

# Newsletter

## Vancouver Cello Club

SEPTEMBER 2006

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Secretary, Ilona Scharer

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### Ernest Collins... *a tribute*

Many years ago a wonderful thing happened in Regina, Saskatchewan. Power hired a young, brilliant lawyer from the U.K. But of greater importance was that this man was a fine cellist.

I met Ernest first of all at a rehearsal of the community symphony where his leadership and attitude soon helped make a noticeable difference. To this add Ernest's "pied piper" influence that attracted a number of students, two of whom were ours. Some of them have gone into the profession and others are using it, like Ernest, as a great interest in their lives.

Not only did the symphony benefit but a string quartet materialized. We even received a Canada Council grant to tour many remote places in the Province. We became a quintet from time to time when Gordon McLean, an outstanding pianist, joined us. In one small community hall Gordon was asked how he found the piano. The reply, "I merely felt around and there it was."

Then Ernest left for B.C. Hydro and our association lapsed until we moved out a few years later. We soon got together again as time permitted with quartets, chamber music and cello and violin duets. We explored some interesting contemporary material.

The year 2005 dawned with Saskatchewan Centennial Celebrations. Ernest was privy to a bit of drama happening in 1906 dealing with the land grants. The Centennial Committee was interested so Ernest, with access to legal files, wrote a fine scenario. Unfortunately, the Committee dropped the idea. Most of the celebrations were mindless events, not like 50 years ago when a number of lasting artistic events happened.

Ernest sent me the scenario and it suggested the writing of a chamber opera. Ernest agreed and I tried to rush a conclusion before his passing. He did see the beginning. It is nearing conclusion and somehow it needs to be performed.

On a personal note, Ernest & Ethel became fine friends, to the point of being God parents to son, Hugh, who was a tower of strength during Ernest's passing and after.

Ernest Collins... a scholar... a musician... a gentleman... and a beloved friend.

*Lloyd Blackman*

Soon after settling in Vancouver, some fifty years ago, I met Ernest and Ethel Collins at their tranquil home in West Vancouver. Ernest was a lawyer for B.C. Hydro where, I'm sure, he had to deal with huge issues and Ernest was a very good cellist whose life-long passion with playing transcended the word 'amateur' when, a few years later, we asked Ernest to put together a constitution for our new 'Vancouver Cello Club' we unknowingly brought two threads of his life together. He wrote up a simple constitution which, to my knowledge, we've never had to revisit and Ernest remained on the Executive until very

recently. (Thanks to the federal government, we had to change our Student Membership section. Editor)

I'm sure the clarity of mind and the humour twinkling in his eyes resolved the confrontations at B.C. Hydro as they did for the more trivial problems that occasionally came our way at the Vancouver Cello Club. Ernest's passion for music was not confined to the cello. His interests ranged from baroque performing practices, problems of projection and natural amplification, career-building for aspiring musicians as well as support for contemporary composers. Ernest even wrote an essay on 'The exotic aspects of texts used in the Cantatas of Bach'.

Ernest was a discreet person; he quietly funded students, concerts and other causes he felt important. Not long ago, Ernest gave a private performance of a sonata by Wolfgang Bottenberg. It was music Ernest felt strongly about and felt that the composer should be better represented in the concert halls.

As I listened I remembered a story Ernest had told me – about D-day 1944 when a much younger Ernest Collins had to confront his mortality and his duty for his country. Ernest was picked to be the first soldier to land on the beach in Normandy. He was to run up the beach and place markers for his comrades. As Ernest said, "I didn't fancy my chances of surviving the day, so I put my personal affairs in order". As it happened, plans changed, somebody else was assigned Ernest's job and Ernest was told to follow up the beach forty minutes after the first landings.

It happened that Ernest met his replacement after the war and asked him how it was, "Piece of cake mate: ran up the beach, placed the markers, dug a foxhole and watched the whole firework show from there".

There was saved, a quiet, sophisticated, intelligent and compassionate man to come to Canada and serve the communities he found here with so much generosity. When we put our cellos away can we please raise our glasses to the "Importance of being Ernest".

*Ian Hampton, Past President, Vancouver Cello Club*



Ernest Collins

1920 – 2006

# Some of my Memories of Ernest Collins

When Ernest decided it was time to retire as secretary of the Vancouver Cello Club, I felt like I had lost my right hand, and more. Now I was the only original Executive member left. Ernest had guided our Club with a firm, gentle hand and a wicked wit for so many years. He passed on to me the ongoing battle with the federal government in Ottawa over our business vs student membership which took another year to resolve. (Karla Kruger and I became "good friends" on the telephone and snail mail.) I am reprinting one of Ernest's pithy letters during this period to the Commissioner of Customs & Revenue – it says it all.

Ernest was a generous man both in time, patience and money to a number of musical organizations. I remember visiting his office at B.C. Hydro where a picture hung of a cello scroll rather than a dam! Ernest always helped out financially, behind the scenes and always asked after our Caroline E. Riley Scholarship winners. He attended many of our play-ins, our adult ensemble classes and student recitals and masterclasses.

Cello Clubs need people like Ernest who love music passionately, support musical activities and, in his case, the special legal knowledge that set our constitution and enabled the Executive to survive all the trials through the years.

I miss you Ernest – thank you for 36 years.

*Judy Fraser, Editor/Treasurer Vancouver Cello Club*

## AN EXAMPLE OF PURE ERNEST...

Ernest Collins  
1407 Haywood Avenue, West Vancouver, BC, Canada V7T 1V5

April 9, 2003

Rob Wright  
Commissioner of Customs & Revenue  
1166 West Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC  
V6E 3H8

Dear Sir,

**Re: Vancouver Cello Club / BN 11928 1368**

I have received at this address your letter of March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please note that I am no longer secretary of the Club, but I will be glad to pass it to the current officers, if you will first provide some clarification.

You refer to a "review" of the Club's "business". The club does not carry on any business in the ordinary sense of the word, so in that sense, there is nothing to "review".

You give the name of the account as "Corporation Income Tax". As a registered charity, the Club does not pay income tax. Further, if for some unforeseen reason, the Club were to cease being a registered charity, it would be obliged, under the Society's Act of B.C. and its own constitution, to transfer its assets to another registered charity, in which event, the Club's assets would be NIL and income tax would still not be payable.

I do not wish to be uncooperative, but I am reluctant to burden the current officers of the club with the task of responding to a communication which, frankly, has no discernable purpose. But if you will be so kind as to explain, in language comprehensible to an ordinary intelligence, what your purpose and objectives are in requiring this information, we will endeavour to oblige. Alternatively, you may wish to obtain the information you need from your C.C.R.A. colleagues in Ottawa, where it is all on file. After all, they are paid for this kind of thing, I am not.

I await, Sir, your clarification.

Yours truly,  
Ernest Collins

cc: Dawn Binnington, Secretary, Cello Club of Vancouver  
Judith Fraser, Treasurer, Cello Club of Vancouver  
Lee Duckles, President, Cello Club of Vancouver

## President's Message

Welcome to our Fall 2006 Cello Club Newsletter and the start of our 37<sup>th</sup> season.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Ernest Collins who passed away on June 6, 2006 – coincidentally, the date of the Cello Club's last Annual General Meeting. Ernest, for those readers who did not have the privilege of know him personally, was an avid cellist and a life-long supporter of the arts community. He was one of the founding fathers of the Vancouver Cello Club, the author of our Constitution and By-laws and, for over thirty years, the recording secretary of the Club. His numerous contributions to the Cello Club defy description. Ernest was involved at every level of the Club's activities – as a member of the Executive Committee, as a concert-goer, concert organizer, concert participant, benefactor, archivist, arranger, and writer. He was a sterling example of an 'amateur' patron

– a true lover of the cello and all things cellistic. He will be sorely missed.

As usual, this newsletter includes all the latest news of Vancouver's burgeoning cello community, a Concert Calendar, free classifieds, and reprinted material from some of our fellow cello organizations across the continent – all for an incredibly modest subscription fee. I urge you to subscribe to the newsletter, take out a membership and support your Cello Club. Student subscribers to the newsletter are eligible for a growing number of bursaries and assistance grants, the most significant being the Caroline E. Riley Scholarship which is awarded in June. Your subscription supports a huge variety of activities and allows the Club to arrange classes and concerts with some of our leading cellists. Good things happen with your support!

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## President's Message cont'd.

Cellists have been in the international news recently. Cellists **Stephen Isserlis, Ralph Kirshbaum** and **Julian Lloyd Weber** have all been extremely active in voicing their opinions regarding the severe restrictions now facing travelling musicians in Europe. Since events in August, all British airlines (and some North American airlines) have restricted musicians from travelling with their instruments in aircraft cabins. Largely through the efforts of these cellists, the British Musician's Union has now started a campaign to lobby the British Parliament to change these severe travel restrictions to allow musicians to accompany their instruments. We hope that they prevail in their efforts to get politicians on side to help usher in a new policy to protect both musicians' instruments and their livelihoods. The cello community depends on the safe transport of both instruments and artists.

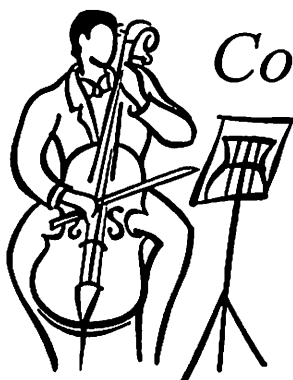
On the local concert scene, Vancouver will have its share of great concerts and performers this season. In the next few months, a number of ensembles will be

making their Vancouver debuts, notably the Brentano String Quartet, Trio Nobilis, and the Bronfman – Shaham – Mork Piano Trio. The VSO will feature **Shauna Rolston, Alban Gerhardt, Lee Duckles** and **Johannes Moser** as soloists this season. Check your Concert Calendar for the specific dates and venues. Also, the Vancouver Cello Club will proudly be, again, a sponsor for the Banff Cello Fest in February, 2007. This weekend workshop in Alberta takes place very two years and features masterclasses with some of the most important names in cello pedagogy in North America. We hope to have further details in subsequent newsletters.

Finally, if you have articles, reviews, or letters that you would like to share, please feel free to pass them on to our newsletter. We welcome your participation and input.

I look forward to seeing you at the next cello function.

Lee Duckles, President



## Concert Calendar

- **October 24-27 / 11:00 a.m. / Vancouver Academy**  
Brentano String Quartet, "Music in the Morning"
- **October 29 / 8:00 p.m. / Chan Centre**  
Truls Mork with Yefim Bronfman and Gil Shaham
- **November 14-17 / 11:00 a.m. / Vancouver Academy**  
Trio Nobilis, "Music in the Morning"
- **November 18 & 20 / 8:00 p.m. / Orpheum Theatre**  
Shauna Rolston plays Kulesha with VSO
- **December 2 & 4 / 8:00 p.m. / Orpheum Theatre**  
Alban Gerhardt performs Shostakovich with VSO
- **February 17 / 8:00 p.m. / Shaughnessy Heights United Church**  
Carina Reeves performs Shostakovich Concerto #1
- **April 24 / 7:30 p.m. / Vancouver Academy**  
Paul Marleyn in Recital with Silvia Fraser, Piano
- **February 2 & 4 / 8:00 p.m. / Orpheum Theatre**  
Lee Duckles performs Kernis with VSO
- **March 9 & 10 / 8:00 p.m. / Chan Centre**  
Johannes Moser plays Haydn C with VSO
- **Last Monday in the Month / 7:30 p.m.**  
**VAM, 1270 Chestnut, Room 22B**  
Adult Ensemble Class – All Levels Welcome

## Minutes to 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of The Vancouver Cello Club Vancouver Academy of Music – June 6, 2006

Welcome from Lee Duckles.

### 1. Approval of the Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting. Motion seconded and carried unanimously. Attendance 30.

### 2. President's Report

On June 6, 2006, Ernest Collins, one of the founding fathers of The Vancouver Cello Club passed away. Over many years he devoted his time, energy, music and his own resources to the success of the Cello Club. A minute of silence was observed in his memory.

It was a banner year for The Vancouver Cello Club.

The Vancouver Cello Club continues to maintain three funds through the Vancouver Foundation: The Audrey Piggott fund, the Catherine Carmack Fund, and the Caroline E. Riley Fund. Bursaries and assistance grants from those grants were dispersed to deserving students in January and May.

Over the past season, The Vancouver Cello Club published 3 newsletters.

The Vancouver Cello Club sponsored four major events this season:

- November – Masterclass with visiting guest artist Jean-Guihen Queyras. Thanks to Dawn Binnington for her assistance in organizing the event.
- January – Three masterclass/workshops, plus an evening recital and reception with Seattle cellist, Amos Yang.
- May – Three masterclasses and a teacher's luncheon with visiting artist and principle cellist of the Cleveland Orchestra, Desmond Hoebig, thanks to the indispensable efforts of Judith Fraser. Desmond Hoebig also adjudicated the annual Caroline E. Riley competition, won by Christina Davies with a second award to Theo Hall.
- May – Afternoon class on the Bach Suites with baroque music specialist and the director of the Smithsonian music Division, Ken Slowick. Thanks to Joseph Elsworth for organizing the class.

The Club continues the Adult Ensembles at the Academy on the last Monday of the month.

In April Club members took part in a Suzuki strings workshop held at the Academy, organized by Audrey Nodwell, head of the Suzuki Cello Dept. at the VAM.

Next season's concert highlights include performances by Cristian Markos in a solo VAM recital, Paul Marleyn in the spring, and the Vancouver appearance of Truls Mork on the VRS series in a piano trio. Cellists Shauna Rolston, Alban Gerhardt, Lee Duckles, and Johannes Moser will be performing with the VSO on their various series. The Cello Club also hopes to promote a fund raising "movie night" featuring new or unseen cello concert videos.

Motion to approve the President's report made, seconded and carried.

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**3. Treasurer's Report**

The most important thing is that there is only \$200 left in the account because of all the masterclasses and workshops without fees, plus the accompanist fees have gone up. Request to please pay fees tonight.

The Combined Summer Bursary money had more people who needed financial help this year.

	Newsletters and Postage .....	\$ 935.23
	Masterclasses (4) .....	\$ 4,350.00
	Accompanist fees .....	\$ 850.00
Account #5 (chequing Account)	In.....	\$ 21,313.34
	Out.....	<u>21,113.19</u>
	Balance.....	\$ 200.15

Motion to approve the accounts moved, seconded and carried.

**4. Membership Dues**

There is a new fee structure for membership dues:

Contributing Member .....	\$50.00
Sustaining Member .....	\$35.00 – \$49.00
Family or Individual member.....	\$25.00
Out-of-town Member .....	\$20.00
Newsletter Subscription .....	\$20.00

Motion to approve new fee structure moved, seconded and carried unanimously.

**5. Presentation of Awards**

The Caroline E. Riley Scholarship awarded to young cellists leaving the area was presented to Christina Davies and Theo Hall.

Summer bursaries were presented to Jonathan Lo, Ilona Scharer, Alex Ferguson, Noah James, Haigan Day, and Rosanna Butterfield.

**6. Election of Officers**

President.....	Lee Duckles
Treasurer .....	Judith Fraser
Secretary .....	Ilona Scharer
VSO Representative .....	Cristian Markos
Student Representative .....	Rosanna Butterfield
Members at Large.....	Brian Mix, Dawn Binnington, Heather Hay, Janet Steinberg

Motion to approve officers moved, seconded and carried.

**7. New and Other Business**

Judy is in negotiations with The Banff Centre to hold the 2007 Banff Cello Fest #8 with cellists from Vancouver and Calgary.

Judy needs a volunteer to look up and provide a contact name and number for all amateur orchestras. She would like to publish the list in the September newsletter (Leslie Ponich and helpers).

Jennifer Moersch is selling her old French cello, appraised at \$12,000 but she will sell it for \$10,000.

**8. Adjourned at 7:30 followed by a play-in by Lee Duckles and a segment performed by Cello Jello. Refreshments ended the AGM.**

**Lower Mainland Amateur Orchestras**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra</b> / 604-878-9989 / email: vpo@vcn.ca / Auditions required<br/> <b>CARINNE REEVES, SOLOIST,</b> plays Shostakovich concerto for violoncello and orchestra #1, Saturday, February 17, 2007, 8:00 p.m. at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, 1550 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave (at Granville). Also on the program: Stravinski Suite #1 for small orchestra &amp; Dvorak Symphony #3, Opus 10.</p> <p>2. <b>Ambleside Orchestra</b> / contact: Hillary Clarke, 604-926-3030 / meets Wednesday afternoons 3:30 – 5:30 pm at St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 885 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave (at Marine Drive), West Vancouver.</p> <p>3. <b>Elgar Strings Group</b> / Contact: Vi Smith, 604-261-5255 / meets</p> | <p>Friday mornings 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Willingdon Church, Burnaby. Note: they are looking for violas.</p> <p>4. <b>North Shore Chamber Orchestra</b> / Contact: Madeline Stewart, 604-925-3834 / meets Tuesday evenings 7:30 – 9:30 pm, Sutherland School music room, 1860 Sutherland Ave (at 19<sup>th</sup>) North Vancouver. No auditions required.</p> <p>5. <b>A Little Night Music</b> / Contact: Peter Stigings, 604-261-6891 / email: conductor@alnm.ca / meets Monday nights 7:30 – 9:30 pm, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 1440 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave (near Hemlock), Vancouver.</p> <p>6. <b>West Coast Symphony</b> / Contact: Jim DeFina, 604-438-0077 / email: westcoastsymphony@telus.net /</p> | <p>meets Thursday evenings. Auditions required.</p> <p>7. <b>Fraser Valley Symphony</b> / Contact: Dr. Garnet Wolchok, 1-604-852-5697 / meets Monday nights 7:15 – 9:45 pm, Rick Hansen School, Abbotsford. Informal auditions.</p> <p>8. <b>Brock House Orchestra</b> / Contact: Ernie Fielder, 604-736-5878 / meets Wednesday mornings 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.</p> <p>9. <b>New Westminster Symphony</b> / Contact: Trudy Moore, 604-521-0235 or Roy Bearon, 604-274-2208 / meets Sunday afternoons 1:30 – 4:30 pm, Douglas-College-band room, New Westminster.</p> |
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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2006 / 2007**

*Membership subscriptions are now due, please send to: Judith Fraser, Treasurer, 210 – 235 Keith Road, West Vancouver, BC V7T 1L5*

Please enrol me as a member of The Vancouver Cello Club:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Membership\$.....	\$ 50.00	Donation to Scholarship Fund.....	\$ _____
Sustaining Membership .....	\$ 35.00 – 49.00	Donation to Performance Fund .....	\$ _____
Family or Individual Membership .....	\$ 25.00	Donation for General Purposes .....	\$ _____
Out-Of-Town Membership.....	\$ 20.00	Donation to Colin Hampton Fund .....	\$ _____
Subscription to Newsletter (for non-members).....	\$ 20.00	Donation to Summer Bursaries .....	\$ _____

## Morningside Music Bridge 2006 by Christina Davies

This past summer, Morningside Music Bridge celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary by organizing their first-class music program in China. I will admit that China was never #1 on my "most desired destination" list, but when I was accepted, the opportunity to visit Shanghai for a month almost no cost was, well, too much to refuse. With over 80 of the best musicians from China and Canada, I felt very privileged to be included. I did try to prepare myself for the culture shock, but I don't think my preparation helped. It's hard to imagine the heat and humidity of China until you stand outside with a cello on your back and a suitcase in your hand in 40+ degree weather, the air so thick with humidity you can hardly breathe, sweat dripping off you, trying to remember what air conditioning felt like. Or try imagining a real Chinese meal, with chopsticks in your hand and a slimy plate of meat called "turtle" or "eel" or "UFO" in front of you. The crowded streets, the hard-core bargaining, the cheap prices, the hot, smelly black rain, the thick pollution, the beautiful architecture, the lack of skyline, the cravings for all food Canadian; all these experiences were truly amazing. As for the musical aspects of the program, there was only one true highlight for me. Mr. Lynn Harrell came for a week of masterclasses and re-defined what I thought playing the cello was. There wasn't one student, one comment, one minute, that he didn't say something that was both eye-opening and so very helpful! Some of the other cello highlights were Desmond Hoebig and, of course, John Kadz. The month I spent in China was not necessarily the best experience I have ever had. There were plenty of not-so-good moments on the opposite side of the world that gave me a real appreciation for Canada. However, in retrospect, I'm glad I took the opportunity and tried something new. China is definitely a place I will never forget. (Christina's mailing address: Box 507, 200 Mount Royal Circle, S.W., Calgary, AB T3E 7P7, phone: 403-440-0158.) (Editor's note: Christina is the VCC's 2006 Caroline E. Riley Scholarship winner.)

## Valhalla Summer School of Music August 7 – 25, 2006

This summer, with my three senior students cancelling, I am forced to write something about VSSM myself! I do plan to get my adult students who attended, to add their views (Dawn Binnington and Linda Rainaldi).

The first week was the Suzuki Valhalla Institute under the direction of Daphne Hughes. The cello coach was Cyrena Huang from the V.A.M. Suzuki Dept. This was the Institute's 2<sup>nd</sup> year and it grew from 45 to 71 participants, including 6 cello students. I heard the final concerts on Friday (11<sup>th</sup>) at 4:30 pm (ensembles concert) and final play-out concert at 7:00 pm at Silverton Memorial Hall.

The second week of VSSM is a wonderful conglomeration of family music – pre-schoolers to seniors – kindergarten songs, children's choir, family choir, piano, cello, violin classes

of all levels, orchestra, chamber music, piano duos/trios, all under the artistic direction of John Kadz, director Heather Huether, and artistic advisors: Bill van der Sloom (violin), Jamie Syer (piano) and John Kadz (cello).

This year the cello faculty included John Kadz, Judith Fraser, Audrey Nodwell, Nigel Boehm and assistant Theresa Sampantararat. Forty-six cellists of all ages and levels attended this week of VSSM.

Bravo to the adult chamber music groups, including the Purcell Sonata IX "The Golden Sonata" with vlns: Katheryn Jacyna (daughter Laura is a cellist) and Peter Jackson (husband of Dawn) and Dawn Binnington, cellist. Also Jill Faulks, Heather Huether (coach), Ilona Scharer, Enid Davidge, Dawn Binnington performing Rondo from Ticcianti "Divertimento for 3 Celli".

The highlight (for a cellist!) of the Friday afternoon concert was Ana & Dansa from Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 by Villa-Lobos with Hannah Burton (soprano) and cellists Joanna Wiebe, Diana Robinson, Laura Jacyna, Emma Quail, Marcus Becker, Sonia Taylor, Theresa Sampantararat, Nigel Boehm (coach).

The 7:00 pm evening concert was a mixture of choir, chamber music and string orchestra, which was enhanced by the addition of bassist Alex Nichol, recently moved to Nelson. My chamber cellists (Paul van der Sloom, Maclean Pachkowski, Tyler Wiseman, Josh Hall, Brandon Herbold, Rebekah Dyckerhoff, Mary Bleile, Toby Takahashi) performed beautifully of course, "Romance" by Gottermann and "March Militaire" by Schubert (age 8 to nearly 13 years!).

Bill van der Sloom coached excellent performances of Serena de (allegro moderato) by Elgar and Serenade (allegro) by Tchaikovsky. A moving performance of Barber's "Adagio for Strings Op. 11", coached by Jeff Plotnick, was followed by an exciting Allegro Moderato, ma con fuoco from Mendelssohn Octet in E flat major, Op. 20. It was conducted by Jeff and was a fitting conclusion to week two of VSSM.

This year VIP (Valhalla Enhanced Performance, which I call Very Important People!) added a fiddling class and Ken Stromberg Technique Class to the already-in-progress technique classes of Bill van der Sloom (vln) and Judy Fraser (cello) and chamber music under the direction of Jeff and Theresa Plotnick. I also did an afternoon cello ensemble class for cellists not involved with chamber groups. Our last concert Friday (25<sup>th</sup>) at 2:00 pm was a wonderful mixture of a cello quartet (Joanna Wiebe, Jae Won Ahn, Ariel Carrabre and Laura Jacyna), a cello duet and a Fandango, fiddling, two pieces to demonstrate violin technique, three string quartets and the first movement of Brahms G+ Sextet to bring VSSM to a glorious conclusion.

Judy Fraser, Editor

## Musical Adventures in Valhalla by Dawn Binnington

Our family's musical adventure in Valhalla began when my cello teacher and good friend, Judith Fraser, mentioned last March that I should really think about going to music camp this summer. Myself, a 50-year-old and

often lapsed amateur cellist, hadn't been to music camp since I was 17 at CYMC (Courtenay Youth Music Camp). Judy said "you should all go", meaning my husband, Peter (a really lapsed violinist that hadn't played, with the exception of a few Christmas carols, since high school orchestra 37 years ago), and our 11-year old daughter, Rebecca, a not-at-all lapsed pianist who has been studying since age four. Our 18 year old son, Andrew, who studied cello from ages 6-13 with Judy, was off the hook - someone had to stay home with our new puppy. First step - find accommodations in the West Kootenays. We were very lucky to get a beautiful log cabin at Silverton Resort, right on Lake Slocan. And luckier still to find out when we arrived that our next door neighbours at the cabin were Ilona Sharer, a member of my newly founded Cello Trio, and her family. Next step, choose our "party pieces". As campers at the Valhalla Summer School of Music, each student is expected to work up a solo piece to be polished and then performed at camp. I chose a piece that I was currently working on, Handel's Allegro, transcribed from a violin sonata, by Otto Deri. (By the end of the week my whole family was walking around the cabin humming passages of it!). Peter struggled hard to find his party piece, and in the end bailed on the idea. (We won't let him get away with that next year!). Rebecca chose a fun summer piece, the Star Wars theme, but in the end performed one of her Grade 5 exam pieces instead. Heather Huether, VSSM's director, kindly called us in June to get a sense of where to place Peter and me for orchestra and chamber music. When we arrived at camp, I was delighted to find that Peter and I were in the same orchestra, and that we were also playing in a chamber ensemble together, a trio with another adult amateur violinist, Kathryn Jacyna, working on two movements of Purcell's Golden Sonata with fabulous coaches, Calgary violinist, Jeff Plotnick and Nelson (and formerly Vancouver) violinist, Wendy Herbison.

My day at camp began at 9am, with a 1-1.2 hour technique class, led by Judy Fraser, along with fellow adult cellists Ilona and Linda from Vancouver, and Enid from Calgary. Scales, arpeggios, (even a few diminished minors), then playing our party pieces for each other and Judy. It was scary at first, especially the party piece, but gradually became more comfortable as the week progressed. Silverton and New Denver, BC, the two communities that host the music camp, welcomed us into a variety of venues for rehearsal space: Our technique class was held at New Denver's Health Centre. We quickly got used to some of the residents of the extended care facility shuffling in, listening to a bit of our sawing, then shuffling out again. Next up for the day was a quick drive to New Denver's elementary school for chamber music coaching from 10:30 to noon. After that, back to Silverton with Peter and Rebecca, have a quick lunch, usually a hot dog bb'q'd by Silverton's Mayor, outside his local shop, the Gaze N'Chat. Then off to orchestra practice in the basement of the local hardware store from 1-3pm. We were quite bottom heavy in this orchestra, with

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## Musical Adventures in Valhalla cont'd.

four middle aged female cellists, plus one very understanding 11-year old girl, whom we designated our Principal. Ilona's daughter played first stand violin, and Peter was at the back of the firsts. We had three sections of violin, our all "girl" cello section, and the odd time a highly in demand Bassist. We worked on a pretty little Air, from a suite by Parry, but mostly on our major work, Romance in C+, Op.42, by Sibelius. Both Ilona and I hummed our major tune from that all week. Just this mention starts it up in my head all over again!

Afternoons were spent doing a little private practice, the odd tennis game for Peter & I, swims in the lake for Rebecca, and even a couple extra Trio practices for Peter, Kathryn and myself. I also squeezed in a private lesson with Audrey Nodwell one afternoon. Audrey was my first teacher when I came to Vancouver at the age of 14, and it turns out I was her very first student! A further connection between us was the fact that she started by son Andrew out on the cello at the age of four in Suzuki cello group class.

Our evenings consisted of concerts - a fabulous faculty concert the first night (Monday), a solo piano concert on Tuesday (which the parents all skipped out on at our cabin site to have another glass of wine, while the kids walked over to attend - their idea!), solo and duet concerts by students Thursday evening, then more performances, Friday morning, afternoon, and evening. After much arm twisting, our String Trio stepped out onto the Silverton Memorial Hall stage, in front of a packed audience of fellow students young and old, and our supportive faculty, to perform the Purcell. It was nerve racking, a bit off-putting as the acoustics were very different in the big hall, but not bad, really. We got off a bit in one section, but never had to stop, and played the Allegro at a break neck speed we had never managed in rehearsal. At least we had a go! Our orchestra performance that night was really quite good, and I think my solo piece in front of fellow cellists on Friday morning had noticeably improved from the beginning of the week, even if my nerves hadn't.

By the end of the week, I had a few calluses back on my fingers after all these years, I was sight reading better, and vowing to memorize all my major and minor scales and arpeggios this year. (And set aside more time for regular practice this fall). I can't say enough good things about my first music camp experience in 32 years. All you adult students get out there next summer. You'll have a blast!

## Cello Chit Chat

- **Brian Yoon** is now at the University of Ottawa studying with **Paul Marleyn**. He successfully auditioned for a position in the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, and is on the front stand of the University of Ottawa Orchestra. He says he is "practicing his heart out, finally has no textbook readings and science homework weighing on his mind". Brian will be doing the Shean Strings Competition in Edmonton May 16-18, 2007.
- **Mary Thomson** (and Long & McQuade, Northwest Music and the VAM) has her Toronto Conservatory of Music Exam Scale book ready - scales in order for each grade. Her email is: maryt2@telus.net. The book is \$20. I recommend it, as well as our Cello Club Scale Book - no fingerings for \$15, going to our summer bursary fund.
- **Johanne Perron**, formerly at Harid Conservatory in Florida, is now on the faculty of the University of Montreal. She is a member of TRIO GARAMI.

**Don't forget... 2007 is time again for the  
9<sup>th</sup> Banff International Spring Quartet Competition  
August 28 - September 2  
email: [bisqc@banffcentre.ca](mailto:bisqc@banffcentre.ca)**

- Congratulations to **Silvia Fraser**, pianist (1<sup>st</sup> recipient of the Colin Hampton Award) on her marriage to Christian Immler, baritone, July 23, 2007 at Deep Cove on Vancouver Island. Music was beautifully provided by Brian Yoon, cello, Brian Chan, cello and Stephanie Chan, violin. Silvia was not to be outdone by the Brians! I'm please to see her bow grip is still very good. (Silvia was 2<sup>nd</sup> study cello student of mine during her "salad days" at the VAM/S.K. Lee College obtaining their first B.M. degree.)



- **Christina Davies** and **Theo Hall** are both settling down the University of Calgary under the tutelage of **John Kadz**. **Ashton Lim** is also at the University of Calgary in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The girls have one townhouse and the boys another. Christina has a part-time job on the go - teaching Kumon math. It snowed September 15, so summer has departed early in Alberta too. She has moved to 2<sup>nd</sup> year for theory and musicianship. Ashton & Theo have not sent their news to the newsletter as yet!! (I'll be checking them out when I go to Calgary to do a Residency at Mt. Royal College at the end of October.)
- Congratulations to member **Leslie Ponick** on her marriage to **Ken Savage** in the summer. Thanks to Leslie for researching the amateur orchestra list.

### Congratulations to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Violoncello Society of New York

The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala concert will take place October 15, 2006 at 8:00 pm at the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Kaufmann Concert Hall, New York City. Proceeds will benefit the Society's future projects and activities.

**Program:** Villa-Lobos: Fantasia Concertante for Cello Orch. (composed in 1958 for the Society); Tribute (with films) to Bernard Greenhouse; Dmitry Kouzov, VCS Rising Star Soloist; Eugene Friesen, jazz and improvisational cellist; Alan Shnulman, Suite Miniature for Cello Octet.

## Memorial Concert for Catherine Carmack

*On the anniversary of cellist Catherine Carmack's (12-10-57 - 12-12-03) death, a third and final memorial concert will be performed by harpist Rita Costanzi and cellist, Ariel Barnes with Catherine's former student, Jennifer Moersch. The concert is free with all donations going to support the Catherine M. Carmack Cello Scholarship Fund.*

*The concert program includes works by Arvo Pärt, Saint-Seans, Villa Lobos, Pablo Casals and JS Bach for harp and cello duo... with a few solos on both instruments!*

### Concert Details:

Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 7:30 pm  
Mount Seymour United Church  
1200 Parkgate, North Vancouver, BC V7H 2X9

For directions to the church, please check the webpage: [www.mtseymourunited.com](http://www.mtseymourunited.com)