

iMA Newsletter



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International
Music
Academy

Voted **top 100 educators in the world** by the International Biographical Centre
Winner of the **Consumers' Choice Award** for best music school in the GTA.
Winner of the Royal Conservatory of Music **Gold Medal for Teaching Excellence**.
Winner of the **York Region Character Community Award**.
Markham Board of Trade **Business Excellence Award** finalist.

Year XXII, No. 8

August 2018

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Kyle D. (piano)
Naomi Y. (piano, voice)
Kai C. (piano, voice)
Evan S. (piano)
Tiffany W. (voice)
Kelly C. (piano)
Jonathan T. (piano)
Pearly T. (voice)
Meredith G. (violin)
Joshua A. (piano)
Jayden C. (voice)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Jonathan T., Ahanna P., Nicole H., Ava F., Melaney P., Mavrik S., Jeffrey S., Jack W., Rachel W., Leo X., James L., Arthur T., Sara C., Georgie Y., Matthew S., Vithushan J., Angelique E., Thalia K., Opal Y., Jacky C., Yoyo C., Jonathan W., Ria K., Kishan B., Nicole X., Jocelyn W.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN AUGUST

Aug 10-11: RCM Theory Examinations

Aug 13-25: RCM Practical Examinations

Aug 31: Toronto Youth Symphony Orchestra Auditions Application Deadline

NEWS

GET 3 FREE LESSONS WITH THE PURCHASE OF A PIANO

If you are ready to purchase a high quality pre-own piano through one of the IMA partners, 3 of your lessons at the IMA will be free. Call our Office or e-mail Office@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca for more information. Pre-own piano is a great investment that comes at an attractive price, with a free tuning and delivery.

IMA OFFERS MOCK EXAMINATIONS FOR THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

The IMA is offering to all students who are registered for RCM examinations an opportunity to play their entire program prior to the day of their examination. Students who participated in the mock examination session this past June were able to earn significantly higher marks at their official examinations. This mock examination for the upcoming summer (August) session is scheduled at the IMA – Stouffville recital hall on **Saturday, August 4, from 5 pm to 7 pm.**



The Royal Conservatory of Music June session examination results have been announced. Congratulations to the IMA students achieving considerably higher than the Provincial average marks, with distinction.

Student	Subject, grade	Mark	Teacher
Emily Jong	Level 7 Theory	94	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Arianna Lagunzad	Preparatory B Piano	93	Ms. Suzanne Marfise
Thivya Jeyapalan	Level 7 Theory	92	Ms. Antonia De Wolfe
Jonathan Wong	Level 7 Theory	92	Ms. Suzanne Marfise
Avni Prabhu	Preparatory A Piano	89	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Priyanka Ragunathan	Level 5 Theory	88	Ms. Antonia De Wolfe
Savannah Dunberry	Level 7 Theory	88	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Shaelin Balasing	Level 2 Piano	86	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Jason Chen	Level 7 Piano	85	Ms. Antonia De Wolfe
Jeffrey Su	Level 4 Clarinet	84	Mr. Leonid Sprikut
Nitin Raj	Level 2 Piano	83	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Jerry Wong	Level 2 Piano	83	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Jatynne Raj	Level 4 Piano	83	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Rohin Furchner	Preparatory B Piano	80	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Garrett Kawabata	Level 7 Violin	78	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Alexandra Lavric	Level 1 Piano	77	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Trevor Tseng	Level 5 Piano	77	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Reese Bi	Level 4 Piano	77	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Carter Kawabata	Level 6 Violin	77	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Steven Li	Level 4 Piano	75	Ms. Antonia De Wolfe
Rex Hakimi	Level 1 Piano	73	Ms. Marina Grigoryar
Janice Chung	Level 4 Piano	70	Ms. Lili Imastounian

GET A \$30 CREDIT ON YOUR NEXT MONTH TUITION

We have been very pleased with the continued success of our students. They have improved a great deal and we share their excitement with their families, friends, neighbors, and schoolmates. We appreciate your interest towards our programs and services. We are always very happy to welcome new students of all ages, levels, and instruments to the IMA. **Please tell your friends about your experience with the International Music Academy.**

Do you know someone who is thinking of taking music lessons or who has **children** who may be interested in getting their hands on a musical instrument or singing? Do you know a **teenager** who needs a high school OAC credit? Do you know an **adult** who has wanted for a long time to learn how to play a musical instrument but has never had the time or inclination? **Please tell them about the IMA.**

As an appreciation for your referral, we will give you a **\$30 credit** for each new student who registers at the International Music Academy as a result of your referral.

PERSONALIZED IMA GIFT CARD



The IMA offers personalized Gift Cards that could be used as thoughtful birthday, holiday, bar/bat Mitzvah, graduation gift or for any other occasions as well as to encourage someone to start learning a

musical instrument or singing. The card can be used for any products or services.

The gift card is available for **any amount**. As cards are personalized with the name of the person who will receive it as well as with the name of the person who purchase it, requests have to be made 1 day in advance. Cards can be ordered in person, by phone at 905.489.4620 or by e-mail at info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca. At the time the card is ordered, a non-refundable \$5 deposit is required. The full value of the card is paid upon pick-up (and the deposit is credited towards the purchase price). Payments can be made by any major credit card, cheque or cash as well as through the accounts of the IMA Clients.

FOLLOW US ON

Stay in touch and follow the IMA latest news on Facebook. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/International-Music-Academy-1944567629154903> and become a friend of the International Music Academy.

COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

2/08/1945	Mascagni died
8/08/1975	Shostakovich died
09/08/1919	Leoncavallo died
10/08/1928	Janacek died
12/08/1992	John Cage died
13/08/1912	Massenet died
22/08/1928	Stockhausen was born
22/08/1862	Debussy was born
25/08/1918	Bernstein was born
26/08/1958	Vaughan Williams died
28/08/1959	Martinu died

Where you born or do you know someone who was born on the same day as these famous composers? Drop us e-mail at info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca to let us know.

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Mariko Der Avanesian, B.F.A., D.Mus

Piano Studies, Music Theory



Born in Japan, Ms. Der Avanesian earned Bachelor of Fine Art from Osaka College of Music. She continued her study in Paris, France at *Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris* for *Diplome Supérieur d'Execution (6eme division professionnelle, piano performance)*. She has performed numerous concerts, recitals and also appeared as a

concerto soloist in Japan, France and Canada. She participated in several music festivals such as the International Keyboard Institute and Festival (New York), the Toronto Summer Music Academy and Festival (Toronto), Scotia Festival of Music, *Academie International d'interpretation de Piano* (France) and *Flaine Musique Festival* (France). Among her teachers were world-renowned pianists Alicia de Larrocha, Menahem Pressler (Beaux ArtsTrio), Peter Frankl and Andre Laplante. As a piano teacher, she has more than 25 years of experience and successful in teaching any level of students at any age. She has a great ability of communication with students to tailor the lessons to fit each students needs, goals and skills. Her passion and love of music transforms any music lesson to a joyful musical experience filled with beautiful artistic moments and fun challenge. Any student will find her/himself to be a motivated self-learner. Ms. Der Avanesian is a registered teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Ms. Der Avanesian was happy to answer a few questions for our students and parents:

1. What do you like most about teaching? Music is a universal language. Teaching music for me is talking about it regardless of any difference as human. That gives me the joy of sharing

something very precious we all have in our heart. That's what I love.

2. How do you inspire students to practice more? I set a small goal to reach each student's dream. A little step makes a big difference. I want them to feel it. A little victory leads you a real achievement. Achievement gives you a satisfaction. Happy feeling equals to the motivation.

3. What roles does performance play in student's development? When I teach, performance is in my mind always. For me, practicing means preparing for the performance. I assess what needs to be done to make her/his performance better at each student's current developing stage. This is what I teach at each single class. From another angle, I absolutely know what the students will go through to preparing performance and experiencing real performance so it makes me possible to prepare each student in the best possible condition.

4. Who are your favourite composers? There are a lot! Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Albeniz, Mozart, Beethoven, Scriabin, Brahms, Ravel, Debussy, Faure, Falla, Scarlatti, Bartok, Dutilleul, Franck, Berg, Shostakovich and on and on and on..... :)

5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? Bach The Cello Suites by Yo-Yo-Ma.

FEATURED STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Isabelle Dasgupta



What instrument do you play? – I play the piano.

How long have you taken lessons? – I have been taking piano lessons for almost 1 year and I very much enjoy the lessons.

Who are your favourite musical artists? – My favorite composer is Mozart and my favorite singers are Taylor Swift, Arianna

Grande and Selina Gomez.

What are your other hobbies, besides music? – I like creative hobbies and physical hobbies. For creative I like to draw, build things like a cardboard box car and using clay to make sculptures. I also like cooking with my Dad. For physical activities I also like riding my bike, swimming, soccer and hiking. I enjoy the outdoors.

Favourite food? – My favourite food is lasagna!

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? – The coolest thing I've learned is how to read the notes in musical pieces. It's like knowing another language.

Do you have any performance coming up? – Yes, I have an exam at the Royal Conservatory of Music and just finished my first recital.

E-mail to info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca a photo of yourself (or your child) together with the answers of the questions above. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. We will feature you in one of the next issues of the newsletter.

PET OF THE MONTH

Send a photo of your pet together with following information and we will publish it in one of the next issues of the IMA newsletter. What is the name of your pet? How old is he/she? What kind of breed our pet is (if applicable)? How long have you had him/her for? Any special circumstances around getting the pet (i.e. a gift, foster pet, etc.)? The funniest story about your pet? Any special skills or abilities.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Stop obsessing over talent—everyone can sing



Steven M. Demorest
Professor of Music Education
Northwestern University

Steven M. Demorest does research in singing development across the lifespan. He has received funding for his research from the University of Washington, Northwestern University, The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and Advancing Interdisciplinary Research in Singing (AIRS).

A Hungarian film titled "Sing" won last year's Oscar for best short film. "Sing" tells the story of young Zsófi, who joins a renowned children's choir at her elementary school where "everyone is welcome."

Soon after joining, Zsófi is told by her teacher Erika not to sing, but only mouth the words. On the face of it, she accepts her teacher's request stoically. But later in the movie, her anguish and pain become obvious, when she reluctantly tells her best friend what happened.

The movie goes on to reveal that Zsófi isn't the only choir member who has been given these hurtful instructions. The choir teacher's defense is, "If everybody sings we can't be the best."

I have been a professor of music education for the past 28 years, and I wish I could say that the story of a music teacher asking a student not to sing is unusual. Unfortunately, I have heard the story many times.

In fact, research shows that many adults who think of themselves as “unmusical” were told as children that they couldn’t or shouldn’t sing by teachers and family members.

All children are musical

The 2017 Oscar-winning short film ‘Sing’ explores the experience of a child who is told not to sing. Meteor Films

Children are natural musicians, as they readily sing, dance and play music from the time they are infants. People ask me all the time how they can tell if their child has musical talent. I assure them that their child – indeed every child – has musical ability that can be developed into a satisfying and lifelong relationship with music.

However, as they get older, some children begin to get messages from peers, family members, the media and (unfortunately) music teachers that they may not be very musical – that they don’t have “talent.”

The ‘talent’ mindset

Shows like “American Idol” have promoted the notion that singing is a rare ability reserved for the talented few, and that those without such talent entertain us only by being ridiculed and weeded out.

This “talent mindset” of music runs counter to what psychologist Carol Dweck calls the “growth mindset” that is considered critical for learning: Students who view their success as a result of hard work will persevere through challenges, while students who believe their success lies with some innate ability – like “talent” – are more likely to give up.

My own research found that if children have a negative view of themselves as singers, they are much less likely to participate in music of any kind.

These self-perceptions of a lack of musical talent can then become a self-fulfilling prophecy. Research shows that adults who dropped out of music as children may lose their singing skills through lack of use and opportunity.

Kids who love music but do not think of themselves as musical could miss out on many of the social and cognitive benefits of music participation, on the experience of feeling connected to others through song. These benefits have nothing to do with talent.

Get children singing

How can we send children the message that singing is for everyone? I argue that change could begin both at home and at school.

For example, if you are a parent, you could sing the music you loved growing up and not worry about how good you sound. Having an adult in the home committed to music and singing without shame may be the most powerful influence on a child. You could sing with your kids from the time they are little, sing with the radio, sing in the car or sing at the dinner table.

As for my fellow music teachers, I ask that you encourage all of the children in your classrooms, schools and communities to sing whenever and wherever they get a chance. The sad truth is, when we, the musical experts, discourage a child from singing, it can deliver a fatal blow to the child’s musical self-image.

Music teachers need to teach in a climate of collaboration and participation where all voices are heard and valued – not one of audition and competition where only the best can sing.

The movie “Sing” is actually titled “Mindenki” in Hungarian, which means “Everybody.” That’s the uplifting message that Zsófi and her choir mates teach Miss Erika in the end. Singing is not reserved for the few: Either everybody sings or nobody should.

To comment on this story or anything else you have read in the Newsletter, head over to the IMA Facebook page or message us on Twitter.

International Music Academy

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for new students only

1 offer per family

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905.489.4620 (Markham) or
905.640.6363 (Stouffville)
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Cannot be combined with any other offer.*

REFER A NEW STUDENT and GET ONE FREE LESSON!

When you refer a new student to the IMA, who registers for lesson, you will get one free lesson for every new student. So, if you refer the IMA to 2 new students, we will give you 2 free lessons; for 3 new students – 3 free lessons etc. Fill in the coupon below and leave it with the IMA Office administrator.

Your name: _____

Name of the new student: _____

You can print or photocopy this coupon as many times as you need.

Cannot be combined with any other offer.