

Musical Notes

Vernon Community Music School
Spring, 2020

All You Need is Love

What a tremendous day at the Vernon Winter Carnival Society parade at the beginning of February! The theme was "Remembering the 60s", so we put a Beatles spin on that and built a yellow submarine. Thank you so much to all of the families who came out to walk the route with us, we are so happy you were there! Thank you to all of the teachers who helped put the float together behind the scenes, it turned out spectacularly. We even won the award for Best School Entry! Let's do it all again next year!

"Love, love, love
Love, love, love
There's nothing you can do that can't be done
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung
Nothing you can say but you can learn how to play the game
It's easy
Nothing you can make that can't be made
No one you can save that can't be saved
Nothing you can do but you can learn how to be you in time
It's easy
All you need is love"



Did You Know...

This won't be news to Vernon old-timers, but newer arrivals to the City may be surprised to learn that Vernon has the biggest music school in the B.C. Interior. The school, a registered charity, is housed in 2 beautiful heritage buildings up 32nd Ave. in East Hill, where 22 professionally trained teachers provide individual and group classes to around 500 students each year.

This level of serious (but fun!) classical training has produced some of 'Vernon's own' performance artists, sent students off to musical university education across the country, provided members to the Okanagan Symphony, and helped keep a music culture alive in the city.

The public school system can't provide this level of musical education, so young students come for lessons after school and into the evening. Daytime is busy with pre-school and home-school kids as well as with adult programs. Some programs are geared to community performances. The sold-out GLEE presentation in December at the Powerhouse was sponsored and directed by the school, and included past and present students.

For such a large school operation, the costs are held to a minimum. Our philosophy is that no serious student should be denied classes for financial reasons. The school runs with a single paid administrator, and a volunteer board of directors, with the teachers operating as contractors that provide a reasonably small portion of their student fees to provide for Society costs. Equally important is keeping our outstanding teachers happy!

Financial support to students has been well-funded by benefactors, over the years and today. We have a healthy bursary fund, and offer scholarships to strong students. As students graduate to a higher level each spring, they are adjudicated in a performance recital. The quality of music is beautiful, coming from this young talent.

Our buildings provide the happy home for all this activity. The main house is the Smith House, a beautiful 4-story heritage home with about 15 rooms for classes, a performance area, and administration. The foundation was recently completely rebuilt about 10 years ago on a large community fund raising program, the roof is relatively new, and the interior brings back the architectural glory of the city's early days. The second house is the Carriage House. Once actually a garage for carriages, it was completely rebuilt from the ground up, to heritage standards, (another community fund raiser) and has 3 floors, 2 used for classes and a loft that can seat up to 70 people for performances.

But heritage buildings take lots of upkeep, and this is a concern of the directors today. Both buildings should last for decades given regular TLC, but we have an intimidating 'to do' list. Roof drains have been leaking, there is some exterior wall decay, and a variety of birds, mostly flickers and doves, have taken up residence under the eaves and in the attics. We have the plans in place, just not enough money to keep up. We beat the bushes for grant money, but this is hit and (often) miss.

So, we are seeking benefactors or community groups that would like to partner with this valuable Vernon asset by contributing to an infrastructure fund. We'd be happy to talk with you, and give you a tour of the facility. And, our dedicated and cooperative Board of Directors can always use new members! We have a meeting monthly, support performances and events, and work with the administrator and teachers to keep things running smoothly. Interested? Phone us and we'll arrange for a chat.

Our school provides a meaningful way to contribute to Vernon's music culture now and for generations to come. Contact us for more information.





Exciting Changes for Glee

This is such an exciting time for the Glee Program! Darby Mills, from the Darby Mills Project, will be taking on the Artistic Director position for the upcoming Glee performance of Elton John's "Rocketman". We are so grateful to Darby for her enthusiasm and willingness to take on this role, and we are VERY excited to see this next performance transform and inspire the audience. Mark your calendars for the upcoming date: December 10-13th, 2020. Bravo!

Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people out of themselves for a few hours.

- Elton John

OSO
60th Anniversary

O'ROURKE'S PEAK CELLARS
MASTERWORKS V

BACH'S PLAYLIST

IVARS
TAURINS
| GUEST
CONDUCTOR

SEE IT...
HEAR IT...
LOVE IT...

7:00 pm
Thursday, April 2, 2020
okanagansymphony.com

Renowned baroque specialist Ivars Taurins leads the OSO in an eclectic program that celebrates the music of this historic era. Performing music from Bach's own fascinating library of scores as well as pieces he performed in Leipzig, Maestro Taurins of Tafelmusik fame will tie this music all together with an insightful and entertaining narrative. Phone Ticketseller for your ticket (250) 549-SHOW, and don't forget your student code for a discount!

Violin Masterclass, Presented by the OSO

February 9th saw a Violin Masterclass with VCMS alumni, Alicia Venables, here at Music School. "The OSO believes that musical experiences are the foundation for important personal and social development. Each year, our musicians and our partners dedicate time and energy to ensure that young people have the change to experience and explore music in different ways. Whether it is on or off our stages, our goal is to share our love of music and the joy of discovery with students throughout the Okanagan." - Okanagan Symphony Orchestra





NOCCA Even More NOYSE

Outstanding performance! These students performed so well at the NOCCA – North Okanagan Community Concert Association Even More NOYSE event at the beginning of February. Thank you Craig Matterson, Anna Konrad, Holly McCallum, Alex Thiessen, Zaela Thiessen, Julia Atkins, Ulyana Doerksen, Noah Wessels, and Angela Zeng for representing the Music School so well, we are so grateful that you are part of our student family. Well done, everyone!

Mail For Mr. Geoff Barker

Geoffrey recently received a letter in the mail from The Royal Conservatory, informing him that he was the recipient of The Gordon Hallett Memorial Scholarship for the 2016-17 academic year. This is awarded to the candidate who obtains the highest aggregate mark (minimum 80%) in both the written and practical ARCT Piano Teacher's examinations.



"On behalf of The Royal Conservatory, I would like to congratulate you for achieving this very distinct honour, which speaks to your talent, dedication, and discipline in pursuit of excellence in music." - Elaine Rusk, Vice President, The Royal Conservatory Certificate Program.

We are also happy to announce that one of Geoff's students, Karen Goebel, through her dedication and commitment received the same award for 2018-2019. Congratulations, Karen! We are very proud of you!

Congratulations, Geoff! We are so happy that you have chosen our Music School to teach piano. Your passion and vision in helping to grow and inspire future community leaders is apparent, and we truly appreciate everything you do for your students and our Music School.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

**Let it be known that the theme for this year's
Country Fair hath been chosen:**

MEDIEVAL

**Come hither! Ye be requested to attend on
June 5th, with a 4:00pm starteth.**

Costumes be encouraged-th.

*** castles * knights * maidens * dragons**

I Bid Thee Farewell,

Anon

NOCCA presents...Il Violoncello Italiano!

Il Violoncello Italiano! celebrates the cello music of the Italian Baroque's best-known composer, Antonio Vivaldi, alongside his cellist colleague Antonio Vandini. The program also presents cello sonatas from thirty years before Vivaldi when Milanese cellist Angelo Maria Fiore wrote some of the very first cello sonatas, and more than thirty years after Vivaldi with music from Giuseppe Maria Dall'Abaco. The Trio will also perform a piece composed by current Canadian composer, Maxime McKinley. Included in the program will be a solo harpsichord Toccata by Scarlatti, and a solo archlute suite by Zamboni.

Saturday, March 28th, 2020

Tickets available at www.ticketseller.ca

NOCCA

NORTH OKANAGAN COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION

2019-2020 Season



Il Violoncello Italiano!

Exploring Various Instruments with the Music Explorers

Music Explorer students have been learning about the musical alphabet and staff as well as exploring various instrument families in the orchestra. This past month a number of special guests have come by to perform and answer many questions related to their instruments and practising. Marlowe demonstrated her piano skills. The Second String Trio with Victoria, Kathryn and William Reynolds gave us the chance to look at the violin and cello. Ms. Caroline and her student Bronwen also brought her Celtic harps to work with Music Explorer 3 students. We look forward to welcoming more students and VCMS teachers in the coming weeks. All of these experiences and interactions will help these young musicians decide which instruments they wish to pursue in the future.



Violin Recital Success

What a busy and full end of February for music! Piano festival, the upcoming voice festival, and Carole and Imant's student violin recital, just to name a few. During the violin recital, Ulyana played Turkish March by Beethoven with her mom Svetlana, Amelia played Adoration by Borowski, Nathan played Introduction Epolonaise by Bohm, and Noah played Csardas by Monti. Carole introduced us to the Psaltery, a musical instrument having plucked strings of gut, horse-hair, or metal stretched across a flat soundboard, and played with a quill. Such a fantastic night of violin music, congratulations to all of Imant and Carole's students!



Guitar Socials

Ken Scott brings his students together through a guitar social and jam night. On this night they played some Tom Petty, and ended with a classic by Crowded House, "Don't Dream It's Over". Good job to this gang for learning these songs on the spot! Guitar socials are a fantastic opportunity to strum with other students, learn new songs together, discover the history or genre of where these hits came from, and just have a great time. The next hit they'll be working on is the Howard Jones hit, "No One is to Blame".





Noah Wessels Opens for Charles Richard-Hamelin

Way to go, Noah! Noah opened for the NOCCA concert featuring star Quebecois pianist Charles Richard-Hamelin on February 29th. Studying with Ms. Daisy Penner for the last four and a half years, Noah loves to take on new challenges and isn't afraid to try new pieces.

"The concert began with 17 yr. old Noah Wessels- a student at Vernon Christian School. He began the concert with 3 Chopin pieces; the most dazzling being the "Revolutionary" Etude by Chopin. The piece has a difficult passage for the left hand that surges up and down the keyboard while the right hand issues fanfare like chords. Noah was certainly up to the task even though he began studying piano in 2015! " - Jim Leonard

Introducing...the Psaltery

Carole Ruth played the psaltery during her student recital last month. What an interesting instrument!

"The psaltery is an ancient instrument, even mentioned in the King James Bible. The word "Psaltery" in ancient Greek, "psalte' rion" is a stringed instrument, the word stemming from the verb "psallo", which means "to touch sharply, to pluck, pull or twitch. Originally it was plucked with the fingers, and had strings of gut (earlier) and later, metal plucked with a plectrum, or a quill. The strings are not stopped by a finger to change the pitch. They are all open strings, like on a harp.

Psalteries are members of the "zither" family, having strings extended across an armless, neckless soundboard. The harpsichord is related to the psaltery, being described as a large psaltery with the strings mechanically plucked by quills attached to the keys.

Video of Carole playing the psaltery is on the blog page of our website, www.vernoncommunitymusicschool.com. Enjoy!

