

**BRASS - MICHAEL OSWALD** has been second horn of the Victoria Symphony since 2007. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, he studied at the Cleveland Institute of Music with Richard King and at Rice University with William VerMeulen. He has performed with many professional orchestras and music festivals, including the Cleveland Orchestra, Canton Symphony, American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria, Aspen Music Festival, National Repertory Orchestra, Music Academy of the West, and Kent/Blossom Music Festival. He was featured as a soloist at the Aspen Festival playing Schumann's *Konzertstück* for Four Horns and Orchestra and has performed recitals in Ohio, Washington, Texas, British Columbia, and Graz.

**CHORAL – ANNETTE COFFIN**, a native of Sydney, Cape Breton NS, grew up in a family of singers surrounded by a community of nurturing parents, teachers and fine musicians. She began her singing/choral career as an alto in the church choir with her mom and sisters, and went on to study music as a voice major, with a minor in piano. She began her teaching career in Halifax, Nova Scotia, moved to Parksville/Qualicum, BC and is Music Coordinator K-8 in SD43 Coquitlam, having spent 34 years sharing her passion for music. In her position as Coordinator, Ms. Coffin works in classrooms with teachers teaching music, conducts district choirs and takes every opportunity to gather singers together in song! Ms. Coffin is celebrating her 20th season as conductor with all levels in the Coastal Sound Music Academy family of Training Choirs, currently Artistic leader of the beginning girls, the Novisingers. Ms. Coffin has a Bachelor of Musical Arts from the University of Windsor, Ontario, a Bachelor of Music Education from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia and a Master of Education from Simon Fraser University, British Columbia.

**CLASSICAL GUITAR – ROBERT WARD** holds degrees in guitar performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, BM, and the University of California San Diego, MA. He has studied guitar with Angel, Pepe and Celin Romero, Michael Lorimer, Lee Ryan and George Sakellariou, and early music with Laurette Goldberg. Mr. Ward has performed extensively throughout the United States and Europe, and performed works written for him at the famed Theatre de Renalgh in Paris. In Boston, he produced and was one of seven performers in a concert event memorial tribute to Andres Segovia shortly after the Maestro's passing in 1988. He served for two years as the Artistic Director of the Boston Classical Guitar Society and remains active with the society as both a performer and an honorary board member. Mr. Ward has been a soloist with the New England Philharmonic, the Belmont Symphony Orchestra, Art of Music Chamber Players, the Northeastern Symphony, Harvard Group for New Music, the Bridgewater Sinfonia, the Mozart Society Orchestra at Harvard, Composers in Red Sneakers and the Newton Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Ward is a faculty member at Northeastern University and The Brookline Music School.

**COMPOSITION – DIANE BERRY** grew up in Toronto, starting piano lessons at age six and flute at age 13. In 1982 she graduated from the music program at York University, studying flute with Virginia Markson. While at York she took a course in composition from David Mott and James Tenny, but didn't pursue it after graduation, concentrating instead on teaching and performing chamber music. In 1995, Ms. Berry and her family established themselves in Smithers, BC, where she was playing with a trio, *Two Flutes & a Violin*. Here she returned to composition, writing primarily for that trio. In 1998, she won first in the composition section of the Terrace Music Festival, and in 2001 the Jean Coulthard Competition in Victoria. She has written music for the

Smithers Community Band, the Discovery film, “Sheep of Stone,” the Victoria Piano Summer School Chorus, the Prelude String Orchestra of Victoria School District 61 and the University of Victoria flute quartet.

**ETHNIC DANCE – SYLVIA HOSIE** graduated with distinction from the University of Victoria, and is a dancer, singer, actress and choreographer. At Claremont Senior Secondary she developed and oversaw the Performing Arts Department for 17 years. She has been a guest teacher of dance and musical theatre at numerous dance studios, and for 9 years ran her own studio - Victoria Theatre Arts. She was principal dancer for 4 years with Canada’s National Dance Ensemble, and was nominated “Woman of Distinction” for Fine Arts, Performing Arts, and mentoring young people in 2000. She has directed and choreographed at numerous festivals and theatres, and most recently has been director and choreographer for A Chorus Line in Vancouver.

**FIDDLE - IVONNE HERNANDEZ** was by the age of 3 playing violin by ear, everything from her mother’s favourite Maritime reels to her father’s Chilean folk music roots. She soon was playing guitar, piano, cello, flute and percussion before joining Dan Lapp’s BC Fiddle Orchestra. While still in her pre-teens, Ms. Hernandez played at the 1994 Commonwealth Games and at 13 was the youngest member of the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra. She formed Fiddlemania, a dual-violin band with her younger sister, Kalissa, and was the Merritt Old Time Fiddlers’ Provincial Champion for two years running before becoming a judge at the event as a 15 year old. Ivonne is the reigning 5 time Grand North American Fiddle Champion, records extensively both alone and with her sister, Kalissa and has toured and taught all over North America, the Caribbean and Europe. Ivonne was offered a scholarship to attend Berklee College of Music and graduated in 3 years at the top of her class with a dual major in Violin Performance and Music Business & Management. Ms. Hernandez has mastered Canada’s traditional fiddle music, embodies the country’s 21st Century multiculturalism, and her music reflects the new century’s marriage of cultural influences.

**PIANO (JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE) – CYNTHIA GODDARD** earned her A.R.C.T. diploma in performance at the age of fifteen and continued on to receive her Bachelor of Music Degree and Master of Music Degree, with a full graduate fellowship, in piano performance from the University of British Columbia, studying under Dr. Dale Reubart. She has also worked with Anton Kuerti, Robert Silverman and Kum Sing Lee. Mrs. Goddard has accompanied members of the VSO in concert and has performed numerous solo recitals. She has been an instructor at the Langley Community Music School, Kamloops Interior Summer School of Music and the Courtenay Youth Music Centre. Mrs. Goddard is a past president of the South Fraser Branch of the B.C. Registered Music Teachers’ Association and is a member of the B.C. Choral Federation. She has also been an official accompanist for the International Clarinet Association’s “Clarinet Fest” where she worked with visiting artists from several countries around the world. She currently combines a private teaching practice with chamber ensemble coaching and adjudicating, and also works as a collaborative pianist, an elementary band instructor, choral conductor and a church music facilitator.

**PIANO (JUNIOR AND INTERMEDIATE) – KATHY DORNIAN** a native Calgarian, is a nationally respected pedagogue, chamber musician, adjudicator and examiner. She earned a Master of Music Degree in piano performance from the University of Western Ontario and a Bachelor of

Music, Bachelor of Education and Kodaly Fine Arts Diploma from the University of Calgary. Her education was enriched by post-graduate performance studies at the prestigious Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary and her teachers have included Marilyn Engle, Peter Smith and Edith Hambalko. Since 1985, Ms. Dornian has served on the faculty at Mount Royal University Conservatory where she pursues an extensive and versatile career as a musician. She is currently an artistic collaborator with the internationally recognized Morningside Music Bridge Program, an affiliation that has taken her to Shanghai and Poland. For many years, she served as piano coordinator of the Academy of Music, a prestigious and nationally renowned program for gifted young musicians, involving the opportunity to work with and closely observe many internationally respected teachers including Kum Sing Lee, Anton Kuerti, Jenő Jando, Jon Kimura Parker, Steven Kovacovich and Angela Hewitt.

**PIANO (SENIOR) – JASON CUTMORE**, is a Canadian pianist and has performed solo recitals and collaborative concerts throughout North America, Europe and India and has concertized in New York City, Cleveland, Calgary, Edmonton, Oberlin, Princeton, Rochester, and in Purchase, NY where he was honoured to inaugurate the Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra's "Tuning Up" series. Mr. Cutmore's performances and ardent interest in foreign travel have frequently taken him abroad to Germany, Lithuania, India, and most recently, to Hungary, where he performed recitals at the Franz Liszt Museum in Budapest, and in Bartók Hall in Szombathely. Upcoming engagements will take him to Chicago's Cultural Center, the University of Calgary's Celebrity Series, the Colours of Music Festival in Ontario, and to numerous other venues throughout North America. Mr. Cutmore holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the SUNY Purchase College Conservatory of Music in New York. His major teachers have been Robert Shannon, Stephanie Brown, and Michael Massey. Originally from Edmonton, Canada, Mr. Cutmore now resides in a suburb of New York City.

**PIANO (OPEN) – WALTER PROSSNITZ** was born in Victoria, Canada, in 1959. He studied at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, in Vienna and at the Juilliard School in New York, where he graduated with an honours master's degree in 1984. During his studies he won many prizes, including the Grand Prix for all instruments at the Canadian National Competition, and the first prize at the Montreal Sinfonia Competition. His extensive concert work includes performances of more than 40 different piano concerts with orchestras in New York (Carnegie Hall), Seattle, Montreal, Mexico City, Munich, Nuremberg, Basle and Zurich (Tonhalle and Opera). Mr. Prossnitz has performed recitals in New York, San Francisco, Toronto, Paris, Budapest, Helsinki, Hong Kong and Beijing. In recent years he has performed many chamber music concerts, most notably with violinists Bettina Boller and Hansheinz Schneeberger and mezzo-soprano Christina Daletskaja. Mr. Prossnitz has been a lecturer at the Zurich Conservatory since 1988. He has held master classes in England, the USA, Canada, China and Switzerland. Since 2004 he has been engaged in "new versions" of well-known works; creations are among others the B minor and "Dante" piano concertos by Liszt, as well as the "Kreutzer Concerto" and the rondo brillante by Schubert, both for violin and orchestra.

**SCHOOL BANDS - MICHAEL KEDDY** is the Music Director of the University of Victoria Don Wright Symphonic Winds and the Co-Conductor of the University of Victoria Wind Symphony. He currently teaches Music Education, Conducting, and Post-Degree Professional Program courses at the University of Victoria where he is a PhD candidate in Educational Studies (Music

Education/Conducting) under the supervision of Dr. Gerald King. Prior to completing a Master's Degree in Performance (Wind Conducting) with Dr. Dale Lonis at the University of Manitoba, he was Head of Performing Arts at Parry Sound High School in Parry Sound, Ontario. Mr. Keddy completed the Graduate Diploma in Conducting from the University of Calgary, conducted and performed in Europe as Associate Conductor (Concert Band) and Music Director (Jazz Band) of the Ontario Youth Concert Band, and has also held the responsibility of Music Director and Music Education Clinician for the Senior Band component at Camp Musical d'Asbestos in Asbestos, Quebec. He has adjudicated and provided numerous music education and percussion clinics at many festivals and venues throughout Canada. As a percussionist, Mr. Keddy has taught as a member of the faculty at the University of Manitoba

**SCHOOL DANCE - STEPHANIE SY** was born and raised in Richmond, BC. She began honing her dance skills at age six and her passion, talent, and drive earned her scholarships at world-renowned dance schools. Ms. Sy garnered dance techniques from masters at the National Ballet of Canada; Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and her most significant scholarship to date is from Edge Performing Arts Center in Los Angeles. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Kinetics from the University of British Columbia, has over ten years international experience in the dance and performance arts industry and is currently working as an award-winning choreographer, instructor, performer, and competitive judge. Her extensive body of work includes television, film and live performance. In 2009, she founded a unique dance program aimed at empowering women she branded *Sexy Stiletto Dance* and her own series of instructional fitness DVD's. As recently as 2009, she was approached to create and propose an all-encompassing dance program exclusively for The Richmond Olympic Oval, venue of long track speed skating for the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. In between performing, auditioning, filming, and adjudicating at dance competitions, Stephanie is teaching hip hop, jazz, and *Sexy Stiletto Dance* at the Harbour Dance Centre in Vancouver, BC. She is also currently enrolled at Vancouver's premier acting school, Actor's Foundry.

**SPEECH & DRAMATIC ARTS – GRANT PATERSON** is a well-known teacher, actor, adjudicator and examiner. He teaches theatre and speech at Mount Royal University, Calgary, and directs Mount Royal Conservatory's Young Shakespeare Company. Mr. Paterson holds Associate Diplomas (Gold Medal) in Speech Arts and Drama from Mount Royal College and from The Royal Conservatory of Music Toronto. He is a Fellow of Trinity College of Music London and holds a Professional Acting Diploma from Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art in London, a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Fine Arts in Theatre Studies from the University of Calgary. His teachers have included Patsy Rodenburg, Sheila Moriarty, Francis Thomas and Leona Paterson. Mr. Paterson has adjudicated many festivals throughout Canada, including the Canadian National Festival, and has given numerous workshops on topics such as Public Speaking, Voice and Speech, and Text and Voice. He is a senior examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music, and has contributed to publications of the RCM including the Speech Arts and Drama Syllabus, 2000 Edition, and the upcoming 2010 edition. He travels regularly to Argentina to examine for the International Schools Association. As an actor, Mr. Paterson has many performance and acting credits. His play, *Rhyme Rustler: The Ballad of Robert Service*, had two triumphant seasons at Calgary's Vertigo Theatre, and is now touring the country.

**STRINGS (JUNIOR) – JUDITH FRASER**, Alberta born cellist, received her early musical training with Mary Shortt, Audrey Piggott and at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England. Returning to Vancouver, she became a member of the Vancouver Symphony and the CBC Radio Orchestra. A founding member and manager of the Baroque Strings of Vancouver for ten years, Ms. Fraser was treasurer of the Vancouver Cello Club for 37 years and also delegate to the American Cello Council. She played with the Vancouver Opera Orchestra and was orchestra manager for 12 years. As a participant in the Banff Summer Residency programs, Ms. Fraser worked extensively with Aldo Parisot on pedagogy, and has given workshops for the Australian String Teachers Association in Brisbane, Hobart and recently in Melbourne. Together with John Kadz from Mount Royal College in Calgary, Judith has organized 8 “Cellofests” at the Banff Centre with International Mastercellists. She is Editor of the Vancouver Cello Club newsletter, is a life member of the Board of Directors of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Orchestra, teaches and coaches in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, coaches Adult Ensemble Classes, has taught in the summer at Victoria Conservatory of Music’s Summer Strings and at Valhalla Summer School of the Arts in the Kootenays, is a regular Festival adjudicator and is currently on the Faculty of the Vancouver Academy of Music and the S.K. Lee College.

**STRINGS (INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR) AND STRING ORCHESTRAS - DOLORES**

**VANN**, Calgary born violinist, lived most of her early years in Vancouver. She received numerous awards and scholarships and studied in California, New York and Toronto where she graduated from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Ms. Vann has performed nationally and in the USA as a violin and viola d’amore soloist: in chamber groups including McGill Chamber Orchestra, Musici Allegri, Edmonton Chamber Players and as a member of major Canadian symphony orchestras. She has been a member of CBC radio, and Opera orchestras in Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton, Vancouver, the National and Winnipeg Ballet orchestras, and worked in television and films in Canada and Britain. From 1995 – 2000 she served as concertmaster of the Vancouver Island Symphony. Ms. Vann has recently retired from the Victoria Conservatory of Music as professor of senior violin studies and as Artistic Director of the Summer String Academy which she founded in 2004, but continues to be an active adjudicator and examiner. She and her husband Michael, internationally known Luthier and Bow Maker reside on Gabriola Island, BC where she maintains a private teaching studio.

**STUDIO DANCE – WENDY ABBOTT** began studying dance at age eight and became a professional at age eighteen. Technique included all disciplines-Ballet R.A.D., Modern, Jazz and Musical Theatre, and she was a principal dancer with three professional companies, moved into musical theatre and toured Canada in musical productions as a triple threat performer (Dancer/Actress/Singer). Performance credits include principal performer (triple threat) on six Canadian television series and TV variety specials. She became a member of the Stratford Festival for three seasons with acting roles in the Shakespeare productions and leads in the musical productions, as well as principal roles in musical theatre productions in all the major theatres across Canada. Her acting credits include TV national commercials as principal in the US and Canada and principal acting roles in series variety shows in Canada and the US . Ms. Abbott has over thirty years teaching experience at all levels of dance, primarily in jazz and stage disciplines. She has choreographed for film, television and stage and continues to work as an actress, singer and dancer.

**JENNIFER BISHOP** has been teaching, performing, adjudicating, choreographing and producing for over 15 years, and is highly sought after as a dance coach & consultant. She is a resident tap instructor at *HARBOUR DANCE CENTRE*, co-founder of *THE WEST COAST TAP DANCE COLLECTIVE* and artistic director of *THE RHYTHM ROOM*. As a choreographer her credits include: commercials, and as a performer she has appeared in musicals at The Arts Club Theatre and The Vancouver Playhouse. Her performing career has taken her to *ENCORE - International Festival of Dance* in Quebec, *RELEASE YOURSELF- M.A.D.D. Rhythms Canada in Calgary*, throughout the US with percussion ensemble *RHYTHMATIX* and brought her close to home at *The Harmony Arts Festival*, *The Vancouver Tap Festival* and *The Chutzpah Festival*. As a producer she has co-produced *TAP IS...* the inaugural Tap Day Celebration for West Coast Tap Dance Collective and followed up successfully with *THE SPIRIT OF TAP* at The Surrey Arts Centre and, *TURN ON THE TAP* at The Vancouver East Cultural Centre. She stays active as an artist, constantly honing her skills through studying multiple forms of dance and music.

**VOCAL (INTERMEDIATE/SENIOR A) PAUL GRINDLAY** has sung in choirs since he was nine years old, when he started with the choir of his local parish church in London, England. After moving to Canada and completing a zoology degree at UBC, he returned to choral singing with such notable ensembles as The Phoenix Chamber Choir, The Vancouver Cantata Singers, The Vancouver Chamber Choir and Musica Intima. He was a member of the 1990 National Youth Choir and the 1991 World Youth Choir. After graduating from UBC with a B.Mus. in 1994, Paul pursued a solo vocal career, which has taken him to Austria, Japan, England, USA and across Canada where he has sung with numerous opera companies, orchestras and choirs. Paul is currently the Artistic Director of SuperSonic Men’s Choir, the Airdrie Community Choir and the choir of Knox Presbyterian Church. He was the Artistic Director of the Calgary Boys Choir between January 2004 and July 2007, during which time the membership doubled, the choir won several awards in the Provincial Music Festival, was heard nationally on CBC TV and CTV, toured the Czech Republic, Austria, France and Spain. Paul is also a founding member of two other unconduted Calgary vocal ensembles – “VoiceScapes” and “The Buzz.” . Paul serves on the board of directors of the Alberta Choral Federation, the Calgary Bach Festival and the Pro Arts Societies.

**VOCAL (JUNIOR/SENIOR B) – MEGHAN ATCHISON**, Soprano, recently made her role debut as Micaëla in Bizet's Carmen, having already performed in Puccini's Suor Angelica, Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte, and Faure Requiem, Rutter Magnificat, Mozart Requiem and Mass in C (Coronation), and Schubert Mass in G. Ms. Atchison made her Canadian Opera Company mainstage debut in the role of Mascha in Tchaikovsky's Pikovaya Dama. While completing her Diploma in Operatic Performance at the University of Toronto, Ms. Atchison performed the roles of Helena in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Mimi in La Boheme, Lisette in La Rondine, La Princesse in L'enfant et les sortilèges, and Elizabeth Hughes in the world premiere of The Last Duel. Ms. Atchison has been engaged to perform with the Victoria Symphony, Toronto's Aldeburgh Connection, the Toronto Wagner Society, Soundstreams Canada, Toronto New Music Concerts, the Talisker Players, the Orford Festival, and has been heard on the CBC's Two New Hours as well as on the Juno-nominated recording of Harry Somers' opera Serinette. A long time member of the Canadian Opera Company Chorus, Ms. Atchison recently returned to her hometown of Vancouver to pursue performance opportunities on the West Coast.

**VOCAL (MUSIC THEATRE) – MELANIE WHYTE** is a singing teacher and actor working and living in Winnipeg. She grew up on Vancouver Island before going to Vancouver to earn a Bachelor of Music degree in singing from the University of British Columbia, and an acting diploma from the FTS Film and Theatre School. Mother of two, Ms. Whyte performs in Winnipeg, most often in musical theatre roles. Some of her favourite roles include Jeannette in The Full Monty, Mrs. Ashdown in Strike! (about the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919), Sarah in Company, Guido's Mama in Nine, Golde in Fiddler on the Roof, and Josephine Strong in Urinetown. She has taught singing for many years and specializes in working with musical theatre singers. She adjudicates at festivals around the province.

**WOODWINDS - CONNIE GITLIN** has served as principal clarinet with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra since 1984, a position that she held with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Chamber Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera Orchestra and Colorado Philharmonic. Ms. Gitlin has appeared numerous times as a soloist with the Winnipeg Symphony, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and Musique Baroque Orchestra, performing the works of Mozart, Rossini, Weber, Copland and Molter among others. Her solo recitals include appearances as a guest artist at the International Clarinet Congress in Cincinnati, Ohio (1992) and Vancouver, British Columbia (2007). An avid performer of chamber music, Ms. Gitlin has performed in collaboration with musicians of the Israel Philharmonic at the Einov Cultural Center in Tel Aviv and has been a guest performer on numerous chamber music series. Ms. Gitlin is much in demand as a teacher of Clarinet, conducts master classes for students of all ages, served as a full time instructor of clarinet at the University of Manitoba as well as having taught at Brandon University, Mount Royal College (Calgary) and maintains a private teaching studio.