



vsNEW – Victoria Symphony New Explorations Workshops 2024-25

vsNEW is an innovative program in which young students can explore and experiment with composition and write new works for a small ensemble of dedicated Victoria Symphony Musicians. 2024-25 is the 19th year vsNEW has been a part of the VS Education programs.

This year vsNEW is led by Composer-Mentor Taylor Brook and an ensemble of VS musicians. The sessions take place on most Wednesday evenings 6.30-8pm from September 25 through March during school term. These sessions include meetings with an ensemble of musicians where composers bring their pieces in various stages of completion to be read through by the musicians, which is followed by discussion. From the most basic to the most complex, many musical issues arise and it is a great learning experience for everyone. There are also monthly seminars and private lessons with the Composer-Mentor. Private lesson times will be arranged after the first meeting. The program culminates in a final performance open to public in April. There are no fees to participate.

The Program is unique and only one of its kind in Canada. The Victoria Symphony is proud of this program's success and many young composers have won local, provincial and even national awards through it.

Requirements for student participation:

1. You currently study on a regular basis with a music teacher who can oversee and support the writing process (not necessarily a composition teacher).
2. Age range 11-18 (Middle School to High School)
3. Some prior composing experience. This can be a song, a solo instrument work, or a piece with multiple instruments.
4. The ability to properly notate and have experience writing your own music. The musicians will be reading directly from the students' scores/ parts. Students will be expected to provide pdfs of parts and scores approximately one week prior to each workshop with musicians.
5. Participation at all workshops is expected, except in the case of emergencies or sickness. Any foreseeable absences due to other commitments need to be discussed and approved well in advance.



vsNEW 2024-25 DATES AND TIMES:

Please note dates are subject to change.

Venue: Social Suite at First Metropolitan Church, 932 Balmoral Rd.

September 18th application deadline. Applicants will be contacted on September 20th.

Wedn Sept 25 6.30-7.30pm	First meeting
Wedn Oct 2 6.30-8pm	First meeting with the musicians
Wedn Oct 16 6.30-8pm	Seminar
Wedn Oct 23 5-8pm	Private lessons, 30mins each: lesson times to be confirmed at the first meeting
Wedn Nov 6 6.30-8pm	First reading of compositions with the musicians
Wedn Nov 13 6.30-8pm	Seminar
Wedn Nov 20 5-8pm	Private lessons, 30mins each
Wedn Nov 27 6.30-8pm	Second reading and informal performance with the musicians
Wedn Jan 8 6.30-8pm	Seminar
Wedn Jan 15 5-8pm	Private Lessons, 30mins each
Wedn Feb 5 6.30-8pm	First reading of spring compositions with musicians
Wedn Feb 12 6.30-8pm	Seminar
Wedn Feb 26 5-8pm	Private lessons, 30mins each
Wedn March 5 6.30-8pm	Second reading of spring compositions with musicians
Fri April 4 6.30-9pm	Dress rehearsal (venue tbc)
Sat April 5 2.30pm	Final concert (venue tbc)



Application Form:

Please submit this completed application form, score(s) and audio recording(s) (if you have one) of 1 – 3 pieces you have composed by no later than September 18th 2024 11:59pm. Scores can be handwritten or written with notation software. Works do not have to be completed.

All application materials should be sent to soile@victoriasymphony.ca.

If you have any questions, please contact the program coordinator Soile Stratkauskas (250-412-1975) or soile@victoriasymphony.ca.

Full name: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Address: _____ **Postal Code:** _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

Guardian's name: _____

Guardian's phone: _____

Guardian's email : _____

How long have you been composing for?: _____

What instruments do you play?: _____

Name of School: _____

Teacher's name (music/instrument/or composition - please specify which):

Teacher's email: _____



Please tell us about your experience with music and composing, and why you wish to be part of this program. List compositions and festivals where applicable. (*max. 500 words, use separate sheet if necessary*)