



Performing-arts education in B.C. receives significant boosts

By [Jessica Werb](#), October 20, 2011

Performing-arts education in B.C. has received some significant boosts in recent days. On October 14, the [VSO School of Music](#) received \$1 million from the B.C. government toward its \$30-million facility, which opened this past June. The school had previously received a \$365,705 grant from Heritage Canada's Cultural Spaces Fund and a cultural-amenity density bonus from the City of Vancouver. The VSO also received a \$1.22-million operating grant from the B.C. Arts Council.

Shaun Taylor, executive director of the VSO School of Music, said the government's contribution to the school brings the total raised in its \$8.2-million capital campaign to \$5.2 million. "There are two main components to the capital campaign. One is the outfitting of the facility, and the other is a requirement from the City of Vancouver to raise an endowment fund now and invest it and not touch it for 20 years," he explained.

The grants to the VSO followed news that the [Sarah McLachlan School of Music](#) will be gaining a permanent home at 138 East 7th Avenue near Main Street. The school's new home, which opens October 27, comes through the Wolverton Foundation, which converted 16,000 square feet of a 35,000-square-foot former bowling alley into the music centre. The remainder of the building, purchased by the foundation for \$5 million and retrofitted for \$2.5 million, will be leased for general office and other uses.

The Arts Club Theatre Company's youth musical theatre program also got a leg up, thanks to a \$21,150 donation from Telus, which will go toward helping support the three-week intensive summer course.

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SARAH MCLACHLAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
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