

Musical Notes

Vernon Community Music School
Spring, 2021



Year-End Video Recital

Well, this has certainly been a year like no other. Lessons, festivals and recitals moved online as teachers, parents and our students worked to navigate the never-ending changes and routines. All of us at the Vernon Community Music School want to thank you so much for helping us to maintain a sense of normality while maintaining flexibility and compassion. By working together we have made it through the year doing what we all love to do: create music.

Recently we had put a call in to families to send us a video of their students performing a piece they had been working diligently on for weeks. Similarly to the Christmas video recital, we collected all of the submitted videos and put a collaboration together to send to our loved ones in our local long-term care homes, as well as family members who live away. Our families went above and beyond, and boy did they deliver! We received just over 100 videos, converting into close to four hours of music! Outstanding! Thank you to everyone who sent a video in, it is very exciting to put together a project that showcases the very best our students have to offer.

To watch the playlist of the multi-part recital, visit the Vernon Community Music School's [YouTube channel](#).

As always, to stay up to date with all things awesome at the school please follow our [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) pages, or the [Music School Website](#).

Harp Circle—Light Spirals



It is no coincidence that when you sit in a room full of harps, you feel like you're in a private concert in paradise. Canadian composer, Sharlene Wallace, recently wrote a song specifically for Caroline Mackay's High Spirits Music Festival that occurs every year, entitled "Light Spiral". Caroline's Harp Circle students gathered for the first time in late February to work on the piece, written in remembrance of Caroline's late husband, Daniel Schmitt. Daniel was the Okanagan's Harp Builder, Artisan and Proprietor of DIAMOND HARPS for 18 years, and built many of the harps Caroline owns and lends out to students. It is so heartwarming to see his instruments continue to perform. Being in the same space as this magical instrument brings a sense of calm and serenity. We cannot wait to hear the final product, and if you get the chance to listen in person, you will enjoy every moment of it.





Live Outdoor Music

We had an exciting opportunity to host a Violin Duo with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensembles in a socially distanced performance one April weekend, and what a spectacular Sunday afternoon it was!

OSO concertmaster Rachel Kristenson and principal second violinist Martine denBok performed on our newly restored veranda for some of our students and their parents. There was so much interest, we had four 20-minute concerts to comply with the public health order of the 10-person maximum capacity for outdoor gatherings, and be able to maintain appropriate COVID-19 safety protocols for the musicians, staff, students and their families.

The sun was shining and people were so happy to hear live music for the first time in what feels like forever. We are grateful to be able to share the joy of music within our community, and provide a bit of comfort to those who need it – especially in a pandemic. We look forward to having more outdoor concerts at our school in the near future, as we all look for ways to connect in our community!

Playing Outside

As the beautiful sunshine and warm weather increases, so too will the amount of time some of us get to spend outside during our music lessons. Violin instructors Bev Martens and Natalie Kober can be seen spending time outside with their students Ben Hrabchuk and Rae McGrew, as well as ukulele instructor Aaron Jamin with his adult students.



Guitar Corner

Ken Scott's guitar students are kicking it up a notch! The group is learning all about playing in alternate tunings. They are playing the song "Ain't No Rest for the Wicked", and will be learning "Life of Illusion" by Joe Walsh next. They have also done some Reggae by Bob Marley in previous sessions and learned about the history of reggae music. This is a great opportunity for the students to ask questions, work together, and learn more about their instruments.



We have another great shipment of music bags in the office! For only \$20, and with four great colours to choose from, there's a perfect bag for everyone. Keep all your music and notes in one place for lessons and while practicing at home to avoid confusion and missing music. They are also a great way to bring your water and snacks to the school to avoid feelings of hunger in while in your lesson. Your teacher and family will thank you!

Meet Anika Hewitt



Anika has been taking lessons at VCMS the past year and a half with Natalie. Originally Anika began playing the violin at age 20 but after 2 years put it down. She then returned to it twenty years later when she decided it was time to start a new hobby.

When asked why she chose the violin, Anika responded 'Violin is one of the most powerful instruments when it comes to expressing emotion. You hear it and it can make you cry.' When asked about future goals Anika is hopeful that with continued practice she will be able to perform at a wedding.

Anika has the following tips for adult beginners:

- 1) After your music lesson review what you learnt later on the same day.
- 2) Have a goal you would like to reach to stay motivated, such as a favourite song for a special occasion.
- 3) Practice your songs for others to hear to get feedback.
- 4) Keep your instrument unpacked and present to remind yourself to play it.
- 5) Practice your songs 15 minutes everyday—this is all you need to begin!

Festival Awards and Scholarships for Violin Students of Bev Martens

The **Kamloops Festival of the Performing Arts** was held online this year from February 28—March 13th. Congratulations to the following students who won an award for their performance:

- Charles Weathermon—Grade 1/2—Barbara Pacey Memorial Award
- Hugh Weathermon—Grade 3/4—Edna Dewar Memorial Award
- Claire Weathermon—Grade 5/6—Barbara Pacey Memorial Award

Claire was also a merited participant for K.F.P.A. Jr. Strings, and Hugh received the Top Junior Strings Mark. Well done, everyone!

The **20th Shuswap Music Festival** was also online this year, with 178 entries from talented young musicians. Congratulations to the following students who won an award for their performance:

- Autumn Sunderland – “Best of the Fest” in Strings Award
- Claire Weathermon—Outstanding Junior Award
- Anya Massa—Outstanding Intermediate Award

Graded Strings Scholarships:

- Hugh Weathermon—Grade 4
- Olivia Sunderland—Grade 8

Provincial Recommendations:

Strings—Junior A: Autumn Sunderland (competitor) and Anya Massa (merited participant)

Congratulations as well to the following RCM examination students:

- Laura Hrabchuck—Grade 9—Violin First Class Honours
- Anya Massa—Grade 7—Violin First Class Honours



Outdoor Spring Concert Series

Sundays, May 23rd—June 13th
starting at 1:00pm

sign up sheets by the office



The first Outdoor Spring Concert Series event was fantastic! We weren't even sure they would be able to happen until a few days before, so THANK YOU to all of the students and parents who were able to come and participate. The sun was shining and the music was flowing. Teachers Imant Raminsh and Daisy Penner would especially like to thank Noah Wessels for his performance this past weekend with both the violin and piano. Noah is gradu-



ating grade 12 this year, and this was his final recital with the Music School...for now! Noah, we wish you all the best for your future, we have no doubt you will excel at whatever you do. After all, how many students do you know that can build their own violin? Congratulations!

More Congratulations!

Congratulations to Craig Matterson, former piano student of Geoff Barker, who recently received the highest mark for first year students in the Bachelor of Music program at the University of Victoria! During his time at the Vernon Community Music School, Craig was awarded the Sandro Banducci Memorial Scholarship in 2020, and the Patti Brenner Memorial Scholarship in 2019 for his performances. Congratulations, Craig! The Music School community is so proud of you and your accomplishments. We look forward to hearing more about your future endeavours!

Congratulations to our 2021 Scholarship Winners!

We live in such a generous community! Remarkably, we received \$10,400 in scholarship money this year, to give away to deserving students in grades 6 up to the ARCT level. The Music School would like to thank the following individuals and businesses for their very generous donations, because without them our scholarship program would not be as successful as it is. If you see any of these individuals or businesses in our community, please let them know they are appreciated and we are so grateful for their continued support for the arts.

Congratulations to:

- Noah Wessels, ARCT Piano—David and June Rempel Scholarship
- Angela Zeng, ARCT Cello—Dr. Lora Fellenz and Dr. Mathias Fellenz Scholarship
- Holly McCallum, ARCT Cello—Hrabchuk Family Scholarship
- Simone Konrad, Level 10 Piano—MQN Architects Scholarship
- James Richardson, Level 9 Piano—James Frederick Roh Memorial Scholarship
- Claire Richardson, Level 9 Piano—James Frederick Roh Memorial Scholarship
- Laura Hrabchuk, Level 9 Violin—Patti Brenner Memorial Scholarship
- Amy Curtis, Level 9 Piano—Caroline Galbraith Memorial Scholarship
- VCMS Vocal Ensemble
- Alex Thiessen, Level 9 Voice—Sandro Banducci Memorial Scholarship
- Zaela Thiessen, Level 8 Voice—Sandro Banducci Memorial Scholarship
- Ulyana Doerksen, Level 7 Voice—Sandro Banducci Memorial Scholarship
- Olivia Sunderland, Level 8 Violin—Caroline Galbraith Memorial Scholarship
- Joshua Mark, Level 8 Piano—Willerton Engineering Scholarship
- Ella Bannon, Level 8 Piano—Dante Darkazanli Memorial Scholarship
- Tianna Dickie, Level 8 Piano—Olive Woodley Memorial Scholarship
- Natalie Houle, Level 8 Piano—Peter and Pauline Legg Memorial Scholarship
- Abigail Osborn, Level 7 Piano—George Shaw Memorial Scholarship
- Anna Hrabchuk, Level 7 Cello—Dr. Jane Laidlaw Scholarship
- Autumn Sunderland, Level 7 Violin—Reekie, Kineshanko, Tulloch Memorial Scholarship
- Anya Massa, Level 7 Violin—Nixon Wenger Scholarship
- Tikvah Osborn, Level 7 Piano—Sanssouci Scholarship
- Thea Vermeulen, Level 7 Piano—Karen Rempel Scholarship
- Ella Barton, Level 7 Piano—Vernon Volkswagen Scholarship
- Jadyn Dobernigg, Level 7 Guitar—Hurlburt Memorial Scholarship
- Mayah Martsellos, Level 6 Voice—Elizabeth Scott Scholarship for Young Musicians