



2023-2024 Jean Coulthard Readings and Mentorship Program

Call for Applicants

Application Submission Deadline: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Score Reading with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra: End of May 2024

Application Form: [Jean Coulthard Readings and Mentorship Program 2023/2024](#)

The **Vancouver Symphony Orchestra** and **Maestro Otto Tausk** are pleased to present the *Jean Coulthard Readings and Mentorship Program*.

The *Jean Coulthard Readings* were created by former composer-in-residence Rodney Sharman in 1997, to provide a learning opportunity for Vancouver's early-career composers, and for the VSO to discover new musical voices.

Named in honour of one of BC's most beloved composers, the *Jean Coulthard Readings and Mentorship Program* gives emerging BC composers an invaluable opportunity to develop their orchestral writing under the guidance of the VSO and have their work read by a professional orchestra. Approximately six emerging composers will be selected to participate in the program.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The *Jean Coulthard Readings and Mentorship Program* runs from October 2023 to May 2024, culminating in the **Reading Session with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra** at the end of May.

As part of the Mentorship Program leading up to the Readings, participants will also receive:

- Individual and group mentorship with Mentor Composer Edward Top (approx. 3x) throughout the course of the program
- 3 seminars with visiting VSO Guest Composers
- The opportunity to attend and observe VSO rehearsals of works by VSO Guest Composers
- 1 seminar with musicians of the orchestra
- The opportunity to meet with and learn from VSO Conductors
- Additional presentations and workshops

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should be BC-based composers in the early stages of their professional careers (first five years). The selection committee will be looking for creative imagination, stylistic originality, and a personal voice.

The VSO values diverse perspectives, experiences and cultures and is committed to fostering an inclusive environment. We encourage applications from members of all groups experiencing barriers to equity and we especially encourage racialized, queer, non-binary, and female composers to apply.

Composers should submit compositions that reflect their ability to write for orchestra or large ensemble.

Over the first 5 months of the program, participants will have the opportunity to develop or finalize the composition that will be played and recorded at the Reading Session in May. Final Scores and Parts will be due at the end of March 2024.

Works for the **Readings** must be scored for a maximum instrumentation of:

Woodwinds: 2 flutes (2nd doubles piccolo)

2 oboes (2nd doubles English horn)

2 clarinets (2nd doubles E-flat clarinet OR B-flat bass clarinet, not both)

2 bassoons (2nd doubles contrabassoon)

Brass: 4 french horns

2 trumpets

3 trombones (2 tenor, 1 bass)

tuba

Percussion: timpani (1 player; does not double) + 2 players

Harp: (1 player)

Strings: violin I, violin II, viola, cello, double bass

Works with soloists, instruments in addition to those listed above, or electronics will not be considered for the Readings, but may be submitted as your *application*. Works for the Readings should be a maximum of 6 minutes.

APPLICATION

For the consideration of the jury, applicants are invited to submit two works, one of which must be for an orchestral or large ensemble.

There is a **Pay What You Can system** for our applications, with the option to enter any amount up to \$25 into the fee payment form, for anyone facing financial or other barriers. The VSO is committed to nurturing the next generation of musicians and composers, and we aim to make our programs accessible to all.

There is no fee to participate in the program!

Hard copies must be submitted by mail, courier or in person. Digital copies of your score are submitted through the online form.

Your application should include:

1. **Two Full scores (one hard copy of each piece).** Applications are to be made anonymously. Please do NOT include your name, or any indication of your identity on the score. The title of the work should be printed clearly on the submitted score.
2. **AND Digital copies of your scores** – without any indication of identity on the digital copy.
3. Link to a **recording** of at least one of your two scores. MIDI recordings are acceptable but discouraged.
4. **Application Form**

Applications are due 5PM, Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Please address hard copies to:

Education Assistant
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
Mail: 500 - 833 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 0G4
Courier/drop off: 500 - 843 Seymour Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 3L4

If you have questions, please e-mail us at education@vancouversymphony.ca

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

Successful applicants will be required to prepare their own performance parts according to specific library guidelines presented in the part preparation seminar. A complete set of performance materials consists of two scores, multiple copies of strings (8 violin I, 7 violin II, 6 viola, 5 cello, 4 double bass) and single copies of all other parts. **Performance parts must be received by March 29, 2024 (date subject to change)**

Composers must be flexible and available to attend all seminars, masterclasses, and workshops in person. The option to attend via Zoom will only be available to those who live outside of the Lower Mainland of BC.

Sessions with Edward Top will not be scheduled ahead of time, so you must be flexible to make yourself available for when these are scheduled (i.e., booking school/work off)

Composers are required to commit to attending:

- 3 seminars with visiting VSO Guest Composers (Dates TBA)
- 1 seminar with members of the orchestra
- the parts-preparation seminar
- the entire reading session, pre-reading meetings, and post-reading masterclass

PROGRAM BENEFITS

The Jean Coulthard Readings and Mentorship Program provides the opportunity to:

- Learn about composition from multiple perspectives – including from professional composers, performers, and conductors;
- Hear your work be performed by world-class musicians;
- Experience how symphony orchestras operate and how to write for them in a way that is practical and engaging for the musicians;
- Learn about the composition process of professional composers currently writing for the VSO;
- Receive high-quality archival recordings of your piece from the readings, which can be used in future applications; and
- Gain career-related, entrepreneurial insights.

Previous participants have gone on to succeed professionally and receive commissions from major symphony orchestras.