



Thirty-year music career leads VCC's Ferreras to Hall of Fame

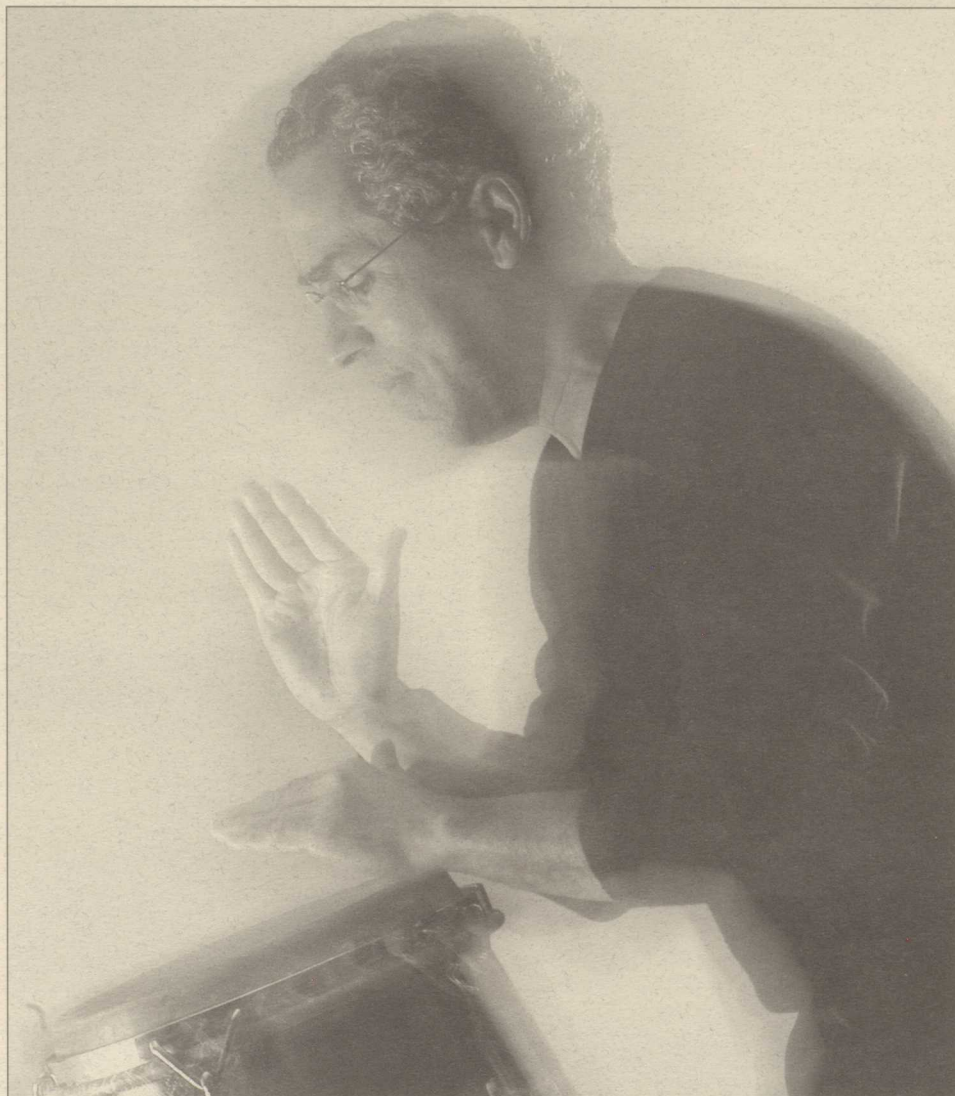


PHOTO: L. MACKENZIE

Sal Ferreras inducted into B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame

He started out as a drummer, age 10, surrounded by Latin music in his native Puerto Rico.

But he chose instead to play rock and roll, then drifted into progressive rock. At university he studied classical music. Later he returned to the Latin sound. That led slowly to world music.

Now he sees himself simply as a maker of music. Any music.

"Being a musician is easy," says VCC instructor and local music luminary Sal Ferreras, a major force on the B.C. music scene. "Defining what it is to be a musician can be very difficult.

"For me, being a musician is a privilege, a responsibility and a serious duty," he says. "It is a licence to intoxicate the willing listener with things beautiful,

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Season's Greetings from the President

As the holiday season is upon us and 2003 winds down, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday.

The past year has been a busy one for everyone at the college, and this is an especially hectic time both at work and at home. I hope you will find some time to rest and relax during the much-deserved holiday break.

This time of year is about our own individual communities: friends, families and neighbours, getting together to celebrate the joy of the season.

I'd like to extend my warmest wishes to everyone at the college and wish you all a prosperous and peaceful 2004.

I look forward to seeing you back rested and revitalized in the New Year.

Happy Holidays,

Dale Dorn
President

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News Briefs

The Future is Ours — VCC Day 2004

The Future is Ours, the theme of VCC Day scheduled for April 30, reflects the forward-thinking approach of the college community. Organizers hope to make VCC Day a worthwhile personal and professional development event for everyone at VCC.

An online survey has been gathering information from employees on the types of workshops they want to see available on the program. "We received 60 completed surveys in the first 24 hours," says Bob Aitken of the program committee. "There is obviously good interest in participating."

Once the program is finalized, a Web page will be set up with program information and registration. "We're excited to use the new Web-based registration system for employees as well as our students," says Gyda Chud, director of the Centre for Professional and Continuing Studies, which has been using online registration since November.

VCC raises record funds for United Way

VCC's final total raised during the 2003 United Way campaign is \$55,464, dramatically surpassing the goal of \$40,000 set in October.

"We had 162 donors this year, up from 147 last year and 102 in 2000," says Deanna Rexe, co-chair of the campaign. "We raised \$10,278 in donations under the 'leadership' category, which are eligible for matching dollars from an anonymous donor."

Grand total is up from \$40,904 raised last year and up from \$20,239 in 2000.

"These increases are part of a significant trend created over the last several years," says Rexe. "We have the dedicated United Way committees and the VCC community to thank for the growth each year."

These boots are made for walking...or teaching

VCC's Community and Career Access department would like donations of rubber boots and steel-toed work boots for display and instruction in the classroom. Please contact Wayne McNiven or Malcolm Cant at local 8438.

Cambridge international diplomas come to Vancouver through partnership with VCC

World-renowned Cambridge international diplomas are coming to Vancouver – and Vancouver Community College – offering new immigrants important opportunities to have their overseas credentials recognized in Canada.

Signing ceremonies took place Nov. 14 launching a partnership between VCC and University of Cambridge International Examinations, which makes the college an official training and assessment centre for the international diplomas.

Cambridge's well-respected international diplomas, available in 170 countries, offer international recognition in a host of in-demand subjects including teaching, management, business, tourism and information technology.

"Today's job market isn't limited to just one country – it's international in scope," says VCC president Dale Dorn. "Having a credential that's recognized internationally gives job-seekers an important edge in the job market."

Foreign-trained professionals stand to see considerable benefits from the Cambridge international diplomas; through a series of exams they can gain international recognition for their overseas training and experience – without having to re-do earlier programs in a new country.

"At VCC we have a long track record of giving graduates the skills they need for their careers," says Dorn. "This partnership is a perfect fit for us."

"The community college system in Canada is a model system for us," says Tyrell Smith, Fellow of Wolfson College,

Cambridge, who represented Cambridge at the signing ceremonies. "VCC is the ideal starting point for our expansion into Canada."

Career counsellor Sanjeev Nand knows just how much it could benefit immigrants to have their overseas credentials more easily recognized by employers in Canada and elsewhere.

"Many immigrants face huge challenges in being able to continue their professional careers in Canada," says Nand, manager of career services at the Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society. "We've all heard the stories about the engineer who has to work as a cab driver – often because there's no recognition for his overseas training."

Stan Smith, president of the Progressive Intercultural Community Services, stresses the importance of recognizing foreign credentials in Canada.

"To ensure a bright future for Canada, both domestically and on the world stage, it is crucial that we unleash the great potential of our immigrant population," says Smith. "We need to get people doing what they are truly capable of." ■



Top: Dale Dorn addresses the importance of VCC's partnership with Cambridge international diplomas. Above: Tyrell Smith and Dale Dorn sign the agreement and make the partnership official.

News Briefs

Human rights Web site launched

VCC's Web site has a section for the college community to find out more about VCC's human rights policy and related issues (www.vcc.ca/humanrights).

Included online is information on the policy and its application, frequently asked questions and a current list of workshops and registration information. There's a link to the plain language summary of the VCC human rights policy in a printable PDF format, which is available in English, Spanish, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese.

Please contact Linda Duarte, acting human rights coordinator, at local 7040/8310 or lduarte@vcc.ca with feedback or questions.

Coffee kiosk named

It's *The Daily Grind*.

After many hours of deliberation, Sodexho and Vancouver Community College have picked the winner of the Name the Coffee Kiosk Contest: *The Daily Grind*, submitted by Gordon Wong of the Learning Centre.

Wong wins an MP3 player and his morning coffee free for six months.

A team of judges including Della Glendenning, Michèle Bickell, Doreen Sharan, Vivienne Garrott and Barbara Worwood handed honorable mention to facilities director Larry Waddell for his excellent yet wordy submission: "Vancouver Community College King Edward Campus Coffee, Beverage, and Baked Goods Sales Centre" or VCCKECCBAGSC.

Online registration and application update

VCC's online registration and application services went live in mid-November to immediate success.

Already the system has processed registrations for the Centre for Professional and Continuing Studies and handled applications for a handful of full-time programs, among them Administrative Office Assistant, Practical Nursing and Diesel Technician.

"The work of the WebReg team isn't over yet, but this first step is a giant step for VCC," says registrar Sueling Chang. "I applaud everyone who has worked so hard to get the project to this point."

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powerful, subtle and sublime. What could be easier? What could be more difficult?"

Difficult or easy – that's what Ferreras has been doing in B.C. and abroad for more than 30 years

in a career that just a few weeks ago earned him a spot in the B.C. Entertainment Hall of Fame.

Ferreras now joins the likes of singer Sarah McLachlan, opera star Judith Forst and broadcaster Vicki Gabereau in being recognized by their peers for their outstanding contribution to the arts in B.C.

"I'm honoured to receive this recognition," says Ferreras, who credits his family and fellow musicians for letting him follow his creative impulses wherever they lead.

Over the years that creative drive has led Ferreras to explore distinctive blends of world music – he coordinates world music studies within VCC's highly regarded School of Music – most recently with Safa, an acclaimed trio that combines Persian, Latin and jazz sounds.

"Truth is, it doesn't really matter much what kind of music I'm called upon to play," he says. "Everything that I've had a chance to partake in has had committed individuals and artistic challenges all the same."

It's his dedication to his craft that has seen Ferreras earn recognition from audiences, fellow musicians and students, says VCC president Dale Dorn.

"Over the years Sal has made a tremendous contribution to music – both performing and teaching," says Dorn. "Whether he's on stage or in the classroom, he brings energy, talent and commitment to whatever he's doing. We're extremely proud to have a musician of Sal's calibre in VCC's music program."

It's students, of course, who Ferreras hopes might follow a similar path to recognition during their future careers. "I'm delighted to be able to share my knowledge and experience at VCC and hope this honour will inspire aspiring artists at our college to continue their quest and realize their dreams," he says.

"The learning environment at our School of Music is one of palpable energy and creativity, propelled by a high-powered community of artists/teachers with whom I wish to share this award." ■

Presentation teaches health sciences students about caring for older adults

An alternative care concept called the Eden philosophy was the topic of a special presentation last month, part of a School of Health Sciences move to showcase the latest care approaches to students and faculty.

"The cornerstone of the Eden philosophy is a commitment to create better social and physical environments for older adults living in care facilities," says Ella Lam, department head of Continuing Care and Allied Health and lead organizer of the event.

"The future of health care is dependent on our students knowing the latest ideas and innovations," she says.

Guest speakers included Dr. Elisabeth Drance, geriatric psychiatrist of Providence Health Care, who spoke of the tremendous need to create a home-like environment for residents of long term care facilities. "It is strange that these facilities, which are so full of people and activities, are among the loneliest places on earth," says Drance.



Rounding out the speakers were Ruth Stout, a nurse educator, and Carolle Sauro, a clinical nurse specialist, both of Providence Health Care.

Further information on the Eden philosophy is available online at www.edenalt.com. ■

East Indian dinner and dance is a hit

VCC employees, family and friends celebrate food, dancing and culture on Nov. 13

VCC's East Indian Dinner and Dance saw record attendance this year, doubling the number of VCC employees and friends who attended the last event.

In all 160 people attended the Nov. 13 festivities at Fraserview Hall, which was an opportunity to socialize outside of work and highlighted VCC's diverse community. "We have so many shared interests and a great enthusiasm for each other's cultures," says Veronica Jorna, Learning Centre tutor and event organizer.

East Indian culture, the main theme of the event, was present in all aspects including song, dance, food, and dress. Many participants wore East Indian garments, adding to the festive feeling. Vegetarians and meat-eaters alike enjoyed a wide array of delicious Indian dishes.

Dinner conversation and dancing topped the list of activities. Entertainment included: music videos, joke-telling, raffles, door prizes, hand drumming, singing, dance demonstration and instruction as well as mehndi (henna decorating).

"We had a great time," say staff members Elise Routhier, Jane Sheil, Mary Sullivan and John Kostoff from the Assessment Centre. "We will definitely go again next year."

Success of the dinner and dance is due to the great efforts of many people, including the VCC social committee of Jean MacLeod, Carol Sicoli, Roseanne Ashworth, Carey Stoneberg, Sunny Gujral, Veronica Jorna, Aleksandra Henderson, Lindsay Bourne and in particular Vanita Puri.

Organizers extend a special thanks to the prize donors, entertainers and



Top: Michael Szaz, June Dragman, Vanita and Chander Puri, and Lindsay Bourne enjoy the festivities. Above: Adorned for the evening in their traditional Indian garb (from left to right) Jean MacLeod, Barb Ash, Sunny Gujral, Carol Sicoli, Vanita Puri, Sheilah Henderson and Veronica Jorna.

helpers, as well as Fraserview Hall for catering a wonderful dinner. Special kudos goes to Barb Ash for making the dinner accessible to deaf and hard of hearing employees and friends.

Next year's event promises to be even better. Organizers are already fielding enquiries about where to buy tickets from people who were unable to attend this year's dinner. ■

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