



VSO VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA


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BMO Day of Music 2026

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

JUNE 2026



On May 16th, 2026 the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra presented the seventh annual 'BMO Day of Music Presented by the VSO', a community initiative that provides a full 12-hour day of free music to the community in pop-up locations around downtown Vancouver.

9 Venues

13 Stages

70+ Live Performances

12 Speakers from the Community

10 Community Partners

25,000+ Attendees

1 Full Day of Free Music

Year after year, BMO Day of Music continues to be one of our most meaningful community celebrations, delivering 12 uninterrupted hours of free, diverse performances across the city.

BMO Day of Music is a lively, family-friendly celebration that welcomes more than 25,000 attendees to 9 venues across the downtown Vancouver and Granville Island. Audiences of all ages and backgrounds are invited to experience an exciting range of live musical performances—completely free of charge.

This year, that impact expanded to Granville Island through new partnerships with Arts Umbrella, Zameen Art House, The Revue Stage, and Ballet BC, creating a vibrant hub that extended the festival beyond the downtown core. A new collaboration with Ballet BC's Education and Community Engagement team, alongside VSO School of Music jazz faculty, introduced an interactive workshop exploring the relationship between movement and music through improvisation.

This event is especially meaningful for both the VSO and the VSO School of Music, reflecting our shared commitment to making music and music education accessible to all. By bringing together artists, audiences, and community partners each year, we create a vibrant space to celebrate the transformative impact of music in Vancouver.



A full Orpheum theatre watches special guest Valerie Lin in Day of Music evening performance



BMO Day of Music 2026 took place across 9 different venues and 13 different stages, bringing live music to several different pop-up venues all day long:

- ▶ Orpheum Theatre
Orpheum Stage, West Coast Energy Hall
- ▶ VSO School of Music
Pyatt Hall, Willms Salon, 2 x Workshop Rooms
- ▶ Arts Umbrella
- ▶ Helmcken Plaza
- ▶ TELUS Garden
- ▶ Deloitte

Additional venues at Granville Island this year:

- ▶ Arts Umbrella
- ▶ Zameen Art House
- ▶ The Revue Stage
- ▶ Ballet BC

Our deepest thanks to these venues for their collaboration and support.



BMO Day of Music celebrates the diversity of the Lower Mainland by featuring artists and groups from many of the region's vibrant cultural communities.

VSO School of Music Faculty

- Michael Dirk
- Saxophilia Saxophone Quartet
- Nicole Li and Jessica Huang
- Silk Road Music
- Singers of the VSO School of Music
- Cellissimo!!!
- Mohamed Assani Trio

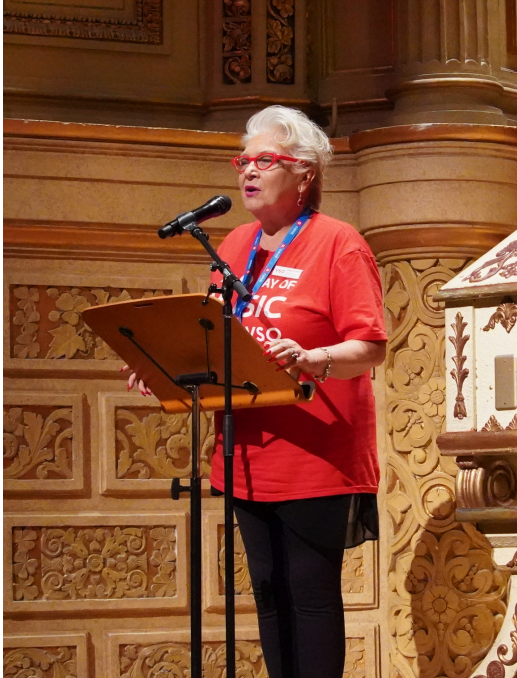
VSO School of Music

- VSO School of Music Big Band
- Sinfonietta
- Camerata Ensemble
- Azalea Chinese Music Ensemble
- Aureum Chamber Ensemble
- Gergana Velinova
- Noeul Duo
- Ava Shadmani, Kiandokht Nouri & Bahareh Poureslami
- Jonathan Lo, Christine Ngai & Jae-Won Bang
- Forest Benson
- Caballo De Fuego
- Ardeshir Trio
- YoYo Duo
- Hayden Trio, Piazzolla Primavera
- Portena
- Estelle Copéry
- Daniel Hersog Quartet
- Undecided Platypus Project
- Harmeet Kaur Virdee Quartet

Community Acts

- MEI Screaming Eagles Marching Band
- Saint James Music Academy
- Kara-Kata Afrobeat Group
- Quartetto Vivo
- Laxphobia
- Opera Lirica
- Cooking With Brass
- Schubertiade
- Paniz Mozlehi
- Vancouver Chopin Society
- PianoKage
- Arts Umbrella Student Musical
- Theatre Performances
- Ballet BC
- Ardavan Mofidi
- Mahtab Saadatmand & Ehsan Esfandiari
- Shahin Pourghiasian & Babak Banihoseini





Highlights of the Day

- MEI School Screaming Eagles marching band - all the way from Abbotsford - filled the Orpheum lobby with energy and sound as 75 students performed
- The VSO hosted an open rehearsal ahead of its evening performance with the VSO School of Music “Future of Excellence Concerto Competition” winner for 2025: Valerie Lin.
- The VSO School of Music Big Band performed on the Orpheum stage in the afternoon
- Kàrà-Kàtà Afrobeat Society of Canada performed in the School of Music’s Pyatt Hall in the afternoon
- In partnership with Ballet BC, “Exploring Movement and Music: Dance & Music Improvisation Workshop” was led by VSO School of Music faculty Julian Borkowski, engaging members in exchange sound and movement.



Several honored guests joined various venues as speakers:

MLA Janet Routledge
 Councillor Lucy Maloney
 Minister Anne Kang
 MLA Paul Choi
 MP Don Davies
 Councillor Lenny Zhou
 Minister Brenda Bailey

Minister Terry Yung
 MP Chak Au
 MLA Hon Chan
 Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
 BMO Regional President, Personal
 Banking- BC & Yukon Region,
 James Kitamura

Messages of Support from Government Officials:

MLA Bruce Banman
 MLA Lynne Block
 Hon. David Eby
 Hon. Hedy Fry
 MLA Steve Kooner
 Hon. Jonathan Wilkinson



Evening Concert

The evening concert portion of our BMO Day of Music 2026 brought together a full house of more than 2,600 members of the community at the Orpheum for an inspiring evening concert. This remarkable turnout reflected the strong community enthusiasm for accessible, live music experiences made possible through your support.

The evening began with opening remarks from Angela Elster, President & CEO of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, James Kitamura of BMO, and the Honourable Terry Yung, each highlighting the importance of community connection and the impact of bringing music to audiences across the city.

Thanks to your generosity, guests experienced an unforgettable evening of music as the VSO presented a spectacular concert to close the day. Led by VSO Resident Conductor Trevor Wilson, the orchestra delivered a dynamic and engaging program alongside the VSO School of Music 2025 "Future of Excellence Concerto Competition" winner, percussionist Valerie Lin. Highlights included the fiery "Ritual Fire Dance" from Falla's *El amor brujo*, and Séjourné's vibrant Concerto for Marimba & String Orchestra, which showcased Lin's remarkable artistry and the exceptional talent your support helps make possible.

PROGRAM:

Falla

Amor Brujo, El: Ritual Fire Dance

Séjourné

Concerto for Marimba & String Orchestra

Sibelius

Finlandia

Holmés

Ludus pro patria: La nuit et l'amour

Beethoven

Symphony No. 3 "Eroica"
III. Scherzo

John Williams

Star Wars: Suite for Orchestra
V: Throne Room and End Title



Angela Elster, President & CEO - VSO



James Kitamura, Regional President,
Personal Banking - BC & Yukon Region - BMO



Hon. Terry Yung



2025 Future of Excellence Concerto Competition Winner, Percussionist Valerie Lin



Community Impact

The ongoing support of our community and our Community Partners remains instrumental in providing the resources needed for the VSO to present free and accessible live music across the city of Vancouver.

Through meaningful partnerships with local venues and spaces, the VSO continues to deepen its presence across the city—expanding its reach while broadening programming to reflect an even greater diversity of voices, from professional ensembles to amateur and student performers.

Each year, BMO Day of Music stands as a vibrant reflection of our city—diverse, cultural, expressive, curious, colourful, and deeply passionate. The wide range of musical genres showcased throughout the day mirrors this spirit, creating a welcoming and celebratory gathering place for all the communities that call Vancouver home.

Our collaboration with our Community Partners continues to strengthen our shared commitment to building connected, resilient communities and enriching community life through the arts.

Above all, this event provides a meaningful opportunity to engage audiences of all ages in the joy, connection, and transformative power of music.

This initiative would not be possible without our Community Partners:

- **BMO Bank of Montreal- Title Sponsor**
- **Canada Council for the Arts**
- **Downtown Vancouver BIA- Community Partner**
- **Arts Umbrella- Education Partner**
- **Vancouver Civic Theatres- Venue Partner**
- **Deloitte- Venue Partner**
- **Morguard- Venue Partner**
- **Ballet BC- Venue Partner**
- **Zameen Art House**

Special support from the Province of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver, and the Jane McLennan Fund for Free and Accessible Programming.