

Newsletter

January 2020

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Message from the President

Welcome to our first newsletter of the decade. I hope the 2020's are as productive for you as the last ten. As previously noted, there is a lot happening in the Vancouver cello world this year. I invite you to consult the up-dated Cello Calendar in this issue for the latest listing of recitals, concerts, and events in the Lower Mainland. Various local recital series will host events by cellists Istvan Vardai, Gary Hoffman, Brannon Cho, Colin Carr, Stephen Isserlis- to name a few. In April, renowned cellist Paul Marleyn will return to Vancouver to perform with pianist Sylvia Fraser. Paul is one of Vancouver Cello Club's greatest supporters and his concert should not be missed! In June, the Vancouver Academy of Music is presenting a Cello Festival featuring former students of Aldo Parisot in two days of master classes. Those classes will be open and free to the public. I encourage all interested cellists to audit the sessions with master teachers Ralph Kirshbaum and Joel Krosnick.

The Calendar can also be accessed on our website at [https://: www.vancouvercelloclub.com](https://www.vancouvercelloclub.com).

Once again, I would like to remind readers of the benefits of a Vancouver Cello Club membership. The Club is able to offer bursaries to students who require financial assistance with festival entry costs, summer music camps, instrument or bow rental or purchases, or tuition costs throughout the year. Teachers may apply on behalf of their students by writing the Cello Club with a description of circumstances. The Club maintains two funds specifically designated to assist young Cello Club newsletter subscribers in their musical pursuits. Members may also advertise instruments for sale in the Buy and Sell section of the newsletter. Adult members are always welcome to join the monthly cello ensembles sessions- held at the Vancouver Academy of Music, 1270 Chestnut Street. This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded cello enthusiasts and read some great repertoire. Sessions start at 7:30 pm on the last Monday evening of the month.

Best wishes for 2020. I hope to see you at the next cello event!

Lee Duckles, President

VAM Chamber Music Masterclasses

The Vancouver Academy of Music (VAM) is offering chamber music masterclasses in February and April by two String quartets that won first prize in the last two Banff International String Quartet Competitions (BISQC). The two cellists, Tate Zawadiuk in the Viano String Quartet and Jonathan Lo in the Rolston String Quartet, are both alumni of VAM.



Viano String Quartet
February 27 • 6:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall
Free for auditors

Tate Zawadiuk studied cello at VAM with Mary Thompson for ten years. He continued his studies and is now studying at Colburn Conservatory of Music where the Viano Quartet is in residence. Tate is a solo as well as chamber music cellist, and has performed with many orchestras and ensembles. The Viano Quartet was formed at Colburn when Tate was a freshman there. The quartet went on to successes in many competitions. At BISQC in 2019, Viano won the coveted first prize shared with the Marmen quartet. In addition to a masterclass at VAM, Viano will give concerts in four locations in Metro Vancouver on February 26, 27, 28 and 29 presented by the Vancouver Chamber Society (see Cello Calendar on page 6 for details).



Rolston String Quartet
April 17 • 5:00pm
Koerner Recital Hall
Free for auditors

Jonathan Lo studied cello at VAM with Audrey Nodwell for more than ten years before going to the Eastman School of Music and Julliard graduating with a Bachelor and Master of Music. The quartet was formed in the summer of 2013 at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity's Chamber Music Residency. At BISQC in 2016, they won first prize. They have since toured through Europe and North America to great acclaim. The quartet was the graduate quartet-in-residence at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music and have taught at the Yale School of Music, University of Toronto, and the Bowdoin International Music Festival among others. Their next concert in Metro Vancouver is at the Kay Meek Theatre in West Vancouver on April 19 (see Cello Calendar on page 6 for details).

Amateur Orchestra Upcoming Events Winter/Spring

Please visit the respective web sites for additional concert information

Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra • www.vanphil.ca

Saturday February 29, 8:00pm at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, Vancouver

Saturday April 25, 8:00pm at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, Vancouver

Saturday June 6, 8:00pm at Shaughnessy Heights United Church, Vancouver

Ambleside Orchestra • www.amblesideorchestra.ca

Mainstage concerts:

Friday January 24, 8:00pm at Highlands United Church, North Vancouver

Friday April 3, 8:00pm at Highlands United Church, North Vancouver

Friday May 29, 8:00pm at Highlands United Church, North Vancouver

Chamber concert:

Friday March 6, 7:30pm at Silk Purse Arts Centre, West Vancouver

North Shore Chamber Orchestra • www.nschamberorchestra.org

TBA: Consult web site of Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/North-Shore-Chamber-Orchestra-263553080362149/>

A Little Night Music Orchestra • <http://ainm.ca>

Monday March 9, 7:00pm at Magee Secondary School Theatre, Vancouver

Monday June 1, 7:00pm at Magee Secondary School Theatre, Vancouver

West Coast Symphony • www.westcoastsymphony.ca

Saturday January 25, 8:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Sunday February 23, 2:00pm at Orpheum Theatre, Vancouver

Friday April 3, 8:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Sunday April 5, 2:00pm at Kay Meek Theatre, West Vancouver

Friday May 8, 8:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Saturday May 9, 7:30pm at Queens Avenue United Church, New Westminister

Friday June 12, 8:00pm at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver

Saturday June 13, 2:00pm at Bowen Island Community School, Bowen Island

Fraser Valley Symphony • www.fraservalleysymphony.org

Sunday February 2, 3:00pm at Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, Abbotsford

Sunday April 5, 3:00pm at Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, Abbotsford

Sunday June 7, 3:00pm at Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, Abbotsford

White Rock Community Orchestra • <http://whiterockcommunityorchestra.org>

Sunday June 6, 7:00pm at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Surrey

New Westminister Symphony Orchestra • www.newwestsymphony.net

Sunday March 1, 2:00pm at Massey Theatre, New Westminister

Sunday, May 3, 2:00pm at Massey Theatre, New Westminister

Coquitlam Youth Orchestra • www.coquitlamyouthorchestra.ca

Saturday June 6, 12:00pm at Evergreen Cultural Centre, Coquitlam

Elgar Strings Group

Consult Facebook page

The Caroline E. Riley Scholarship

Open to those about to leave their home for the first time for further cello study. The Scholarship will be awarded on audition in the first week of May, 2020 at V.A.M. Written application must be submitted to Dawn Binnington **before** April 1, 2020. Use the form below.

Vancouver Cello Club — Dawn Binnington, Treasurer — 979 Beatty St., Vancouver BC V6Z3C5

Caroline E. Riley Scholarship

I hereby apply for this scholarship to be awarded in May, 2020.

Please check: I am a member in good standing of The Vancouver Cello Club

I am not a member of the Vancouver Cello Club

I propose to leave my home base for further cello study at _____ on (approx. date) _____

Name: _____ Phone Number _____

Address: _____ Postal Code _____



♪ **Jennifer Son** is now working toward a Doctorate in Musical Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The University has published the following on its website at <https://arts.unl.edu/jennifer-son>. Canadian and American cellist Jennifer Son is an avid chamber musician and artist. She has performed in venues in various Canadian provinces, the U.S.A., Korea and India. She enjoys teaching and has visions to travel to parts of the world where Western classical music education is limited and share her passions there.

Jennifer has recently been invited as resident artist in music festivals such as Con Brio in Bombay, India, where she was given the opportunity to collaborate and teach with artists from around the world. This past summer, as the Young Artist in Residence, she joined members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and The Cleveland Orchestra at the Steamboat Springs Music Festival. She participated in quartet seminars with the Chiara String Quartet, the St. Lawrence String Quartet at Stanford University, the Aldot Parisot Cello Festival, the Banff Center Cello Festival, the Cello Symposium in Sitka, Alaska, and many more. She has also represented British Columbia with her chamber ensemble and won many awards and prizes at the Canadian Nationals Music Competition.

Jennifer is an alumna of the Vancouver Academy of Music, where she began her cello studies with Audrey Nodwell. She received her Bachelor of Music degree at the Chicago College of Performing Arts. She also completed her Master of Music degree in cello performance and Suzuki Pedagogy at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Son is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln under the tutelage of Professor Gregory Beaver. Her primary teachers include Dr. Tanya L. Carey and Dr. Melissa Kraut. She was a student of **Audrey Nodwell** at the Vancouver Academy of Music for many years before moving to Chicago.

♪ **Grace Sohn** has won the use of an 1824 McConnell Nicolaus Gagliano II cello from the Canada Council for the Arts Musical Instrument Bank, one of only six cellos. Grace is now based in Berlin, where she studies at the Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik, in the class of Prof. Troels Svane. Grace was named the first prize winner of the Anton Rubinstein International Competition in Berlin, the International Busan Maru Competition in South Korea, and received second prize and the “Best Interpretation of the Test Piece” prize at the Shean Strings Competition. In May 2019 she was a co-winner at the Vienna Classic Strings Competition. Grace attended the Vancouver Academy of Music and was a student of **Joseph Elworthy**.



♪ Congratulations to **Isidora Nojkovic** and Ben Roidl-Ward. They will be married in Vancouver this summer. Isadora was a student of **Audrey Nodwell** at the Vancouver Academy of Music. She completed a Bachelor of Music at the University of Ottawa, studying with Paul Marleyn, and went on to earn her Masters at the Manhattan School of Music.

In addition to a busy career as a solo, chamber and orchestral cellist, Jennifer formed Aviary with Ben Roidl-Ward in 2017 to play and expand the duo repertoire of cello and

Membership Renewal for 2019 / 2020

VCC Year-end is May 31. Membership subscriptions are now due.

Please send to Dawn Binnington, Treasurer, 979 Beatty St., Vancouver, BC V6Z 3C5

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

Student
 Adult Amateur
 Professional
 ❖
 Renewal
 New Member

| | | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------|
| 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 for Summer Bursaries | \$ _____ |
| Subscription to Newsletter (for non-members) | \$20.00 | | |

Cellofest 2020

Welcome to Cellofest 2020 • June 5 - 7

The Aldo Parisot Cellofest returns for the second time, and VAM is delighted that you are able to join us. The three days of competitions and masterclasses culminate in a much anticipated Cellofest Gala Concert featuring winners of the Cellofest Competition. Mr. Aldo Parisot was a legendary pedagogue who inspired numerous generations of aspiring cellists. He served as a distinguished faculty member at numerous leading schools and festivals including Yale School of Music, Juilliard School, and the Banff Centre. Mr. Parisot's dedication to the art of cello-playing is something that I am honored to pay tribute to at the Vancouver Academy of Music.

The Vancouver Academy of Music would like to extend its sincerest gratitude to the family of Mr. Aldo Parisot, for without their generous support, Cellofest would not be possible. VAM thanks our Visiting Artists for taking the time to work with the masterclass participants, imparting inspiration and wisdom to the next generation of cellists.

Cellofest Events

Friday, June 5 • 7:00pm

Cellofest Competition Finals: Koerner Recital Hall
Open to the public, free admission

Saturday, June 6 • 10:00am • 2:00pm • 7:00pm

Masterclasses with Visiting Artists
Vancouver Academy of Music, multiple locations
Open to the public, free for auditors

Sunday, June 7 • 10:00am, 2:00pm

Masterclasses with Visiting Artists
Vancouver Academy of Music, multiple locations
Open to the public, free for auditors

Sunday, June 7 • 7:00pm

Cellofest Gala Concert, Koerner Recital Hall
Open to the public, free admission

Visiting Artists

Shauna Rolston, University of Toronto
Ralph Kirshbaum, University of Southern California
Ole Akahoshi, Yale University
Joel Krosnick, Juilliard school

Cellofest Competition

Awards

- Winner of Category A: \$2,000 (age 24 and under)
- Winner of Category B: \$1,000 (age 18 and under)
- Winner of Category C: \$500 (age 12 and under)

Eligibility

Eligible students are those currently or previously enrolled in private cello lessons at VAM age 24 and under as of June 1, 2020.

Dates

Application Deadline: May 4, 2020, 11:59pm

Preliminary Round: June 1, 2020 Students will receive notice of their specific time slot following the application deadline.

Final Round: June 5, 2020, 7:00pm Cellofest Gala Concert:
June 7, 2020, 7:00pm

Adjudicators

Students will be evaluated by one adjudicator in the preliminary round and four in the final. All adjudicators will be distinguished musicians external to VAM.

Competition Rules

- 1 Applications are subject to a fee of \$20 made payable to the Vancouver Academy of Music.
- 2 Students will be required to prepare one work with the following length requirements:
 - a) Age 10 and under: maximum 8 minutes
 - b) Age 14 and under: maximum 12 minutes
 - c) Age 24 and under: maximum 15 minutes Concerti movements must be performed with tutti cuts; the above timing requirements apply to the length of the work after cuts. Students must provide a pianist for accompanied works.
- 3 The preliminary round is closed to the public with the exception of the parent/guardian and teacher of the student performing; no video or audio recording permitted. The final round will be open to the public.
- 4 The adjudicator retains the right to withhold any prize if, in their opinion, it is not merited. All decisions made by the adjudicator are final and without appeal.



The Vancouver Cello Club Concert

The Vancouver Cello Club presents Paul Marleyn and Silvia Fraser in concert

April 18 • 7:30pm • Koerner Recital Hall, Vancouver Academy of Music



Cellist Paul Marleyn is no stranger to Vancouver. He tours regularly in North America, Europe and Asia. As a frequent participant in summer festivals including the Prussia Cove, Busan, Festival of the Sound, Domaine Forget, Casalmaggiore, Leicester and Ottawa international festivals, he

collaborates with artists such as Boris Berman, Miriam Fried, James Somerville, Paul Neubauer, Marc-André Hamelin, Steven Dann, Joshua Bell, and with members of the Tokyo, Vermeer, New Zealand, St. Lawrence and Hagen quartets.

He has appeared as soloist with the London Philharmonia, Belgrade Philharmonic, European Chamber Ensemble, Winnipeg Symphony, Vancouver Symphony, Symphony Nova Scotia, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Thunder Bay Symphony and Manitoba Chamber orchestras.

The Artistic Director of Winnipeg's Agassiz Chamber Music Festival since 2000, and the International Cello Festival of Canada since 2011, Paul was the cellist in Trio Hochelaga from 2006-2012. He has made several compact disc recordings on the United Records, CALA, ATMA, Signum Classics, CBC and RCA Victor labels. From 1993-7, Paul was principal cellist of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, and has served as professor of cello at the University of Manitoba, and more recently at the University of Ottawa, where he now mentors an award-winning studio of young cellists.



Born in Vancouver, Silvia Fraser completed her BMus in Piano Performance under Prof. Lee Kum-Sing at the Vancouver Academy of Music and her Masters of Music in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music at the Eastman School of Music, studying with Dr. Jean Barr.

She has performed internationally, in many countries. She and Christian Immler made their Vienna and New York recital debuts together, the last hailed by the New York Times as "A Harmonious conversation between a Baritone and a Pianist." They have recently released a CD on BR Klassik with Danny Driver and Anna Stephany.

Her performances have been broadcast on BBC Radio 3, BBC Television, and CBC. Most recently she was featured in Radio Espace 2's programme focusing on her approach to coaching string instruments.

Her masterclass experience includes Ivry Gitlis, Pavel Vernikov, Christa Ludwig, Thomas Hampson, Yo-Yo Ma, Zara Nelsova, Tsuyoshi Tsustumi, Natalya Gutman, Anner Bylisma, Barry Tuckwell, Cho-Liang Lin, and many others. Silvia has been a regular teaching assistant at Bowdoin Summer Music Festival and Music Academy of the West, Pianist and Coach at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester for six years and is currently Pianist and Coach for Renaud Capuçon and Svetlana Makarova at the Haute Ecole du Musique in Lausanne.

Events

Cortes Island: April 17 • Paul Marleyn, cello and Silvia Fraser, piano • evening concert

Pender Harbour: April 19 • 2:00pm Paul Marleyn, cello and Silvia Fraser, piano • afternoon concert

Denman Island Baroque Music Workshop & Festival 2020

The annual Denman Island Baroque Music Workshop and Festival goes ahead this year on May 2 to May 10, 2020, in the Denman Community Hall.

The Workshop will focus on Susanna by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) for a final performance on May 9 at 2.30 pm in the Denman Community Hall. There will also be concerts and lectures by our Workshop instructors, as well as a community baroque concert. Conor Jacobson (strings) and Massimo Altieri (voices) will be new tutors this year.

The following events are planned for the 2020 Workshop & Festival.

Saturday May 2: Welcome to the Festival Chamber music performed by Contrasto Armonico (Community Hall-16:30):

Monday May 4: Tutors' Concert (Community Hall- 19:30)

Tuesday May 5: Lecture by Marco Vitale, the Workshop music director (Community Hall-19:30)

Thursday May 7: Community baroque concert with choirs, chamber music, poetry and more (Community Hall-19:00)

Saturday May 9: Susanna by George Frideric Handel. Final concert by Workshop participants (Community Hall-14:30)

This is a very provisional program. Changes and more information will be added later. See: <http://denmanbaroque.com/>

Cello Calendar 2020 Season

February

- February 2 • 3:00pm • Standing Wave Ensemble • Kay Meek Centre, West Vancouver
February 2 • 3:00pm • Han Finckel Setzer Trio • Vancouver Playhouse • Friends of Chamber Music
February 9 • 3:00pm • Faust Queyras Melnikov Trio • Vancouver Playhouse • Vancouver Recital Society
February 12 • 10:30am • Colin Carr • Koerner Recital Hall, Vancouver Academy of Music • Music in the Morning
February 13 • 10:30am • Colin Carr • Koerner Recital Hall, Vancouver Academy of Music • Music in the Morning
February 14 • 10:30am • Colin Carr • Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver • Music in the Morning
February 16 • 3:00pm • Doric String Quartet • Vancouver Playhouse • Vancouver Recital Society
February 22 • 7:30pm • Rosanna Butterfield in recital • Wentworth Villa, 1156 Fort Street, Victoria
February 23 • 2:00pm • Rosanna Butterfield in recital • St. Michael's Church, Chemainus • Chemainus Classical Concerts
February 24 • 7:30pm • Vancouver Cello Club Adult Ensemble • Vancouver Academy of Music
February 25 • 10:30am • Vancouver Cello Quartet • Hycroft Mansion, Vancouver
February 26 • 1:00pm • Viano String Quartet • Highlands United Church, West Van • Vancouver Chamber Music Society
February 27 • 6:00pm • Viano String Quartet • VAM Chamber Music Masterclass • Koerner Recital Hall at VAM
February 28 • 7:30pm • Viano String Quartet • S. Delta Baptist Church, Tsawwassen • Vancouver Chamber Music Society
February 29 • 7:30pm • Viano String Quartet • Anvil Centre, New Westminster • Vancouver Chamber Music Society

March

- March 1 • 3:00pm • Schumann Quartet • Vancouver Playhouse • Vancouver Recital Society
March 8 • 3:00pm • Pavel Haas Quartet & Boris Giltburg • Vancouver Playhouse • Friends of Chamber Music
March 22 • 3:00pm • CMS of Lincoln Center – Young Masters (string quartet and piano quartet) • Vancouver Playhouse
March 30 • 7:30pm • Adult Ensemble • Vancouver Academy of Music

April

- April 4 • 8:00pm • Brian Yoon performs the Lalo Cello Concerto with Victoria Symphony • The Farquhar at UVic
April 5 • 3:00pm • Pablo Ferrández, cello and Sara Ferrández, viola • Vancouver Playhouse • Vancouver Recital Society
April 5 • 2:00pm • Koerner Piano Trio • Koerner Recital Hall, Vancouver Academy of Music
April 15 • 1:00pm • Paul Marleyn & Silvia Fraser • Highlands United Church, West Van • Vancouver Chamber Music Soc.
April 17 • 5:00pm • Rolston String Quartet • VAM Chamber Music Masterclass • Koerner Recital Hall at VAM
April 19 • 3:00pm • Gary Hoffman & David Selig • Anvil Centre, New Westminster • Vancouver Chamber Music Society
April 19 • 3:00pm • Rolston String Quartet • Grosvenor Theatre – Kay Meek Arts Centre, West Vancouver
April 19 • 3:00pm • Steven Isserlis, cello and Connie Shih, piano • Vancouver Playhouse • Friends of Chamber Music
April 20-26 • Kiwanis Music Festival • Paul Marleyn is the cello adjudicator
April 24 • 7:30pm • Cheng² Duo • South Delta Baptist Church, Tsawwassen • Vancouver Chamber Music Society
April 26 • 3:00pm • Takács Quartet • Vancouver Playhouse • Friends of Chamber Music
April 27 • 7:30pm • Vancouver Cello Club Adult Ensemble • Vancouver Academy of Music
April 28 • 8:00pm • Takács Quartet • Vancouver Playhouse • Friends of Chamber Music

May

- May 10 • 3:00 pm • Ludovica Rana, cello & Beatrice Rana, piano • Vancouver Playhouse • Friends of Chamber Music



Flying with a Cello in Canada

The September issue last year reported on the new federal Air Passenger Protection Regulations which include rules for about musical instruments. <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2019-150/page-5.html#h-1130012>

This followed considerable effort on the part of the Canadian branch of the American Federation of Musicians (AFM). The AFM has published a Guide to flying with musical instruments in Canada on its website.

<https://www.afm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/CAD-Flying-Guide-Final-English.pdf>

Air Canada accepts cellos as baggage or in a seat purchased for the cello. Their rules are published on their website.

<https://www.aircanada.com/ca/en/aco/home/plan/baggage/special-items.html>

Many cellists have found Westjet less welcoming. Despite the new regulation, Westjet's rules flatly state that "Seats cannot be purchased for instruments". Moreover, "Your cello or xylophone may be subject to excess, overweight or oversize baggage fees." <https://www.westjet.com/en-ca/travel-info/baggage/musical-instruments>

Canadian cellist Brian Yoon's detailed advice for succeeding in taking a cello on board is built on experience:

<http://brianyooncello.com/travelling-with-a-cello-as-carry-on-baggage-on-air-canada-a-guide/>

Tech for Cellists 2.0

by Sean Varah

I wrote an article for the cello club newsletter back in 2000 on technology for cellists. When Judy Fraser suggested re-printing it, we both realized that not only was it hopelessly out of date, "I" was out of date. Technically, I'm Gen X, having been born when only a single US president had been impeached, but I'm not on the younger side of the age curve any more. If you're reading this newsletter on *paper*, I'm guessing you and I might have a few things in common, like reading glasses and a propensity to wax poetic about the virtues of fibre in your diet. For the youngsters, you may read this and say "duh, boomer."

Enough apologies. Judy asked for an article on technology for cellists, and here we go: there have been some key advances in the last 20 years in terms of technology for cellists: mobile phones and electric cellos.

Mobile phones can now replace video cameras and sound recording equipment for recording for auditions and your Instagram brand-building, metronomes (yes, they used to wind up), and tuners (I feel Judy slapping my wrist at laziness of a tuner – I mean "tuning forks" Judy!). Kids, yes, you should google "tuning fork."

Using your phone for recording

Anyone born after 1975 will roll their eyes at the sheer *obviousness* of this, but your phone has an amazing video camera and microphone. Mobile phone companies and their chip-makers employ hundreds of image processing and audio software engineers, far more than any other camera or audio equipment company, and they've nailed video and recording for most of us. My recommendations for recording with your phone (whether video or just audio) are simple:

- Most basic: position your phone 4-8 feet from you, and about 4-8 feet up in the air (higher is better, and you look better too). You can find mounts on Amazon that fit around your phone and connect to a camera tripod.
- Better: get a good external stereo microphone that plugs right into the your phone. Zoom makes a few.
- Extra credit for the youngsters (or bad-ass boomers): for editing, you can import your video/audio into software on your phone or a computer. You can use the compression feature to reduce the dynamic range in your recording. Don't overdo it. You can also add reverb, but be judicious-- too much reverb and you'll sound like music from the 80s.

Note: Garageband is free on iPhones and Macs. I recommend Audacity or Ableton Lite for Windows.

Electric Cellos

I'll delve into electric cellos briefly, and promise to follow-up with a better review after I speak to some professional cellists (Morag Northey, you are on my list! Call me!).

In short: in the past 20 years, seriously good electric cellos have been released by several manufacturers-- Yamaha and NS Design are highly respected. If you do any playing that requires amplification, electric cellos are a no-brainer – they are stage-proven and offer excellent playing feel and high-quality amplified sound without feedback, and they look insect-like, which is a bonus. Decent ones range between \$1000-3000 US (or \$1.3 Billion-\$3.6 Billion CAD with GST). There ARE cheaper electric cellos, but users on Reddit and the Interwebs swear that the cheaper ones are not built well and have basic problems with string height and electronics. I'll report back as soon as possible.

Colourstrings Teaching Method

by Jennifer Moersch

Hello fellow cellists! I'd like to introduce you to this magical little world of Colourstrings that has become a special place to me.

Through my years as a teacher I've often sought out new ideas, new approaches and inspiration that I can pass along to my students to help them blossom as musicians. How can we pass on this enormous amount of knowledge in a way that breeds confidence and joy- ultimately allowing the freedom to fully express feeling, emotion, story and character? Then I was introduced to Colourstrings and everything came together for me.

Learning an instrument is exciting but can also be overwhelming. Especially if you are coming to it without any prior musical understanding and are having to learn all aspects of music while working with this foreign, yet beautiful object. I love the Colourstrings approach that allows the time and space to grow before the cello enters the picture. Through the use of musical games and voice, they have the ability to start translating all that they've learned to the cello. The transition is smooth.

Because all students begin their musical journey in Kodaly-based Music and Movement classes they have already learned how to sing in tune, in time, involve their bodies in these two activities as well as sing using dynamics and shaping the songs they learn. In addition, they are introduced to the reading of music in a relatable way. All of this before they even come to an instrument. They've already developed themselves as budding musicians and are then ready to begin applying this to the instrument that speaks the most to them. We introduce the different instruments to the children through performance and hands-on time. They then get to choose which one they wish to learn.

Colourstrings combines every facet of cello playing that when taught in the earliest stages allow for a confidence all over the cello. By the introduction so early on of the entire fingerboard and the octave relationships etc I believe much future anxiety can be completely avoided. From the earliest times the student is exploring the complete instrument and all that it has to offer. The Colourstrings method is thoughtfully planned out so that the many technical and musical challenges we will face in the cello repertoire will already be familiar well before we encounter these works. No guessing for my cello babies! In that way they've already become a musician and teacher. I get to guide them further. We use many familiar songs in addition to new pieces of music. Lessons involve a fair amount of singing (using Solfege which they learn in Music and Movement). We begin with Do songs and gradually



expand to Do Re, Do Re Mi and so forth. We sing and then copy our voice with our cellos. If you can sing it you'll be able to play it! Our voices are a gift. When we engage them we can truly trust what we are doing. We use our voice to

train our ears. We use our ears to train our technique. And voila! We have music.

The use of colours and characters for each string is the fun, playful and engaging method of Colourstrings. It's easier for the children to understand in the beginning. They read music from day one of playing cello. The books use a graduated note and staff learning process involving colour, characters and symbols which develop into formal musical notation. And just as they've learned in their Music and Movement classes we gradually add more notes, complexity and techniques as we progress through the books together. All the while emphasizing the musical meaning of the notes. Without this we are only making sounds.

Children and parents are involved together and learn together. This is how things learned in lessons get reinforced at home with the child always having someone there to remind them and support them. They know they will never be left alone without any help. It is also a great bonding experience between parent and child. Much fun can be had!

In addition to the ever so important one-on-one lessons are the weekly group classes that all Colourstrings students participate in. These classes include a mixture of cello, violin and viola students. We learn how to work together, listen to each other, explore all of the sound palette through games, songs and music involving multiple parts. I have taught for close to twenty years. Now teaching via Colourstrings, I notice my students have a deeper understanding of what they've learned. They develop confidence and trust in themselves and to me this is priceless! I think as teachers what we all aim for is to give our students the knowledge and skills so they may become their own best teacher and ultimately an expressive musician. Trust in us and trust in themselves are crucial in this journey. I believe Colourstrings provides the foundation and nurturing to create a life-long love of music.

If you have young ones (from one year old) in your life who are interested in music I invite you to contact the Colourstrings Conservatory of Music at 778 846-0127 or admin@colourstringsvan.com.

Jennifer Moersch is a freelance cellist and is the cello teacher at the Colourstrings Conservatory of Music located in the Mount Pleasant area of Vancouver.