VERNON COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

FALL 2026

Welcome Back to School!

Is there anything better than being outside in the sunshine, surrounded by music and creativity? We had SO MUCH FUN at the Polson Artisan Night Market Friday night Flash Jam at the beginning of September. It was such a great way to start the new school year. The weather was perfect, the music was played and the laughter was palpable. What a fun time for our community!

This is also a very special year for us, as we celebrate 50 years of teaching music! The first school year started officially in 1976, and to celebrate how excited we are to be half a century old, we are planning to host events throughout the school year. The next event will be in conjunction with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, hosting Symphony Storytime in the Carriage House Loft. Continue reading for more information about this event.

Now, let's collectively take a deep breath and appreciate the colourful, crinkling leaves fall, the cool breeze on our faces and the sounds of music sweep through the old Smith House while wrapping it's notes around you like a warm blanket. Welcome back to another tremendous year of music, everyone!

Okanagan Symphony Orchestra proudly presents....

Conductor Ivars Taurins. Early Music specialist Ivars Taurins conducts the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra in this musical Grand Tour of 18th century Europe, guiding the audience through Germany, England, Italy, and France via the great Baroque masters. Taurins—long associated with the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir—has helped shape historically informed performance internationally, making him the ideal guide for this journey.

Conductor - Ivars Taurins
Program
Telemann: Overture Suite In D
Handel: Concerto Grosso, op.6, no.1 in G,
André Campra: Le carnaval de Venise: Orfeo nell'inferi
Vivaldi: Concerto Grosso, op.3, no.8 in D minor
Rameau: Suite from Les Broeades

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 22nd, 2pm at the Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre. Tickets are available at ticketseller.ca or by phoning 250-549-SHOW. See you there!

NOCCA proudly presents....

Rooted in a sibling bond that transcends the familial, the JUNO-nominated Cheng^2 Duo (pronounced Cheng Squared Duo) enchants music lovers worldwide with its impassioned expressivity, contagious joy, and instant rapport with listeners. Their performances have been described as "brilliant" (The Sunday Times, UK), "truly exhilarating" (The WholeNote, Canada), and "absolutely captivating...through a tremendous mastery of their instruments" (Pizzicato Magazine, Luxembourg).

Cellist Bryan Cheng, the only prizewinner of both the Queen Elisabeth and Geneva International Music Competitions in 40 years, and pianist Silvie Cheng, former Cecilia Concerts Musician-in-Residence and National Arts Club Artist Fellow, have cultivated a lifelong musical dialogue, forged in childhood and refined through years of shared artistry. Since officially founding the Cheng^2 Duo with their 2011 Carnegie Weill Recital Hall debut, they have toured extensively across the Americas, Europe, Asia and South Africa.
Mark your calendar for October 18th, at 2:00pm. Tickets are available at ticketseller.ca or by phoning 250-549-SHOW

Symphony Storytime - The Tortoise and the Hare

Join the OSO for an interactive Symphony Storytime concert at the Vernon Community Music School on Sunday, October 11th! Shaped for the youngest music lovers of the family, each concert tells a different story and includes lots of music, singing, moving...and fun!

While best suited for preschoolers aged 2 - 5, older and younger children are welcome at Symphony Storytime as well. Bring the whole family for a fun activity everyone can take part in.

Tickets can be purchased through the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra website www.okanagansymphony.com/symphony-storytime or at www.tickettailor.com/events/okanagansymphony/2410232

VCMS ALUMNI

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Are you a former student or family member of VCMS? We would love to keep in touch! Join our alumni mailing list by sending an email to: vcms@shaw.ca with the subject "alumni"

If you would like to be featured in an alumni feature in our newsletter, you can also send us a short note on what you have been up to- musical or not, we want to know where you are and how music has contributed to your life!Let us know what instrument you studied, and the name of your VCMS faculty.

We can't wait to hear from you!

VERNON COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL AGM
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2026
CARRIAGE HOUSE LOFT
6:30PM

CELEBRATE YOUR MUSIC SCHOOL!

VCMS 50th

BIRTHDAY GALA

NOV 27 6PM

Trinity United Church

Featuring Faculty Performances, Carriage House Orchestra, Carriage House Chamber Orchestra

Tickets through www.ticketseller.ca

$10 Individual, $20 Family

TAKE OFF WITH THE VCMS 50TH BIRTHDAY

GIFT OF FLIGHT RAFFLE!

Courtesy of WESTJET

Draw will take place November 27th at the VCMS Birthday Gala Celebration, Trinity United Church

*One roundtrip flight for two guests to any regularly scheduled and marketed WestJet destination! (*No cash value, fees, taxes, surcharges not included, blackout dates and restrictions apply). Chances are 1 in 500 (total tickets for sale) to win Grand Prize. Tickets available through VCMS. $25 each or 3 for $60. BC Gaming License # 16517*

Introducing Piano Student Carol Guinn

by Stephany Chappell

This Fall Newsletter is a wonderful opportunity to shine the spotlight on an amazing student of mine. Her name is Carol Guinn. When Carol was 81, she asked me if I thought she might be capable of finishing her Gr. VII piano that was abandoned when she was in her early teens....67 years ago.

In my 41 years of teaching piano, this was a new situation! I said "let's start practicing and see where you can go".

There were ups and downs, good days and bad, frustrations, triumphs, tears of sadness and joy and a moment of throwing in the towel but through it all, there continued to be a level of dedication from Carol that was unmatched.

Two years later, at the age of 83, Carol Guinn passed her Grade VII RCM piano exam with First Class Honours.

The Royal Conservatory should be thanked for their kindness and accommodations during Carol's exam as they agreed to good seating, special lighting, large print and extra time. This particular examiner was kind, calm and welcoming. She created an environment for Carol to do her best.

I will never ever forget Carol Guinn and her amazing journey and I want to share this beautiful story with whoever is willing to read it. I am honoured to know Carol.

May she inspire all of us!

And from Carol herself:

"Yes.....it was a journey. A journey that I could not have achieved without Stephany's incredible knowledge and teaching skills along with her positive approach. SHE KEPT ME GOING.

I know that if Stephany had been my teacher that many years ago I would not have quit. We are so fortunate to have her as our piano teacher.

Thank you Stephany for being there those wild two years.

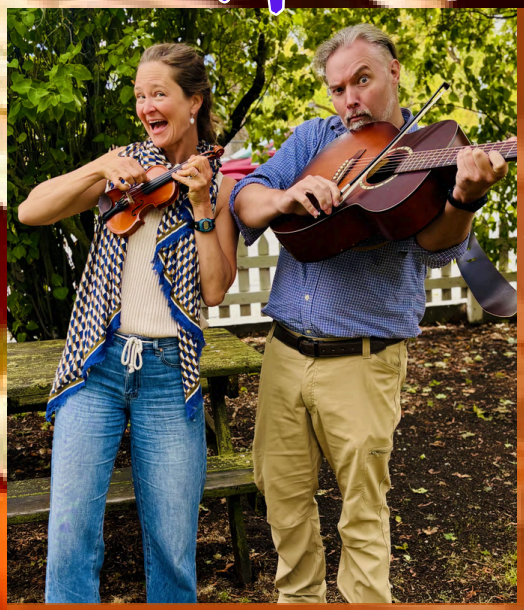
Carol Guinn

P.S.

And yes the RCM examiner was very accommodating. It made a difference as well."

Well done, Carol! Congratulations on passing your grade 7 exam with First Class Honours. You are truly an inspiration to our community. We cannot wait to see where your piano adventures take you next. You are the epidemy of never giving up. It is never too late to start fostering a passion. Bravo Carol, bravo!

The Purple Garbanzos



Class dates: Every Tuesday starting at 10:30am from October 20th-December 8.
Fee: $120 + registration

Ardeth Erikson and John McLean presents

a sing-along class for children aged 2 to 4. Join us to sing, move, dance and laugh through hits from Raffi to Charlotte Diamond, popular nursery rhymes, and even a few songs of our own! Ardeth and John will blend violin and guitar accompaniment, covering foundational musical concepts in a fun format. This is an interactive class for caregivers and children, so bring your smiles, voices and willingness to build musical connections for 50 minutes!

WALL OF FAME

Congratulations to the following students of Daisy Penner's piano studio for completing their Spring 2026 RCM exams:

- Hailey Munro, for completing her Level 2 piano exam, receiving First Class Honours
- Tawny Rudderham, for completing her Level 4 theory exam, receiving Honours with Distinction
- Vu Nguyen, for completing his Level 7 piano exam, receiving First Class Honours

Congratulations to the following students of Geoffrey Barker's piano studio for completing their recent RCM exams:

- Brody Martyn, for completing his Level 5 piano exam
- Zeke Martyn, for completing his Level 3 piano exam, receiving First Class Honours
- Yvonne Peters, for completing her Level 7 piano exam, receiving First Class Honours
- Josh Mark, for completing his Level 10 piano exam

Congraulations to the following students of Stephany Chappell's piano studio for completing their recent RCM exams:

- Maybritt Erikson, for completing her Level 3 piano exam, receiving First Class Honours with Distinction
- Emily Liao, for completing her Level 10 piano exam, receiving Honours

Congratulations to the following students of Karen Rempel who participated and earned an award in the second annual Vernon Performing Arts Festival in March, 2026:

- Amelia Derochie - Level 4 Piano - Vernon Community Singers Award
- Emma Visscher - Level 5 Piano - Marilyn Brodie Award
- Anatole Styles - Level 6 Piano - Sunderland Dental Award
- Anna-Maria Zebroff - Level 7 Piano - Sunderland Dental Award

Also participating in the Vernon Performing Arts Festival in March 2026 were:

- Liam McBride - Level 6 Piano
- Nora McCoubrey - Level 7 Piano
- Julianne Derochie - Level 7 Piano
- Julianne and Amelia Derochie - Intermediate Duet

WALL OF FAME

Congratulations to the following students of Karen Rempel who successfully completed Royal Conservatory of Music Examinations in 2025/2026:

- Hadley Lanaway – Level 10 Piano – First Class Honours
- Julianne Derochie – Level 7 Piano – First Class Honours – Vernon RMT Award
- Anna-Maria Zebroff – Level 7 Piano – First Class Honours
- Nora McCoubrey – Level 7 Piano – First Class Honours
- Anatole Styles – Level 6 Piano – First Class Honours
- Emma Visscher – Level 5 Piano – First Class Honours with Distinction – Vernon RMT Award
- Amelia Derochie – Level 4 Piano – First Class Honours with Distiction – Vernon RMT Award

- Max Henschel – Level 8 Theory – First Class Honours with Distinction – Vernon RMT Award
- Julianne Derochie – Level 7 Theory – First Class Honours with Distinction – Vernon RMT Award (tie)
- Anna-Maria Zebroff – Level 7 Theory – First Class Honours with Distinction – Vernon RMT Award (tie)
- Nora McCoubrey – Level 7 Theory – First Class Honours with Distiction
- Anna-Maria Zebroff – Level 6 Theory – First Class Honours with Distinction – Vernon RMT Award
- Emma Visscher – Level 5 Theory – First Class Honours with Distinction – Vernon RMT Award (tie)
- Anna-Maria Zebroff – Level 5 Theory – First Class Honours with Distinction – Vernon RMT Award (tie)
- Anatole Styles – Level 5 Theory – First Class Honours with Distinction

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO ANNA-MARIA ZEBROFF – for receiving 2nd in Provincials in the Junior Canadian Division in June!

Well done to all of our students featured in this edition of the VCMS Newsletter! You have all worked so hard and dedicated yourself to earn reconigition for your musical accomplishments. Dedication is the vital bridge between having a dream and making it happen, and you are all making your dreams happen. Keep reaching for the stars, you may surprise yourself on how far you can go!

Congratulations, everyone. We cannot wait to see where this year's musical adventure take you! Bravo!

Guitar Spaces Available
for students 11 years old and up
with Ken Scott

kgsguitarstudio@gmail.com

New
Clarinet Lessons
@
Vernon Community Music School
with
Lucy Benwell

for more information, contact
lucybenwell@gmail.com