

# iMA Newsletter



1-4981 Highway 7  
Markham ON L3R 1N1  
Phone: 905.489.4620  
3-50 Innovator Avenue  
Stouffville ON L4A 0Y2  
Phone: 905.640.6363  
www.internationalmusicacademy.ca  
info@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 XXIII, No. 5

May 2019

## WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Shayan Mirzan (piano)  
Caiden Coughlin (guitar)  
Aryan Parmar (piano)  
Chris Parmar (piano)  
Jayden Yang (voice)  
Visalie Aravinthan (voice)

## IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Victoria S, Kurt N, Maksym B, Jillian L, Lucas L, Ethan H, Naomi W, Jackson Z, Madelynn M, Felix Y., Tanvi V., Tilak V., Aaron C., Leah C., Jonathan W., Kyla T., Maeya Z., Carter K., Reese B., Aashwin A., Chloe J., Shopika T., Riya R., Srutheka U., Catherine Y., Harish K., Ava P., Nancy P., Mikayel B., Petra Y., Janessa P., Avni P., Jonathan W., Kevin G.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### IMPORTANT DAYS IN MAY

May 3. PA Day (YR secondary). IMA is open.  
May 10-11. RCM theory examinations.  
May 15. RCM Summer session applications deadline.  
**May 13-10. IMA MEMORIZATION CONTEST.**  
**May 11. Richmond Hill Centre. Kindred Spirits Orchestra. Prokofiev's Second.**  
May 20. Victoria Day. IMA is open.  
**May 25. RCM mock examinations.**

### NEWS

#### IMA SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL

We have had a successful academic year so far and look forward to preparing well for the Royal Conservatory of Music examinations in June and August, as well as for the Canadian Music Competition in June. Meanwhile, we have also started preparations for the iMA Summer Music Festival that will take place on two Sundays, **June 9** and **June 23, 2019**. The festival will consist of separate one-hour concerts. Students would be required to attend only the concert they are participating in.

Book your calendars for this exciting event – together with the iMA Winter Festival, this has been one of the most significant moments for many of our students.

The iMA Summer Music Festival will take place at the recital hall of the International Music Academy in Stouffville located at 50 Innovator Avenue in Stouffville ON L4A 0Y2. The hall has an excellent grand piano, large screen connected to an HD camera that will allow you to see the finest details of each performance. The Stouffville campus is only a 10-15 minute drive from our Markham location. A free parking is available around the school as well.

Detailed information about the Festival schedule will be sent by the beginning of June. Students who have their lessons on Saturday will perform on Sunday and vice versa.

Students who perform at the festival will be given IMA Certificate for completing the academic year as well as a trophy.

#### IMA PROGRESS REPORTS

In June, all current students will be receiving detailed progress reports signed by their teachers and the Director of the International Music Academy. The reports summarize students' outcomes and achievements during the past academic year as well as their goals and objectives for the upcoming months.

#### IMA OFFERS MOCK EXAMINATIONS FOR THE RCM

As usual, the IMA will be offering to all students who are registered for RCM examinations an opportunity to play their entire program prior to the day of their examination. This mock exam is scheduled at the IMA – Stouffville recital hall on **Wednesday, June 5, from 6 pm to 9 pm**. There are many advantages of playing the examination program in advance of the examination itself and generally students gain more confidence and perform better at their examinations. Students who wish to register for the mock examinations, must confirm their participation with the IMA Office **by May 30**.

## ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC EXAMINATION RESULTS (April session)



The Royal Conservatory of Music April session examination results have been announced. Congratulations to the IMA students achieving higher than the Provincial average marks, with distinction.

Student	Subject	Mark	Teacher
Aaron Dutta	Level 3 Piano	88	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Jerry Wong	Level 3 Piano	84	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Ethan Wong	Level 1 Piano	82	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Bethany Tse	Level 2 Piano	81	Ms. Antonia De Wolfe
Reese Bi	Level 5 Piano	81	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Henry Zheng	Level 2 Piano	81	Ms. Marina Grigoryan
Jonathan Wong	Prep B Piano	80	Ms. Marina Grigoryan
Rohin Furchner	Level 1 Piano	78	Ms. Marina Grigoryan
Rex Hakimi	Level 2 Piano	77	Ms. Marina Grigoryan
Jenny Wang	Level 3 Piano	76	Ms. Suzanne Marfise
Derek Price	Level 6 Piano	74	Ms. Antonia De Wolfe
Carter Kawabata	Level 8 Piano	71	Ms. Lili Imastounian
Esther Fang	Level 6 Piano	70	Ms. Lili Imastounian
April J Wei	Level 10 Piano	70	Ms. Suzanne Marfise

### GET 3 FREE LESSONS WITH THE PURCHASE OF A PIANO

If you are ready to purchase a high quality pre-own piano through one of the IMA partners, 3 of your lessons at the IMA will be free. Call our Office or e-mail [Office@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca](mailto:Office@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca) for more information. Pre-own piano is a great investment that comes at an attractive price, with a free tuning and delivery.

### GET A \$30 CREDIT ON YOUR NEXT MONTH TUITION

We have been very pleased with the continued 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.

### PERSONALIZED IMA GIFT CARD



The IMA offers personalized Gift Cards that could be used as thoughtful birthday, holiday, bar/bat Mitzvah, graduation gift or for any other occasions as well as to encourage someone to start learning a musical instrument or singing. The card can be used for any products or services.

The gift card is available for **any amount**. As cards are personalized with the name of the person who will receive it as well as with the name of the person who purchase it, requests have to be made 1 day in advance. Cards can be ordered in person, by phone at 905.489.4620 or by e-mail at [info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca](mailto:info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca). At the time the card is ordered, a non-refundable \$5 deposit is required. The full value of the card is paid upon pick-up (and the deposit is credited towards the purchase price). Payments can be made by any major credit card, cheque or cash as well as through the accounts of the IMA Clients.

### FOLLOW US ON

Stay in touch and follow the IMA latest news on Facebook. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/International-Music-Academy-1944567629154903> and become a friend of the International Music Academy.

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

## FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

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**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."

## FEATURED STUDENT OF THE MONTH

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**Elizabeth Smith**

**What instrument do you play?** – I play the violin.

**How long have you taken lessons?** – I started taking lessons when I was in the fourth grade at school in the US. When I moved to Canada I started lessons at the International Music Academy. It's

been three years now.

**Who are your favourite musical artists?** – I enjoy listening to Billie Eilish and Paul McCartney.

**What are your other hobbies, besides music?** – I like sketching and am in the arts cabinet at school. I am also an active member of Girl Guides.

**Favourite food?** – My favourite food is Chicken and Broccoli Alfredo.

**What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?** – *Spiccato*, which is when your bow bounces gracefully on the violin.

**Do you have any performance coming up?** – No public performances, however, I play at school with a band twice a week and my parents ask me to play for them often.

*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.*

## FEATURED ARTICLE

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### RESERVING YOUR MUSIC LESSONS 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 we have the answers of the most frequently asked questions. Please do not hesitate to ask the Office if you have any other questions or concerns – we are always happy to help.

**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 15-20%. Very few students withdraw but we also get a huge influx of students in June, July and August; most of them continue into the fall.

**Q. How full is the Academy?** - As of May 1, we are near capacity, and many teachers have no availability between the hours of 3:00-8:30 p.m.

**Q. If we withdraw for the summer, can we keep our spot for fall?** - Lessons are booked on a first-come-first-serve basis, so if you withdraw for the summer, we cannot guarantee that we will have a time slot for you in the fall,

as we would have to open the slot to new students registering in June, July and August. What usually happens when a student withdraws for the summer, his/her slot would then be taken by a new student who most of the time would continue taking lessons in September and into the upcoming school year.

**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 3 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 would like (even in May or June).
- 2. "Sub lease" your spot to a family-member or a 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. 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.
- 3. Request a day/time change for your lesson during the summer.** Our teachers are flexible and available during the entire day. If your current lesson time will be in a conflict with another activity during the summer, you can change the day/time of your lesson during the summer (subject to availability).

Each September, we get calls from students who have been with us for many years, but decided to withdraw for the summer. They want to return to the same teacher, day and time, but another student who signed up for lessons in June, July or August has already filled the same spot. Although we try to accommodate everyone, the new students may be reluctant to change their lesson time to allow us to offer it to a returning student. **So, if you like your teacher, keep your time slot during summer** and do not hesitate to contact our office if you need help rescheduling your lessons.

*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*

*1 offer per family*

### **ONE FREE LESSON**

Call the IMA Office at

**905.489.4620 (Markham) or**

**905.640.6363 (Stouffville)**

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 15, 2019** and receive

# **\$50 off**

*New students only. 1 offer per family  
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.*