

What is the East Vancouver Community Music School (EVCMS)?

The EVCMS is a very special music school, formed in 2008, and co-operatively run by music teachers, for their pupils. The board is composed almost entirely of teachers from the school. It has a bursary program that is unusual, and designed to be helpful. Many of the teachers are very active at benefits for the school, playing or helping at concerts, and playing in the community. These concerts include a Halloween Costume concert and concerts in the community; a Canadian Music Week concert featuring music by Canadian composers, and including a live composer at the event; and a benefit concert for the bursary program.

The EVCMS has a staff of professional teachers and musicians, who are passionate about teaching their students. Teaching is not just a job, it is our life, and it can be a life-changing occupation that helps, encourages, and challenges one's students to improve their best results.

The faculty includes highly qualified and experienced performers and teachers of piano, voice, violin, viola, and cello, guitar, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone, euphonium, and recorder. Some are qualified to teach Suzuki piano, violin, and viola, Orff, and Kodaly group classes, or have worked with daycares in music and movement classes. Others have worked in school music programs, including orchestras. Other areas of expertise include theory classes, sight-reading classes, and using music to reach students with ADHD, dyslexia, autism, and muscular problems, giving them confidence, and the ability to improve their lives, as well as their music. Teachers have their own studios, or can teach in your home. Teachers have worked with students of all ages up to 75. Some teachers will work with groups of students, while others will teach private pupils only. Teachers also perform in concerts, recitals, chamber groups, and for special events.

Students are encouraged to perform in the community. The school has several recitals performed by students. Students are also encouraged to play for senior's homes, and in chamber music concerts, as well as the Canada Music Week concert and composing opportunities.

Our school hopes to get a small office (possibly shared), and then space for studios, rehearsals, and performance. We are looking for more students to learn with us, and benefactors who can help us achieve our goal of establishing a permanent institution. The school is currently looking for a percussion teacher, and a guitar/ukulele teacher.

We are aiming to change our governance system from a non-profit society to a charitable society, one that will let us accept donations and give tax receipts for them. We are aiming for our own building. We are looking forward to doing more in the community in the way of outreach to public schools, daycares and preschools, senior's centres and homes, churches, and neighbourhood houses.

We welcome your help to let us achieve all of the above improvements. We are prepared to encourage, help, and work with you, just as we work with all our teachers and students, to improve the life of everyone in East Vancouver. Everyone benefits from quality musical education, and we aim to bring this benefit to all who will work for it, whether by practicing, or by working with our neighbours as a member of the society, or volunteering with it.