

# Sounds



Newsletter of the Vancouver Adapted Music Society

Winter 2008 - 2009

## Listen to the Strait Goods

Vancouver Adapted Music Society (VAMS) has produced a showcase CD to highlight the area's finest musicians with disabilities – *Strait Goods*.

The disc features 10 provincial artists (nine living in Metro Vancouver and one in Victoria) that prove disability is no barrier to musicianship. It is available online and from selected music stores: Highlife (1317 Commercial Drive, Vancouver), Beatmerchant (160 – 12,240 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Richmond) and Crazy Bob's Music Emporium (20,484 Fraser Highway, Langley).

For more info see the VAMS website: [www.vams.org](http://www.vams.org).

## Sounds good

The new VAMS recording studio is available for anyone with a disability – free!

Located at G. F. Strong Rehab. Centre (4255 Laurel St., Vancouver), it is staffed by program assistant Sheila Lee on Wednesdays 11am – 3pm. It is accessed by appointment.

Book through VAMS manager Kirk Duncan: 604-688-6464 ext. 128, or [kduncan@disabilityfoundation.org](mailto:kduncan@disabilityfoundation.org).



Sounding off: Sam Sullivan, VAMS founder, tries out the new recording studio.

## New VAMS music studio open

VAMS is running the province's most modern studio for musicians with disabilities.

Built at Vancouver's G. F. Strong Rehab. Centre, the studio is designed for people with a wide range of disabilities and musical capabilities. Studio experience and the nature of an individual's disability will not be barriers.

Participants can play instruments live, program computer synthesizers and put together multi-track recordings – in 24-bit, 96 khz DVD-quality audio.

Vancouver music scene veteran Bobbi Style, of Coquitlam, put the studio together with technical advisor Steve McGoven.

“With most studios, even if owners are accepting of a person in a wheelchair, it's difficult to get around,” he said. “You find that you can't get over to the mixing desk, or to use the computer. These places just aren't made to be accessible.”

“But there are a lot of musicians with disabilities in the Vancouver area. They need somewhere to record in high quality for their demos or to finish a commercial project.”

The studio uses industry standard recording equipment, including a Macintosh computer running Logic Pro (music interface), Apogee Ensemble (audio interface) and Euphonix (digital audio mixing console).

More info: [vams@disabilityfoundation.org](mailto:vams@disabilityfoundation.org) 604-688-6464 ext. 117



Music maestro: Bobbi Style, who was instrumental in the studio design.

Founder: Sam Sullivan, formed VAMS in 1988.

# Studio launch draws a crowd to G. F. Strong

The state-of-the-art adaptive studio was launched at an event held at Vancouver’s G. F. Strong Rehab. Centre.

The event filled the gymnasium, while guided tours of the studio ran throughout the evening, given by musician Bobbi Style and program assistant Sheila Lee.

Together they showed some of the specialized equipment for people with significant disabilities that won’t be found in the average music studio. It includes a Magic Flute (a synthesizer mouthpiece controlled by tilting), Midi Wing (computer-based controller that allows note-by-note music creation), head mouse (head-operated mouse for people with limited hand control) and a sip ‘n’ puff jouse (mouth-operated computer mouse).

The studio, which allows activities ranging from music therapy to high fidelity recording, is fully accessible thanks to work by Tetra Society volunteers.

At the event, Sam Sullivan said he and Dave Symington founded VAMS in order that musicians like them could have somewhere to record. “You will probably see me around the studio, trying to get back into rock n’ roll dreams again,” he quipped.

VAMS recording artist sylvia macCormac, who is about to begin work on volumes six and seven of her *Wheels* compilation series featuring the sounds and voices of people with disabilities, said she is delighted that the studio is both high-tech and completely accessible.

“It’s suitable for anyone – with any disability or any musical range, from beginner to advanced,” she said. “I intend working in it.”

macCormac aims to volunteer in the studio to help other musicians to find their voices – after first learning about the particulars of its computer system. “I went back to school to become a music educator – that was when I discovered the mixing board and soundscapes. I want to continue sharing success with people.”

Anyone else wanting to volunteer (recording/production skills are required) should contact VAMS.

### Credits:

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Feedback

photos  
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Venue: the G. F. Strong gymnasium.



Singing: Jayne Dinsmore



Audience: Dave Symington, Terry Leblanc.