

VS (75









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2015/16 Season {at a glance}

9 sold-out performances

\$258,145
INCREASE IN TICKET SALES OVER 2014/15 SEASON





OVER \$2.1 MILLION RAISED THROUGH DONATIONS AND FUNDRAISING

THE VS OFFERED 22% O MORE EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Superstar cellist Yo-Yo Ma joined the VS onstage for a spectacular concert. 138,242 PEOPLE





{season} highlights

Acknowledging our history

For the past 75 years, audiences have discovered the exhilaration of a shared musical experience and witnessed unique beauty unfold on stage as hundreds of musicians have performed with passion and pride. With over 3,000 Concerts, 1,400 Guest Artists and Conductors and 9 Music Directors, the VS has become one of the premier orchestras in Canada. This celebratory 75th Anniversary Season was designed to be a salute to our history and a look forward into the bright future of our continually evolving organization.

The 75th Anniversary season began with a nod to the past as the VS shared the stage with the Naden Band. In the early 1940s, 23 of the 45 members of the early Victoria Symphony were also member of the Naden Band- It was only fitting that the two reunite to kick off this triumphant season!

As the season continued, the VS invited youth from the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra onstage to perform Mussorgsky. Local talent was featured, including popular local solosits Richard Margison, Lorraine Min, Gary Karr, continuing the longstanding VS tradition of celebrating the rich diversity of talent found within the community.

These special performances showcased the evolving artistic excellence of the VS and epitomized the 75th Anniversary tagline- we're just getting warmed up.

Touring

For the first time in our 75 year history, the Victoria Symphony embarked on a tour of Ontario and Quebec. Sponsored by Wayne Strandlund and Fisgard Capital Corporation, this 10-day journey allowed the nation to hear the "greater levels of musicianship" (Globe and Mail) achieved under Music Director Tania Miller's tenure. Joined by pianist Stewart Goodyear, the VS performed in Duncan, Quebec City, Toronto, Ottawa and Vancouver before a triumphant return home. Audiences were in awe of the "verve and passion and volcanic energy" (Ottawa Citizen) of the orchestra, and leapt to their feet in a standing ovation at each city.

The performance in Toronto was a particular triumph. As Tania Miller wrote in the Times Colonist, "the orchestra performed the most beautiful Copland Appalachian Spring I've heard them play, and crowned it all with a truly triumphant Stravinsky Firebird Suite. The audience roared and screamed (well, some of them were from Victoria, it is true) and rose to their feet for our Victoria Symphony. It was an experience that we will always remember and be proud of."

The tour proved to the country that the Victoria Symphony is a rich and extraordinarily talented organization, and can hold its own in the best theatres across the country.



{season} highlights

Renowned collaborators

The 75th season saw many phenomenal collaborations, beloved conductor Brian Jackson led a concert, violinist James Ehnes played Lalo, first-time guest Monica Huggett led the Four Seasons, and pianist Angela Cheng completed the incredible feat of playing all five Beethoven Piano Concerti in one weekend. In addition to these wonderful performances, two very special concerts stood out above the rest: Yo-Yo Ma joined the VS to perform Dvořák's Cello Concerto and former VS Principal Guest Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin led a concert of Tchaikovsky and Bruckner.

The first of the two special anniversary concerts brought world-renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma to the Royal Theatre stage. The incredible musicians of the VS rose to meet Mr. Ma's artistry in the performance of Dvořák's passionate Cello Concerto. The sold-out evening performance provided yet another example of the VS playing world-class music alongside incomparable soloists that would be fit for the greatest concert halls in the world.

The second exceptionally exciting special performance of the season featured the return of beloved former VS Principal Guest Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin. Since the end of his four-year tenure with the VS in 2007, Nézet-Séguin has gone on to lead both the Rotterdam Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra. His electric energy seduced the orchestra and audience alike in an outstanding performance of Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture and Bruckner's Symphony No. 4. Nézet-Séguin has recently been announced as the new Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Community engagement

As public funding initiatives turn towards events that engage the community, the VS continues to grow our education and outreach programs. Our various education programs reach 100% capacity, with more musicians engaging throughout the community than ever before. This season, the VS introduced Take Note, a program designed to assist teachers bringing students to our education concerts. VS Principal Trumpet



player Ryan Cole visited classrooms to introduce children to some of what they would hear at the concert, giving them a more relevant and engaging concert experience.

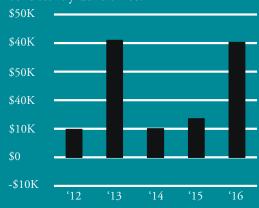
As always, the Symphony in the Summer season culminated with our flagship event, Victoria Symphony Splash. The 26th annual Splash featured two young soloists: accordionist Rebecca Bracewell and trumpet player Ben Parker. Symphony Splash has the largest community engagement of any performing arts event in Canada and remains a point of pride for the VS.



{five year} financial summary

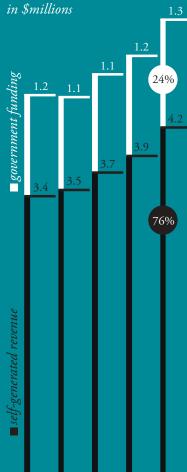
OPERATING REVENUE

The Victoria Symphony Society has been consistently deficit-free.



REVENUE

The Victoria Symphony Society has increased its selfgenerated revenue to 76% in the 2016 fiscal year.



SELF-GENERATED REVENUE

The Victoria Symphony Society has increased its fundraising to offset earned revenue.

in \$millions

2.2

2.1

2.0

1.9

1.8

1.7

1.6

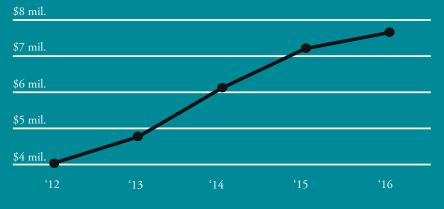
1.5

ENDOWMENT ASSETS

■ donations & fundraising

The Victoria Symphony Foundation endowment has nearly doubled in five years.

earned





President's {report}

2015/16 has been a spectacular year for the Victoria Symphony. Never can I remember such an incredible year.

We had concerts of substantial character and brilliance—concerts where we filled the stage with a great many players. These were concerts that, in the past, we would never have attempted to perform but they were done well and received by very appreciative and enthusiastic audiences. Once again our beloved Tania led this orchestra to a new high and Yannick Nézet-Séguin topped everything off like a candle on a cake.

Probably the highlight of the year for me personally was attending the Ottawa concert in our National Arts Centre on our 75th Anniversary Tour. For me, knowing that our Victoria Symphony orchestra was recognized and honoured on that stage was a stamp of great accomplishment for all of us. Indeed, the 75th

Anniversary Tour welded that orchestra together as no other particular experience could and I was proud to be there with them. On top of all that, we had a year of substantial economic success—another item of pride.

I must take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors and donors who have contributed in such a major way to the cultural life of Victoria. A personal thank you to my Board and, in particular, to my Executive—you have worked hard and supported our efforts in an affirming manner. Supporting all of this lies an appreciation for our staff and our musicians in their undying efforts to create a better musical scene for our community.

I look forward to another good year in 2016/17.

Brian Butler

President, Board of Directors

15/16 {board of directors}

Brian Butler, President Grant Ackerman April-Dawn Best Dallas Chapple Wendy Clay Ethne Cullen Joan Hesketh Jim Hesser Alan Hollingworth

Patricia Lortie Margot Northey Michael Oswald Christine Prince Valerie Raymond Terry Scandrett Michael Warren Moses Watson

CEO & Executive Director's {report}

This has been an extraordinary year for the Victoria Symphony as we celebrated the organization's 75th anniversary and showcased some of the finest talent in the world while continuing to raise our level of artistic excellence and achieve a surplus to our bottom line. Tania Miller, Mitchell Krieger (our previous Executive Director), and our Board of Directors chose to think big and bold in presenting this season's programs and in supporting the orchestra as it embarked on a national tour that garnered critical acclaim and standing ovations at prestigious venues across the country. We have firmly planted our presence on the national stage. Acknowledgements must go to our remarkable musicians, the staff, donors and patrons, and funders for their unwavering support in ensuring the incredible success of this milestone anniversary.

International artists graced the stage at the Royal Theatre in support of our celebrations including Canadian conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the newly appointed Music Director of the Metropolitan Opera, and the astounding Yo-Yo Ma who mesmerized the audience with his unprecedented musicianship, communication and artistry. And our community outreach continued to expand and impress with the huge success of the Victory Symphony's 26th Splash that attracted 45,000 attendees this year and featured two talented young soloists. Our Education

Outreach program continued to grow reaching over 13,000 students through Masterclasses, Education Concerts, Music in Schools, Take Note and other outreach programs. Our desire to position the Victoria Symphony as relevant and meaningful to our community is reflected in all of these activities which engaged over 135,000 people this past year.

The Board of Directors and administration also worked tirelessly at refining the organization's strategic directions to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to a strong financial plan for sustainability, building a diversified audience, raising artistic standards and extending our reach into the community.

The events of this 75th anniversary season have forever changed us, the musical highlights imbedded in our memories for years to come. We aspired to achieve outstanding artistic excellence and financial success, and through the efforts and generosity of many we hit the mark on both accounts. We look forward to the next 75 years of contributing to the cultural vibrancy of Victoria and the region with our endeavours to enrich lives through extraordinary music.

Kathryn Laurin CEO & Executive Director

15/16 {administration staff}

Kathryn Laurin, CEO & Executive Director Mitchell Krieger, Executive Director (through June, 2016)

Russell Bajer, Librarian

Karen Batchelor, Senior Development Officer

Cheryl Berg, Box Office Representative

Rachael Blaseckie, Executive Coordinator

Peter Burris, Orchestra Manager

Ronald Comber, Assistant Librarian

Sandy Grayson, Community Relations Coordinator

Tess Hann, Development Coordinator

Sarah Head, Marketing and Splash Coordinator

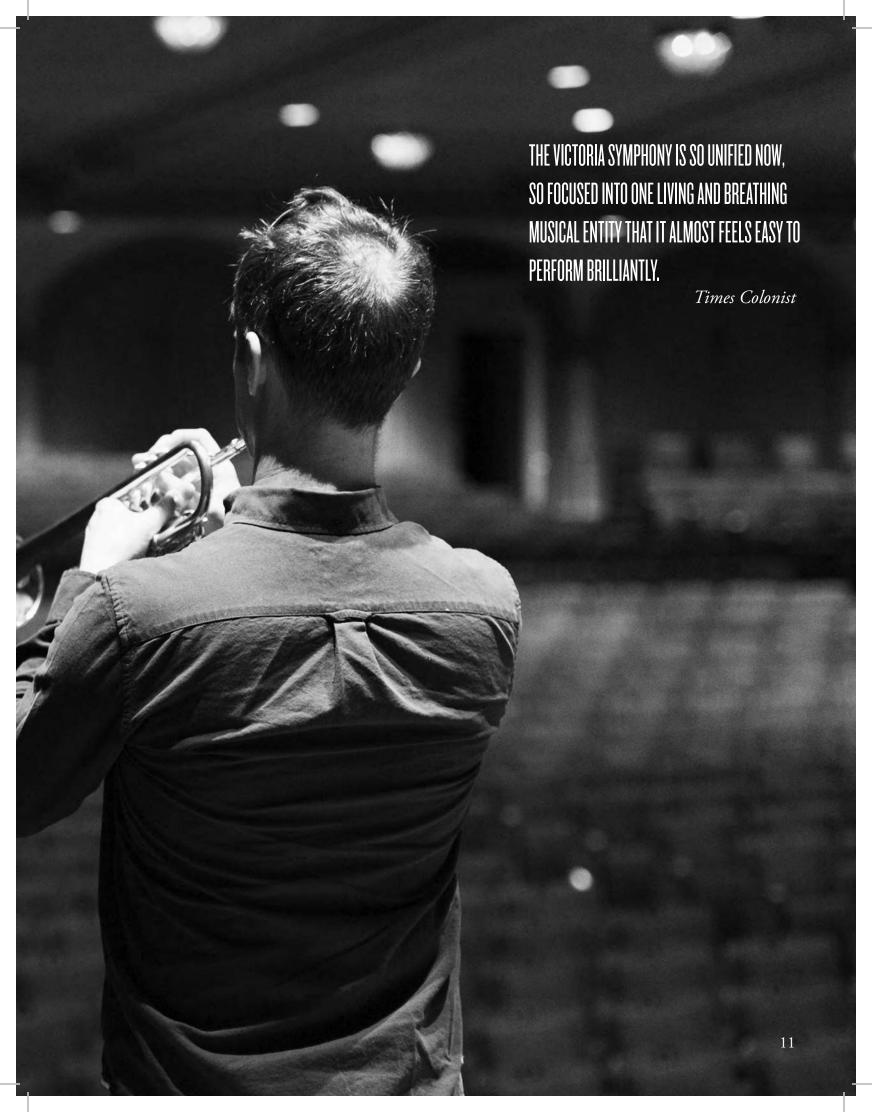
Molly Patton, Marketing Coordinator

Elizabeth Skillings, Director of Finance

Jill Smillie, Director of Marketing

Lorraine Tanner, Director of Development

Alanna Tynan, Planned Giving Coordinator



Treasurer's {report}

The Executive and Finance Committee of the VSS Board of Directors is responsible for monitoring the finances and financial planning of the VSS and regularly reviews its financial and administrative systems and controls.

During the year ended May 31, 2016 the Committee met with VSS management 8 times to discuss its financial results compared to our 2016 budget and the previous year's results. At three meetings we discussed management's proposed budget for 2016/17 before they presented it to the Board for approval. Before the auditors finalized their audit, I spoke with them about any issues they had discovered during their audit of

which the Board should be aware. I was assured there were none.

The VSS ended the 2016 fiscal year with an excess of revenues over expenditures of \$40,298. This positive result was achieved through strong revenues from subscriptions, donations, the once in a lifetime Yo-Yo Ma concert as well as our very successful cross-Canada tour. Once again, management did an exceptional job of managing our costs most of which were less than expected.

Terry Scandrett

Treasurer, Board of Directors

{statement} of operations

	Year Ended May 31, 2016 \$	Year Ended May 31, 2015 \$
Revenues:		
Earned	2,120,812	1,695,661
Donations and fundraising	2,111,767	2,187,130
Government grants	1,312,058	1,230,127
	5,544,637	5,112,918
Expenditures:		
Artistic	2,744,161	2,634,050
Production	774,129	584,525
Marketing	388,654	368,086
Box office	153,183	132,320
Development and fundraising	258,529	302,378
Administration	998,825	968,019
Contribution to the Victoria Symphony Foundation	186,858	109,959
	5,504,339	5,099,337
Excess of revenues over expenditures:	40,298	13,581

For the complete audited financials, please visit http://victoriasymphony.ca/about-us/financial-statements/

Victoria Symphony Foundation {report}

The Victoria Symphony Foundation (VSF) was incorporated under the BC Societies Act in 1958 to provide long term support to the Victoria Symphony Society (VSS) in the advancement of orchestral music. The VSF operates separately from the VSS as its own Society and is governed by a board of eight Directors. Funds invested by the VSF generate earnings in the form of income, dividends and capital gains that contribute to the funding of the VSS.

Donations received by the VSS throughout each year as part of annual fundraising are used by the VSS to support ongoing operations. Contributions used to support the future operations of the VSS are received by the VSF and are invested by the VSF's Portfolio Manager under the guidance of the Directors in accordance with the wishes of the individual donor.

Assets of, and contributions to the Foundation are allocated to either the Endowment and Restricted Fund or the Unrestricted Fund depending on the wishes of the donor. In addition to this year,

the Endowment and Restricted Fund received \$524,490 in matching funds from the Department of Canadian Heritage: Canada Cultural Investment Fund Endowment Incentives program to be held in perpetuity. The VSF hopes this highly supportive Federal Government program continues to help reach our 2019 goal of \$12 million in endowment. This has been a busy year for the Directors of the VSF. Following an in-depth review process, in December 2016, the VSF appointed the Vancouver Office of Jarislowsky Fraser Global Investment Management as the new investment portfolio manager. The VSF has also undertaken to update its Investment Policy Statement, By-Laws and develop a Gift Acceptance Policy.

Thank you to all donors and supporters of the Victoria Symphony Foundation for helping our beloved Victoria Symphony reach new heights.

Steve McKerrell

President, Victoria Symphony Foundation

{15/16} VSF Board of Directors

Trudi Brown, Secretary Brian Butler (VSS President, ex officio) Marsha Hanen John Heraghty, Treasurer Steve McKerrell, President Shelagh Rinald Terry Scandrett (VSS Treasurer, ex officio) Harry Swain (VSS Appointee)

Foundation {assets}

Assets	Year Ended May 31, 2016 \$	Year Ended May 31, 2015 \$	Year Ended May 31, 2014 \$
Endowment and restricted	7,826,736	6,756,147	5,713,981
Unrestricted	21,609	849,675	1,339,571
	7,826,736	7,605,822	7,053,552

For the complete audited financials, please visit http://victoriasymphony.ca/support-2/planned-giving/foundation-for-the-victoria-symphony/foundation-financial-statements/

Music has the power to transport us collectively into places and through expressive moments in a way that nothing else can. How is it possible to describe with words the impact and experience of the artistic journey that this orchestra made in its 75th anniversary season? The answers were in the soaring horn and trumpet solos of Mahler Symphony No. 5, the mesmerized devotion to every nuance of Yo-Yo Ma, the joy and energy of reuniting with Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the spirit of community in sharing the stage with the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra and other Victoria arts organizations, and the sheer pride and self-realization of greatness in the Victoria Symphony's tour across Canada. The joy was in sharing it with our devoted and cheering audience as we celebrated the beauty of music together, and its impact on our community was a special moment in the history of this orchestra. And the honor was in sharing the stage this season with so many brilliant solo artists including James Ehnes, Angela Cheng, Stewart Goodyear, Lorraine Min, Monica Huggett and so many others.

It was particularly special to present a Beethoven Festival with the five piano concertos performed by Angela Cheng along with Symphony No. 1 and No. 3 "Eroica" and supported, along with the tour and many other concerts, by our 75th anniversary season sponsor Wayne Strandlund and Fisgard Capital. Victoria artists played an important and cherished role in this historical season: Terry Tam, Brian Yoon, Christi Meyers, Richard Margison, Susan Platts, the renowned Gary Karr, Tori Lindsay, Corey Rae, and even past Principal Horn David Cooper were all a part of this celebration of Victoria and its artistic crown jewel, the Victoria Symphony. And in this special season, we remembered the importance of art of our time, and commissioned new premieres from Victoria composer Christopher Butterfield and our own composer-inresidence Jared Miller.

The 75th anniversary tour was an experience that none of us will ever forget. With the orchestra's exceptional

performances in Duncan, Quebec City, Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver and Victoria, the Victoria Symphony brought pride and awareness about the orchestra's talents, artistry, and ambition to a greater national public. The orchestra gained an elevated connection to its own community from the publicity and exposure of the orchestra through the tour as well as the presentation of such exciting artists and concerts at home.

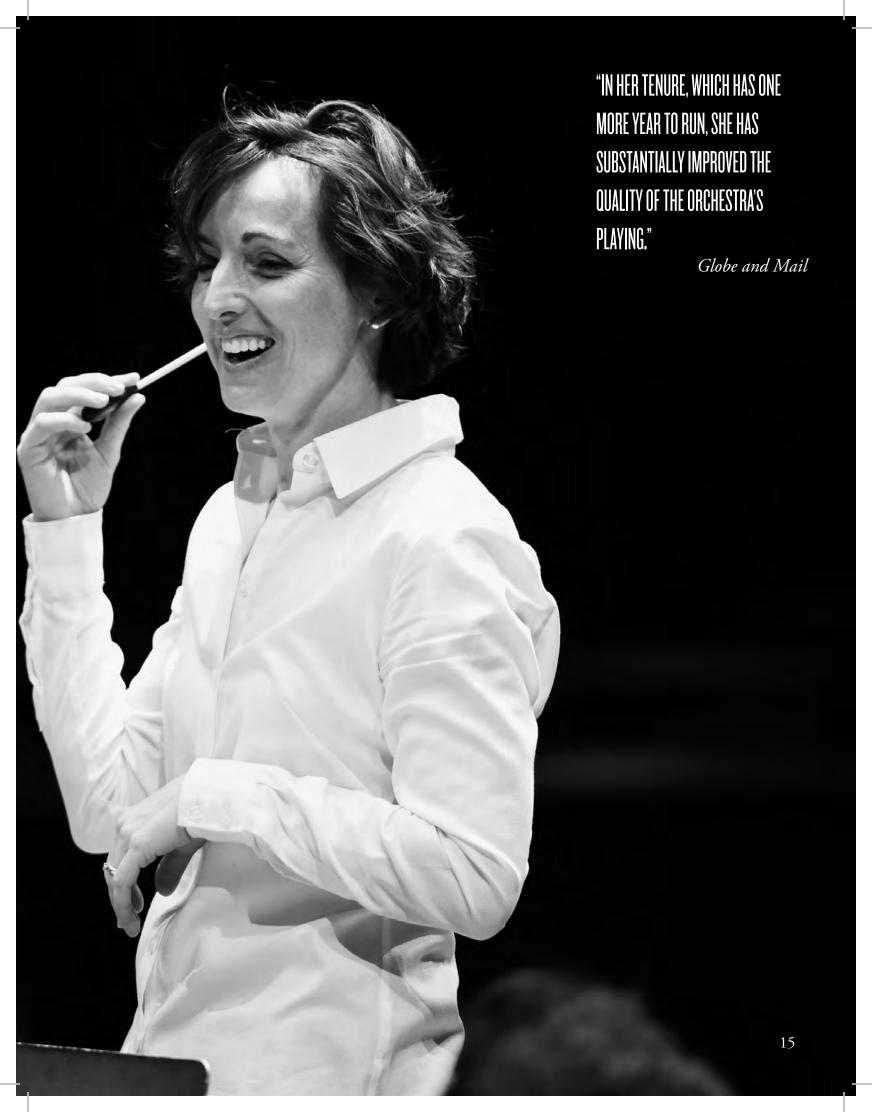
The season opened with a celebration of community with a gala concert featuring a collaboration with the Naden Band and the orchestra's start in the community 75 years ago. We looked back through the orchestra's history and celebrated its roots and development over the years. We finished the season with a joyous and celebratory coming together of community as we invited Victoria choirs and soloists to join with us in grand performances of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

Throughout the season, the orchestra cherished its support from so many citizens and organizations in the community who made this season possible through their financial support. Our relationships and ties to this community were heightened and reflected upon as we explored the history of the orchestra through to this 75th anniversary.

In particular, the orchestra showed commitment and artistry throughout the season, elevating yet again their artistic qualities as an ensemble. It was a season packed with pride and accomplishment, but of all of the things to cherish, the most important was the men and women of the orchestra who realized the dreams of the season with impressive and heartfelt beauty, and who made this a historical season to remember always.

Tania Miller

Jama Willer





Musicians' {report}

The 2015/16 Season was an exciting and busy season for the VS musicians. During our 34 week Regular season, we performed 88 concerts of 41 unique programs. Our collaborations included productions with the Naden Band, Pacific Opera Victoria, Ballet Victoria, Alberta Ballet, the Victoria Choral Society, the Vox Humana Choir, the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra, Cirque de la Symphonie, and the Victoria Philharmonic Choir. In addition to the regular season, the preceding Summer Season consisted of seven performances of five unique programs – all within a 12-day period!

From the musician perspective, our 75th anniversary season was chock-full of highlights. A stand out was Yannick Nézet-Séguin's return, conducting Bruckner's Fourth Symphony. Yannick brings a joy and intensity that are impossible to resist. The energy on stage during the rehearsals and concert will certainly be remembered for many years. Similar experiences were delivered by David Danzmayr and Christian Kluxen, two talented conductors making debuts in Victoria.

Large orchestral works were a centerpiece of the celebratory season. One such work, Stravinsky's Firebird, was the main feature of the VS's tour of several Canadian music centres. Tania Miller was a great ambassador for Victoria and the VS and we were proud of the product we brought on the road. We were treated to receptions organized by our counterparts in Quebec City and Vancouver, and in each venue, members of the host orchestra came backstage to greet us. Our musicians were very interested to see how different acoustics would affect the orchestra's sound and ability to hear one another across the stage. It turns out the orchestra sounds much better (and bigger) in the acoustic of other

performance halls. This has certainly renewed the discussion of a performing arts centre that matches and enhances the caliber of our orchestra.

A new contract with the musicians was finalized during the course of the season that continued the steady growth trajectory that is crucial to be able to retain and attract the best possible talent. While it is easy to find stories of mismanagement and red ink in the news, that is not an accurate full picture. As the saying goes: if it bleeds it leads. There are many cases for optimism in North America. Kansas City has seen all-time records set for attendance with tremendous growth in the organization, Cleveland is reporting attendance records with budget surpluses, and Detroit and Atlanta – organizations that had been struggling in previous years – are seeing strong donations and financial stability.

Looking back, we are indebted and thankful to Tania Miller for her key role in the artistic growth of the orchestra. With the passing of the baton near on the horizon, and with the strong foundation being laid by our board and administration, the Victoria Symphony is poised for another era of growth, artistic expansion, and thus continuing to increase and improve our concert offerings to our community.

I'd like to close by thanking all of you who contribute to the well-being of the Victoria Symphony family; staff, board, volunteers and audience members, and we look forward in sharing another successful season with

Michael Oswald

Chair, Victoria Symphony Players Committee

THE VICTORIA SYMPHONY IS SO UNIFIED NOW, SO FOCUSED INTO ONE LIVING AND BREATHING MUSICAL ENTITY THAT IT ALMOST FEELS EASY TO PERFORM BRILLIANTLY.

Tania Miller



{orchestra}

Tania MillerMusic Director

VIOLINS

Terence Tam, Concertmaster Christi Meyers,
Assistant Concertmaster Victoria Lindsay,*
Principal 2nd Violin
Emily Salmon,
Acting Principal 2nd Violin
Cory Balzer**
Müge Büyükçelen-Badel
Courtney Cameron
Tyson Doknjas†
Michele Kwon*
Tina Park†

Bernhard Gueller

Principal Guest Conductor

violins cont.
Christopher Taber
Julian Vitek
Megan Dalke
Misako Sotozaki
Shima Takeda
Daphne van der Sloot

Mariana Vitek

Kathryn Wiebe

VIOLAS

Kenji Fuse, Principal Stacey Boal Kay Cochran Mieka Michaux

Giuseppe Pietraroia

Conductor in Residence

violas cont. Christine Prince Jennifer MacLeod

CELLI

Brian Yoon, Principal Martin Bonham celli cont. Joyce Ellwood Perry Foster Alasdair Money

BASSES

Mary Rannie, Principal Darren Buhr

Jared Miller

Composer in Residence

basses cont. Alex Olson

FILITES

Richard Volet, Principal Sally Harvey Mary Byrne

PICCOLO

Sally Harvey

OBOES

Michael Byrne, Principal Russell Bajer



ENGLISH HORN

Russell Bajer

CLARINETS

Keith MacLeod, Principal Jennifer Christensen

BASS CLARINET

Jennifer Christensen

BASSOONS

Jennifer Gunter, Principal* Anne Marie Power, Acting Principal Nancy van Oort

HORNS

Alana Despins, Principal

horns cont.

Michael Oswald Janet Parker Dan Moses

TRUMPETS

Ryan Cole, Principal David Michaux

TROMBONES

Brad Howland, Principal Marcus Hissen

BASS TROMBONE

Robert Fraser

TUBA

Paul Beauchesne, Principal

TIMPANI

William Linwood, Principa

PERCUSSION

Corey Rae, Principal Rob Pearce Masako Hockey

HARP

Annabelle Stanley, Principal

PIANO

Tzenka Dianova, Principal

HARPSICHORD/CHAMBER ORGAN

Colin Tilney, Principal

ORCHESTRA MANAGER

Peter Burris

STAGE MANAGER

Eric Gallipo

LIBRARIAN

Russell Bajer Ronald Comber, Associate

*on leave

** Alphabetical listing of players in a system of rotating seating within the section. †one year appointment



{supporters}

Annual giving is a cornerstone of the Victoria Symphony's fundraising efforts. This year's amazing results truly show the commitment the Greater Victoria community has to the Victoria Symphony and our artistic and educational endeavours. The Victoria Symphony graciously acknowledges the following supporters gifts in the 2016 fiscal year.



CONDUCTOR'S CIRCLE

Harry and Julie Swain, Chairs HONORARY ARTISTIC PATRON:

ANTON KUERTI, OC

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Anonymous (2)

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75th Anniversary Season & Legacy Tour Sponsor:

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In honour of the late Philip Potash and Barbara and Kim Potash

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Christi Meyers: MARSHA HANEN Kenji Fuse: SANDRA LACKENBAUER

Brian Yoon: JULIE SWAIN

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Anonymous (8)

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PEARL (\$1,500+)

Anonymous (1)

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John S. Walton

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SILVER (\$1,000+)

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Peter & Heather Fisher

Ann Gibson

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memory of Nels Granewall

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