

# 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.



4981 Highway 7, Suite 8  
Markham ON L3R 1N1  
Canada M1K 3K1  
Phone: 905.489.4620  
Fax: 905.489.4621  
www.internationalmusicacademy.ca  
info@internationalmusicacademy.ca

# International Music Academy

Year XVII, No. 5

May 2013

## WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Sanya M. (violin)  
Emily P. (guitar)  
Mark Z. (piano)  
Wilson L. (voice)

## IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Kayla B., Avy P., Mihai L., Francis M., Wilson L., Leo L.,  
Carter K., Adam L., Gautam S., Isaac K., Emily P., Anastasia  
P., Strahinya D., Remo K., Azeem M., Janessa P.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## IMPORTANT DAYS IN MAY

- May 1-9: Canadian Music Competition
- May 5: Easter Sunday (Orthodox)
- **May 5: Markham Theatre Sibelius' Violin concerto with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra**
- May 6: PA Day (YR)
- May 10-11: RCM theory examinations
- **May 20: Victoria Day (School is open)**

## NEWS

### MORE AWARDS FOR iMA STUDENTS AT THE NORTH YORK MUSIC COMPETITION

**Kenneth Wong** (flute) has won a third place in the category of Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 8 at the North York Music Competition for playing the notoriously difficult J.S. Bach's Sonata for flute in Eb major. Kenneth is a student in the class of Mr. Leonid Sprikut. Congratulations on his excellent performances and all the best in his future music-related endeavours.

### THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY HAS WON THE PRESTIGIOUS 2013 YORK REGION CHARACTER COMMUNITY AWARD.

During the official ceremony held on April 24, 2013 at the sold-out Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts, the International Music Academy was distinguished among 180 nominees for consistently promoting character attributes, such as Compassion, Courage, Fairness, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Initiative, Integrity, Optimism, Perseverance, Respect and Responsibility.



During recent years, the International Music Academy has also won the Consumers' Choice Award for the best school in the Greater Toronto Area, the Royal Conservatory of Music 2012 Gold Medal for teaching excellence and was the Markham Board of Trade Business Excellence Award finalist.

"Being recognized as the leading 'character organization' in York Region is a great achievement for the International Music Academy Faculty and Staff, said Mr. Kristian Alexander, founding Director of the school. In the same time, this award also brings great responsibilities to continue serving our growing community better and provide music education at the highest international standards."

Continue...



The Character Community Foundation of York Region was created in 2001 by leaders from the community, government, education, and business sectors who are committed to making York Region a Character Community by

nurturing positive character attributes and enhancing York Region as a desirable place to live, learn, work, and play. The mandate of the Character Community Foundation is to raise awareness of and educate the public, private, and non-profit sectors about character development regardless specific backgrounds, faiths, and cultures. Good character makes a difference in our families, schools, businesses, and neighbourhoods by strengthening our relationships, building stronger communities, and engaging all of us in positive change and citizen engagement. A Character Community attracts people and businesses of character, and acts as a driver for economic growth and prosperity.

Warmest thanks to the International Music Academy teachers and staff as well as to the thousands of families who has been with us over the years. Congratulations to us all!

For more information, read the articles in Metroland <http://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/2541817-york-region-doles-out-character-awards>

---

## **THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 15 AND JUNE 16.**

The end of the school year is fast approaching and we have already begun preparations for the iMA Summer Music Festival. As usual, we are planning on having a series of one-hour concerts starting on both Saturday, June 15 (from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm), and on Sunday, June 16 (from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm). Participation in the iMA Summer Festival is based upon a teacher's recommendation and it represents a natural culmination of several months of studying at the International Music Academy. Performing in front of public builds essential skills and develops a high level of self-esteem and confidence. All students are encouraged to participate.

---

The concerts will take place in the magnificent ambiance and extraordinary acoustics of Markham Baptist Church 110 Church Street in Markham ON L3P 2M4.

Detailed information about the Festival will be sent by the end of May.

---

## **THE INTERNATIONAL MUISC ACADEMY IS EXPANDING TO SERVE OUR GROWING COMMUNITY BETTER**

*A note from our Music Director, Mr. Kristian Alexander*

Since the opening of its location in Markham, the International Music Academy has seen a steady growth in students' registrations. For the past year alone, many teachers were fully booked, several students were on a waiting list for specific timeslots and some of our clients were patiently waiting outside the school as all seats in the current reception area was fully occupied.

We are moving to a larger and better facility, located just less than a minute away (walking distance). For a few years, Unit 1 (of the same building) has been attracting my attention as it offers better exposure, larger footprint and possibilities to built better studios and bigger reception area. Plus, being in Unit No. 1 matches better our image of being No. 1 in private music education in the GTA.

We have already started the construction work as well as improving the landscaping outside and anticipate to complete everything by June 1.

While we are transforming the new space, all lessons and activities will continue undisrupted in Unit 8. There will be very little, if any, interference with our daily routine. You may only notice some of the decoration (paintings, mirrors, photos etc.) disappearing as we bring them to the new location. We are very excited about moving together to the next stage in the development of our school and sincerely hope you would enjoy the new facilities. Meanwhile, keep practicing, as the IMA Annual Summer Festival is only a few weeks away.

If you have any questions you can reach Mr. Alexander directly at [director@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca](mailto:director@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca)

---

## **GREAT COMPOSERS ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY**

01/05/1904 **Dvorak** died

01/05/1978 **Khachaturian** died

07/05/1833 **Brahms** born  
07/05/1840 **Tchaikovsky** born  
12/05/1845 **Fauré** born  
12/05/1884 **Smetana** died  
15/05/1567 **Monteverdi** born  
18/05/1909 **Albeniz** died  
18/05/1911 **Mahler** died  
19/05/1954 **Ives** died  
22/05/1813 **Wagner** born  
25/05/1934 **Holst** died  
27/05/1840 **Paganini** died  
29/05/1860 **Albeniz** born  
31/05/1809 **Haydn** 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](mailto: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



**Juan Carlos Valencia**  
M. Mus, B.Mus.  
Guitar studies and interpretation

Juan Valencia is foremost a musician. He loves music. He's an instructor who is passionate about his craft and is committed

to live a life that revolves around music. His experience, knowledge and proficiency in music performance inspire his students to love the craft and become more accomplished.

He has graduated with a Diploma in jazz guitar from the renowned Humber College in Toronto, after earning a bachelor degree in classical guitar studies from the

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Colombia. He has taught guitar at the University of Toronto, Toronto Catholic District School Board, the ACE program, Merriam School of music, the New Conservatory of music, the Teen-Zone program of the City of Toronto, as well as La Escala School of Music, The Modern Workshop School of Music in Bogota (Colombia).

In addition, Mr. Valencia's work has won various awards including the Canadian Independent Music Award at the CMW with his personal project Plan C for Best Latin Band of the Year. He has also been composing and producing original music for numerous successful domestic and international television series. His compositions have been showcased on television networks around the globe such as The Discovery Channel, CBC Television, HGTV, YTV, The E Channel, The Food Network and others. Mr. Valencia has a profound and diverse knowledge in music that has given him the opportunity to produce, engineer and mix records for numerous artists with a wide variety of styles such as Jazz, Electronic Music, Latin Music, and World Music.

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

### 1. What do you like most about teaching?

The best thing about teaching is being able to pass my experience and knowledge to my students and to be a good role model for them.

### 2. How do you inspire students to practice more?

By showing them that playing the guitar is a lot of fun. During the lessons I tend to play more and talk less; this way my students are constantly engaged. I also give them tips to make their practice at home more like a game and less like a chore.

### 3. What roles does performance play in student's development?

There are many benefits that come with performing, especially in front of public. It increases the capacity of the memory, it refines the organizational skills, it teaches perseverance, it enhances coordination, it sharpens the concentration, it creates a sense of achievement, it boosts the listening skills, and it also teaches responsibility and self-discipline.

### 4. Who are your favourite composers?

Hans Zimmer - German Film composer and music producer.

### 5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself?

En Mi Piel by Buika.

## FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



### Gabrielle Doré

*What instrument do you play?* **I play the Piano.**

*How long have you taken lessons?* **I have been a student at the International Music Academy for 6 years, since 2007 when I was 6 years old.**

*Who are your favorite musical artists?* **I have many tastes in music, ranging from classical, pop, blues and classic rock. Therefore I do have a variety of favorite artists including Katy Perry, Maroon 5, Ray Charles, One Direction and Led Zeppelin.**

*What are your other hobbies, besides music?* **I enjoy various sports, but my favourite one is figure skating. I have been skating at the Markham Skating Club since I was 5 years old and I have participated in several ice shows and have also competed at skating competitions over the last three years. The other sport I recently took up was downhill skiing and I also run in my school's track and field team.**

*Favorite food?* **Since I am part Italian, I am partial to Italian food. A close second are international foods such as sushi and Chinese noodles.**

*What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?* **My favourite song that I have learned recently is *Sonatina in F Major* by Anton Diabelli. It's a grade 4 piece and I really like the melody.**

*Do you have any performance coming up?* **I am performing in my school's Broadway musical in May.**

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

---

*Coming up in the next issue...*

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.*

International Music Academy  
4981 Highway 7, Unit 8  
Markham ON L3R 1N1