

Musical Notes

Newsletter of the Chilliwack Academy of Music – Winter 2009

Principal's Message

It is with great excitement that I write these words as the new Principal of the Chilliwack Academy. This is an incredible time to be a part of the Academy as it prepares to move into the brand new state-of-the-art facilities that will reflect the high quality of music instruction that goes on within our walls. As you know, next July is when we take this leap into the next chapter of our history. You may also be aware that in March the Academy must purchase \$220,000 worth of instruments and equipment for the new Cultural Centre in order to ensure each music room is ready for use on opening day. I am very happy to say that so far we have raised \$25,000 towards this goal and a successful Dickens Dinner will push this number even higher. I thought a bit of an update on what our needs are would be appropriate at this time:

Instrument Needs:

- 1 drum set
- 6 grand pianos
- 1 upright piano

Equipment Needs:

- Teaching equipment: music stands, piano lights, benches, etc.
- Studio furniture: chairs, clocks, shelving, framed art, etc.
- Large items such as storage units for the music lending library

How you can help:

In order to achieve this goal, we need you to donate to the Academy's Cultural Centre Equipment Fund. A donation made in the following amounts will cover:

- \$135..... Basic equipment for 1 studio
- \$500..... 1 storage cabinet for music lending library
- \$1,500..... 1 fully equipped music studio
- \$3,000..... Drum set
- \$8,000..... Upright piano
- \$25,000.... Grand piano

You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your gift to the Academy's **Cultural Centre Equipment Fund** and donations can be made in any amount. Please contact me to learn more about how you can provide a musical legacy for the entire Chilliwack community.

"Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!"

Graham Yates
Principal

Society Mission Statement:

The Chilliwack Academy of Music aims to provide high quality music instruction, foster interest and participation in music, and increase musical opportunities in the community.

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Faculty Conversation with Sean Steeves



Trumpet, French Horn

Are you a native of Canada?

Yes, I am a native of Canada. I was born in Vancouver and my family lived there until I was 2 years old. From there, we moved to Abbotsford and the rest was history. I currently live in Surrey.

What was your first instrument?

Actually, piano was my first instrument. Music, particularly piano, was strongly encouraged by my parents and extended family, as a lot of them were very musical. Grade 6 was when I picked up the trumpet but I did not become fascinated with it until about Grade 10.

Were there any musicians that inspired you when you were younger?

My uncle was a big inspiration to me for the piano. He played a lot of country gospel piano and I wanted to sound exactly like him so that was my main drive. Also, I had a favourite record of a pianist (I cannot remember his name) that played variations on *Amazing Grace* that ranged from hymn-like, rock and all the way to classical. I was enamoured with this recording so I attempted to play the same way. For trumpet, I admired Louis Armstrong's playing. At about Grade 9 I started to listen to his recordings and I attempted to copy his big, open jazz sound. I enjoyed playing a lot of Glenn Miller big band charts since it called for the big sound that I liked so much. And there was one particular track, *Mistirioso*, on a JJ Johnson (a jazz trombonist) album, *The Master Trombone*, that I admired. Trumpet player Nat Adderley played a solo on this track that sent tingles up my spine every time I listened to it.

What was your formal training on the trumpet?

My formal training on trumpet started in Grade 10. I took only a few lessons with a great trumpet player friend of my uncle who encouraged me to purchase the trumpet "bible", *The Complete Method for Cornet and Trumpet* by J. Arban. It was not until my undergraduate studies that I started to take consistent formal lessons. During my 4 years at Trinity Western University, I learned the essential techniques form of advanced playing and learned the standard trumpet repertoire. I also played in many different types of ensembles from a period-style Dixieland band to a 50-piece classical orchestra. After completing my undergraduate degree in music I took lessons with another trumpet teacher who taught me the physics of playing the trumpet which tremendously helped and shaped me to be the type of player I am today

What CDs or radio stations do you listen to in the car or at home?

I have my radio tuned to CBC Radio during the day and during the evening I pop in a good jazz CD. It is usually Wynton Marsalis or Dave Douglas—both are amazing, world-renowned trumpet players. My iTunes list consists of music from all over the musical timeline, including Gregorian chant and some of the independent rock that seems to be making a rise today. However, I tend to stick to the roots of classical and jazz.

Do you have anything in general you would like to say about music lessons or the Academy?

I have really enjoyed teaching at the Academy for the last two months. The students are a pleasure to teach and the faculty is kind and accepting. I feel like I could learn a lot from my new colleagues. Music lessons are incredibly important for life. I have had young students wanting to be amazing at the trumpet and I had retired students wanting to have fun and maybe play at church. But the underlying principle is that they are all doing something that they think will make their life better. That's what music lessons do; they better your heart, soul and mind.

Dickens Dinner - 2009

Friday, December 4th

at the new **Coast Hotel** in downtown Chilliwack

6:00 pm - Reception and Silent Auction

7:00 pm - Dinner and Musical Entertainment

Featuring: **Caroline Harder**, mezzo soprano
Dale Throness, baritone
and **MP Chuck Strahl**, Emcee



Tickets available at the Academy Office until Nov. 20th
\$80 per person (\$40 tax receipt provided)

Faculty Artist Series 2009-10

February 14th at 2:30 p.m.

Alisa van Dijk, violin

April 18th at 2:30 p.m.

Lisa Scyner, soprano

Rod Swanson, guitar

Alex Maier, saxophone

Cara Birkholz, piano

Both concerts at St. Thomas Anglican Church
Tickets \$12 General, \$10 Seniors, Students Free

CHILLIWACK FESTIVAL CHORUS

*A great group of people who sing in parts . . . together
. . . just for the love of it!*

A CHORAL CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 12th at 7:30

Sunday, December 13th at 2:30 p.m.

St. Thomas Anglican Church

Tickets \$12 General, \$10 for Seniors

and All Students attend *Free!*

*(tickets go on sale at the Academy office November 23^d
or you can get them at the door)*

Reminder . . .

Chilliwack Lions Club Festival Trophies
will be accepted at the Academy of Music
during office hours, Mon. – Fri.
from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

until December 1st only

You may also take them to the
Lions Club Flea Market
46292 Yale Rd. Chilliwack
9:30 – 4:30 Mon. – Fri. or noon to 4:00 p.m. Sat.



Student, Student Alumni and Faculty News

Coral Beecham, Lucas Hall and Emily McDermid (trumpet students of Sean Steeves) performed “O Canada” at the Chilliwack Bruins’ Remembrance Day ceremony at Prospera Centre.

Congratulations to **Caroline Davies** and **Rebecca Paulding** for winning the 2009 - 2010 Young Artists Solo Competition. They will perform as soloists with the Chilliwack Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, May 29, 2010.

Congratulations to all our hard-working students! RCM Examination Results are as follows.

Students of Rod Swanson:

- **Makaelen Moore** passed her Grade 1 guitar exam
- **Danny Burgoyne** 84% on his Grade 3 guitar exam
- **Kyle Lucas** 90% on his Grade 9 RCM classical guitar exam

Students of Teng Mackay:

- **Sarah Burgoyne** 72% in Grade 6 piano
- **Kassy Koutorjevski** 82% in Grade 2 piano

Congratulations to **Vickie White, Claudia Hall, Jamara Campbell** and **Taylor Wood** who won tickets to the Chilliwack Metropolitan Orchestra concert, generously donated by Wendy Atkinson. Thanks to all those who filled out the 2009 New Student Survey!

In October, a new ElderCollege course, *Voice for Health*, was conducted by **Paula Quick** at the Chilliwack Academy of Music. ElderCollege provides affordable non-credit courses to people 50+ years of age through a partnership with University of the Fraser Valley. Please visit their website at www.ufv.ca/eldercollege

Upcoming Events

December

4	Dickens Dinner	6:00 pm	Coast Chilliwack Hotel	
12	Chilliwack Festival Chorus	7:30 pm	St. Thomas Church	\$12 General, \$10 Seniors All Students free
13	Chilliwack Festival Chorus	2:30 pm	St. Thomas Church	\$12 General, \$10 Seniors All Students free
21	<i>Christmas Break - Office Closed until Jan 4th</i>			

January

13-24	<i>Willy Wonka</i> presented by the Chilliwack School of Performing Arts and the Chilliwack Academy of Music		Chilliwack Arts Centre	
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February

14	Faculty Artist Series featuring Alisa van Dijk, violin	2:30 pm	St Thomas Church	\$12 General, \$10 Seniors All Students free
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March

8-12	Spring Break – Office Closed			
15-27	Chilliwack Lions Music Festival			

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www.tomleemusic.ca

OPEN 7 DAYS : Mon, Tue, Wed, & Sat, 10am - 6pm | Thur, & Fri, 10am - 8pm | Sunday 12noon - 5pm

The Chilliwack Academy of Music wishes to thank Tom Lee Music for their generosity in providing us with the use of a digital piano for our AGM in September.

The Chilliwack Academy of Music

gratefully acknowledges the support received from the following:

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