

IMA Newsletter

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.



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International
Music
Academy

Year XVII, No. 7

July 2013

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Srilekha S. (piano)
Aidan J. (piano)
Kyle M. (piano)
Catherine T. (piano)
Rebecca M. (violin)
Grace B. (piano)
Julia D. (piano and voice)
Liya S. (voice)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Matthew L., Novak D., Michael L., Emma O., Myer O.,
Brandon H., Giorgina K., Vincent L., Erin N., Ethan D.,
Sophie S., Christian S., Matthew F., Mattheus G., Larry C.,
Jenathan J., Adam K., Kristen S., Kelsie L., Mariah B.,
Amelia N., Niki Q., Ehsha V., Anujan K.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN JULY

July 1. Canada Day (school is open).
July 1. Unionville Canada Day Celebration with the
Kindred Spirits Orchestra (Unionville Millennium
Bandstand, 8:00 p.m.)
July 4. Arts Society King Summer Festival opening gala
with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra (Country Day School
Centre for the Performing Arts, 8:00 p.m.)

NEWS

THE MAYOR OF MARKHAM, MR. FRANK SCARPITTI, SENT A CONGRATULATORY LETTER TO THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY ON THE OCCASION OF MOVING INTO A LARGER LOCATION.

"On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend our sincere congratulations on the expansion of the International Music Academy. As a long-

time proponent of arts in Markham and in York Region, I am delighted to have this opportunity to show our support for the Academy, founded by Maestro Kristian Alexander.

For over 15 years, your Academy has been advancing music education for residents of all ages, and the quality of your programs can be evidence in the prestigious awards:

- *Consumers' Choice Award – Best Music School in the GTA*
- *Royal Conservatory of Music – Gold Medal for Teaching Excellence*
- *York Region – Character Community Award*
- *Markham Board of Trade – Business Excellence Award finalist.*

Art and culture are the foundation of liveable communities, and music has extraordinary power in evoking emotions and elevating moods for wellness. As Mayor, I appreciate your efforts to encourage music education in our community. Best wishes for continuous success!

*Frank Scarpitti
Mayor of Markham"*

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE IMA STUDENTS WHO WERE ABLE TO FIT AN RCM PIANO EXAMINATION IN THEIR BUSY SCHEDULE DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

- Chloe Tam received a mark of **85** with First Class Honours (Grade 3 Piano)
- Adit Krishnan received a mark **82** with First Class Honours (Grade 3 Piano)
- Jessica Facchini received a mark of **82** with First Class Honours (Grade 2 Piano)
- Alexander Nielsen received a mark of **80** with First Class Honours (Grade 2 Piano)
- Mariah A Brown received a mark of **80** with First Class Honours (Grade 5 Piano)

GREAT COMPOSERS ANNIVERSARIES IN JULY

Well, out of 1,200 composers that we know so far worldwide, there is no even one who was born in July, August, or September. Isn't this so amazing...

However, there were more than just a few who passed away in the month of July:

7/01/1925	SATIE, Erik
7/04/1623	BYRD, William
7/11/1937	GERSHWIN, George
7/13/1951	SCHOENBERG, Arnold
7/15/1857	CZERNY, Carl
7/15/1959	BLOCH, Ernest
7/21/1870	STRAUSS, Josef
7/23/1757	SCARLATTI, Giuseppe Domenico
7/27/1924	BUSONI, Ferruccio Dante
7/28/1741	VIVALDI, Antonio
7/28/1750	BACH, Johann Sebastian
7/29/1856	SCHUMANN, Robert Alexander
7/31/1886	LISZT, Franz

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

2013 GREAT COMPOSERS ANNIVERSARIES

- **Gesualdo** - 400th anniversary of his death on 8 September
 - **Corelli** - 300th anniversary of his death on 8 January
 - **Verdi** - 200th anniversary of his birth on 9 October 1813
 - **Wagner** - 200th anniversary of his birth on 22 May 1813.
 - **Mascagni** - 150th anniversary centenary of his birth on 7 December
 - **Britten** - 100th anniversary of his birth on 22 November.
-

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Antonia Wolfe

D.M.A., M. Mus, B.Mus.
Piano and Theory Studies

Ms. Antonia de Wolfe has graduated with a degree in piano performance from the George Enescu Institute of Music in Bucharest, Romania and, later, with another degree from the Central School of

Music affiliated with the P. I. Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Moscow. She has also graduated from the Academia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where she studied with Sergio Perticaroli, and has earned a Master in Music (piano performance) degree from the University of Toronto, where she studied with Prof. Marietta Orlov. In addition, Ms. de Wolfe has studied with Maestro S. Petricaroli at Mozarteum Hochschule für Musik in Salzburg (Austria). Ms. de Wolfe has given several recitals and concerts in some of the finest concert halls in Bucharest, Moscow, Rome, Paris, Salzburg, and Toronto. She has also taught piano at the Columbus Centre, Cosmo school of Music, and Koffler Music School. As a collaborative pianist and accompanist, she has been in great demand for several productions of the Centuries Opera Association, Toronto Opera Repertoire, Palestrina Choir, Ethobicoke Centennial Choir, and others. Ms. de Wolfe is a registered teacher with Royal Conservatory of Music.

Ms. De Wolfe was happy to answer a few questions for our students and parents:

1. What do you like most about teaching? I feel a great satisfaction upon following the development of my students' skills and of their understanding of music. When I teach pieces that I myself have played I get a new perspective on them and I get new ideas about alternative ways to approach them. Teaching requires a keen analysis of musical structure, which helps the teacher to unveil hidden or new meanings involved in the experience of music. Also I like to perpetuate the love of classical music for the new generations.

2. How do you inspire students to practice more? It's very important to listen to music. Listening to recordings, going to concerts... Listening to music is an active process that inspires a student. It awakens in them the expressive possibilities that music offers. I always demonstrate a piece of music on the piano. Also, I give the student several repertoire choices and let

them pick their favourite one. Finally it is important to put a piece in historical context: information about the composer and the period the music was written in. All of this leads to inspiring my students to learn more.

3. What roles does performance play in student's development? It is important to have performances as milestones in a student development. Such events contribute much to shape the self-image of a student. Once a student has a performance as a set goal practicing becomes more exciting! Simply, a motivated student puts more effort into practicing. The performance in itself represents the culmination of all the effort put into practice. Plus it's a great feeling to be on stage and create beautiful music.

4. Who are your favourite composers? Robert Schumann has been a long-standing favourite composer of mine. His intense romanticism has always moved me. His ability of changing moods from lyrical calm to passionate torment, from sadness to great joy and glamour, exemplify his depth of character (as a composer). Also from orchestral repertoire I like *Symphony Fantastique* by Hector Berlioz. Wagner and Berlioz were both innovators of program music (music that has a story line behind it).

5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? I purchased *Carnaval* by Robert Schumann, a piano piece.

FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Jonathan Ignacio

What instrument do you play? **I currently play the piano, and am in Grade 8. I have also thought of playing the cello.**

How long have you taken lessons? **I have been taking lessons with the International**

Music Academy for about 5 years now, and have enjoyed every lesson!

Who are your favorite musical artists? **I have a wide range of favorite musical artists, depending on what I feel like listening to! You would find me listening to The Shins or The Bangles one day, and Frank Sinatra or Norah Jones the next.**

What are your other hobbies, besides music? **My favourite hobbies are in the sports, specifically soccer, table tennis and basketball. I also enjoy basic scripting/computer programming.**

Favorite food? **I've recently become really fond of seafood! Any type of seafood, from sushi to lobster, I love!**

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? **The coolest thing I have learned to do in my lessons is to play Hanon complicated piano exercises really fast without getting tired!**

Do you have any performance coming up? **Not during the summer but I continue taking lessons and practicing very hard.**

E-mail to info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca a photo of yourself (or your child) together with the answers of the following questions: What instrument do you play?, How long have you taken lessons?, Who are our favourite musical artists?, What are your other hobbies, besides music?, Favourite food? What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?, Do you have any performances coming up?). 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



What is the key to a successful education system?

By Caroline McClatchey

From the previous issue...

Key exam subjects: There is a curriculum to be followed, a book to be covered and a scheme of work that teachers stick to. It's largely academic. Chinese, maths and English

are the core subjects. English classes can amount to a quarter of all weekly classes. Art, music, drama and physical education are usually one or two lessons a week but they get chopped in the run-up to exams. Everything is strongly orientated towards examinations. There is still the equivalent of the 11-plus here and if you get a good assessment, you will go to a prestigious secondary school. Pupils are used to working under pressure and working towards examinations. To a large extent the style of teaching is traditional but it is not rote learning without understanding, it is memorisation with understanding.

Pedagogy: There's a mix of academic rigour and structure. There's a theory of learning behind everything. They don't do a project just for the sake of doing it - there's a framework of learning.

Other factors which impact on teaching: One of the big issues in Hong Kong is space. There are 42 kids in each classroom and the only way to organise them is in old-fashioned rows. Teachers often use microphones. They are the gurus and there is little group work or student participation. It is difficult with 42 kids to give them individual attention. Some school principals have the belief that a silent classroom is a good classroom. The idea that children can learn through discussion has not always permeated through. There have been some moves towards activity-based learning but success has been limited.

Continues in the next issue...

International Music Academy
4981 Highway 7, Unit 8
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International Music Academy

GIFT CERTIFICATE

for new students only

ONE FREE LESSON

Call the IMA Office at **905.489.4620**
to schedule your first lesson.

Once scheduled, the lesson cannot be rescheduled. Cannot be combined with any other offer. No refunds, no exchanges.

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.



Music is soooooooooo beautiful!

Register for lessons by **July 30,**
2013 and receive

\$30 off

New students only.