you.

Access: Every last child in the Capital Region should have access to quality music education. Music belongs to everybody, and with your support, we are expanding the entire music education spectrum from early childhood music programs to seniors’ initiatives. We are creating new youth and multi-generational community ensembles; growing our spaces in Victoria and Langford; deepening partnerships with schools; and ensuring First Peoples are leading cultural programs for Indigenous youth—and that’s just the beginning.

Excellence: With your generosity, we are raising the bar for music education and performance. We are launching a new academy to nurture outstanding young talent, refreshing our teaching methods for a 21st-century world, and setting up new mentorships in music therapy. We are bringing world-class artists and teachers to inspire our students, while helping them build meaningful cultural careers.

I look forward to getting to know you and to hearing your dreams for developing and supporting our young people and citizens of all ages in their unbridled pursuit and love of music.

This will be the profound legacy that we all create together.

We’re Growing

Enrollment for 2024-25 has surged compared to 2023-24, with growth across our programs:

+27%

Contemporary

+25%

Voice

+24%

Collegium

+18%

Music Technology & Creativity

+12%

Langford Location

+10%

Summer Intensive Programs



3,400
Students

27,000+
Lesson Hours

145
Faculty

69
Community
Locations



Every Child, Every Song, Every Possibility

Every child deserves the chance to experience the transformative power of music. Our Community Outreach Program delivers music education to over 1,000 children—one classroom, one song, one child at a time.

Through initiatives like **ChoirKids**, **Children’s Musical Journey**, the **Creative Music Technology Program for Youth**, **Early Childhood Music Education Outreach Program**, and our **Hip Hop Outreach Program**, we deliver high-quality, tuition-free music education directly into schools, childcare centres, and community facilities across Greater Victoria. For many children—especially in marginalized communities—these programs are their only opportunity to experience music education.

You opened the door for children to find their voices in powerful new ways. In the Hip Hop Outreach Program, 93 grade 4 and 5 students wrote lyrics, built beats, and filmed music videos—songs of hope, resilience, and joy. With your support, they discovered that music isn’t just something we listen to—it’s something we create, something that carries your story into the world.

Thanks to your generosity, students explore music in exciting ways—from singing to coding original compositions. These programs don’t just teach music; they spark creativity, nurture resilience, and open doors to a brighter future.

▲ A scene from the “Bannock Mechanics” music video, in partnership with Victoria Native Friendship Centre through our Hip Hop Workshop: [youtube.com/@victoriaconservatory](https://www.youtube.com/@victoriaconservatory) or scan the QR code!



Community Outreach

5

Programs

69

Schools and Centres

1,000

Students

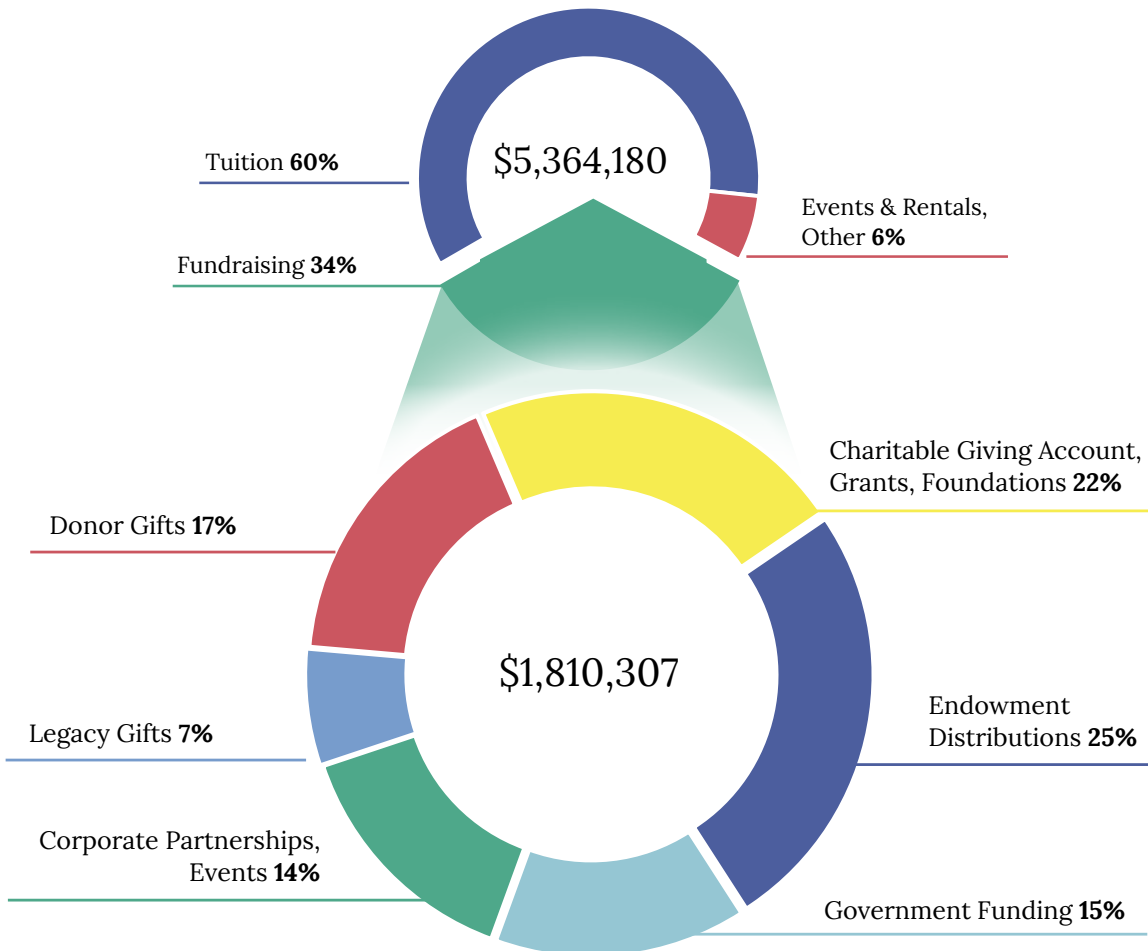


Photo credit: Jayden Beaudoin

“Every week we see military families and their children benefit from 123 Music and Me while making meaningful connections with their parents and peers”.

KATHLEEN CORMIE, PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ESQUIMALT MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Operating Revenue 2024/25



Figures reflect unaudited results and are provided to illustrate the community impact of your support.

Festival Results

FCMF National Music Festival Winners

Emerging Artist Stream:

Carey Wang – 1st, piano
Max Francis – 2nd, strings
Tyler Evans Knott
2nd, woodwinds

Developing Artist Stream:

Daniel Sanabria
1st, woodwinds
Joanne Jiang – 2nd, strings

Ensemble Stream:

Jubilee Flute Choir
1st, Int. Chamber
Samson & Delilah Trio
1st, Jr. Chamber

Canada West Festival Winners

Daniel Sanabria
1st, Jr. Woodwinds
Samson & Delilah Trio
Runner-up, Jr. Chamber
Max Francis – Honourable
Mention, Jr. B Strings
Emilia Vozian – Honourable
Mention, Int. Woodwinds

BCRMTA Student Composer Competition

Xavier Burgers
1st, Division C
Nathan Sy Yong
1st, Division A
Max Francis
1st, Division D

Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival (GVPAF)

153 Winners are
Conservatory students!



Shining More Brightly Than Ever

Amelia Croft is a young Canadian film actress who decided to pursue her heart's ambition, earning her Diploma in Music through the Conservatory's Postsecondary Studies program.

A lifelong music lover, Amelia first experienced the Conservatory as a toddler, captivated by every instrument in Dr. Johanne Brodeur's classroom while her sister attended Music Therapy. She began group music classes at just two years old, and now, as a college student, she studies jazz and classical voice with Colin Doroschuk, Head of Voice, and Sahara Sloan, Voice Faculty.

Known for her powerful storytelling on film, Amelia now brings that same emotional depth to the stage, thriving in what she describes as "a beautiful and inviting environment" where creativity and enthusiasm for music surround her.

"Studying at the Conservatory has changed my life. When I walk through the doors, I feel like I've found myself."

AMELIA CROFT

▲ Amelia Croft performs at the Spark to Flame donor reception, March 2025
Photo credit: Kyron Basu



◀ Daniel Sanabria practices with the Jubilee Flute Quartet , 2024

Photo credit: Jayden Beaudoin

Where Generosity Meets Musical Excellence

Your support empowers exceptional young musicians—like 13-year-old flutist Daniel Sanabria.

Last year, Daniel joined what is now known as the **Gary Karr Young Artists Performance Academy**, on full scholarship. In that time, he reached remarkable milestones. Learning and performing alongside like-minded peers in this enrichment program has helped him grow not only as a musician but as a collaborator and leader.

Since joining the program, Daniel has won the **Cowichan Consort Concerto Competition** and the **Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition**. After advancing through local and provincial competitions, he also earned 1st Place in the Developing Artist Stream and 1st Place in the Ensemble Stream as a member of the Jubilee Flute Quartet at the **Federation of**

Canadian Music Festivals. With his quartet, he has also led volunteer and fundraising concerts across Vancouver Island.

Daniel's dedication, humility, and love for music inspire everyone around him.

This year, **29 students** participated in the Karr Academy, made possible at no cost through our Scholarships and Bursaries Program, funded by generous donors like you.

Your support removes barriers, empowers young artists to thrive, and ensures that exceptional talent can flourish regardless of financial circumstance.

Thank you for helping students like Daniel grow, lead, and dream big.

Scholarships and Bursaries Awarded for 2024-25 Academic Year

\$153,216

in Bursaries

\$151,245

in Scholarships

259

Recipients



Photo credit: Parent of client

Changing Lives One Note at a Time

This year, we opened a bold new chapter for the Conservatory with the launch of the **Centre for Music Therapy and Wellness**—Canada’s largest program of its kind. The Centre’s debut was marked by the deeply moving hometown premiere of *Ari’s Theme*, a documentary celebrating the journey of award-winning composer Ari Kinarthy, who first discovered his voice and artistry through music therapy at the Conservatory 18 years ago. With your help, we realized Ari’s dream of having the film live-scored for its premiere. It was an unforgettable moment that brought his story to life in a most powerful way.

Your generosity advances these stories every day. Music Therapist Allan Slade helped young adults with complex challenges express themselves through tools like Waveband, sharing recordings with families to extend the joy. Music Therapist Julien Amar engaged younger participants in improvisation and loop recording,

where every child played a role. Their creativity shone in lively “Lava Chicken” jams and soothing soundscapes of rainstick and ocean drum. And at no cost to families, this summer’s Music Therapy Summer Camp gave over 240 children a safe, creative space to connect, make music, and build friendships.

These moments join countless others: children with autism speaking their first words through song, youth with ADHD and anxiety finding calm and belonging, and children with cerebral palsy discovering independence through adaptive instruments.

Thanks to you, the Centre is nurturing breakthroughs, resilience, and hope. Together, we are proving that music heals, inspires, and increases quality of life.



Centre for
Music Therapy
and Wellness

1,900
Participants

19
Locations

5,500+
Hours Delivered

11
Community Groups

In Our Halls and Out in the Community

Every recital, every concert, every new creation begins with your belief in what music makes possible.

This season, you helped young artists step into the spotlight. At *Spark to Flame*, seven emerging classical musicians captivated hundreds with their artistry. You were there, applauding their musicality and their growth.

At the Choral Summer Intensive finale, *Earth Song*, voices united for the world premiere of *Marble of the West*, a new commission by Iranian-Canadian composer Iman Habibi. Thanks to you, audiences reflected on the impact of deforestation on bird migration, and bore witness to how music can spark awareness and dialogue.

Your support carried music out into the community—filling Abkhazi Gardens with music all summer long, performing in the sold-out Mother’s Day Musical Garden Tour, uplifting patients at Jubilee Hospital, and even fiddling down Douglas Street in the Victoria Day Parade. Five student composers created works inspired by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria’s *The View* exhibit. These compositions will remain available for visitors to hear and enjoy as part of the exhibit through 2029.

From the magic of *Home for Christmas* to the bold innovation of *Opera Quest: JÉHANNE*, to the joyful return of *Joy of Life*, your generosity is present in every note. Thank you for giving music a home in our halls—and a heartbeat in our community.



Sound Investment

Thank you for helping us create an inspiring campus for the next generation of students. Together, we’ve built heritage-inspired gates; revitalized our greenscape; and adorned our entrance with a mural (left) by Kwakwaka’wakw artist Francis Dick. And our performance space has been revitalized with upgraded sound equipment; new pew cushions; and progress made on the restoration of the stained glass.

“I wouldn’t be the artist, nor the person I am today without the Conservatory and the remarkable people who bring the music and creativity to life!”

NUGWA’AM NENAGWAS (NAOMI TRIEBWASSER)

◀ CEO Nathan Medd, Chief Development Officer Joan Milley, and muralist Jesse Campbell
Photo credit: Kyrn Basu

Performances

12,000

Audience Members

92

Live Performances

52

Free Concerts



Amplifying Voices

When Naomi Triebwasser, also known by her Kwakwaka'wakw name, Ne'nagwas, stepped onto the NeuzTec Festival stage this past November, she carried with her a powerful message. A postsecondary student at the Conservatory, Naomi premiered *Huttilala gaxan* (*Listen to Me*), a hauntingly beautiful piece that blends traditional Kwakwaka'wakw songs with contemporary sound design. Inspired by the tragic reality of missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada, Naomi's work gave voice to stories too often silenced.

The Conservatory paved many paths for her music and allowed her to create, learn, and grow as an artist throughout her two years here. Her performance moved audiences and underscored the importance of music as both art and advocacy, showing how emerging artists at the Conservatory are not only finding their sound, but also amplifying voices for causes that matter.

▲ Naomi performs at Songs for Truth and Reconciliation, September 2024

Photo credit: Dean Kalyan



Joy of Life Concert, 2024

Photo credit: Dominic Hall

Thank You

For generations, your generosity has shaped the heart and soul of the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Because of you, our halls ring with possibility—where music flourishes, talent takes flight, and creativity knows no bounds.

Your dedication has empowered thousands of musicians of all ages and abilities to discover their voices, follow their dreams, and share the joy of music with the world.

We celebrate this extraordinary legacy of generosity with deep gratitude.

Together, we are building a Conservatory where music will inspire, connect, and endure for generations to come.

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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.