

# Sounds



Newsletter of the Vancouver Adapted Music Society

Winter 2011 - 2012

## Turn up, plug in and make music

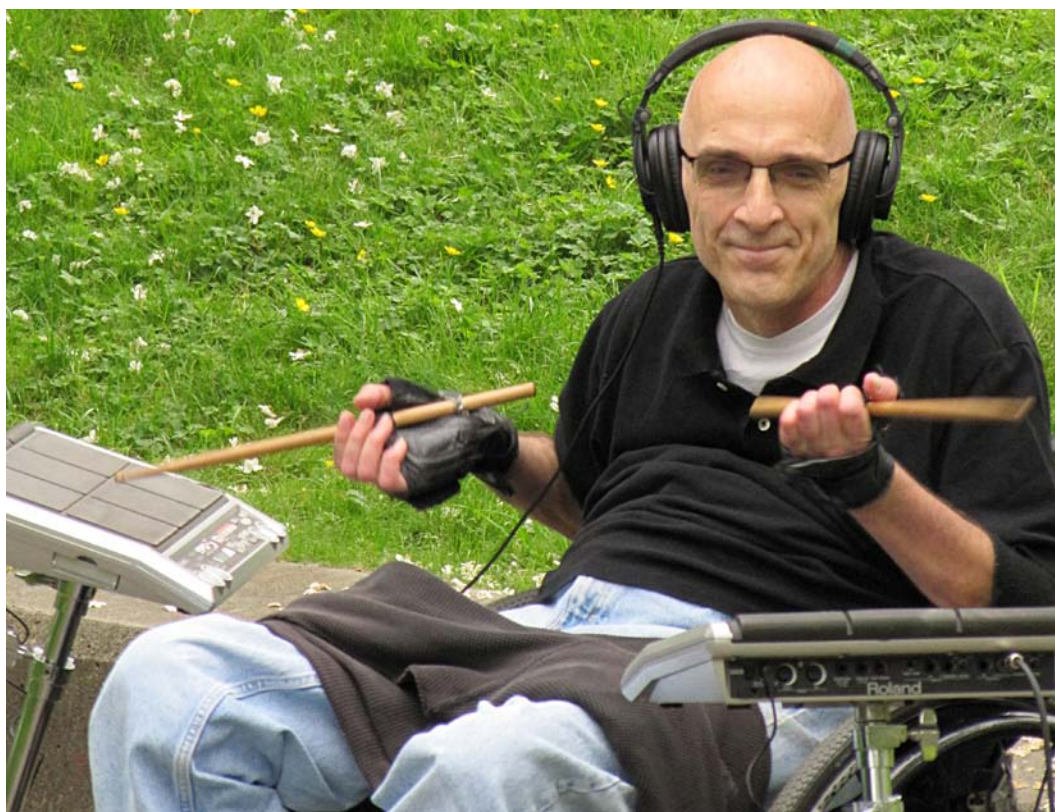
Vancouver Adapted Music Society (VAMS) opened BC's – and most likely Canada's – most accessible recording studio in 2008.

Based at Vancouver's GF Strong Rehab. Centre, it has been in constant use by experienced musicians and novices. Ongoing minor upgrades will make it simpler for people to turn up, plug in and play without requiring assistance.

Tetra Society volunteers are installing track mounting for the microphone, so it can be moved with a flick of a switch – and free up space currently taken by the bulky stand. They are also installing a motor into the keyboard stand so it can be moved up and down by clients.

Further changes will make it easier to plug a guitar into the mixing console, and all the audio equipment is being labelled and explained via flow diagrams.

"We want people to be able to do things as independently as possible," said VAMS co-founder Dave Symington. "The studio is impressive, but anything can be improved on."



What a Feeling: Drummer Dave Symington recording the VAMS video in a Vancouver park.

## "Oh what a feeling, what a rush. . ."

The latest VAMS music video is on its way to becoming a viral online sensation.

*Oh What a Feeling*, a cover of Crowbar's Canadian classic, features VAMS musicians Jim Byrnes, Rolf Kempf, sylvia macCormac, Kristina Shelden, Bobbi Style and Dave Symington, joined by a stellar cast of West Coast musicians.

It was shot at various scenic Vancouver locations in July, and launched online in November. Within a couple of weeks of release it's already received more than 5,000 viewings – and more every day!

It is the third in the *Music Saves* series, put together in conjunction with Shore 104.3 FM.

"The continuing involvement of people with disabilities in musical experience fills me with optimism, and Music Saves is one way to do that," said drummer Dave Symington who plays on the track.

Symington hopes the video series will inspire more inclusion and greater scope for musicians with disabilities to perform and record in Vancouver. Watch them all at the VAMS website: [www.vams.org](http://www.vams.org).

## In tribute

Tributes have been paid to one of the stars of the *Music Saves II* video who died just days after its release.

Vancouver musician Randy Pozio, one of the singers on *Oh What a Feeling*, was found dead in a downtown eastside rooming house on Saturday, November 19. An autopsy will determine the cause of his death.

Friends and family held an emotional candle-lit vigil at the corner of Georgia Street and Granville Street in downtown Vancouver, where Pozio would often busk.

“What a loss – he was really talented,” said VAMS musician Bobbi Style, who starred in the music video alongside Pozio. “He was a really nice guy who made some amazing music.”

Fellow VAMS video performer sylvi macCormac said: “I’m sorry to see the loss of a beautiful soul.”

## Calling singers

The New Year will see a new VAMS venture – a choir.

It will mix able bodied and people with all levels of disability, and experience.

The VAMS Community Choir will perform at various venues, and specific events, around Metro Vancouver, said VAMS co-founder Dave Symington. “It’s giving people an outlet – people can sing without having to feel like a soloist.”

## It’s celebration and sadness for sylvi. . .

Long-time Vancouver Adapted Music Society (VAMS) musician sylvi macCormac will be receiving two community honours.

The first is recognition by Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation, citing sylvi as one of 12 Remarkable Women for 2012. It is a year-long series of events “honouring women for their contributions to various aspects of community life,” said community arts programmer Anna Nobile.

Posters honouring this year’s dozen will start going up in community centres, schools and libraries in January, and a reception is held on March 8 to tie in with International Women’s Day.

In the meantime, sylvi is busy working on community recognition No. 2, a commission to create a short film for BC’s first disability media festival. Kickstart’s Wide Angle Media Festival, also held in March, aims “to celebrate the spectrum of genres, styles and vision of” artists with disabilities.

sylvi is working on a poignant film that she describes as “not your typical mother-daughter relationship production.” She describes the film as “about a mother with Alzheimer’s and a daughter with multiple sclerosis and their ability to cope.”



Sylvia city: sylvi macCormac and mother Sylvia.

It grew out of sylvi’s desire to record her mother Sylvia’s stories and memories. Or, as she puts it, “I was going to do a soundscape project about my mum, but it became a film.”

Titled *Patience and Absurdity*, it will examine the changing relationship between the two – sylvi being diagnosed with MS in 1981 and Sylvia with Alzheimer’s in 2009.

Sylvia’s support gave sylvi the strength to transform from a folk singer who could no longer play guitar to a noted soundscape composer. “But it’s more about Mum. Her history is fascinating.”

Screening details will be given nearer the time at [www.kickstart-arts.ca](http://www.kickstart-arts.ca).

## Bobbi Style shocks with electro release

Bobbi Style is releasing a 34-track electro compilation CD to raise funds for accessible recording studios around the globe.

Style, a long-time VAMS musician who built the fully-accessible studio at G. F. Strong, has formed his own music non-profit, the Access 2 Foundation. It is currently building access-all-areas studios in Coquitlam, BC; Las Vegas, NM; and Los Angeles, CA. Further locations across the US and UK are planned.

The compilation, *Synthetic Frequencies*, features cutting-edge artists including Massive Ego, Method Cell and Tenek. It is released in early December on Style’s own Access 2 label.

“We got a huge amount of support from musicians on this project,” he said. “The word went out like wildfire, and people were offering to support this project before we could even reach them.

“Everyone liked what we are trying to do, building studios around the world. We did not have to ask any musician twice!”

Style has two follow-up fundraising compilation releases planned for the New Year – *Digital Ambiance* will be ambient mood music and *Analogue Dreams* will be more dance orientated. Each will clock in at more than two hours’ duration. Info: [www.access2foundation.com](http://www.access2foundation.com).