

Victoria Baroque Music Society Annual General Meeting

Monday November 7, 2022, Church of St. John the Divine 1611 Quadra Street, Victoria, BC

7:00 p.m. Music and refreshments

AGM Agenda

1. Call to order at 7:30 and Motion to adopt the agenda
2. Reception of minutes from the previous Annual General Meeting, October 25, 2021
3. Treasurer's Report to the Society
4. President's Report to the Society
5. Victoria Baroque Artistic Director's Report to the Society
6. Nominations and election to the Board of Directors
7. Other business: Approval of Board actions
8. Adjournment

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Minutes of 2021 Annual General Meeting

Monday, 25th October 2021

Chair: Ralph Huenemann
Artistic Director: Soile Stratkauskas
Treasurer: Jerry McDonald
Secretary: Vanessa Dingley
Present: 22 members of VBMS, including Board members

Call to Order 7:09pm

As Chair, Ralph Huenemann welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for their participation. Copies of the Agenda and various other documents had been distributed before the meeting to those who had signed up to participate.

Motion to adopt the Agenda by Jerry MacDonald

Seconded by Erin Kelly

Carried

Reception of Minutes from Annual General Meeting, 26th October 2020:

Motion to receive the minutes by Vanessa Dingley

Seconded by Jennifer Gerwing

Carried

Treasurer's Report to the Society by Jerry McDonald

Motion to adopt the Financial Statements as of August 31, 2021 as circulated: Jerry McDonald.

Seconded by David Robertson

Carried

President's 2020 – 2021 Report to AGM

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for 2020-2021, a period that encompasses the end of the Tenth and the beginning of the Eleventh season of the Victoria Baroque Music Society. As last year, the COVID pandemic has continued to cause major problems for our regularly scheduled live concerts. Fortunately, the talented Baroque musicians in our community, through imaginative arrangements, have continued to bring us beautiful music. The extraordinary efforts by Soile Stratkauskas, our Artistic Director, to flexibly plan the programs, to minimize the disruptions caused by the pandemic, and to apply successfully for many grants, call for special praise.

Very sadly, over the past year Victoria has lost two very special Baroque musicians. At Christmastime, the brilliant keyboardist (harpsichord, organ, fortepiano) Michael Jarvis passed away, and in June the extraordinary violinist Jeanne Lamon, best known for her many years of leadership of Tafelmusik, also passed away. Both wonderful musicians will be deeply missed.

The planned concerts in November had to be canceled at the last minute because of a spike in the COVID Pandemic. However, on March 9th the concert "Grand Concerti Grossi" led by the

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violinist Chloe Meyers was presented in “livestream” form, and at the end of March Parts 2 and 3 of Handel’s *Messiah* were also broadcast via livestream. Both concerts attracted wide audiences electronically. Also, in March, violinist Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith met during the spring school break with a dozen young string players for a week-long workshop to learn Baroque techniques. In June, many local musicians joined together at St. Mary’s in Oak Bay (a quiet locale) to produce a new CD titled “Companions of the Baroque,” which will be released in November. In July many Baroque specialists gathered at the Victoria Conservatory of Music to present the Summer Instrumental Programme to 41 keen students of all ages. Also, in July, a front porch concert was played twice at John Tucker’s house, and in late August a back-garden concert was played twice at Andrea Kolot’s house. By their nature, these concerts could only accommodate small audiences, but they were warmly received. Earlier this month, under careful “social distancing” rules, the tenor Isaiah Bell, accompanied by a small group of instrumentalists, performed several lovely arias by J.S. Bach at St. John the Divine, marking a cautious return to face-to-face concerts. The pandemic makes everything uncertain, but we hope to present a live concert by violinist Julia Wedman in mid-January.

Because of the limited audiences due to the pandemic, revenues from ticket sales have been seriously diminished. However, many donors have made generous contributions to ease the problem. And the continuing support of many grant providers, both regular grants and special grants offered to community arts groups to help carry them through the pandemic, has been deeply appreciated. We acknowledge with gratitude the grants from the CRD, the Gaming Commission, the BCAC, the Hamber Foundation, and the Victoria Foundation. In particular, the BCAC Infrastructure Grant has financed the purchase of the two harpsichords formerly played by Michael Jarvis, making it possible for these beautiful instruments to remain in the local community.

The VBMS Board works diligently behind the scenes to support the local community of Baroque musicians. This year, after many years of loyal service, our Secretary Vanessa Dingley and our Treasurer Jerry McDonald are retiring from the Board. Andrea Kolot and Sharon McMillan have generously stepped forward to share the Secretary’s important tasks. Bill Jamieson, already serving as the Treasurer of the Early Music Society of the Islands, has agreed to join our Board to succeed Jerry as Treasurer. If our slate of nominees will be confirmed later in this meeting, also joining our Board this year will be Gavin Winter, recently moved to Victoria from Toronto, and Virginia Acuña, a specialist in the Baroque music of Spain, who has joined the Faculty of Music at UVic. Much appreciated is the continuing service of Allyn Chard for her never-failing work on concert proMotion, Jennifer Gerwing for her communications (especially her work on managing virtual meetings during the pandemic), Erin Kelly for her active Board participation, Christi Meyers for her equable representation of the musicians to the Board and vice versa, John Tucker for concert service (especially making available his front yard for the summer concerts), Jim Harlick for essential behind-the-scenes services, Christopher Butterfield for facilitating liaison with UVic, David Robertson for support with his IT expertise, and David Strakauskas for providing a key link to St. John’s. The administrative side of the VBMS mission has continued to benefit from Sharon McMillan’s organizational skills, rationalizing our office, its operation and record keeping. We continue to benefit from the support of the Church of St. John the Divine, where we have our main performance space and office home. For this, our thanks are due to the Rector and the Wardens.

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In closing, let me say that, despite the ravages of the pandemic, we continue to be blessed with beautiful Baroque music.

Ralph Huenemann
President

Artistic Director's 2020 – 2021 Report to AGM

The pandemic has heavily impacted how we can gather and share music, and like all arts organizations, Victoria Baroque has had to modify its presentations. Bringing musicians and people together during this time of isolation and uncertainty has been our top priority. The technological advances of digital presentation have enabled us to share our music when live audiences at events have not been possible. The garden concerts in the summer was a wonderful way to present chamber music in a more casual setting in the beautiful outdoors. We are fortunate that our home venue, Church of St John the Divine, is spacious enough for seating physically distanced audiences.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of two significant figures and extraordinary musicians in our community this past year: harpsichordist Michael Jarvis, and violinist, Tafelmusik's Director Emerita Jeanne Lamon. Both Michael and Jeanne have collaborated with Victoria Baroque in multiple occasions, were dear colleagues and friends to us, and will be missed greatly. With the help of an Arts Infrastructure Grant from the BC Arts Council, we were able to purchase Michael's two harpsichords. We were very grateful to be able to keep these beautiful instruments in the Victoria music community, and they have been great assets in Victoria Baroque's projects and are also being regularly lent to other music organizations in Victoria.

As the pandemic heavily restricted live audiences in the Fall of 2020, we started our Tenth Anniversary Season with small-scale in-person concerts for small audiences with robust safety protocols. The first of these, "Recreation de la Musique" with Jeanne Lamon will be dearly remembered as our last instance of making music with her. In November 2020 with the concert "Give Peace in our Time" we gave the stage to eleven talented young local singers for a beautiful program of sacred motets from the 17th and 18th century Germany. When in November live concerts came to a halt due to government restrictions, we continued the season with digital presentations. Co-presenting with the Cowichan Symphony Society enabled us to livestream Handel's Messiah in two parts at Christmas and Easter. We celebrated our Tenth Anniversary concert on March 9th with the livestreamed concert "Grand Concerti Grossi", led by Chloe Meyers. The season culminated in a CD recording project in June, and the CD, "Companions of the Baroque", will be released this November.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have been able to continue our educational programming. As a new initiative, we hosted a Baroque Strings Spring Camp for young string players in March, led by our violinist Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith. This was a very successful program in introducing students aged 9 to 15 to baroque performance style, and we plan to continue this annually. Our third Summer Program at the Victoria Conservatory of Music was our biggest yet, welcoming 41 students aged 11 to 81 to study and play baroque music on period instruments. As opportunities for ensemble playing and in-person learning have been scarce for students of all ages, these programs were especially appreciated this year.

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This season, 2021-22, we were delighted to present Bach's Tenor Arias concert with our local tenor, Isaiah Bell in September— a program that had to be cancelled last November. We look forward to our CD release concert on November 19th. In January we will welcome one of Tafelmusik's core violinists, Julia Wedman, to direct a varied program including Biber's Battalia, and a new music piece by an Indigenous composer, Cris Derksen. On February 26th we will be presenting a concert in Jeanne Lamon's memory, a program that is curated by Jeanne's wife, Christina Mahler, and includes music by Bach that was close to Jeanne's heart. Because of the pandemic and its ever-changing nature, we are cautious about announcing our plans too far in advance and have chosen to sell tickets only a few weeks prior to each event.

We are immensely grateful for the ongoing support of our many donors, without whom we would not have been able to continue our music making through the pandemic. We are deeply thankful for the generous grants of the Capital Regional District Arts Commission, BC Arts Council, BC Gaming Commission, and the Victoria and Hamber Foundations. I would like to express my deep gratitude to our hard-working Board, especially Ralph Huenemann for his tireless leadership as our Board President, and our two retiring Board Members, founding treasurer Jerry McDonald and secretary Vanessa Dingley, whose contribution to this organization over the years has been immense.

We'll look forward to the time when we can fill our venues free from restrictions and pandemic-fears. In the meantime, we will do everything we can to continue to create and share beautiful music and stay connected.

Soile Stratkauskas
Artistic Director

Special Resolution: Proposed Bylaw Amendment to “Part 2 – Membership”

David R. explained that this Special Resolution to amend our Bylaws (Part 2 – Membership) was intended to simplify the membership process to both make it easier for members and to streamline the administration of membership. Instead of charging a \$5.00 fee for membership, the Society would confer membership on all donors, and allow anyone else who wished to simply apply for membership without a charge.

Motion by David Robertson, seconded by Christi that Part 2 the Victoria Baroque Music Society By-Laws governing membership shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

Part 2 - Members

Membership in the Society

2.1 A person may apply to the Board for membership in the society and on acceptance by the Board is a member.

2.2 The Board has the discretion to confer membership on supporters or donors.

Duties of Members

2.3 Members are expected to uphold the constitution and must comply with these bylaws.

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Member not in good standing

2.4 A member who has not renewed their membership since the previous AGM is not a member in good standing.

Member not in good standing may not vote

2.5 A member who is not in good standing may not vote at an AGM.

Termination of Membership

2.6 A member's membership in the Society ceases when:
the member resigns, the member dies, the member is no longer in good standing

Carried

Nominations and Election to the Board of Directors

Allyn Chard as Nominations Officer presented the Slate of Nominations:

Members whose term ends October-November 2021

Standing for Re-election:

Jennifer Gerwing

Health Care Communication and Medical Decision-Making Consultant

Erin Kelly

Associate Professor, UVic Department of English and Director, Academic Writing Program, UVic

Andrea Kolot - IT professional

David Robertson - Retired from public service

Retiring this year:

Vanessa Dingley - Former Academic Administrator

Jerry McDonald - Musician, Financial Consultant

Members whose term ends October-November 2022

Christopher Butterfield - Director, Associate Professor, UVic School of Music

Allyn Chard - Violin Teacher

James Harlick - Senior Director, Clinical Operations

Ralph Huenemann - Professor of International Business (Retired)

John Tucker - Professor of English and Medieval Studies (Retired)

Nomination for two-year term ending October-November 2023

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Virginia Acuña - UVic School of Music Faculty

Bill Jamieson - Musician and Chartered Accountant

Gavin Winter - Gavin Winter Customer Experience Consultant, Strategic Business Development

Motion to accept the slate of Board nominations:

Moved: Allyn Chard

Seconded: Christopher Butterfield

Carried

Other Business: Approval of Board Actions

Diana MacDonald thanked the whole VBMS Board, including Jerry and Vanessa who are both retiring this year, and the Victoria Baroque musicians for their accomplishments over the past year.

Motion by Diana MacDonald

A vote of thanks to the board for their work since the last AGM and that all lawful acts, proceedings and contracts made on behalf of the society by its directors and officers be approved, ratified and confirmed.

Seconded: Sheila Redhead

Carried

Motion to Adjourn by Christi

Carried

Adjournment 7:50 pm

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2022 AGM Reports

Treasurer's 2021 – 2022 Report to AGM

Attached are the annual financial statements for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2022.

Financial position

The society has working capital and unrestricted net assets (equity) of \$40,501. As at the year-end date, that was represented by cash (\$69,995), GST rebate receivable (\$498), and prepaid expenses (\$2,288), less outstanding accounts payable (\$6,136) and deferred revenue (\$26,144).

Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue consists of grant funding received by August 31, 2022 but specified by grantors for use in the following fiscal year.

Revenues

The society had \$82,452 in revenues for the year, compared to \$107,512 in previous year. Donations were down from the previous year by approximately \$20,000. This is partially accounted for by donations received in the comparative year for online concerts. Grant income was also down by approximately \$18,000 from the previous year. This reduction is due to a one-time COVID-related grant of \$20,000 received in the comparative year, but not in the current year.

Expenses

Production related expenses such as artist fees and production costs were down by approximately \$40,000, compared to the previous year. Approximately \$30,000 of that difference relates to artist and production costs for a CD produced and released in the comparative year. Management and administrative costs were up by approximately \$5,000 compared to the previous year.

Excess of Revenue over Expense

As a result of the above variations, the society's revenues exceeded its expenses by \$11,245 in the year ended August 31, 2022. That compares with a deficiency of revenue over expenses of \$2,791 in the comparative year.

General

The society continues to be in very sound financial condition.

Respectfully submitted,
William Jamieson, Treasurer

VICTORIA BAROQUE MUSIC SOCIETY
Financial Statements

Year ended August 31, 2022

NOTICE TO READER

The balance sheet of the Victoria Baroque Music Society as at August 31, 2022 and the Statements of Operations and Net Assets for the year then ended have been compiled on the basis of information provided by management.

Neither an audit nor a review engagement in respect of these financial statements have been performed.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

William Jamieson
Treasurer

Victoria, Canada
September 11, 2022

VICTORIA BAROQUE MUSIC SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2022
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

	2022	2021
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash in bank	\$ 69,995	\$ 48,379
GST refund receivable	498	918
Prepaid expenses	2,288	12
	72,781	49,309
 CAPITAL ASSETS		
Harpichords - Note 2	24,000	24,000
	\$ 96,781	\$ 73,309
 LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 6,136	\$ 2,880
Deferred Revenue	26,144	17,172
	32,280	20,052
 NET ASSETS		
Invested in capital assets	24,000	24,000
Unrestricted	40,501	29,257
	64,501	53,257
	\$ 96,781	\$ 73,309

Approved on behalf of the board

Ralph W. Hueneemann

[Signature]

VICTORIA BAROQUE MUSIC SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

	2022	2021
REVENUES		
Ticket sales, garden concerts, & joint concerts	\$ 18,605	\$ 11,086
CD sales	2,046	-
Donations & fund raising	34,843	53,965
Workshop & school concerts	2,600	1,740
Grants (Note 3)	21,552	39,925
Membership fees and miscellaneous	1,845	71
Victoria Foundation investment return	961	725
TOTAL REVENUES	82,452	107,512
EXPENSES		
Production expenses:		
Artist's fees and expenses	38,005	67,728
Artistic direction	18,000	15,000
Education/outreach programs	3,000	3,000
CD production costs	2,091	8,896
Recording costs	1,108	4,024
Instrument tuning & moving	250	3,978
Venue and music rental	-	845
	<u>62,454</u>	<u>103,471</u>
Administrative expenses:		
Internet	1,957	1,207
Other	1,842	380
Office - rent	1,800	1,650
Insurance	1,190	1,190
Training and professional dev.	750	-
Publicity	543	1,360
Repairs and maintenance	328	-
Telephone	241	260
Office - supplies	77	487
Postage	25	298
	<u>8,753</u>	<u>6,832</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	71,207	110,303
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ 11,245	\$ (2,791)

VICTORIA BAROQUE MUSIC SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS
AS AT AUGUST 31, 2021
(Unaudited - See Notice to Reader)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Invested in Capital Assets</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
OPENING BALANCE	\$ 29,256	\$ 24,000	\$ 53,256	\$ 32,048
Excess of revenues over expenses	11,245	-	11,245	21,209
CLOSING BALANCE	<u>\$ 40,501</u>	<u>\$ 24,000</u>	<u>\$ 64,501</u>	<u>\$ 53,257</u>

VICTORIA BAROQUE MUSIC SOCIETY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2022
(Unaudited – See Notice to Reader)

NOTE 1 – PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

The purpose of the Society is as follows: (a) to advance the public’s appreciation of the arts by providing high-quality artistic performances of Baroque music and associated music forms; (b) to advance education by providing instructional seminars, workshops and lectures on Baroque music and associated music forms; and (c) to undertake activities ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the aforementioned charitable purpose.

The Society is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax.

NOTE 2 – CAPITAL ASSETS

In February 2021 the Society received a grant from the BC Arts Infrastructure Fund for the purpose of purchasing harpsichords. Two instruments were purchased at a cost of \$24,000.

The Society’s policy is not to amortize instruments, as the fair value of the instruments does not decrease over time.

NOTE 3 – GRANT REVENUE

	2022	2021
Provincial Gaming grant	\$ 7,528	\$ 7,575
Capital Regional District	9,550	9,550
BC Arts Infrastructure Fund (Note2)	-	24,000
Province of BC Arts and Culture Resilience	-	20,300
Private foundations	4,474	2,500
less: credit directly to net assets invested in capital assets	-	(24,000)
	<u>\$ 21,552</u>	<u>\$ 39,925</u>

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President's 2021 – 2022 Report to AGM

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for 2021-2022, a period that encompasses the end of the eleventh and the beginning of the twelfth season of the Victoria Baroque Music Society. Over the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has still caused major disruptions to the concerts delivered by the Society, but the community health situation is gradually improving, and the musicians have continued to perform superb music under difficult circumstances. The extraordinary efforts by Soile Stratkauskas, our Artistic Director, to flexibly plan the programs, to minimize the disruptions caused by pandemic, and to apply successfully for many grants, call for special praise.

The wonderful concerts presented over the past year are described in greater detail in Soile Stratkauskas' report as Artistic Director, but I would like to add a few comments to her report. It is very encouraging that we have been able to return (cautiously) to our traditional mode of face-to-face performances. During the past season, Isaiah Bell's presentation of Bach arias, the ensemble performance of the music captured on the CD "Companions of Baroque," the Bach and poetry presentation in memory of violinist Jeanne Lamon, and the ensemble performance of French baroque music directed by Marco Vitale were all deeply appreciated by the (somewhat limited) audiences who were able to attend. During the summer, we have enjoyed two open-air garden concerts, and this format now seems well established for future summers. Opening the current winter season, we have just this past week welcomed violinist Julia Wedman in two contexts, both the traditional format of a concert in St. John the Divine and in the innovative format of a Bach in the Pub concert. In January we will be welcoming an old friend, harpsichordist Steven Devine, performing in the same two venues. Then in April David Stratkauskas will be directing Handel vocal anthems. Let me urge Society supporters to attend these special events.

The lingering effects of the pandemic continue to have an adverse effect on ticket sales, but many donors have made generous donations to help ease the financial squeeze. I thank you deeply for your contributions. And the continuing support of many grant providers is also deeply appreciated. We acknowledge the grants from the Capital Regional District, the BC Gaming Commission, the BC Arts Council, the Hamber Foundation, and the Victoria Foundation.

The VBMS Board works diligently behind the scenes to support the local community of dedicated Baroque musicians. Andrea Kolot serves as Secretary of the Board and Bill Jamieson serves as Treasurer. Gavin Winter and Virginia Acuña, recent arrivals in Victoria, have now joined the Board. Much appreciated is the continuing service of Jennifer Gerwing (especially for her organization of virtual meetings during the pandemic), Erin Kelly for her active Board participation, Christi Myers for her equable representation of the musicians to the Board and vice versa, John Tucker for hosting garden concerts, Jim Harlick for essential behind-the-scenes services, Christopher Butterfield for facilitating liaison with UVIC, David Robertson for support with his IT expertise, and David Stratkauskas for providing a key link to St. John's. The administrative side of the VBMS mission has continued to benefit from Sharon McMillan's organizational skills, rationalizing our office's operation and record keeping. Last, but by no means least, we continue to benefit from the support of the Church of St. John the Divine, where we have our main performance venue and office space. For this continuing help, our thanks are due to the Rector and the Wardens.

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In closing, let me say that, despite the ravages of the pandemic, we continue to be blessed with the beautiful Baroque music performed by the talented local musicians and guest artists.

Ralph Huenemann - President

Artistic Director's 2021 -2022 Report to AGM

Despite the challenges thrown to us by the Covid-19 pandemic, Victoria Baroque has continued its mandate of presenting exciting performances of baroque music. After our tenth anniversary season of mainly online concerts due to the pandemic, we carefully returned to live concerts in our 2021-22 season, with some capacity limits in place to allow for physical distancing.

We opened the season with the programme 'Bach Tenor Arias' with the local tenor Isaiah Bell. At our November concert directed by Chloe Meyers, we released our second CD 'Companions of Baroque' featuring concertos by Telemann, Dall'Abaco, Vivaldi, and Heinichen. Sadly, our January project with Julia Wedman had to be canceled, which we luckily were able to reschedule for this season.

In February we were privileged to host a concert in memory of Jeanne Lamon. The concert was curated by Jeanne's partner, Christina Mahler, and featured Victoria Baroque musicians and violinist Yolanda Bruno, playing on Jeanne's violin. The music was entirely by JS Bach and pieces were paired with poetry, read by Kit Pearson. The season finished in April with a Programme of French Dance suites titled "Love, Music, and Fantasy", directed by harpsichordist Marco Vitale who recently moved to Victoria. The November and February concerts were also offered digitally online.

For the third summer, we presented summer concerts at private gardens. These concerts have become very popular and are often fully booked within a matter of days. This summer we featured a new instrument to us – nyckelharpa – masterfully played by Kirsty Money in a programme combining folk and baroque music. The second garden concert featured the highly talented young soprano, Rachel Allen. Our third outdoor concert at Esquimalt Town Square featured a selection of baroque chamber works played by Victoria Baroque members.

Despite the pandemic, we have also continued our educational outreach. For the second time, in March we held a Baroque Strings Spring Camp for young string players and had 13 students aged 11 to 18 participating.

In July, in collaboration with the Victoria Conservatory of Music and Early Music Vancouver, we held our fourth annual Summer Intensive Programme at the Victoria Conservatory. First time this year we added a vocal stream to the programme, and had the acclaimed contra-alto, Vicki St Pierre as our voice instructor. 32 students aged eleven to seventy plus eight auditors participated in the programme, and the faculty and student concerts were enjoyed by many enthusiastic audience members.

In our current, twelfth season, we are continuing ongoing collaborations with outstanding guest artists, as well as collaborating with musicians new to our organisation. Guest artists this season include Canadian early music soprano, Jane Long; Tafelmusik's violinist, Julia Wedman; and the

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wonderful British harpsichordist, Steven Devine, who returns to direct Victoria Baroque for the fourth time. This season we are particularly excited to present repertoire and composers new to us, including music by several female composers and contemporary music by Canadian composers.

A new initiative this season are two concerts titled “Bach in the Pub” at the Victoria Event Centre. We wanted to offer listeners a chance to enjoy first-class live music in a more casual environment that also allows the enjoyment of beverages. The first one of these was on November 6th featuring Julia Wedman performing solo violin works by Bach, Biber, and Telemann. This event was highly successful, and the listeners greatly enjoyed the ambiance and social aspect of this event, different from regular evening concerts. On January 16th we will have our second ‘Bach in the Pub’ concert, featuring harpsichordist Steven Devine, which will no doubt be great fun.

We are also continuing to bring our music to other communities and audiences outside Victoria. Guest performances this season include concerts for Early Music Society of the Islands, ArtSpring, SaltSpring Baroque, Cowichan Symphony Society, Fanny Bay Concerts, Port Alberni Classical Concerts, Esquimalt Township Classics, and a baroque opera collaboration with the UVic Voice Ensemble.

This Autumn we have started a new educational programme, Youth Baroque Orchestra led by our violinist Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith, which meets weekly on Sunday afternoons. The orchestra is divided into two groups by level. In the Autumn term the groups are working on Concerto Grossi repertoire, and in the Spring term the senior group will perform the entire Four Seasons by Vivaldi.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to our hard-working directors on the Board for making our artistic endeavors possible, and especially the two retiring directors, Allyn Chard and Ralph Huenemann. Allyn has been serving on the Board since 2013, has been our volunteer coordinator and instrumental in organising many of our fundraising events, and we are deeply grateful for her long-time contribution to the Society. Ralph joined the Board in 2016 and has been serving as our president since 2019. Ralph has been immensely generous with Society and helped us through the challenging time of the pandemic. We wish all the best to both Allyn and Ralph and hope to see them both at our concerts.

We would like to thank the Church of St John the Divine and the rectors and wardens for the use of this beautiful performance venue and the office space. We would also like to thank Sharon McMillan for her excellent work as the volunteer administrator; our graphic designer Lara Minja for her beautiful graphics in our brochures and posters; and our many volunteers who have helped with our concerts.

We are grateful recipients of funding from the Capital Regional District’s Arts Development Services, BC Gaming Commission, Victoria Foundation, BC Arts Council, and Hamber Foundation. We are grateful for the generous support of our many donors who helped us to get through the pandemic when ticket sales were not possible or limited. And lastly, we are grateful for our many musicians, who have demonstrated commitment, passion, and resilience through this time, and kept the music going.

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Soile Stratkauskas
Artistic Director

Nominations and election to the Board of Directors

Andrea Kolot as Nominations Officer presented the Slate of Nominations:

Members whose term ends November 2022

Standing for Re-election:

David Robertson as Victoria Baroque Music Society president
IT professional from BC Public Service (retired)

Christopher Butterfield
Director, Associate Professor, UVIC School of Music

James Harlick
Senior Director, Clinical Operations (retired)

John Tucker
Professor of English and Medieval Studies (retired)