

**Vancouver Classic Guitar Society Annual General Meeting
Sunday, May 7, 2017 4:00 pm, Canadian Music Center, Vancouver**

Registration and Quorum

Present: 12
Skype: 1

Call to Order: 16:15

Minutes from last year's AGM adopted.

Chair's Report - Galina Jitlina

This year in February 2017, the Vancouver Classic Guitar Society marked its 10th anniversary. Over the past ten years, VCGS has grown from a handful of dedicated enthusiasts into a city-wide community of guitar aficionados, including both professionals and amateurs. VCGS celebrated this anniversary with five events. Each of these events was very successful, bringing together many community members. Especially I would like to mention the first solo concert of a rising star of the guitar world - Alan Liu (in collaboration with VSO SoM), and Teachers Benefit Concert at Vancouver Academy of Music, organized by Hanh Nguyen and supported by VAoM. Also, we had the first ever Luthiers Exhibit, organized by Alec Pearson and Hanh Nguyen as well.

As you can see on our website, one of the main purposes of VCGS is to "to build community among classic guitar enthusiasts". I am glad to observe that we are fulfilling this task quite well. It was a great pleasure to see that about two dozen people went to the reception after the Henderson-Kolk Duo concert. For me, it means more and more human connections are being developed and sustained, and that is exactly what a community spirit is.

Please note that VCGS is a non-profit charitable organization, and all the work is done completely by volunteers.

The VCGS Board of Directors consists of people, who determine the directions of VCGS development and are overall responsible for everything that the Society has done for the past year.

Daniel Bolshoy – Artistic Director, who works with the artists to bring the best possible performers to our International Artists series and works with our sponsors. Many thanks to Daniel Bolshoy for his dedication and passion, for his excellent work in this role.

Alec Pearson - organizer of Emerging Artists Series Coordinator, master classes and workshops as well as Student/Members concerts. Alec also maintains the relationships with our sponsors.

Morgana Xu – secretary/treasurer, who along with Marilyn Grant is responsible for our financial well-being;
Mike Ibsen – Publicity Director, creator of all beautiful newsletters and video interviews with the artists;
Luis Medina – Vice Chair, as well organizer of Our Town Guitar Nights;
Clive Langley – IAS manager, Volunteers Coordinator, Guitar Loan Program coordinator and Artistic Director Assistant;
New appointed member of the Board, Kyle Hawkes took care of Meetup and contacts with media.

These people along with volunteer team (Executive Board) are the biggest asset of the Vancouver Classic Guitar Society.
I would like to mention other members of the Executive Board who did a lot of work for the Society and to thank them:
Natasha Pashchenko was membership coordinator and contact person. Natasha has designed almost all the posters, brochures and certificates of VCGS.
David Sossa last year served as a volunteer at the concerts and updated Facebook.
Maria Sossa was our official photographer last season – you can see her beautiful pictures in the Gallery on our website as well as on the Facebook.
Manami Tsunematsu was helping immensely with refreshments at all the concerts. Marilyn Grant was always ready to share her expertise in the financial issues and helped with the printing and poster distribution.
Liel Amdour was helping at the concerts and updated the website
Michael Bemmels and Kyle Hawkes, as well as Alec Pearson and Clive Langley were taking the guest artists around.
Joan and Melville Shaw hosted some of our guest artists.

This year new volunteers displayed their best qualities fulfilling different tasks. We are very thankful to our long-time volunteers at the concerts: Dirk Buchner, Peter Houseknecht, Vinny Linhares, Joel Thompson.
We were very happy to welcome
Alan Liu, who helped at the last concert and also volunteered at the Kiwanis Music Festival;
Kathryn Buchner, who helped at the concerts;
Tom Gamble, who did announcements at some concerts;
Kevin Yang, who helped at the last concert;
Erin Carey, who designed the programs for the concerts;

Vinny Linhares, Kyle Hawkes and Jacob Seyer performed at the introductory sessions for our International Artists Series Concerts. Hanh Ngyen, Alain Reiher, Mike Bemmels, Mike Ibsen, Joel Thompson, Chris Albanese performed at the Teachers Benefit Concert

On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our gratitude to all the people who have contributed their time and energy to plan, organize, promote and administer all the VCGS events. All the achievements of VCGS is the result of the efforts of many hardworking, responsible and passionate individuals. We also greatly appreciate the financial support of our sponsors – more about it in Artistic Director report.

Another part of VCGS mission is: “to educate and increase the public’s understanding and appreciation of classic guitar music by providing performances of an artistic nature in public places.” Artistic Director’s report will give us the details about this area of VCGS activities. I can just add that this season VCGS provided free tickets to the guitar students of the teachers – members VCGS.

Let me tell you about everything else that has been happening at VCGS.

Alec Pearson contributed a lot of time and effort into bringing young emerging artists go Vancouver scene – and we definitely enjoyed those concerts.

This season we held six masterclasses/workshops by international and local artists – workshop with Itamar Erez among them, as well as lectures by Jonathan Leathwood and Matthew McAllister.

The Guitar Ensemble has continued its activity this year. This year Four people met about every two weeks and enjoyed practicing Mozart’s “Eine kleine Nachtmusik”, which they will perform at the Members Open Stage. Twice a year VCGS hosts concerts for local guitar students and adult guitarists, members of VCGS. The concerts this year were held at Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, which has become one of our favourite venues for this type of concerts - thanks to Pastor Clifford and Poul Rasmussen for continuing collaboration and support. Thanks to Alec for organizing these concerts.

Another free VCGS program was our bi-monthly Guitar Nights at Our Town Café, place where guitarists can play for their friends and local cafe visitors in a nice and relaxing atmosphere, and enjoy a cup of coffee or a glass of wine. In the past year, Luis Medina has been the coordinator of this program and Alec was hosting most of the events- thanks to both of you, Luis and Alec. You probably have heard that this wonderful place for community gathering is closed now – hopefully, it will reopen after the renovation. However, at this point we have to look for another venue. If you have any suggestions please share them with us.

VCGS supports guitar education by collaborating with Richmond Music Festival and Kiwanis Music Festival by developing and approving syllabi, recommending adjudicators, and providing Scholarships for the best guitar students. Kiwanis Festival winners are encouraged to continue to compete at the Provincial and National levels. Last year Alan Liu got a first prize at the National Music Festival among guitarist and was the Runner-up of the Marilyn Wiwcharuk Memorial Scholarship among all young musicians of Canada. This year three local students are going to compete at the Provincial Level.

The VCGS community is growing, and this is of course very positive news. At the same time that means that volunteers have to do much more work. This year's volunteer team was excellent, a pleasure to work with, but I really don't want to exhaust the strengths of our volunteers. Therefore, I ask all of you who approve VCGS activities to think how you can contribute so VCGS continues to work towards its educational and community goals. We have many small, intermediate and big tasks – for any level of involvement. We are looking for passionate and responsible people who can take the vision of VCGS as their own and change the world around us for the better.

If you think that you would like to contribute to VCGS financially and/or to become part of the volunteer team and enrich Vancouver's guitar life, or maybe in future become one of the Directors and make decisions on how to develop the VCGS and its activities, please talk to me or Alec today (our volunteer coordinator Clive is out of city today) or contact us via email or by phone.

This year I am stepping down from the office of the Chairperson and nominate Alec Pearson for the role of the Chair (President of VCGS). During the year that I know Alec, he showed himself as extremely helpful and responsible person, taking initiative in many areas of our work. I believe that he will be an energetic and passionate community leader, bringing new ideas to the plate and developing the old VCGS projects.

(Special thanks to Clive Langley for contributing to the content of this report.)

Artistic Director Report - Luis Medina on behalf of Daniel Bolshoy & Alec Pearson

We've had another very successful year artistically.

Four wonderful concerts on our main series and the second year of the emerging artists series, for a total of 9 guest performers and lecturers between September and April.

This year, even more than in previous years, I relied on my wonderful artistic committee, with great help from Clive Langley and Alec Pearson, who did a spectacular job handling every aspect of presenting the artists at some point. I am also deeply indebted to Galina for always being there to help and always making sure we are planning ahead and are well prepared for all our deadlines.

Our wonderful sponsors made these concerts all the more appealing and successful. Thank you to Joerg Von Beckmann and Lochhead Engineering for supporting our concerts at Pyatt Hall. Thank you to the VSO school of music for continuing their support of our series and social events. A big thank you also to Mo and Al Jessa who have organized receptions after all the concerts at Earl's and Joey's restaurants respectively.

Our wonderful hosts Joan and Mel Shaw, who have opened their home to our incoming artists.

Our season opener was the great flute-guitar Duo Cavatina with Denis Azabagic and his wife Eugenia Moliner, who gave a brilliant and inspiring performance in October.

This was followed by Iliana Matos in November, who brought a beautiful performance and shared with us a delightful program full of Latin music.

January was a month packed with activities as we celebrated our 10 year anniversary. To start it off, we had the delightful visit of Jonathan Leathwood who gave an Ensemble masterclass and a lecture on Cognition and Virtuosity. We also had a concert by our upcoming young star Alan Liu. There was also our first ever Luthier's exhibit that brought guitars by luthiers Steve Ganz, Jeff Sigurdson and Marcus Dominelli. Following that, we had a VCGS fundraiser organized by Hanh Nguyen and hosted at the Vancouver Academy of Music where many local teachers came together to share their music.

In February we hosted the last GFA winner, Thibault Garcia who has won multiple other first prizes around the world.

In March we had a wonderful performance by Itamar Erez, who recently joined the faculty at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music. He also shared with us his recently published book on guitar studies and etudes which explore techniques that are fun and mentally challenging.

The emerging artists concerts featured young Greek performers, Kostas Amaxopoulos, who gave a virtuosic concert and stayed for an extended

residency in town. It also featured the duo Henderson-Kolk that spent time in Vancouver giving a performance at Pyatt Hall and giving a masterclass with UBC participants. Their concert of chamber music with a world-flavour was greatly enjoyed by all!

Looking ahead to next year, kicking off in September we feature French guitarist and virtuoso Jeremy Jouve, followed in November by the GFA winner Xavier Jara.

Continuing in February, we are happy to host the Beijing Duo comprised by guitarist Meng Su and Yameng Wang. To close our series we will be having The Winter of Our Discontent, a very interesting ensemble that features early music from the times of Shakespeare.

The emerging artists series will also present two concerts. We have exciting plans in the works, so stay tuned to hear all about it!

Presentation of Financial Statement - Morgana Xu

Vancouver Classic Guitar Society		Vancouver Classic Guitar Society	
Statement of Income and Expenditures		Balance Sheet	
Year Ending March 31, 2017		Year Ending March 31, 2017	
		Assets	
Income			
		Cash	12322.25
Ticket Sales	12235	Vancity Membership Shares	144.19
Membership Fees	970	Paypal Account Balance	6672.79
Donations	77.05	US Dollar Account	0
Sponsorship	7314		
Other Income	210		
Volunteer Time	0		
		Total Assets	19139.23
Total Income	20806.05		
Expenses		Liabilities	

Office Expense	3297.82		
Events Expense	4531.99	Accounts Payable	0
Artists Expense	9477.56	Loans Payable	0
Scholarships	475		
Admin (donated)	0		
		Capital	19139.23
Total Expenses	17782.37		
		Total Liabilities and Capital	19139.23
Net Income	3023.68		

Election of Board of Directors

Chair: Alec Pearson

Vice-chair: Galina Jitlina

Secretary/Treasurer: Morgana Xu

Artistic Director: Daniel Bolshoy

Publicity Director: Kyle Hawkes

Program Director: Clive Langley

Social/Outreach Director: Luis Medina

Election of Executive Board

Jacob Seyer, Nick Poljer, Joel Thompson, Mike Ibsen, Marilyn Grant, Natasha Pashchenko, Liel Amdour

Special Resolution to Adopt New By-laws: Adopted

Other Business

- Alec Pearson presents a new VCGS Ambassador Program where VCGS co-sponsors local artist for performance at various community venues (community centres, schools, care homes, etc). This program will benefit local artists as well as the presence of VCGS in the community. Jacob offered to organize the program. Existing house concert groups and Health Art Society will be researched to identify current standard of practice and concert demand. Funding options including provincial subsidies will be explored, as well as potential collaboration with UBC.
- Teachers' Round Table: June 11 following student concert.

- Massey Concert Hall offers free hall rental 2x per season for charities. As this is a huge space, ideas and suggestions of large events are welcome.
- Website revamping: Alec will work on revamping our website for aesthetic improvements and integrations.
- Unfortunately, Our Town Cafe closed without notice. We are looking for a new venue for our social events and would appreciate any suggestions.

Adjournment: 17:52