

# 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 XVIII, No. 5

May 2014

## WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Brian H. (piano)  
Haoyu (Richard) Z. (clarinet)  
Sharon W. (guitar)

## IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Sharon W., Athindra M., Connor W., Avyukth P., Mihai L.,  
Audrey Z., Daksh A., Wilson L., Jenny L., Leo L., Kara Y.,  
Catherine T., Gautam S., Kaden N., Nintin R., Anastasia P.,  
Olivia K., Azeem M., Justin L., Janessa P., Jonathan W.,  
Ravindra R.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## IMPORTANT DAYS IN MAY

- **May 1-4:** Canadian Music Competition (Local finals)
- **May 3:** Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra Spring Concert (MacMillan Theatre)
- **May 5-11:** Canadian Music Competition (Provincial Finals)
- **May 9-10:** RCM theory Exams
- **May 17:** Markham Theatre. **Shostakovich's Fifth symphony with KSO**
- **May 20:** Victoria Day. School is open.

## NEWS

### IMA SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

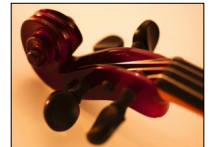
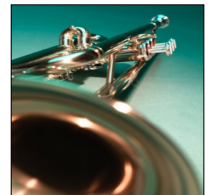
The end of the school year is fast approaching and we have already begun preparations for the iMA Summer Music Festival. As usual, we are planning on having a series of one-hour concerts starting on both Saturday, June 14 (from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm), and on Sunday, June 15 (from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm).

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 Cornell Recital Hall located at the Cornell Community Centre, 3201 Bur Oak St. in Markham PN L6B 0T2. The hall has an excellent Steinway grand piano, large screen connected to an HD camera that will allow you to see the finest details of each performance.

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



International Music Academy  
4981 Highway 7, Unit 1  
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**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 MAY

01/05/1904	Dvorak died
07/05/1833	Brahms born
07/05/1840	Tchaikovsky born
12/05/1845	Faure born
12/05/1884	Smetana died
15/05/1567	Monteverdi born
17/05/1866	Satie born
18/05/1909	Albeniz died
18/05/1911	Mahler died
19/05/1954	Ives died
20/05/1896	Clara Schumann 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.*

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## 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)

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## FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

**Lili Imastounian**, D.Mus., B.F.A.

Piano Studies, Music Theory



Mrs. Imastounian has earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts (with Honours) from York University (Toronto), along with a Diploma in Musicology, a Diploma in Piano Pedagogy, and a Diploma in Piano Performance. She brings to the International Music Academy over 25 years of valuable

experience teaching piano and theory to students of all ages and levels. Mrs. Imastounian has been on the Faculty of New Conservatory of Music, Federal Conservatory of Music, Scarborough Parks and Recreation, and School for Music and Art. In addition to a great passion for teaching music she also has a passion for languages; she speaks fluently English, French, Russian, Armenian, and Arabic. During the past almost three decades, Mrs. Imastounian has prepared over 1,000 students for various competitions, recitals, concerts, and examinations. Mrs. Imastounian is a registered teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music.

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

**1. What do you like most about teaching?** One of the guiding principles for me as a music educator is Japanese violinist and music educator Shin'ichi Suzuki's statement: "Teaching music is not my main purpose. I want to make good citizens. If children hear fine music from the day of their birth and learn to play it, they develop sensitivity, discipline and endurance. They get a beautiful heart." Suzuki believed that creating the right environment for learning music would also help foster character. Various teaching methods themselves do not create a music educator. As a music educator, in addition to teaching, I try to create a world of musical experiences and foster musicianship in students, in order to create love and appreciation of music. Teaching music requires patience, perseverance and determination, combined with a genuine interest in the uniqueness of each student. Teaching music is a rewarding journey through life.

**2. How do you inspire students to practice more?** Each student has a variety of strengths and weaknesses; therefore, teaching methods should adjust to the learning style and personality of the student. As a teacher, I strive to facilitate the learning process and make it more efficient, assisting students in building a strong foundation and developing different areas of skill development. Through music study, students learn the value of sustained efforts, in order to achieve excellence. As a teacher, my task is to provide students with appropriate practical goals, assisting them with suggestions for the most effective ways to practice a new composition, identifying interesting musical features, isolating different challenges, and selecting appropriate practice strategies. In addition, dividing the piece into more manageable and smaller sections makes practicing easier. It is also important to relate basic theoretical concepts to repertoire study. Practicing could sometimes lead to automatic and mindless repetition; therefore, a creative approach is necessary when organizing students' learning stages.

**3. What roles does performance play in student's development?** Performance is a very important part of students' development. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of performance opportunities. Performance creates a stimulus for achieving excellence. It provides students with concrete rewards of hard work and a feeling of accomplishment. Performance requires in advance mental and motional preparation. Memorization is also an important part of performance preparation. As a music educator, I strive to support students in the process of performance preparation, with the goal of obtaining a technically secure and expressive performance. Among the many benefits of performance are the development of students' commitment and discipline, perseverance and determination, confidence and self-esteem.

**4. Who are your favourite composers?** My favourite composers are J.S. Bach, one of the main composers of the baroque period, G. Verdi, the Italian romantic composer, and

the German composer R. Wagner. Bach's role in music is uncontested; the musical and pedagogical value of his works is invaluable. Verdi transformed the Italian opera and Wagner greatly influenced the development of classical music and transformed operatic thought.

**5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself?** I have bought one of the recordings of Korean Grammy award winning, lyric coloratura soprano Sumi Jo, who is one of my favourite opera singers. Her voice has been praised for its remarkable agility and flexibility, and it has been claimed as "a voice from above" by Maestro Herbert von Karajan. Apart from her famous interpretations of opera arias, she has also performed for the movie soundtracks of "Eat, Pray, Love" and "The Ninth Gate."

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## FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

### Nicholas Short (left) and Marcel Short



**MARCEL:**

***What instrument do you play?*** I play the Bb Clarinet.

***How long have you taken lessons?*** I have been taking clarinet lessons at IMA for approximately 6 years.

***Who are your favourite musical artists?*** The musical artists that have captured my attention are Beethoven and Bach.

***What are your other hobbies, besides music?*** I enjoy archery, baseball, and playing video games.

***Favorite food?*** My favourite food is hamburgers. I also like pizza a lot.

***What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?*** In the past three months, the coolest thing that I've learned from my lessons is how to play higher notes because I can now play more advanced music.

***Do you have any performance coming up?*** I participated in a jazz performance with my junior high school this week. I participated in the band also.

## **NICHOLAS:**

**What instrument do you play?** I play the piano. I have also learned to play the violin in my high school, and I have taught myself how to play the guitar. I take voice lessons as well.

**How long have you taken lessons?** I started taking piano lessons at IMA approximately 5 years ago.

**Who are your favourite musical artists?** My favourite musical artists are Claude Debussy, Jimi Hendrix, and Eric Clapton.

**What are your other hobbies, besides music?** My other hobbies include archery, gaming, and art (drawing).

**Favorite food?** My favourite food is salmon.

**What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?** In the last three months, the coolest thing I've learned from my lessons is how to cover my voice for notes I cannot reach.

**Do you have any performance coming up?** I will be participating in a performance at my senior high school next week.

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**

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**



### **Opera critics cause outrage with Rosenkavalier reviews**

By [Rebecca Franks](#)

#### **Leading singers respond to disparaging remarks about mezzo-soprano's weight**

Opera singers have been outraged by negative comments made in several national newspapers about the body shape of a female singer appearing in Glyndebourne Opera's production of *Der Rosenkavalier*. Singers **Elisabeth Meister**, **Jennifer Johnston**, **Christopher Gillett** and **Alice Coote** have written public responses to the reviews, defending the singer and criticising the authors for their 'cruel' language.



Photo: Bill Cooper

Controversial comments about the appearance of Irish mezzo-soprano Tara Erraught were printed in many of the broadsheet reviews, suggesting that despite the quality of her musical performance, her size and stature made it implausible for her to be cast in this trouser role (in which a woman plays a man).

The 27 year-old was described as 'dumpy of stature' (*The Telegraph*), 'unbelievable, unsightly and unappealing both as boy and girl' (*The Times*), 'stocky' (*The Guardian*) and a 'chubby bundle of puppy-fat' (*Financial Times*). *The Telegraph* caused further anger by his description of soprano Kate Royal, who played the Marschallin in Strauss's opera, having been 'stressed by motherhood'.

Today, *The Telegraph* has **stood by its review**: 'Opera is a visual as well as an aural experience, a form of theatre: it may be 75 per cent about the voice, but it is also 25 per cent about the ability to act well and create a convincing character.'

The write-ups unleashed anger among readers, many of whom commented on the articles online, and musicians – who have spoken out against the critics.

'If there is a line over which classical music and opera critics should not step, then it is into the realms of a singers' personal appearance, an issue which is outwith their remit,' writes mezzo **Jennifer Johnston** in *The Guardian*, going on to say, 'All singers need self confidence to perform, and so it is on this level that it is particularly cruel and irresponsible of this set of critics to be so completely disparaging of a singer's appearance.'

Fellow mezzo Alice Coote wrote an open letter, published on *Slipped Disc*, saying: '[Opera] is not about lights, it is not about costumes, it's not about sets, it's not even about sex or stature... It is all about the human voice. This is the Olympics of the human larynx attached to a heart and mind that wants to communicate to other hearts and minds.'

If you would like 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  
**May 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.***