

# 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 XIX, No. 7

July 2015

## WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Dev C. (guitar)  
Jia C. (piano)  
Daniel Y. (piano)  
Eddy H. (violin)  
Arianna L. (piano)  
Cattleya K. (voice & piano)  
Arjun K. (piano)  
Antonio M. (violin)  
Austin W. (violin)  
Sophia G. (flute & voice)

## IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Novak D., Michael L., Antonio M., Shantelle N., Giorgina K.,  
Vincent L., Hayden C., Matteus G., Matthew F., Alec D., Alan C.,  
Kyra O., Eric W., Deekshana S., Goldium T., Theresa E.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## IMPORTANT DAYS IN JULY

July 1. Canada Day. [School is open.](#)  
July 1. Canada Day. [Unionville Canada Day Celebration with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra.](#)

## NEWS

### NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2015.2016 SCHOOL YEAR

The registrations of new students for the upcoming 2015.2016 school year will start on Wednesday July 15. Please note that available time slots are offered on a first-come first-served basis. We do not accept reservations of specific time slots for September. If it is important for you to take lessons with a specific teacher and/or specific day and/or time, we suggest that you register right away. We will work with your schedule to provide options for rescheduling/making up lessons that you may miss during your summer holidays. Please call the IMA office at 905.489.4620 for more information at your earliest convenience.

### 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

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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.**

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## 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 e-mail at [info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca](mailto:info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca) to let us know.*

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## FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

**Sara Chen, B.F.A.**

Voice studies and interpretation, Suzuki Piano



Ms. Sara Chen has earned her Bachelor degree in vocal performance and pedagogy from XingHai Conservatory of Music. As an accomplished musical artist and over 15 years of teaching experience, Ms. Chen is able to perform and teach a variety of songs and genres including opera and art songs,

musical theatre, folk and pop songs. She understand the technical elements as well as the creativity needed to be successful in vocal music. She teaches students of all ages and levels, and enjoy seeing them progress achieving their own success, dreams and goals. Ms. Chen also teaches Suzuki piano as well. She is a registered teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCME 61054).

*Ms. Chen was happy to answer a few questions for our students and parents:*

**1. What do you like most about teaching?** Teaching is a pleasure but also a challenge. It requires finding the fine balance between nurturing love for music, encouraging consistent practicing, building up strong and proper music technique, fostering an understanding of philosophy of learning music. When everything is properly balanced, the learning/teaching experience is very rewarding.

**2. How do you inspire students to practice more?** It is important to always show my love and passion for music. Encouraging students' progress and helping them reach their goals and make their dreams come true inspires students the most.

**3. What roles does performance play in student's development?** Public performances build up students' confidence and self-esteem. Overcoming the stage fright and gaining performance experience are integral parts of the learning process.

**4. Who are your favourite composers?** So many to list....

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## FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH ROSHNI RATHORE



**What instrument do you play?** - I actually play two instruments – the piano and the flute.

**How long have you taken lessons?** - I've been taking piano lessons for 5 years now.

**Who are your favourite musical artists?** - My favourite artists are Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Selena Gomez and Beyonce.

**What are your other hobbies, besides music?** - My other hobbies include reading books, riding my bike, and playing badminton.

**Favorite food?** - My favourite foods are pizza, pasta, and chicken and rice.

**What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?** - Coolest songs that I have learnt recently are *Musette in D Major* by Johann Sebastian Bach, and *Coconut rag* by Christopher Norton.

**Do you have any performance coming up?** - No, I currently have no upcoming performances because it's summer but I continue taking lessons at the IMA and practice my piano and flute every day.

*E-mail to [info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca](mailto: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**

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*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**

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### **Why Students Really Quit Their Musical Instrument**

*(And How Parents Can Prevent It)*

by Anthony Mazzocchi

Each fall, students throughout the country enthusiastically begin an instrument through their school's music program. One or two years later, more than 50% of students quit; unable to enjoy all that music education has to offer for the rest of their K-12 schooling, if not beyond.

During my time as an educator and administrator, parents and students have shared with me several reasons why the child quit their musical instrument, including:

- The student is not musically talented (or at least thought they weren't).
- The student is too busy with other activities.
- The student hates practicing (or the parents grow weary of begging the child to practice).
- The student doesn't like their teacher.

...and there's more...

But the real reasons that students quit is often beyond their own understanding. It is up to teachers and parents to create moments for students to want to continue on their instrument

during the early years of study in order for the child to be successful and stay with the craft.

Here are the reasons students quit, and ways to combat them: Parents need to find music just as important as other subjects. The sad truth is that many non-music teachers and administrators do not find music equally as important as math or English language-arts, but parents need to. Besides, you wouldn't let your child quit math, would you? Many kids would jump at that opportunity. Music is a core subject...period. The more parents treat it as such, the less students will quit. Students don't know how to get better.

Without the proper tools and practice habits to get better at anything, students will become frustrated and want to quit. It is the role of the music educator and the parents to give students ownership over their learning. Teachers must teach students why, how, where, and when to practice, and parents must obtain minimal knowledge about how students learn music in order to properly support them at home.

#### **Parents and students think they aren't musically talented.**

Sure, there are some kids who pick up an instrument and sound decent immediately, but they will hit a wall later and have to work hard to overcome it. Most everyone else won't sound that great at first. Playing a musical instrument is a craft that, if practiced correctly, is something that all children can find success in. As long as students know how to practice and that it needs to be done regularly, they will get better. Students discontinue playing over the summer.

Statistics show that students who do not read over the summer find themselves extremely behind once school starts. The same goes for playing an instrument. A year of musical instruction can quickly go down the tubes over the summer vacation if students do not find small ways to play once in a while. Picking up an instrument for the first time after a long layoff can be so frustrating that a student will not want to continue into the next school year.

#### **The instrument is in disrepair.**

A worn down cork, poor working reed, or small dent can wreak havoc on a child's playing ability. Sometimes the malfunction is so subtle that the student thinks they are doing something wrong, and frustration mounts. Students, parents and teachers need to be aware of the basics of instrument maintenance and be on top of repairs when needed.

#### **Teachers don't create enough performing opportunities during the year.**

The best way to motivate students musically is through performance. Weeks or even months on end of practicing

without performing for an audience gets old very quick, and student will definitely quit. Teachers can have mini-performances – even if just during class time – to motivate kids. Parents can help by creating small performance opportunities at home — a Friday night dinner concert or a planned performance for visiting family members are great ideas. There is not enough “fun” music to practice.

It’s very important for parents to be aware of music that interests their child, because it exists in sheet music form for download or purchase. It’s important that all students play music that is aligned to their interests in addition to other pieces that are worked on in school.

#### **Other activities are pulling at the child.**

Between art lessons, sports, karate, and other activities, parents grow weary of having “one more thing” to be on top of schedule-wise. Parents need to understand that the enduring social and psychological benefits of music are as enormous as those of sports — in the same and different ways. Budget time accordingly and children will have 10 minutes a day to practice an instrument, for sure.

Much like any worthwhile venture, practicing a musical instrument has its ups and downs. Kids need to be reminded to practice, of course — but they should not be constantly pushed, and they should not be completely left alone. It’s a balancing act where sometimes the parents will need to give their child a break for a few days and other times will need to bribe them to practice. Either way, all children are capable of thriving with a musical education, and students will indeed thank their parents for not letting them quit.

*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

## **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 25, 2015** 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.***