



CANDIDATES FOR VRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

DR. JEFF DRESSELHUIS

The Vancouver Recital Society has been a part of my life since 1985. Like all of us, highlights over the years have been too numerous to tally. But they would definitely include Yefim Bronfman's bench crashing off the riser with the final thundering chord of his performance at the Chan (c. 1999), Cecilia Bartoli's night of endless encores (c. 2001), Paul Lewis' amazing Beethoven sonata cycle (c. 2005-2006) and Winterlude 2017.

The VRS also played a pivotal role in my personal life. My now-wife and I formally began our relationship the night of Jackie Parker's memorable January 27, 1985 recital (post-Leeds Competition), which I had the good sense to buy tickets to, despite only being in Grade 12. Through our university and then early married and growing family years, with the challenges of time and money being factors, my wife and I were limited to buying tickets à la carte. But, once life circumstances permitted, we again started to purchase ticket packages, and our children benefited from the Youth Club and later RU35 programs.

My strengths lie in the areas of Leadership and Governance/Policy, with a minor in Human Resources and Government. As the Chair of the Fraser Northwest Division of Family Practice (2013-2016) I oversaw a governance re-structure to align our organization with the new Societies Act brought in by the provincial government in 2015-16 to regulate NFP's. As a director-at large on the Board of Doctors of BC from 2015-2017, I was a member of our Governance Committee which developed a wholesale makeover of our organization's governance and leadership structures. Further, as outgoing Chair of the Board of Directors of Doctors of BC (2017-2021) much of my work lay in delivering to members the improvements promised by that governance overhaul.

I love music, from ancient to modern — and I love the VRS. Its role in my family's life is quite profound and I would be honoured to serve alongside others in bringing its vision and accomplishments to a new generation.



JONATHAN GIRARD

Conductor Jonathan Girard always knew that music would be his life.

Growing up in a musical home just outside Boston, one of Jonathan's first memories is being held in his grandfather's lap as he improvised tune after tune at the piano. He vividly remembers his first trip to hear the Boston Symphony and a performance of Debussy's *L'après-midi d'un faune*.

He began his musical training on the piano and took up viola, saxophone, clarinet and organ. He was always focused on conducting and earned his Doctorate from Eastman.

Jonathan sees the orchestra as a community of collaborators – a place where each musician can contribute their individual artistry to a unified whole. Whether he's leading a symphony in South America, an opera in Europe or working with students as Director of Orchestras at the University of British Columbia School of Music, he focuses on collective breathing, phrasing and nuance while inspiring musicians to sing through their instruments.

Jonathan was recently appointed as Principal Guest Conductor of the Athens Philharmonic. He has led orchestras throughout North America, South America, and Europe, including the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the North Czech Philharmonic Orchestra and the Holland Symphony Orchestra. He has also held positions with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, Portland Opera Repertory Theatre, the Ohio Light Opera, the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra Orchestral Institute and the Marrowstone Music Festival. He currently serves as the conductor of the Vancouver Youth Symphony Senior Orchestra.

He is an enthusiastic promoter of new and little-known repertoire, particularly works by female-identifying composers. He is involved in many interdisciplinary projects with virtual reality media labs and the visual arts. He engages with scholars exploring astronomy and earth, ocean and atmospheric sciences. Recently, he premiered a Noh opera by Farshid Samandari that integrated Japanese and Western classical music instruments and styles. Jonathan has also offered Canadian and North American orchestral premieres of works by John Luther Adams, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Emmerich Kálmán, Oscar Navarro, Arvo Pärt, Francis Poulenc, Kaija Saariaho and Ana Sokolović.

Jonathan is fueled by an endless curiosity and a thirst for exploration. He has an abiding desire to find beauty and to make it part of his life, a longing to share music with the world.

So it's not surprising that off the podium, he loves to fly airplanes.



GLORIA TOM

I first learned about the Vancouver Recital Society when I was in high school and looking for a volunteer opportunity. I saw an ad in the local paper about a Chamber Music Festival and thought it would be a good way to combine my volunteering with my passion for classical music. I have the fondest memories of volunteering for the festival, seeing my fellow volunteers come back each year, and also meeting new volunteers and musicians each summer.

Over the years, I got to know the VRS better and always enjoyed attending concerts with my friends and family. When I was asked to join the VRS Board of Directors in 2011, I jumped at the opportunity to give back to an organization that played such a large part in my earlier years. I am equally just as thrilled to be back on the board again to share my experience and work with a great group of people.

My strengths lie in the areas of project management, project capital & governance, and information technology as it pertains to enterprise ordering systems. I have spent the past several years managing a large capital portfolio to enhance our ordering platforms to better support the products and services at a large telecommunications company. I love solving complex problems with a combination of innovation, collaboration, and process-based design. I'm really looking forward to applying my skillset to a different industry and working with a diverse and talented team.