



## VCC School of Music ABORIGINAL MUSIC LAB

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Sal Ferretas  
Dean, School of Music  
sferretas@vcc.ca

The School of Music at Vancouver Community College has been at the forefront of progressive music education in Vancouver and beyond since its inception over 25 years ago. Recognizing this country's ever-expanding community of highly talented Aboriginal artists, the School of Music embarked on the organization and launch of an intensive workshop/laboratory this past summer of 2007. The primary purpose was to train practicing and aspiring Aboriginal artists in a range of advanced, hands-on skills, techniques, and seminars delivered by established artists within the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal music and media scene. The School contracted singer/songwriter/hip-hop artist Kinney Starr to lead a cast of highly engaged local and national artists in providing a meaningful and deeply resonant musical training and sharing experience.

*"I just wanted to say thank you again! I had an awesome time. It was truly inspiring. I really wanted you and Kinney to know how grateful I am to know that people like you, Kinney, Alan Greyeyes and Gerri Trimble have been such a huge milestone in my progress. To know that you all believe in the music, believe in me, us, so that we can move forward and make our dreams come true! It really moves me. I have a big heart for all of you!"*

*I have been so pumped since I got back home, I have written 3 more songs!! Two are still in progress, one is complete. And I have been making contacts for gigs now too! Ha - no stopping me now!!"*

*I can't wait to hear the CD - I know it's going to be awesome!! There was some great music and spirit happening there!*

*With much love and Peace,"*

*-Ontario based female singer-songwriter*

### Education Forum

**December 05th**  
**3:30pm - 5:00pm**  
**Room 419**  
**Downtown Campus**

**December 06th**  
**9:00am - 10:30am**  
**Room 4001**  
**Broadway Campus**

The VCC School of Music Aboriginal Music Lab took place August 20th to 25th, 2007 at the Broadway campus. Participants attended featured sessions in areas such as Pop, Blues and Jazz Progressions, DJ Culture, Talking about Culture and Context, and Reviving Traditional Music. Sessions were held both in the VCC Broadway auditorium and adjacent electronic music lab from Noon to 9pm Monday through Saturday. Participants traveled to Vancouver from Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, the North West Territories, Alberta, Interior and Northern British Columbia.

## Seizure Disorders

Desiree Blankenberg  
Disability Counselor  
dblankenbeig@vcc.ca

Students with epilepsy and other seizure disorders are sometimes reluctant to divulge their conditions because they fear being misunderstood or stigmatized. Myths about this disorder include it being a form of mental illness or it is contagious and untreatable. These misconceptions have arisen because the ultimate causes remain uncertain. There is evidence that hereditary factors may be involved and that brain injuries and tumours, occurring at any age, may give rise to seizures. What is known is that seizures result from imbalances in the electrical activity of the brain.

**The following are 4 distinct types of seizures or at least the most recognized ones**

**1. Generalized absence seizures** (previously called *Petit Mal*), small seizures and characterized by eye blinking or staring. It begins abruptly with a sudden dimming of consciousness and may last only a few seconds. Whatever the person is doing is suspended for a moment but resumed again as soon as the seizure is over often, because of its briefness. Unlike tonic clonic seizures the individual does not experience deep sleep afterwards. This type of seizure may go unnoticed by the individual as well as by others.

**2. Complex-partial seizures** (also referred to as *Psychomotor seizures*) range from mild to severe and may include staring, mental confusion, uncoordinated and random movement, incoherent speech, and behaviour outbursts, followed by immediate recovery. Person appears clumsy and often mistaken to be intoxicated. They may stare blankly and walk around in a daze. These seizures may last from two minutes to a half an hour. The person may have no recollection of what happened but may experience fatigue. They may also be able to follow simple directions if given in a calm friendly voice.

**3. Partial seizures**---affect one side of the body, typically involve uncontrollable trembling or jerking of arm or leg. This however, may turn into a tonic clonic seizure as the movements may start in a finger and then slowly "move" upwards until whole limb shakes. Usually, anticonvulsant medication is used to prevent or reduce the number of seizures.

**4. Generalized tonic-clonic seizures** (better known as *Grand Mal*). They involve episodes of violent shaking, the person becomes blue and stiff, possible increased heart rate and blood pressure. Seizures may be moderate to severe and may be characterized by generalized contractions of muscles, twitching, and limb jerking. May last up to an hour and the person may fall into a deep sleep and may experience extreme fa-

tigue.

Students with seizure disorders are often under preventative medication, which may cause drowsiness and temporary memory problems. Such medication makes it unlikely that a seizure will occur in class.

**In the event of a Grand Mal Seizure, the following procedures may prove helpful.**

- Call for help
- Keep calm. Although its manifestations may be intense, the seizure is generally not painful to the individual.
- Remove nearby objects that may injure the student during the seizure.
- Help lower the person to the floor and place cushioning under his/her head.
- Turn the head to the side, so that breathing is not obstructed (usually done after the seizure).
- Loosen tight clothing.
- Do not force anything between the teeth.
- Do not try to restrain bodily movement.
- After a seizure, faculty should deal forthrightly with the concerns of the class in an effort to forestall whatever negative attitudes may develop toward the student. Most importantly, assure the individual in a calm voice that he/she is in a safe place.

(adapted with permission from V-Tech Institute faculty guide for VCC)

Items for Education @ VCC can be submitted anytime, by anyone. Our next edition will be in December, and the deadline for that issue will be November 26th.

Please submit your submissions to [mgiovet@vcc.ca](mailto:mgiovet@vcc.ca)

## VCC International signs MOU with CESUES University in Sonora, Mexico

Nadina Dodd  
Marketing Coordinator, VCCI  
ndodd@vcc.ca

VCC International is pleased to announce the signing of an important Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CESUES University in the Northwestern State of Sonora, Mexico

Marketing Manager of VCC International, Nadina Dodd, recently travelled to this state during which time she was involved in presentations at CESUES and public relations activities with both state and local media. She was thrilled to be participating in the formal signing ceremony of such an important agreement together with the Gen-

eral Director of CESUES, Mr Francisco Carlos Silva Toledo, and the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr Arnoldo Soto Soto

During the ceremony speeches, Nadina spoke of the importance of having international experience "whilst travelling and learning about other cultures and customs we are often faced with challenges because of the new and unique experiences it brings – this opens our eyes and gives us a different perspective on the world which enriches both our personal and professional life. Also - having

one a competitive advantage in this globally interdependent world"

At present, top performing students of CESUES receive a scholarship every year from their university which allows them to experience Canada during a five-week English Language and Culture program at Vancouver Community College. This agreement outlines this opportunity but also further solidifies the collaboration of both institutions in the development of other educational programs and projects for both students and faculty in

Vancouver and Mexico. The development of such international opportunities is an exciting part of VCC's plan to

"internationalize" the campus and this partnership comes as a welcome addition to one of the many projects

abroad that are in the works at VCC International



## Report from Education Council

A new council was elected in October. Joining the Council are Leona Friesen, faculty representative for the School of Health Sciences, Sally Gibson, faculty representative for the College-at-Large, and four student representatives, Jenni-Lynn Hewitt, Joel Pike, Rosemary Qi, and Donna Rose.

After six years as Chair, Ted Hougham will be stepping down from Education Council. Leona Downie will be Interim Chair until a new executive is elected in December.

The Drafting and Counselling Skills & Substance Abuse Counselling Program Reviews have been presented to Education Council. The Deans from these areas have submitted Action Plans to the VP Ed, and

these have in turn been shared with Education Council. The EEAW Program Review will be presented at the December meeting.

Education Council approved the Library Lending Policy in October. It was then recommended to and approved by the Board.

The Policy Committee of Education Council has reported that the following policies will be reviewed by Education Council in the coming months:

- Program Review policy
- Program Advisory Committee policy
- Affiliation Agreement policy
- Granting of Credentials policy
- Degree Standards policy
- Articulation /Transfer Credit policy
- Scholarships and Awards policy

## Department Head Ode

Robert Oliver

Department Head, Diploma Program Hospitality Management  
roliver@vcc.ca

Please, will you be the Department Head?  
Everyone wants you to be the one on which to **depend**,  
Please, will you be the Department Head?  
Think of all the perks and the large, large **stipend**!

Please be the role-model, we so desperately need,  
You have the experience and you have the **manner**,  
You know the students, faculty and deans,  
And you're not afraid of the Big Bad **Banner**!

Well I fell for all this, hook, line and sinker,  
And took the job as Head of the **Department**,  
My biggest surprise was that my classroom world,  
Now became an isolated office **compartment**

No longer could I wander around the campus,  
Talking to colleagues and calling out student **greetings**,  
I found myself wandering around the campus,  
But head down and determined to get to the next round of **meetings**.

Where is your training plan, your budget and schedule?  
When will you know the amount owing to faculty **PD**?  
Where is your strategic plan and your SWOT analysis,  
When is the soonest you can get enrollment numbers to **me**?

Are you going to the trade show and setting up the booth?  
Don't forget Information Night a week from **today**,  
Remember HR needs your four faculty evaluations tomorrow,  
You're \$50,000.00 over budget, now what do you have to **say**?

Did you do the student evaluations, on the right form this time?  
Have you done the reference checks and copied the **documentation**?  
No, You can't take holidays and you can't carry them over,  
You need to attend this month's PAC, and be a **sensation**!

Is the exam schedule done yet and who is your union rep?  
When was the last time your Department had a fire **drill**?  
Are the finals marks entered yet, Banner is ready to roll,  
No you can't go to the Pharmacy Department to get a big **pill**

These are your typical days as a Department Head,  
And so we ask ourselves, why do we do **it**?  
We do it because we have the power and ability,  
To lead faculty and students to a near perfect **fit**

We are educators, referees and actors,  
We are accountants, counselors and **more**;  
We are pulled daily in countless directions,  
But always mindful, the student is our **Core**

The success of our students is everyone's mission,  
Their success validates why we are **here**;  
When they walk across that stage and thank us,  
They have the skills and ethics that we all hold **dear**.

Yes, the hours are long and the meetings unending,  
But along the way our faculty, students & programs **shine**,  
So on the days when the job just seems too much,  
Please remember it is our responsibility, yours and **mine**

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Attendees brought to the Lab a wide gamut of musical styles and approaches that included traditional music, folk singer/songwriters, country music, hip-hop, rock, dj-ing, classical, blues, and pow-wow music

*"Monday morning, recorded drummer and I at the beach and we got a few takes of the bonoin song for my mother. I can't tell you how much it means to me to be able to finally open my heart to spirit and embrace that which has been in my family for centuries. I felt I was not good enough before and I no longer feel that way. I burn my sage every morning and plan to use my other medicines daily. I am no longer afraid of who I am or where I come from and I feel the love of my ancestors and my grandparents all around me."*

*"In my dialect of Cree, we say 'ay-bay' when we thank someone. I thank you, Sal and I thank Kinnie. Ay-bay!"*

*-Guitarist-songwriter*

An additional event organized by Kinnie Starr and School of Music Dean Sal Ferreras, titled "The Greatest Native Ever Ever" took place the evening of Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> on the stage of the Van-

couver Media Club, a club well known to Vancouver independent musical artist community. The evening began with a remarkable showcase featuring all Aboriginal Music Lab participants in solo or group performance followed by three powerful sets by local artists: story-teller Richard van Camp, rapper-dj Manik, rock guitarist Marty Ballentyne, hip-hop artist Kinnie Starr and a jam session facilitated by DJ Mad Eskimo.

*"The AML was a great experience. I am so thankful to have had an opportunity to participate. I like the musician's hours, the music of talent. It was awesome to see my friends coming into their time. The classes were interactive and I loved atmosphere of free expression."*

*-Blues singer-songwriter*

The Aboriginal Music Lab was a success. It raised awareness of the need for professional development in the Aboriginal Music sector and helped target that need to specific technical or capacity elements. It positioned VCC's School of Music as an ideal musical training centre capable and committed to advancing Aboriginal musical arts. It attracted high level artists who sought the knowledge, depth and experience of a fully integrated

team of artist-performer-educators. The positive experience, feedback and tangible musical products are a strong indication that VCC has seized an important opportunity to position itself as a leading institution of advanced Aboriginal Music Training. If the Lab was indeed an experiment to assess the viability of a proper Aboriginal Music Program then all signs point towards continuing this development and important post-secondary cultural education stream.

*"Thanks again for the opportunity to come to the Music Lab and I hope I impressed you all and would love to come back for another run. I will definitely stay in touch, take care."*

*-Country-folk songwriter*

The Aboriginal Music Lab was funded by the generous assistance of Vancouver Community College, the Canada Council for the Arts Music Section and Legacies Now. All travel and accommodation was made possible by a specially designated generous grant from the Canada Council for the Arts to support the national scope of the Lab.

## Faculty Web Grading

Sandra North  
Associate Registrar  
snorth@vcc.ca

Well into its second year, the Faculty on-line grading project has been successful in a number of departments VCC. At the moment between 40 to 75% of all departments (dependent on the campus) are fully using this functionality. And one of the best parts about it

is that faculty do not have to understand Banner Student to use it. Training workshops for this take approximately one hour and at the end, instructors are able to enter letter grades for their specific classes on-line. This gives faculty the ability to do this from any computer with a web browser, using the secure log-in feature found on the VCC home page of our website. For VCC students, the benefit is their ability to view their letter grades on-line as well as the ability to print unofficial tran-

scripts.

In addition to on-line grading, faculty also have the ability to:

- See how classes are filling
  - Confirm the number of registered students in a class
  - Send individual or group emails to students, as well as view students who have withdrawn from class after the first day.
- If any faculty are interested in receiving this training, please contact Sueling Chang by email or call 7478

## Committee Reports

### Distributed Learning Committee

At the October meeting, the Committee discussed what policies might be appropriately developed by the DLC. The Terms of Reference for the DLC identify it as a place to systematically review policies, with a focus on teaching and learning and the use of the system/network. A list of policies will be brought forward at a future meeting and DLC will decide which to review and how to set priorities. Alison Woods, Learning Centre Coordinator, was on hand to present online/virtual tutoring. Currently the Learning Centre offers math and science tutoring via instant messaging. The tutors are online Monday through Thursday, from 6:00-9:00pm. *The DLC is a public committee and meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Meeting locations alternate between the Broadway and Downtown Campuses.*

### Education Administrators Group: some highlights

- The Internationalization subcommittee of EAG has developed a draft definition of Internationalization. Members of the subcommittee recently attended a conference on Internationalization held in Vancouver. Some of the presentations are now available online at: [http://www.regional.nafsa.org/Regional2007 Vancouver/Index\\_Regional07.htm](http://www.regional.nafsa.org/Regional2007 Vancouver/Index_Regional07.htm)
- ELSA 4/5 courses began October 29th
- The Yamaha Technical Tour made a stop at VCC and the best of the Yamaha technicians worked pro bono on VCC's new pianos. Yamaha Canada has also made a donation to VCC for a scholarship.
- A provincial HS/RCA program for Aboriginal learners is being developed and should be completed by December.
- Also in development is a new Aboriginal Culinary program (more to come on this initiative in a later newsletter)

### Management Group: some highlights

- Management Group heard a presentation on VCC's Positive Space Campaign, designed to foster an inclusive environment for GLBT employees.
- The United Way campaign, which runs the first two weeks of November, and employees will have an opportunity to donate to VCC during the campaign.
- Management gets regular updates on Emergency Planning Preparedness (more the latter in a future issue of this Newsletter).
- Other reports have been received on Succession planning, Strategic Planning, the Capital Campaign, and the 2010 Olympics.

### Upcoming Events at Vancouver Community College

#### Volunteer Fair

Concourse  
Downtown Campus  
Wednesday, November 14th

#### Positive Space Workshop

Downtown Campus  
Wednesday, November 14th

#### Awards Ceremony

Auditorium  
Broadway Campus  
Friday, November 16th

#### Employee Recognition

Staff Lounge  
Broadway Campus  
Thursday, December 13th

#### Strategic Plan

#### Visioning Sessions

Employee Lounge  
Broadway Campus  
Wednesday, November 14th

Employee Lounge  
Broadway Campus  
Wednesday, November 28th

Room 240  
Downtown Campus  
Thursday, November 29th

Student Lounge  
Alberni Campus  
Friday, November 30th

Room 240  
Downtown Campus  
Tuesday, December 04th

### Strategic Planning Working Groups

January—April  
Dates and locations: tba