

iMA Newsletter



4981 Highway 7, Suite 1
Markham ON L3R 1N1
Canada M1K 3K1
Phone: 905.489.4620
Fax: 905.489.4621
w.internationalmusicacademy.ca
@internationalmusicacademy.ca

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 XVIII, No. 7

July 2014

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Vonne A. (Trombone)
Angelina W. (Guitar)
Sophia S. (Violin)
Mythili S. (Piano)
Danna G. (Voice)
Desmond C. (Violin)
Mahnam K. (Voice and Piano)
Furqan K. (Violin)
Kashan K. (Piano)
Grace Kim-Shin (Guitar)
Mahboub E. (Piano)
Myles K. (Piano)
Goldium T. (Violin)
Clara D. (Piano)
Kaila D. (Piano)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Matthew L., Novak D., Ting W., Michael L., Emma O.,
Myer O., Giorgina K., Vincent L., Erin E., Ethan D., Sophie
S., Christian S., Matthew F., Matteus G., Larry C.,
Jenathan A., Adam K., Kristen S., Kyra-Sophie O., Joseph
A., 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.**

International Music Academy
4981 Highway 7, Unit 1
Markham ON L3R 1N1



NEWS

HOW TO KEEP YOUR LESSONS CURRENT DAY, TIME AND TEACHER FOR SEPTEMBER?

Over the past few years several parents asked how to keep the day, time and teacher for their children for the upcoming school year. Below is important information that would most likely answers most of your questions. Please do not hesitate to ask if there is still something that we did not cover.

Q. How do lessons work in the summer? - The IMA is open year round, and we do not close during the summer.

Q. Do a lot of students quit during the summer? - For the past 5 years, we have grown in enrolment each July by 10%. Some students withdraw but we get a huge influx of students in June, July and August and most of them continue into the fall.

Q. How full is the Academy? - As of today we are near capacity, and many teachers have no availability between the hours of 3:00-8:30 p.m. on weekdays and between 8:30 am – 6:00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

Q. If we withdraw for the summer, can we keep our spot for fall? - Lessons are first come first serve, so if you withdraw for the summer, we cannot guarantee that we will have a spot for you in the fall as we will open the spot to new students.

The big question for all parents and students to consider is: Do you want to stay with the same teacher in the fall?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES THERE ARE 2 WAYS TO DO THIS:

- 1. Take advantage of our summer make-up lessons.**
We realize that some of you will go on vacation for a portion of the summer. So, what you can do is simply make up in advance the lessons that you would miss because of your holidays. You can make them up as early as you can (in April, May or even earlier).
- 2. Sub lease your spot to a family or friend.** You can send a family member or a friend in your place for the dates you will miss. Just let the office know who is coming in your place and when. Make sure that

they reimburse you directly for the lessons. If you are taking summer lessons and need a specific time for the fall, please contact us around late July and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Each September, we get calls from students who have been with us for years, but withdrew for the summer. They want to return to the same teacher, day and time, but another student who signed up for lessons in July or August has already filled the spot. We can't kick out the new student from the spot he/she has been taking for 2 months during the summer.

So, if you LOVE your teacher, keep your spot by using the summer make-ups or sub lease your spot.

COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN JULY

1/07/1925 - Satie died
2/07/1714 - Gluck was born
3/07/1854 - Janacek was born
4/07/1623 - William Byrd died
7/07/1860 - Mahler was born
8/07/1882 - Percy Grainger was born
9/07/1879 - Respighi was born
10/07/1895 - Carl Orff was born
11/07/1937 - Gershwin died
13/07/1951 - Schoenberg died
23/07/1757 - Domenico Scarlatti died
29/07/1856 - Schumann died
28/07/1750 - J.S. Bach died
28/07/1741 - Vivaldi died
31/07/1886 - Liszt died

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.

2014 GREAT COMPOSERS ANNIVERSARIES

C.P.E. Bach – 300 years from his birth (March 8)
M. Mussorgsky – 175 years from his birth (May 21)
R. Strauss – 150 years from his birth (June 11)

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Katherine Cao, M. Mus, B.Mus.
Piano studies, voice and music theory

Ms. Katherine Cao has graduated from University of New Brunswick with a Bachelor of Arts degree and with an A.R.C.T. diploma from the

Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. She has taught piano, voice, music theory, and music history to students of all ages and levels. Ms. Cao is a Member of Toronto Mendelssohn Choir and is on the faculty of the Sonata Music School in Toronto. She is a registered teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Mrs. Cao was happy to answer a few questions for our students and parents:

1. What do you like most about teaching? As a piano and vocal teacher I think what I like best about teaching is that students always bring me surprises. Some students could complete one RCM level 4 piece just in one week! Most of my vocal students are teenagers and they love to sing. As a teacher, I like helping them to develop their potential, built more confidence and increase their self-esteem. In addition, I like to prepare them for Also, give them advice about how to perform on stage. So that's the most like about teaching is enjoying the power of teaching.

2. How do you inspire students to practice more? Most of my piano students are very young so I usually choose pieces with lyrical melodies and teach them to sing the melody and clap the beat. Once they get more familiar with the piece, they start to play it and enjoy it.

3. What roles does performance play in student's development? Once the students get a performance experience, they continue to improve much faster. I always suggest students to get involved more often in performing. Every student work hard before a performance and enjoy the moment of being on stage and receiving well deserved applause from audiences. Also, students become more confident after every performance and encouraged to practice even more often.

4. Who are your favourite composers? My favorite composers include Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin and Verdi. I like Mozart because his music brings me happiness and it's fun to work with students. Beethoven is one of he composer really focused on finger skills. Chopin and Verdi are my favourite composers of Romantic period.

5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? The last piece of music I purchased is "I dreamed a dream" from Les Misérables for one of my vocal students.

FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Aneesah Bari, voice

What instrument do you play? At the IMA, I do voice training. I do several exercises to work on vocal range, pitch and voice control, and sing a variety of songs from different genres to work on developing vocal versatility and performance skills.

How long have you taken lessons? I started taking lessons at the IMA around 5 years ago. Since then, my voice has developed and grown greatly, and I've become a lot more comfortable performing on stage.

Who are your favourite musical artists? I listen to a variety of artists from several genres, including Justin Timberlake, Maroon 5, Lorde, and Rihanna to name a few. I've gotten the opportunity to work on many songs by artists that I like during my lessons, which is especially fun!

What are your other hobbies besides music? I enjoy playing different sports, like volleyball and basketball; I also love to read. Some of my favourite series include the Divergent, Hunger Games and Harry Potter series.

Favourite Food? I'll try anything! I really like to be adventurous with food, and try new foods when I get a chance to!

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? Recently, we've started to work on some really current songs, and it's a lot of fun to be able to sing songs that are on the radio right now. Some of the songs I've had a chance to sing are Let It Go from the frozen movie, Royals by Lorde, Radioactive by Imagine Dragons, and Counting Stars by One Republic, amongst others!

Do you have any performances coming up? Right now, the performance that we're working towards is the IMA's summer music festival, which is super exciting, because it's a fun way to be able to showcase talent to other members of the IMA. It is a great opportunity to build performance skills.



Amaan Bari, guitar

What instrument do you play? I play the guitar.

How long have you taken lessons for? I've been taking guitar lessons for 6 years. When I started taking lessons, I was 5 years old. At first, I started out learning notes, but as time passed, I've been learning how to play chords, and more complicated pieces

Who are your favourite musical artists? My favourite artists are Imagine Dragons and Bruno Mars. I enjoy

listening to their songs because their music is different and unique. Some of my favourite songs by Bruno Mars are Grenade and Locked Out of Heaven, and a couple that I like by Imagine Dragons are Radioactive and Demons

What are your other hobbies besides music? Besides guitar, one of my biggest hobbies is soccer, which I play almost every day. I also play many other sports like basketball, baseball, and football.

What is your favourite food? I love to eat sandwiches. Tuna sandwiches are my favourite to eat.

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in these past three months? I have recently learned how to play these things called 'power chords'. They are chords that have a more Rock and Roll sound to them, you hear them in songs like Radioactive.

Do you have any performances coming up? Yes, I am preparing for the IMA's summer music festival, which I am performing one song for. I am going to be performing a song with my sister, which I am practicing for.

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

theguardian

London, Great Britain, UK

Are musicians better language learners?

Children who learn music from a young age find it easier to learn languages even in adulthood, research has found

Liisa Henriksson-Macaulay



Research has found that children who study music before the age of seven develop bigger vocabularies, a better sense of grammar and a higher verbal IQ. Photograph: Christopher Furlong/Getty Images

Today's economic environment demands that our children become the very best they can be. A lot of demands are placed upon us as parents, and whether we like it or not, we need to help our children navigate their way in today's fast-paced world and build their skills for the future. But not all methods, from flashcards to baby signing, actually boost a child's intelligence, language skills or other abilities for success. Reading through many research papers from peer-reviewed scientific journals, I discovered that music training is the only proven method to boost the full intellectual, linguistic and emotional capacity of a child.

Thankfully, for the sake of the stress levels of parents and children, for the whole-brain boost, there is no need to emulate Tiger Mother Amy Chua who pushed her children to play classical instruments for several hours a day, often prompting tearful tantrums from her daughters. According to the studies, just one hour a week of learning music is enough for the full brain benefits to take place – including an all-round boost in language skills and a significant increase in IQ.

In my birth country, Finland, the average person speaks three to five languages – after all, no one understands our obscure native tongue. But Finland's peculiar custom of early music training where even babies and toddlers learn core music skills through songs and games, may also influence the fluency of foreign-language speaking Finns. As music training boosts all the language-related networks in the brain, we would expect it to be beneficial in the acquisition of foreign languages, and this is what the studies have found.

When children start studying music before the age of seven, they develop bigger vocabularies, a better sense of grammar and a higher verbal IQ. These advantages benefit both the development of their mother tongue and the learning of foreign languages. During these

crucial years, the brain is at its sensitive development phase, with 95% of the brain's growth occurring now. Music training started during this period also boosts the brain's ability to process subtle differences between sounds and assist in the pronunciation of languages – and this gift lasts for life, as it has been found that adults who had musical training in childhood still retain this ability to learn foreign languages quicker and more efficiently than adults who did not have early childhood music training.

Humans first started creating music 500,000 years ago, yet speech and language was only developed 200,000 years ago. Evolutionary evidence, as interpreted by leading researchers such as Robin Dunbar from Oxford University, indicates that speech as a form of communication has evolved from our original development and use of music. This explains why our music and language neural networks have significant overlap, and why children who learn music become better at learning the grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation of any language.

The benefits are not just for those of us whose mother tongues are obscure. Even for English speakers, there is a growing interest in the advantages that come with learning foreign languages. There are many languages that can benefit us in immense ways, from culture to trade – Chinese, Russian, Arabic, French and Spanish to name but a few – and what better way to ensure your child can pick up all these languages than by teaching them the master language that transcends all others: music.

Music training plays a key role in the development of a foreign language in its grammar, colloquialisms and vocabulary. One recent study found that when children aged nine and under were taught music for just one hour a week, research concluded that they exhibited a higher ability to learn both the grammar and the pronunciation of foreign languages, compared to their classmates who had learned a different extracurricular activity.

Finnish children are commonly musically trained from a young age (up until the age of seven) with the playful *Musiikkileikkikoulu* method, but they only start school at age seven and start language learning at nine or older. Despite this "late exposure" to everything excluding music skills, they commonly end up speaking three to five foreign languages. Any English-speaking person who has ever visited Finland can attest to the fact that nearly every Finnish person speaks English without any problems. My contention as an average Finn who speaks four languages is that speaking languages is fun – it allows you to engage with different cultures from an insider's point of view.

Take Ken Stringfellow, the American singer-songwriter known for his work in the Posies and REM, as an example of the impact of music on the ability to learn foreign languages. Ten years ago, well into his thirties, he married a French woman and subsequently picked up a whole new language from scratch. Recording with him in Paris, at first I was amazed at how he had learned it so well without any prior background, compared with my 12 years spent studying French at school; but the research explains it. As a musician who made music from toddlerhood, he would have significantly boosted his brain's capacity for the syntax, semantics and pronunciation of learning any new language in adulthood.

We must not forget that our children often learn the most when they are engaging in free play and discovering the world for themselves. The combination of a bit of music training and a lot of free play certainly has not harmed the Finns, who in the OECD's Pisa tests are among the top students in the world not just in their language skills, but in their abilities in mathematics, literacy and science.

The future and its economic demands may be uncertain, and there may be a lot of pressure on us parents, but one thing is certain: in order for our children to thrive, we need not impose this pressure on them. The brain takes care of its own development, with a little bit of music and a lot of love and free play.

Liisa Henriksson-Macaulay is the author of The Music Miracle: The Scientific Secret to Unlocking Your Child's Full Potential.

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.



Music is sooooooooo beautiful!

Register for lessons by
July 30, 2014 and receive

\$30 off

New students only.

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.