

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. 3

March 2015

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Bonnie W. (piano)
Alfred H. (saxophone)
Zeynep S. (piano)
Adela H. (theory)
Tia D. (piano)
Zoe T. (violin)
Philip F. (piano)
Ivy Z. (piano)
John C. (voice)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Julia H., Philip F., Sam B., Meelad R., Ken Y., Deven C., Patrick H.,
Luis A., Niral M., Leya H., Michelle H.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN MARCH

Mar 3: RCM Spring Session applications deadline
Mar 14-22: Mid-Winter Break
Mar 16-Apr 5: IMA Spring Contest
Mar 24-Apr 30: Peel Music Festival
Mar 21-Apr 6: Markham Music Festival

NEWS

REFERRAL OFFER

GET A \$30 CREDIT ON YOUR NEXT MONTH TUITION

We have been very pleased with the continuous 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.

Thank you for your continued support!

IMA MUSIC MILES

A new clients recognition program

We are pleased to announce our new clients recognition program, **IMA MUSIC MILES**. Starting January 1, 2015, IMA Clients will earn 1 MUSIC MILE for every \$100 spent at the IMA. We will keep track of your MUSIC MILES and update you from time or when you ask us. You can use the Music Miles to get credits towards your next month tuition fee. The more Music Miles you collect, the higher credit you can get:

Music Miles	Credit	Music Miles	Credit
10	\$30	60	\$205
20	\$65	70	\$240
30	\$100	80	\$275
40	\$135	90	\$310
50	\$170	100	\$350

Non-redeemed Music Miles expire one month after withdrawing from the IMA programs.

International Music Academy
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IMA SPRING PRACTICING CONTEST

The winter seems to be leaving and the first signs of the coming spring are already upon us. Every year, the IMA does a "Spring practicing contest" for all students. The rules are simple: during 3 weeks, between March 16 and April 5, your teacher will give you 1, 2 or 3 coupons depending on how well you are prepared for your lessons. The more prepared you are, the more impressed your teacher will be with you (and the more coupons you would get - maximum of 3 per lesson). Write your name (first and last) on the back of each coupon and drop off the coupons in the box at the front desk. On April 6, we will do a draw and the winner will receive a \$60 gift certificate to be used for lessons at the IMA plus some small gift items to go with. Good luck and practice, practice, practice!

IMA CLIENTS APPRECIATION DINNER GALA

As an appreciation for your support, we would like to invite you to the IMA Clients appreciation dinner gala. The event is part of Gala for Giving – a special evening hosted by the City of Markham and organized with the joint support from Markham-based corporations, the International Music Academy being one of them. Last year, the gala was attended by about 1,100 people, including many of the IMA teachers, staff and guests.

The dinner gala will take place on **Thursday, April 23, 2015** at Le Parc Banquet Centre (located at 8432 Leslie St, at HWY 7). The evening includes a reception at 6:00 p.m., a dinner at 7:00 p.m., a silent auction, a live auction, raffles, table prizes and many performances of light classical music, jazz, dance, etc. The dinner offers rolls, mixed greens salad, pasta, chicken (or a vegetarian option, requested in advance), sorbet, coffee/tea/espresso, soft drinks and a cash bar. Among the guests of the Gala will be senior executives from many of the largest corporations in Canada, avid supporters of the arts, education, community outreach programmes and social services as well as City of Markham's Councillors, the Mayor of Markham and other dignitaries.

Please let the IMA Office know **by April 1, 2015** by sending e-mail to info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca or by phone at 905.489.4620 if you would like to attend as well as the number of confirmed guests you would like to bring with you. The IMA will be covering the cost of the tickets. Looking forward to seeing you at the Gala.

COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

1/03/1810	Chopin was born
2/03/1824	Smetana was born
4/03/1678	Vivaldi was born
5/03/1953	Prokofiev died
7/03/1875	Ravel was born
8/03/1869	Berlioz died
16/03/1736	Pergolesi died
18/03/1844	Rimsky-Korsakov was born
21/03/1685	JS Bach was born
21/03/1839	Mussorgsky was born
25/03/1881	Bartok was born
25/03/1918	Debussy died
26/03/1827	Beethoven died
28/03/1881	Mussorgsky died
28/03/1943	Rachmaninoff died
31/03/1732	Haydn was born

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 STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Hayden and Bernice Chung

What instrument do you play?

Hayden: I play the piano

Bernice: I play the violin

How long have you taken lessons?

Hayden: I have taken lessons for 5 years

Bernice: So have I, for 5 years

Who are your favourite musical artists?

Hayden: My favourite musical artist is Maroon 5

Bernice: My favourite musical artist is Luke Bryan

What are your other hobbies, besides music?

Hayden: My hobbies are playing basketball, taekwondo, and swimming

Bernice: I enjoy playing basketball, running, and taekwondo.



Favorite food?

Hayden: My favourite food is pizza.

Bernice: I prefer sushi.

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?

Hayden: The coolest

thing I've learnt is playing different styles of music.

Bernice: Playing in different positions (shifting) on the violin is amazing!

Do you have any performance coming up?

Hayden: Yes, I have an RCM exam.

Bernice: I am still planning and will have something finalized soon.

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

Music Education For Creativity, Not A Tool For Test Scores

By Sarah McCammon

In a mobile classroom — basically a trailer outfitted with a desk and some chairs — music teacher Chris Miller works with a group of active kindergartners dressed in green and khaki school uniforms. He teaches them the basics: musical concepts, artists and styles of music.

"Everybody repeat after me," he says. "Wade in the water." Kids sing back, "Wade in the water."

Though classes like Miller's still exist, the arts have been known to fall down the priority list amid pressure on schools to improve test scores. Backers of music education have responded to that pressure by pointing to the academic benefits of learning music, like better grades and improved attendance.

But now, some advocates say that rhetoric is missing the point and overlooking the virtues of music that can't be tested.

At Haven Elementary School in Savannah, Ga., students get about four hours a month with Miller. But students used to get more music. Principal Sharon Draeger was a teacher at this school in the late 1990s.

"When I taught here," Draeger says, "we actually had a pretty good chorus. So, yeah, it was higher on the priority list. But now I think it's kind of been buried under things that come up higher."

Subjects like reading and math are a big focus of the Common Core standards adopted by Georgia and all but a handful of other states.

Draeger says her school is made up almost entirely of African-American students from low-income families. She says the kids "struggle" with tests. And funding is always a challenge.

Draeger says she can't give music the focus she'd like: "We try to squeeze it in when we can, where we can."

Chris Woodside of the National Association for Music Education says he sees this as commonplace. "It is incredibly valuable that kids improve their reading skills," Woodside says, "or grade-point averages, or spatial reasoning through access to music education. But those are just the icing on the cake."

Now, Woodside says he wants the teachers his organization represents to talk less about tests and more about the intrinsic benefits of music. The group launched a new campaign called Broader Minded, which makes the argument that music helps kids be more creative and work better together.

Russ Whitehurst, an education policy expert at the Brookings Institution, says he thinks the statistics about music education say something different. He points to a 2010 U.S. Department of Education report that found 94 percent of public elementary schools offer some kind of music classes, even if hours are being cut back in many places.

Whitehurst says the number of schools teaching music has held steady over the course of a decade. "I think music teachers are crying wolf, largely, if you look at the national trends," he says. "The perception that somehow kids are being drilled in reading and math all day doesn't line up with the facts."

Whitehurst says standardized testing zeroes in on which students are struggling.

Back at Haven Elementary School in Savannah, Miller says he's happy to connect music with what students are learning in their other classes — like a classic spiritual they're practicing for Black History Month.

Miller says music should be seen as an essential part of education and not an extra. That's an argument music education advocates will continue to make as they push back against the movement toward more testing.

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



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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.