

Sounds



Newsletter of the Vancouver Adapted Music Society

Winter 2009 - 2010

VAMS prize for harmony

The City of Vancouver has recognized VAMS for its work to promote musicians with disabilities.

VAMS received a Cultural Harmony Award at a ceremony in early November. Executive Director Duane Geddes received a plaque, and a tree was planted in VAMS name in the Vancouver Park Board Cultural Harmony Grove, located east of the Burrard Marina.

The City established these awards in 1996 to “recognize individuals and organizations that display a significant and sustained commitment to the promotion of cultural harmony in Vancouver,” said City Equal Employment Opportunity Program advisor Rajpal Kohli.

Sounds good

VAMS musicians Rolf Kempf and syvli macCormac will be playing at an International Day for Persons with Disabilities event at The Roundhouse (181 Roundhouse Mews - Davie & Pacific) on Dec. 3.

The City of Vancouver event runs from 1pm to 6:30pm and mixes sport, music and art. It is free and open to all.



Laid back: Legendary Vancouver bluesman and longtime VAMS member/supporter Jim Byrnes.

VAMS video a galaxy of stars

Vancouver Adapted Music Society’s (VAMS) *Music Saves Video Project* showcases a stellar array of West Coast music scene names.

Produced by Shore 104 FM, it features VAMS members Jim Byrnes, syvli macCormac and Rolf Kempf, joined by Ndidi Onukwulu, The Sojourners, Geoff Hicks, Shaun Verreault, Adaline, Daniel Wesley, Shane Turner and Jets Overhead in an amazing cover of Bob Dylan’s *I Shall Be Released*.

VAMS manager Kirk Duncan said: “Music Saves was created with the intent to spread the word about VAMS to as many people as we can reach. We hope people will be touched by what they see

and we encourage everyone to share the video web link and the message.”

Jim Byrnes said the choice of song was “brilliant, because the theme of the song fits so well with the mandate VAMS lives by: music truly sets you free.

“We are all prisoners in some way. We have a physical disability or a mental disability or we’re afraid of something in our lives; but I think this project is an opportunity to show how this music, that we love so much, is a way to set us all free and allows us to be a part of the world that surrounds us.”

Watch the video, shot on location around Vancouver, at: www.vams.org/video.

More info: vams@disabilityfoundation.org 604-688-6464 ext. 117



In memory: Jayne Dinsmore.



Tribute: Jeff Standfield (left) and VAMS founder Sam Sullivan, paying their respects.

Remembering Jayne Dinsmore: a tribute

Longtime Vancouver Adapted Music Society (VAMS) musician Jayne Dinsmore will be remembered for her warm personality as well as her consummate musicianship.

Jayne passed away Sept. 11, aged 53, after a brief illness. Her life and her music was celebrated by more than 60 friends and family at a Burnaby Restaurant in late October.

“She had the voice of an angel,” said fellow VAMS musician sylvi macCormac. “The most amazing jazz vocalist I’ve ever heard.

“When I started the *Wheels* project, Jayne was one of the first vocalists who took part. She answered the ad I put in *Georgia Strait* in 1997, and we kept in touch ever since.”

At first, recalled sylvi, Jayne initially had little confidence as a singer, but after joining VAMS formed the band Jayne’s Gang and recorded a CD, *Dreams Come True*.

Jayne retired from the City of Burnaby in 2007 and, with more time for her music, had been talking about recording her next album at the VAMS studio at GF Strong.

Patty Clarke, Access Services Coordinator for Burnaby Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, knew Jayne through work, where she said people remembered her for being “so friendly and outgoing.”

“Jayne continued to volunteer on the Access Committee after retiring. She was always willing to be involved.”

Jayne’s brother Dan said he wanted to “acknowledge and give thanks” to VAMS for “creating an opportunity for Jayne to explore her artistic side. Singing became an integral part of her life and provided much enjoyment.”

Two of Jayne’s tracks are featured on the VAMS showcase CD *Strait Goods*, which is featured on the group’s website.

Recording a CD has never been more accessible

The new VAMS recording studio is available for anyone with a disability – and it’s free!

The studio was officially opened with a launch party in November 2008, and has been in constant use over its first year of operation, both among beginning musicians and those more experienced – for instance, longtime VAMS member sylvi macCormac is using the studio for her *Wheels 7* project, for which she aims to work with 100 recorded vocalists.

Located at G. F. Strong Rehab. Centre (4255 Laurel St., Vancouver), it is staffed by program assistant Sheila Lee on

Wednesdays 11am – 3pm, but accessible at other times once users are familiar enough with the computerized recording system to work unaided or with volunteers.

VAMS manager Kirk Duncan said: “If anyone thinks the studio might be of assistance, they should drop in on a Wednesday afternoon and meet Sheila. She’s a qualified music therapist who can identify how VAMS can help them.”

To get involved, either as a participant or volunteer, contact Kirk Duncan at 604-688-6464 ext. 128, or kduncan@disabilityfoundation.org.