

Creative Learning Creative Giving



University
of Victoria
Fine Arts



Learning to Bow Together

Bequest introduces unique Canadian program

It's the kind of movement any orchestra would applaud: inspired by the opportunity to study with one of the world's leading string quartets, a prize-winning international quartet comes to Victoria.

That was exactly the scenario when Mexico's Cuarteto Chroma— (from left, above) Ilya Gotchev, Carlos Quijano, Felix Alanis and Manuel Cruz— came to UVic in 2017 to earn their Master's in Music Performance (emphasis on string quartet), under the mentorship of UVic's artists-in-residence, the Lafayette String Quartet (LSQ).

"It's inspiring for other students to be around this level of professionalism," explains LSQ violinist Ann Elliot-Goldschmid. "It elevates the learning and research in the whole music department."

Indeed, Cuarteto Chroma are the first quartet to take part in this one-of-a-kind Canadian program, modelled on prestigious programs at American universities. It provides a unique learning opportu-

nity for a quartet to earn a collaborative performance degree with guidance from members of the long-established and incredibly successful LSQ.

As LSQ violinist Ann Elliot-Goldschmid explains, this type of training is vital to the success of a quartet. "You hone your skills to be the best you can possibly be, then bring those skills into the ensemble, matching the timing, harmony, vibrato, bow speeds and articulation of the others," she says. "It's a magical process, but it takes an enormous amount of work."

Cuarteto Chroma's fellowships are funded by a bequest from the late Claire Watson Fisher, through the Victoria Foundation. Claire grew up in a music-loving Montreal family; her mother belonged to several musical organizations, and her father was one of the founders of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra.

During World War I, Claire worked for the Canadian Red Cross in England and France, where she received several awards for her service. Her career in the arts began after the war, when she worked for her father's

art gallery, then the Art Gallery of Ontario, and finally, Ottawa's National Museums Department. After retiring, she and her husband moved to Victoria.

"Her love of music was a passion, and it inspired her to give back to the art form that had given her so much pleasure and joy", says Louise (Watson) Slein, Claire's sister. "I only wish Claire had known the extent of her bequest."

Cuarteto Chroma also benefits Victoria's greater community by playing at local schools, benefits and public events. When they travel for concerts, festivals and competitions, they raise awareness of the calibre of UVic Music around the world. And for the LSQ, it has been a highlight of their 26-year UVic residency.

"It's a real joy," says Ann. "Like all teachers, our wish is to have our students eventually surpass us. We longed for UVic to develop something like this for many years and Claire Watson's bequest gave us the opportunity." 🌿



New Music award commemorates CFUV host

For over 30 years, Eric LeBlanc's blues show *Let the Good Times Roll* appeared weekly on UVic's CFUV radio. While he spent 25 years as the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory's librarian, Eric was also a self-taught blues scholar: his collection of thousands of recordings was donated to CFUV after his death in 2015, and over 300 music-related books were donated to the McPherson Library. Now, friends and family have created the Eric LeBlanc Memorial Scholarship for School of Music students with a passion for jazz and blues.

Audain Professor looks at art & reconciliation

Kwagiulth/Coast Salish artist Carey Newman has been named the sixth Audain Professor of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest with the Visual Arts department—a position funded through an endowment from Michael Audain and the Audain Foundation. "This is breaking new ground for me," says famed *Witness Blanket* creator Newman, also a former School of Music student. "I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to convert the experience of mentorship into a more formal educational setting."



Making the most of a century

When noted teacher, philanthropist and lifelong theatre devotee Tommy Mayne passed away in April at the remarkable age of 99, he had already begun to see the impact of his legacy: the Thomas and Elizabeth Mayne Bursary in Theatre, established in 2010, has benefited a number of students, many of which Tommy was able to meet. "I was filled with admiration at his generosity," said Theatre professor Brian Richmond on his passing. "The city—and the arts community—has lost a wonderful man."

Fundraiser grows Legacy Scholarship

The Faculty of Fine Arts co-hosted an elegant fundraising dinner at the Union Club in June, in support of the Stephen and Eunice Lowe Legacy Scholarship. A silent auction of over 80 items of art and sculpture from Eunice Lowe's private collection raised over \$18,000 for the scholarship, which is awarded to undergraduates in either Art History & Visual Studies or Visual Arts. Widow of the late celebrated artist, Stephen Lowe, Eunice has tirelessly and graciously sought ways to support our students with her generosity of time and financial support and as an arts ambassador for our community.





Twin Kennedy named Distinguished Alumni

It's only been 10 years since sister duo Twin Kennedy graduated from the School of Music, but during that short decade, the acclaimed country/roots duo already released two albums, toured across North America, moved to Nashville and won the hearts of country radio and fans alike. In February, the sisters were honoured with UVic's 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award—an award that's doubly special this year, given the School of Music's 50th anniversary and Twin Kennedy's participation in the annual scholarship fundraising appeal.

Technology expands the horizons of literature

A lifelong love of literature, theatre and education has been fused with digital technology, thanks to a \$25,000 donation by Dr. Robert Aitken in memory of his mother. Mary Aitken was a well-loved teacher at both Mt. Douglas and Esquimalt Secondary schools who strongly believed in fostering creativity and keeping up with the latest technology. Now, the Mary Aitken Legacy Scholarship will support students in our new Digital & Interactive Media in the Arts minor, enabling future generations of writers to get their start.



New art therapy scholarship established

There's no doubt art can make you feel better, and now the Centre for Human Science Research and Its Relation to Human Science Association (formerly the British Columbia School of Art Therapy) has donated \$32,000 to establish a new award. The Kathleen G. Collis Art Therapy Scholarship will support Fine Arts students with an interest in phenomenological approaches or other forms of community engaged creative activity that contributes to the field of art therapy and the therapeutic use of the arts.

"I didn't think I'd ever have the opportunity to go to university, and the generosity of your gift has already made such a lasting impact on my studies."

—Laura, third year, Visual Arts

Student Voices

"As a student from a rural town and a lower income family, this scholarship will go a long way in making it possible for me to focus on my studies in the coming academic year."

—Lauren, third year, Theatre

"This award has lit me with the confidence I need to take risks and trust my voice and my visions."

—Miriam, second year, Writing

"My dream to teach music would be much more difficult without the generosity of you and your family."

—John, fourth year, School of Music

A Journalistic Legacy

10 years of the Southam Lectureship

For the past 10 years, Writing students have benefited by learning directly from veteran journalists and authors, thanks to the endowed Harvey S. Southam Lectureship in Journalism and Nonfiction.

The Southam Lectureship brings in a different lecturer each year, but Writing chose to mark this decade of academic achievement



with a special anniversary panel featuring six former Southam Lecturers: JoAnn Roberts, Tom Hawthorn (both seen above), Vivian Smith, Terry Glavin, Mark Leiren-Young and Jody Paterson.

“All were keen to talk about their experiences as guest lecturers and debate the future of journalism,” says Writing chair David Leach.

Created from a donation from one of the country’s leading publishing families and named for late UVic alumnus Harvey Southam, this influential journalist-in-residence program sees a mid-career writer join the department each year to teach a course and give a public lecture on their chosen topic.

Remembering Erich Schwandt

Organist’s impact continues to reverberate

Whether they realize it or not, generations of graduating UVic students have been touched by the music of Dr. Erich Schwandt.

A California native and expert on French Baroque music, Schwandt came to UVic in 1975 to teach in the School of Music; he was named Professor Emeritus of Musicology upon his retirement in 2001.



But it was through his position as UVic’s organist that most people heard him: at each convocation for 30 years, until spring 2013, he played the huge Clearihue organ in UVic’s Farquhar Auditorium. Indeed, he attended more UVic convocations than anyone else, with tens of thousands of UVic grads hearing his music.

A gentle and witty man, beloved by his students, Dr. Schwandt passed away in Victoria in August

2017. But he continues to be a presence in the lives of students, thanks to the Mary M. and Erich P. Schwandt Scholarship in Music.

When he was awarded Honorary Alumnus status at UVic in 2015, then-Director of Music, Dr. Susan Lewis, described him as “one of the department’s defining spirits.”

It’s an apt way of commemorating a man whose influence rings on even after he’s gone. 🇺🇸



\$467K

Donated to
Fine Arts
in 2017/18

The impact of your gift lingers long after students graduate. “This award comes at a crucial moment in my studies,” noted one Masters candidate in Theatre. “Simply put, I don’t know how I would be able to graduate [without it].” We are grateful to our donors who expanded the range and breadth of awards available to our students by establishing new awards this past academic year:

- Sarah Blackstone Endowed Scholarship in Theatre
- Dave Ian Dunnet Music Education Scholarship
- Eugene Dowling Scholarship Fund in Music
- Mary Aitken Legacy Scholarship in Writing
- Kathleen G. Collis Art Therapy Scholarship
- Roger J. Bishop Writing Prize



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New Fine Arts
awards created
in 2017/18



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To learn more about our giving
initiatives, please contact our
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