

Musical Notes

Vernon Community Music School
Fall, 2020

Welcome Back To School!

Although things look different this year, we are thrilled that another school year has started! Welcome back to a brand new year of learning and discovering your passion...during a pandemic!

To those who have registered already, thank you so much! If you haven't registered yet, please see or phone the office. We are open Monday-Thursday, 8:30am—5:00pm, closed for lunch from 1:00-1:30. The office is closed on Fridays.

We are pleased to offer payment options again this year, including monthly payment options:

Option 1: Pay invoice in two installments

Option 2: Pay invoice in four installments

Option 3: Pay invoice in monthly installments

For options 2 or 3, we will need postdated cheques or a credit card number that I can pull from. Please let the office know which option would work the best for you.

The best part of being at the Music School on a regular basis is seeing the progress students make every week. During the fall season when the windows are open, the sounds of music and learning flow out of the school and wrap around you like a warm sweater. We want to thank you, for sharing your time with us and being a part of our music community.



For all of the latest Music School information, follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



New School Year, New Protocols

Short Form of Minimal COVID Procedures

We have been diligently working on our COVID Safety Policy designated by WorkSafe BC to reopen our doors. This plan has been printed out and hung on our bulletin boards. Below is a simplified version, please read through to become familiar with the changes.

- ◇ All persons entering the building MUST wash their hands with soap and water before and after their lesson.
- ◇ It is recommended to wear a mask in the common areas and in the hallways, as physical distance cannot be guaranteed.
- ◇ Students will not be able to sit and wait for a lesson in the hallways. The intent is for each student to arrive just a couple of minutes before a lesson begins and wait in the hallway, close to their lesson door.
- ◇ Parents are being asked to stay out of the building unless requested to attend a lesson. If this is the situation, the parent is required to maintain at least 6 feet from the instructor. Instructors may ask parents to wear a mask. This is up to the instructor.
- ◇ Siblings may sit within the parent's bubble if absolutely necessary. This will be two bubbles, the family is one and the instructor the other.
- ◇ Teachers are asked to wipe down the piano, piano bench as well as any table or chair that is used.
- ◇ If any chairs or music stands are used in one of the large rooms, they need to be sanitized after use with the spray bottle provided.
- ◇ To minimize contact, please register and pay by phone as much as possible. If you are paying by cheque(s), feel free to slide it/them in an envelope under the office door, or leave them in the mailbox out front of the building.
- ◇ Students who are sick cannot come to the music school for their lesson. If they choose and the teacher agrees, lessons can be taught online during their lesson time or at another arranged lesson time. If you have a student who is sick please ask them to stay home and reassess their health for their next lesson. The student DOES NOT have to wait 14 days to come back to the school, if they do not have COVID. If he/she feels better the next week for their lesson, they are more than welcome to come back.

*Our cleaner is in daily to clean the main areas of both buildings. She cleans railings, door knobs, light switches etc. as well, of course, the washrooms.

We know that this year is going to look a bit different, but we are very optimistic that we are going to have a great year! We thank you for your patience and remaining calm, as we get through this together. Let's get started!



Andrew Allen Live @ Vernon Community Music School

In front of the magnificent structure of the Music School (finished in 1908), Andrew Allen played for some of the faculty and their families as a way to welcome them back to another school year. On a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon, with a slight summer breeze, it was a lovely start to the school year. It was such a hit that there is the potential to grow into an outdoor concert series, open for families! Thank-you to Andrew, who lifted our spirits and brought joy to everyone who was there. We were dancing, singing, and laughing like old friends who haven't seen each other in six months.

WE WANT YOUR RECEIPTS
We are raising funds by grocery shopping! It's as easy as:

- 1 Shop at Natures Fare and save your receipts.
- 2 Put your receipts in our 3% Club receipt box.
- 3 Put yourself on the back—our non-profit just benefited from your grocery shop!

Have questions?
Learn more online at naturesfare.com/3percentclub
or talk to:

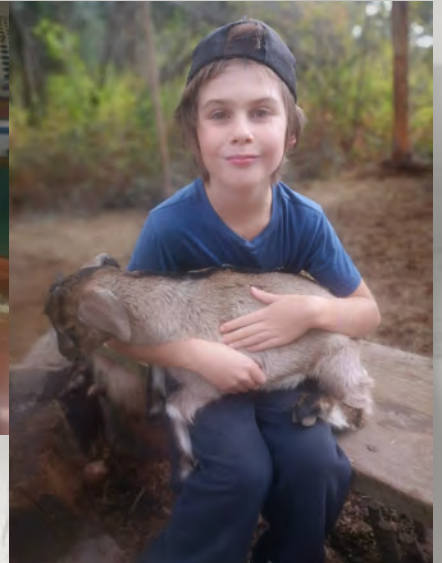
Are you wondering what to do with all of your Natures Fare receipts you've collected over the summer? Bring them by the Music School! As part of the 3% Club, 3% of the total money calculated on the receipts comes back to the Music School, and in turn goes into our programs. It's a win-win situation, thank-you so much to everyone who has brought their receipts in!

To date, we have raised \$1,877.38 to go towards programs throughout the school.

We've Been Nominated!

This is amazing! We have been nominated in the Non-Profit Excellence category in the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce's Business Excellence Awards Presented by Valley First. What an honour! We are so excited for this news; we are going to continue to work really hard to excel in our community because we know that by supporting each other we are better than before. Thank you so much for your support, we couldn't do it without you! It takes a village to nurture musicians. "Music touches us emotionally, where words alone can't."
- Johnny Depp

THE GREATER VERNON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2020
NOMINEE
Non-Profit Excellence Award
SPONSORED BY
Community Foundation North Okanagan



Meet Merrick Henschel

- by Carole Ruth

Merek Henschel is a violin student of Carole Ruth. Merek and his family are currently building a TINY HOUSE on the back of a 5 tone delivery truck, so it can be moved whenever they want to. They are also building a barn on the back of a 3/4 ton pickup truck for the animals.

They have goats and this fall the nanny goat was pregnant for a LONG TIME!, way longer than expected! Finally, on the night before Merek's lesson, 3 baby goats arrived. Merek didn't make it to his lesson the next day since everyone was up so late with the birth.

Before the goat story, Merek had gotten some Birthday/Christmas money last year and ask his parents if he could buy a violin with this money. His parents were thrilled and agreed to pay half the cost of the violin and enrolled Merek in violin lessons that year. Merek is a joy to teach, and HE PRACTICES!!! Thank you for joining the Music School family, Merek!

Photo 1: Merek demonstrating his perfect set up. Photo 2: This is Merek, practicing his violin for his cat, Augustus Gus. Photo 3: Merek with baby goat born this fall, name is Hay Jude-Hay for what goats eat, and Jude, which is Merek's middle name.

The Importance of Family Music—by Aaron Jamin

This is a picture of my family sitting down to enjoy music together. This is an ideal of mine. A regular set time in the day that we enjoy making music together. I am still working towards this.

Right now I am enjoying my children's interest in music. My daughter Eva is growing in her musicianship as a young singer. My wife and I both have taken some piano lessons so we are able to play vocal melodies on the piano to help Eva practice her songs. Eva is not very disciplined when it comes to practicing, but if she has a performance coming up she is very motivated. She also likes to play ukulele and is learning the basics. She has taken to writing songs at times when she is stressed. I enjoy doing some chords to accompany her. Usually if I have the ukulele out my son David wants to learn as well. He has a lot of abilities already that will make learning music enjoyable for him.

The Jamin family band is still a work in progress. Life is very full trying to give our children a well rounded education, without leaving them exhausted. Work pressures sometimes make for late days and challenging relationships between us.

Whether you already have your child in lessons and have some set times to enjoy music together, or you're trying to have your child practice enough to meet the challenges of taking lessons. Your participation in your child's musical development goes a long way. - A.J.



vancouver foundation

The Vernon Community Music School would like to recognize the Vancouver Foundation for their generous COVID relief grant that assisted in helping us to reopen for another year. The Vancouver Foundation exists to bring together community assets to address current and emerging community needs. They set up an Emergency Community Support Fund (ECSF), offering grants of up to \$50,000. The ECSF is a rapid response fund program initiated by the Government of Canada through an investment of \$350 million to charities and non-profit organizations across Canada. Community Foundations of Canada (CFC), United Way Centraide Canada (UWCC), and the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) are working together with the federal government to deploy funding at the local level.

We are so grateful that we were chosen as a recipient. With this grant, we are able to continue doing what we do best: continue to build community within our school, while supporting and encouraging future community leaders through the art of music. Thank you, to the Vancouver Foundation!

Smith House Restoration Project

You may have taken a drive by the Music School sometime this past summer, and noticed our beloved Smith House getting some work done. The beautiful pillars on the front of the house were in need of some attention, as the bottoms were rotting. Local company Greyback Construction came and provided 7x10 shoring for the columns, while they were able to install rebar into existing concrete bases and then extend the bases to the existing columns. Below are some before and after photos, to show the progress of our beloved Smith House.





We would also like to acknowledge Willerton Engineering for all of their time and dedication put into this project. The Music School is so grateful for their expertise, we would not have known where to start without them.

As well, we would like to acknowledge Greyback Construction for all the work they've done to restore our Smith House. Not only do the pillars look incredible, but they will withstand another century of wear. Greyback's knowledge of the structure of heritage homes is extensive, and their professionalism and craftsmanship exceeded our expectations.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the Kalamalka Rotary Club, for their generous grant donation to help us on our quest, as well the City of Vernon for awarding us a grant through the Heritage Restoration Grant Program. These two grants helped us on our quest to restore the historic Smith House. We know this is a lot of work and that it takes community support to be successful.

