

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 XXI, No. 12

December 2017

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Catherine Yu (piano)
Aberaam Saseenthiran (drums)
Alyza Khan (piano)
Zoya Khan (piano)
Sophia Khan (flute)
Catharine Sin Hong Wang (flute)
Faith Williams (piano)
Sammaya Shah (piano)
Joseph Lee (piano)
Jordan Liu (piano)
Faith Halkusis (piano)
Savannah Garabedian (piano)
Elena Clare (piano)
Dimitri Petrou (guitar)
Elena Petrou (piano)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Priyanka Ragunathan, Olivia Wan, Daniel Yu, Renee White,
Caleb Yang, Advika Raju, Trevor Tseng, Genevieve Lau, Joanne
Jaison, Jelena Garvey, Jennica Cai, Rida Aftab, Serena Sung,
Emily Li, Jatynne Raj, Shreya Ratnam, Derek Price, Aaron Dutta,
John Ning, Celina Mekhail, Kamakshi Sarvananthan, Jake Xia,
Lucas Alfonso,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN DECEMBER

Dec 1: Peel Music Festival registration deadline.
Dec 8-9: RCM Theory examinations.
Dec 9-10: IMA WINTER FESTIVAL
Dec 12-20: Hanukkah
December 15: RCM April session applications deadline
**December 16: Flato Markham Theatre. Kindred Spirits
Orchestra. Russian Romance**
December 18: iMA- Year Progress Reports
December 23-January 7: Winter Break
December 25: Christmas Day. School is closed.
December 26: Boxing Day School is open.

NEWS

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.

IMA WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL December 9-10, 2016

We are looking forward to seeing you at the iMA Winter Music Festival that will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, December 9-10, 2017** at the recital hall of the International Music Academy in Stouffville located at 50 Innovator Avenue in Stouffville ON L4A 0Y2. The hall has an excellent grand piano, large screen connected to an HD camera that will allow you to see the finest details of each performance. The Stouffville location is only 10-15 minute drive from the Markham location. A free parking is available in front and the back of the school as well.

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.

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. As we value your friends as much as we value you, we will offer to each referred student a **\$30 credit** as well.

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.

COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

- 14, 1719 MOZART, Leopold (father of Wolfgang)
- 14, 1778 HUMMEL, Johann Nepomuk
- 14, 1900 COPLAND, Aaron
- 18, 1786 WEBER, Carl Maria Friedrich Ernst, Freiherr von
- 18, 1860 PADEREWSKI, Ignacy Jan
- 22, 1710 BACH, Wilhelm Friedemann
- 22, 1913 BRITTEN, Lord Benjamin

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

Leonid Sprikut, Ph.D., M.Mus., B.Mus.
Woodwinds and Brass, Music history and Theory



Mr. Sprikut holds a MMus in Music Education from the University of Toronto , as well as Master of Music in Performance Diploma *cum laude* from the Moscow P. Tchaikovsky State Conservatory, and a Bachelor of Music in Performance Diploma *cum laude* from Moscow State Conservatory Music College. He also holds a Bachelor Degree in Wind Ensemble Conducting from Moscow State Conservatory Music College. As a

professional clarinetist and saxophonist Mr. Sprikut has been affiliated with many symphony and chamber orchestras around the world, such as Moscow State Ministry of Education Symphony Orchestra (Principal Clarinet), Moscow State Academy of Music Opera Theatre (Principal Clarinet), New Jerusalem Symphony (Principal Clarinet), Israeli Operetta Theatre (Principal Clarinet), and was a member of a Moscow State Conservatory Woodwind Quintet.

As a soloist, Mr. Sprikut performed in Russia , Israel , USA , Canada , and has taken part in various International Music Festivals, such as International Klezmer Music Festival in Zfat , Israel. Among his teachers were the internationally renowned Vladimir Sokolov (Principal Clarinet for The Moscow State Symphony Orchestra and Professor of Clarinet at the Moscow State Conservatory) and Dr. Scott Bridges (Professor of Music and Clarinet at the Alabama University School of Music). Mr. Sprikut started teaching in the early 1980's, while a student at the Moscow State Conservatory and was one of the founders and first teachers at the Special Music School for Woodwind Instruments in Moscow , Russia. Later, in Israel he worked as a teacher for a Music Project of the Municipality of Jerusalem and was a Music Director of The Youth Jerusalem Wind Orchestra, where his duties included selection of repertoire for the Orchestra, auditions, public relations, and foreign tours. He has taught wind instruments, piano, and music theory privately and in groups at his studio, at various schools and at the Music College. Mr. Sprikut has been affiliated with iMA since 2006. He is experienced and successful in teaching students at different levels and ages from 7 to 70. Mr. Sprikut is also the conductor of the iMA Jazz ensemble, which successfully performed at the IMA summer music Festival in 2009. His students constantly win local and international music competitions, hold principal positions in students' and professional bands and symphony orchestras, and participate in a variety of musical activities in Canada and abroad.

Mr. Sprikut gives master classes and adjudicates music competitions and festivals in Israel, Russia and Canada. He is a member of Ontario Music Teachers Network and a Teaching Assistant in the instrumental class at the University of Toronto. Currently, Mr. Sprikut is a PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto where his research interests include music pedagogy and culture. His research papers were accepted and presented at several international conferences, such as 2010 international Conference in Multidisciplinary Research in Music Pedagogy at the University of Ottawa, Canada, and the ISME World Conference 2010 in Beijing, China. Mr. Sprikut possesses strong knowledge and excellent skills for teaching the classical style, as well as the jazz, folk, and music of modern composers. Determined to bring out the best of his students, Mr. Sprikut is one of the most highly recommended teachers in the GTA. He has been teaching wind instruments, piano, and music theory for over 25 years. Mr. Sprikut is a registered teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCME 60140) and is fluent in English, Hebrew, Russian.

Mr. Sprikut was happy to answer a few questions for our students and parents:

1. What do you like most about teaching? There are two statements that serve as a point of reference and a guiding principle for me as a music educator. The first is made by a famous Russian educator Vasily Sukhomlinsky: "Music education does not mean educating a musician-°-it means first of all educating a human being". The second is the following passage from the "Upanishads", one of the most important set of texts in Hindu scriptures: "Give your best in learning and teaching. Give with faith. Give with love. Give with joy". These statements, in my opinion, capture the very essence of a concept of music teaching as a complicated, multi-°-faceted enterprise. As an educator, I teach the whole person; as a teacher, I love and enjoy what I do. The choice of these two statements is not accidental. As a performer and music educator, I consider myself fortunate to be able to travel and work in different parts of the world, gain knowledge of different cultures, learn several languages, study with great teachers and teach great students. I'm really passionate about teaching. While teaching requires a lot of creativity and imagination, it also involves analytical skills, as well as the ability to be flexible, thoughtful, patient, and understanding. At the same time, a teacher has to be determined and persistent. Many of our students at IMA are complete beginners, and one of the best aspects of my job as a teacher is the opportunity to help my students develop not only technical skills but also deeper, stronger and long-lasting relationship with music, the ability to understand and appreciate it.

2. How do you inspire students to practice more? As a teacher I always strive to build strong relationships and establish a sense of cooperation with my students and their parents. It is very important to let the students know and feel that their work is essential and vital for the collaborative process. It is also important for me to let my students feel that I trust them, that I'm always ready to help, and we always work together

and rely on each other. As a music educator who had a chance to work in different cultural and social environments, I always strive for a greater flexibility of my teaching approach, employing a variety of methods with a "dialogue" as a key aspect of my concept of teaching. My responsibility as a teacher is to create a safe, constructive, and dynamic learning environment in which my students' efforts, hard work and willingness to study are deeply appreciated and supported. My task is to encourage them to participate actively in the learning process. I am constantly searching for better, more efficient ways to approach my students, to involve them into this process, and to arouse and maintain their intellectual curiosity.

3. What roles does performance play in student's development? As a musician and music educator I realize that performance is an essential part of the music education process. I strongly believe that being able to perform is important for anyone who plays and studies music. It helps the students become more mature, and develop self-confidence, self-discipline, organization skills and sense of responsibility. On the other hand, however, as teachers, we also have to be flexible, and realize that different students have different learning styles, different approaches to study, and different learning pace. Therefore, one of our most important goals should be to help them develop greater degree of confidence by providing them with constant support, positive reinforcement and encouragement.

4. Who are your favourite composers? My favourite composer is Dmitri Shostakovich. I admire not only his creative imagination but also his determination, strong will and ability to overcome unimaginable political, social and cultural obstacles and hardships to become one of the most important and original composers of the 20th century. He managed to express in his music the feelings, state of mind, and emotions of the modern human being. His ground-breaking musical compositions and innovative musical language inspire and influence generations of the contemporary composers.

5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? Just recently I have bought a couple of recordings by Charlie Parker, who is one of my favourite saxophone players. However, most of the recordings and sheet music that I purchase are for my students, as I always strive to make the learning process more creative and interesting for them.

FEATURED STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Ava Ford



What instrument do you play? – I play the piano

How long have you taken lessons? – I started taking lessons at the International Music Academy in 2014.

Who are your favourite musical artists? – My favorite musical artists are Carlos Santana and Yanni.

What are your other hobbies, besides music? - I like ice-skating, ride my red bike and play with toys.

Favourite food? – I like macaroni and cheese, pizza and sushi.

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? – Mrs. Marina taught me to play A Little Joke and Let's Waltz. I learned how to read the notes on the book.

Do you have any performance coming up? – I signed up for the International Music Academy Winter Festival on December 10.

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 you pet? Any special skills or abilities.

FEATURED ARTICLE

Dmitri Hvorostovsky (1962-2017)

Leading Russian baritone dies aged 55

It is with great sadness that we learn that the Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky has died aged 55 following a long battle with brain cancer. Hvorostovsky rose to fame when he won the BBC Cardiff Singer of the Year competition in 1989, beating

bass-baritone Bryn Terfel in a memorable final round. From there he went on to enjoy acclaim in opera houses across the world and released a string of highly-rated recordings. His repertoire was wide-ranging, from Caccini to Sviridov, but he was renowned for his Verdi and had few peers as Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin. Tall with prematurely silver locks, he cut a striking figure, and his seamless legato and burnished baritone earned him fans across the globe.

Born in 1962, Hvorostovsky was brought up in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, where he started his musical studies at the age of seven. As a teenager, he became obsessed with rock, disco and jazz, but soon realised his voice was better suited to opera and art song. After four years of study, he became a principal artist at Krasnoyarsk Opera House at just 23, and it was here that he made his operatic debut as Marullo in Verdi's *Rigoletto*. First prize wins at the 1987 Russian Glinka Competition and 1988 Toulouse Singing Competition paved the way for Hvorostovsky's Cardiff Singer victory, after which he moved to London and embarked on a career in the West. Appearances at Nice Opera, La Fenice in Venice and Chicago's Lyric Opera consolidated his reputation, and he went on to perform at almost all the major opera houses. Yet his Russian roots remained important, and he regularly toured his home country.

Condolences to his family were offered by The Kremlin, with presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov describing Hvorostovsky as 'a treasure not only of the Russian but also world culture.' Hvorostovsky was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2015, and the resulting balance problems led him to withdraw from staged productions in 2016. He continued to sing, however, delighting New York's opera fans in May earlier this year when he made a surprise return to the Metropolitan Opera stage to sing extracts from *Rigoletto* in a gala concert. It was his 183rd appearance at the Met. Hvorostovsky's first ever complete recording of this great baritone role is due to be released on 24 November, performed with the Kaunas Symphony Orchestra and conducted by Constantine Orbelian.

He died in London's Royal Marsden Hospital on the morning of 22 November, surrounded by family. 'May the warmth of his voice and his spirit always be with us,' said the official statement.

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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905.489.4620 (Markham) or

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Your name: _____

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Cannot be combined with any other offer.