

2011/2012 vsNEW
Application Form



Applications due Wednesday, September 14th, by 5pm.

Please post or bring completed applications to the Victoria Symphony Office,
620 View Street, Suite 610 Victoria BC V8W 1J6

If you have any questions please contact:
Sandy Grayson, Community Relations Coordinator
Ph 250.385.9771 ext 229 or sandy@victoriasymphony.ca

Full name: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___

Address: _____ P/C _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____
(checked regularly)

I have been composing for ____ months/years

I will be able to attend all the workshops Y/N

Teacher's name (not necessarily composition teacher): _____

Teacher's phone number: _____

Teacher's email: _____

Please tell us about your experience with composing, list pieces and festivals where applicable: (use separate sheet if necessary)

**Please submit the score of a piece you have composed and
please include a recording if you have one.**



vsNEW – Victoria Symphony New Explorations Workshop

vsNEW is an innovative program in which young, local composers write new works for a small ensemble of dedicated Victoria Symphony Musicians. 2011/12 is the sixth time vsNEW has been a part of the VS Education programs.

This year, the program will be taught by Composer In Residence Michael Oesterle. In each workshop (there are 3, plus a recording and live performance at the end) the composers bring their pieces in various stages of completion and they are read through by the musicians. We then have a period of feedback from everyone in the room and the composers voice their opinions about their own works and take suggestions from the musicians and others. From the most basic, to the most complex, so many musical issues arise and it's a great learning experience for all of us.

Each year the composers enter their pieces into the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, composition section. Their pieces are performed once more as part of this festival and they are adjudicated by an outside Festival judge, who is usually an accomplished composer themselves. This is a fantastic opportunity for the kids to get an outside view on their piece.

A highlight of the program is the performance of the new pieces which are usually integrated into a Victoria Symphony performance as a pre-concert event. Each composer is asked to stand up and tell the audience about their piece, about their ideas and inspirations.

The Victoria Symphony is proud of this program's success and many composers have won local, provincial and even national awards through it.

vsNEW Timeline and Workshop Description

All workshops will take place at the Victoria Conservatory of Music from 1:30- 4:00 PM.

1. Saturday, October 15, 2011 Room 302

Introduction to the ensemble. The members of this year's ensemble will demonstrate their instruments and talk about fundamental considerations such as range, breathing, bowing, articulation, etc. Examples of orchestration and copies of the instrument ranges will be supplied to students for reference. Outline and discussion of upcoming events.

2. Saturday, January 28th, 2012 Room 302

Students will bring a work-in-progress. They will have the opportunity to hear their music tried on different solo instruments, in different instrumental combinations, experiment with new colors, special effects, etc. The musicians will work directly with the students.

(Students are encouraged to submit their compositions in the GVPA Festival – January 2012, dates TBA)

3. Saturday, February 4th, 2012 Room 303

Students will bring a rough final draft of their composition. They will be encouraged to listen especially for balance, color, dynamics and articulation, to check notation and to make final decisions about the form and character of their piece. Accuracy in score and part preparation will be emphasized.

4. Saturday, March 24, 2012, Room 303

Students bring their final composition and parts. Ensemble will play through final pieces, and young composers can assist in the rehearsal process, making suggestions and last minute adjustments to the scores. Pieces will be recorded.

5. Live concert presentation - Sunday, March 25, 2012 (1:00-2:15pm)

A live presentation of the vsNEW pieces will be performed at the Royal Theatre. Each composer will present a brief description of their piece to the audience and talk about their experiences with writing it as part of the vsNEW program. The works will be recorded.

vsNEW Format:

Each student will work with the ensemble on his/ her piece as well as listen to other students' pieces. Teachers of the young composers are encouraged to attend and join in working with their students and the ensemble. To get the most from these workshops, students must have some prior composing experience (for e.g. performing a composition in an arts festival).

Requirements for student's participation:

1. We require that you currently study on a regular basis with a music teacher who can oversee the writing process to ensure progress between workshops (not necessarily a composition teacher).
2. Student must be able to properly notate and have experience writing their own music. The workshop musicians will be reading directly from the student's scores/ parts.
Students will be expected to bring sufficient copies for each musician and for everyone in the workshop to see. Photocopying may be done in the Victoria Symphony office. Unfortunately we do not have access to the copiers in the Conservatory.
3. A student should have prior composing experience - either a solo instrument work or a piece with multiple instruments.
4. We require participation at all workshops except in the case of emergencies or sickness. Students should be in Elementary, Middle or High School. Post-secondary students not currently enrolled as composition students will also be considered.
5. Participation fee of \$200, which includes a \$100 tax receipt. Cheques can be made payable to the Victoria Symphony. **(Please do not make your payment until after you have been accepted into the program)**

NOTE: No child will be omitted from this program due to financial hardship. Please inquire.