

Gary Karr's Lasting Legacy

For the past five years, **Gary Karr** (1941-2025) served as Chair of the **Encore Legacy Society**, guiding the Victoria Conservatory of Music with his leadership, generosity, and vision. His artistry and dedication have left an indelible mark on our community and on music lovers worldwide.

Today we are proud to announce that the Young Artists Collegium Program is now the **Gary Karr Young Artists Performance Academy**.

This renaming honours Gary's extraordinary life and legacy: world-renowned double bassist, devoted educator, and cherished friend of the Conservatory. **Gary's generosity of spirit, mentorship, and deep commitment to nurturing the next generation of musicians have left a lasting impact on our community.** The new name ensures that his example will guide students for years to come - inspiring future generations with the qualities he embodied: **playfulness, curiosity, dedication, mentorship, and joy in music-making.** We will be expanding this Academy in the future as part of our work to inspire and develop excellence in advanced music students, and foster a lifelong love of music.

Acclaimed internationally as one of the greatest double bassists of his generation, Gary redefined what his instrument could do. Through decades of performances and as



founder of the International Society of Bassists, he inspired musicians and audiences worldwide. Yet his greatest gift was his mentorship. At the Conservatory, Gary was never “just” a guest artist. He was a friend, guide, board member, co-host, and passionate advocate for students.

By naming the Academy in his honour, we pledge to carry Gary Karr's legacy forward—ensuring that music continues to inspire, connect, and transform lives for generations to come.

Encore Legacy Society Sponsor:



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Honouring Those Whose Gifts Inspire Tomorrow's Musicians

The Victoria Conservatory of Music thrives because of people whose dedication and love of music extend far beyond the stage. While we recently celebrated the life and legacy of world-renowned double bassist Gary Karr, we also honour the many board members, volunteers, faculty, students, and friends who have helped make this Conservatory a true home for music.

Among them are former Board Governors Bruce Dutton and George Easdon, whose passing this summer reminds us how deeply individual commitment shapes our shared future.

Robert “Bruce” Dutton—gifted pianist, teacher, and founder of the Victoria Adult Music Performance Society—brought artistry, humour, and an infectious belief in music’s power to bring people together. His years of board service and his thoughtful estate gift ensure that future generations will share in that joy.

George Easdon, a respected lawyer and tireless community leader, served on the boards of the Conservatory, Pacific Opera Victoria, and the Victoria Foundation. His guidance and generosity strengthened the Conservatory and enriched cultural life across our city.

We also gratefully acknowledge longtime supporter **Mary Hummel**, whose steadfast encouragement continues to uplift our work.

Together, these remarkable individuals embody the spirit that carries the Conservatory forward—one note, one student, and one act of generosity at a time.



Young Artists Academy students Miya Doak, Emilia Vozian, and Tyler Evans-Knott are the next generation to be inspired by Gary Karr's legacy.

We gratefully recognize the generosity of these donors whose legacy gifts were recently realized:

Victoria Durance
Christina & Dr. Jan Hulsker
Mary Hummel
Richard Astley Piercy
Greta Shaya
Thomas & Betty Underwood

In thoughtful remembrance of those who thought to remember us.

A Legacy in Harmony

For 60 years, the Victoria Conservatory of Music has been a beacon of inspiration for musicians of all ages. With your support through planned giving, we can make the next 60 years even more extraordinary. By including the Conservatory in your estate plans, you'll help ensure that future generations of musicians continue to receive the transformative experiences that have enriched your own life. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of music and mentorship.

Please consult your own financial advisor when considering the Legacy Gift most appropriate for you.

To learn more about how to make music your legacy, contact:

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