

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 XVII, No. 11

November 2013

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Issac C. (violin)
Ravindran S. (guitar)
Conan W. (piano)
Natalie Z. (piano)
Jannie B. (vocal)
Olivia K. (piano)
Nathan P. (trombone)
Gagandeep J. (vocal)
Pabio A. (guitar)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Tiger Z., Ethan J., Paavni S., Shirley C., Odosa O., Nicholas S., Kaitlyn M., Sanjay M., Radhika K., Victoria T., Lukas F., Tega E., Louis H., Roy J., Trisha H., Valeria S., Garrett K., Branavan J., Mark Z., Vihaan P.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 2nd: Markham Theatre. Brahms, Mendelssohn, Wagner with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra
November 5th: RCM Winter session applications deadline
November 11th: Remembrance Day
November 14th: Kiwanis Music Festival registration deadline
November 15th-17th: Richmond Hill Music Festival
November 15: PA day (YR) November 29th: Canadian Music Competition registration deadline

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



THE ADDRESS LABEL MUST BE
PLACED INSIDE THIS BOX

NEWS

Mark your calendars! The IMA Winter Music Festival this year will be on Saturday-Sunday, December 21-22, 2013 at the spectacular newly built Cornell Recital Hall in Markham east. Those who participated in the IMA Summer Music Festival, this past June, cherish wonderful memories about unforgettable experience playing on a professional Steinway grand piano or performing in front of a professional HD camera showing all the action on a big movie screen at the back of the hall. Ask your teacher for more details about the piece you will be performing in December. More details about the schedule will be coming through the front office soon.

GREAT COMPOSERS BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

3, 1801	BELLINI, Vincenzo
10, 1668	COUPERIN, François
12, 1833	BORODIN, Alexander Porfirievich
14, 1778	HUMMEL, Johann Nepomuk
14, 1900	COPLAND, Aaron
16, 1895	HINDEMITH, Paul
18, 17 86	WEBER, Carl Maria von
22, 1913	BRITTEN, Lord Benjamin
24, 1934	SCHNITKE, Alfred
28, 1632	LULLY, Jean-Baptiste
29, 1797	DONIZETTI, Domenico Gaetano Maria

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 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



Ms. Inna Kotenko

M.Mus.Ed., B.Mus.Ed.

Piano studies, Music theory

Ms. Inna Kotenko's has earned a Bachelor *cum laude* ("with outstanding honour") degree from Sumy State Music College (Ukraine) with specializations in Piano Performance, Piano Pedagogy, and Piano

Accompaniment. At the age of 16, she began teaching individual and group piano lessons, prepared students for performances, examinations, auditions, and festivals, has accompanied vocalists, choral groups instrumentalists. After graduating from the Music College, Ms. Inna Kotenko continued her education Sumy State Pedagogical University (Ukraine). She worked as a Piano Teacher, Music and Art Teacher at the Elementary School as well as conducted rehearsals, put on shows, and play ensembles, directed a school choir of 100 students. She was then elected a Vice – principal, while still teaching Piano for over 10 years.

Ms. Inna is passionate about giving the tools to each of her students to become an independent musician. She strives to get each student to their personal goals, whether it is to play for enjoyment, or to make piano their professional career. Ms. Kotenko believes that piano lessons should be a part of every child's curriculum, and that the benefits are immeasurable. Students are encourage to find their personal style where their passion lies – whether it is with classical, jazz, blues, movie themes, popular music, or all of the above. She believes that if students are able to learn music that appeals to them (in addition of their core curriculum), they will love piano and have fun! With Ms. Inna's teaching style, students not only will learn piano, music theory and musicianship, but they also will learn important skills such as self-discipline and commitment, when it isn't always easy. Ms. Inna also works as a piano accompanist at the William Graham Singers in Toronto and as a piano accompanist for the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

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

1. What do you like most about teaching? Teaching is a wonderful career because it give you a possibility to always learn and grow together with your students. I love the personal relationships between my students, the instrument, and me. Because the instrument is the body in singing, people bring their personal feelings - their triumphs and their problems. I love being a friend as well as a teacher, whether my students are 4 or 64 y.o. I love helping and encouraging someone to be the best he/she can be. Watching my students achieving something they thought they'd never be able to do and sharing in their sense of achievement. I love helping students realize that music is fun. I love teaching the children who struggle at school academically, and seeing the look on

their faces when they've passed an exam or done well in a festival. My degrees have opened up many opportunities. For example, in addition to teaching piano, music, I've begun teaching art, ethics, esthetics, and world culture. I've enjoyed branching into those new areas and finding ways for my students to connect the concepts to their lives and experiences.

2. How do you inspire students to practice more?

Be the biggest cheerleader. As a teacher, you need to recognize this and praise your students, even their tiniest achievements. Positive comments and reinforcement only encourage students to keep working hard and practicing. So, I'm trying to be a big cheerleader, and a big fan of positive reinforcement with students of different ages. **Expect their best, not your best.** I want my students to have fun and enjoy the music that they are learning and look forward to come to lessons each week. But with this sort of atmosphere sometimes comes a sense of "I don't have to work hard" from certain students. Of course this is not true, and when I see a need to bring it up, I will "have the chat" with students. This chat usually involves me letting them know how much I do expect from them, how impressed I am when they do practice, and what a difference it makes. In a nutshell, I let them know that they are capable of much more than they are giving me and I want to see that from them. I don't expect them to give me perfection, but I do expect them to give me their best. **Reward system.** Some of the students will need a little extra motivation. I use a point system where the students could earn points (stickers) every week. At the end of the month, depending on how many points they earned they could choose a prize out of the prize box.

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

Music listening and performance impacts the brain as a whole, stimulating both – the analytical brain and the artistic brain, affecting the person's overall cognitive development and possibly increasing the overall intellectual capacity. Music research indicates that music education, especially performance, not only has the benefits of self-expression and enjoyment, but is linked to improved cognitive function, increased language development from an early age, and positive social interaction.

4. Who are your favourite composers?

My favourite composer is Chopin, a Polish composer of the Romantic Era. Chopin wrote exclusively for the piano, and his music is considered virtuosic while simultaneously being deeply expressive and personal. Chopin's primary contribution to the "state-of-the-art" was to give a keyboard instrument such as the piano, the tone of a voice. There is generous use of the pedal is almost all pieces, which further emphasizes the need to create the "sotto voce" or the "smorzando" we so often find in his work. That's why I love his music. My favorite piece that I really enjoyed playing was the Concerto No. 1, Op. 11.

5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? Just recently, I bought The Library of Piano Classics, a compendium of the world's most beloved music. It is a splendid array of pieces that over

the years have captured the imagination of music lovers. It will be a good possibility to embrace again the beauty of Schubert's, Chopin's, Bach's, and Beethoven's music, and other favorites by Tchaikovsky, Debussy, Kabalevsky, and many, many more.

FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Justin Gopaul



What instrument do you play? I have been playing piano.

How long have you taken lessons? I have been taking lessons at the International Music Academy for about 18 months.

Who are your favorite musical artists? I listen to a wide variety of music. Some of my favourite artists include Nickelback, Lifehouse, Jason Derulo, Hayley Williams and Lana Del Rey.

What are your other hobbies, besides music? Some of my hobbies include running, skating and I also enjoy watching and playing hockey with friends.

Favourite food? Favourite food would have to be cupcakes. Nothing beats that.

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? The coolest thing I've learned in my lessons is that you are never too old to start anything especially music. With practice and patience you can achieve your musical goals.

Do you have any performance coming up? I currently do not have any performances coming up. My piano teacher and I have talked about me possibly performing however it's still something I'm incredibly nervous about. In time however I would like to do a performance.

E-mail to 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



Rock legend David Bowie has led the tributes to US singer and former Velvet Underground frontman Lou Reed, who died on Sunday [October 27, 2013] aged 71.

Bowie's Facebook page said of his "old friend", considered one of the most influential singers and songwriters in rock: "He was a master." Reed's second solo album *Transformer*, featuring *Perfect Day* and *Walk on the Wild Side*, was co-produced by Bowie. Reed's literary agent said he died of a "liver-related ailment".

The last tweet posted on his official Twitter account, hours before the news of his death, simply stated: "The Door". The tweet links through to a photograph of a door, with a poster of Reed on it and the words "Papa Loves Baby" scrawled underneath.

Reed's former Velvet Underground bandmate John Cale wrote on his website: "The world has lost a fine songwriter and poet... I've lost my 'school-yard buddy.'" Other stars paying tribute included The Who, who tweeted: "RIP Lou Reed. Walk on the peaceful side." Iggy Pop said it was "devastating news". An admitted hard drinker and drug user for many years, Reed had a liver transplant this May after suffering liver failure. "I am a triumph of modern medicine," Reed posted on his website on 1 June.

But Reed's literary agent Andrew Wylie said the musician, who died at his home in Long Island, New York, on Sunday morning, had not been well "for a few months". British music journalist Charles Shaar Murray told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that Reed "completely changed the cultural landscape we inhabit". He said that although Velvet Underground were "spectacularly unsuccessful", The Beatles and Bowie were "huge fans" of Reed, and that he "exercised huge influence on glam rock and punk and everything that grew out of those phenomena". Mr. Murray added that Reed "did not suffer fools... or journalists gladly", adding that "he was not considered a likeable man, except by his closest friends". He used the "deliberate withholding of charm as a weapon" and "performed to a smallish but loyal audience sufficient in number to sustain a comfortable lifestyle".

Many musicians paid homage to the influence Reed had on their own careers. Nikki Sixx of heavy metal band Motley Crue tweeted: "RIP Lou Reed. Thank you for your beautiful/dark lyrics/music and stance on life. You inspired me from my teenage years right up till today." US singer Cyndi Lauper added

that she was grateful for "his music and the influence he had on my music". Tom Morello, of Rage Against the Machine and Audioslave, said: "My intro to Lou Reed/Velvet Underground was Jane's Addiction cover of 'Rock n Roll'. He was a singular, unique talent. RIP Lou and thanks." Reed's individuality was also hailed by Paul Stanley of Kiss, who called him "a musician, artist and trailblazer who played by his own rules".

The Velvet Underground became renowned for their fusion of art and music and for collaborating with Andy Warhol. However, the band never achieved commercial success during their 1960s existence, but their influence on music in later decades was widely recognised. The glam, punk and alternative rock movements of the 1970s, 80s and 90s were all indebted to Reed, whose songs were covered by the likes of REM, Bowie, Nirvana, Patti Smith and countless others. Music producer Brian Eno once summed up their influence by saying: "The first Velvet Underground album only sold 10,000 copies, but everyone who bought it formed a band." The group were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996.



US actress Mia Farrow, whose career also began in the 1960s, simply said: "Deepest Gratitude Lou Reed. Peace." British author Salman Rushdie expressed his loss by tweeting: "My friend Lou Reed came to the end of his song. So very sad. But hey, Lou, you'll always take a walk on the wild side. Always a perfect day." US actress Whoopi Goldberg, paid tribute, saying: "The great & amazing Lou Reed has died my condolences 2 his wife Laurie Anderson. Lou was 1 of a kind & this colored girl still says dededede...". US actor Samuel L Jackson added: "R.I.P. Lou Reed. Just met at the GQ Awards. The music of my generation. Still Relevant!" British comic and actor Ricky Gervais described Reed as was "one of the greatest artists of our time", while presenter and broadcaster Jonathan Ross said of the musician: "A great talent, a nice man, a sad day." After quitting The Velvet Underground in 1970, Reed released his self-titled debut in 1972, but it wasn't until the Bowie-produced LP Transformer later that year that he achieved chart success. Perfect Day enjoyed a revival in 1996 when it was featured in Danny Boyle's Trainspotting, and again a year later when it was re-recorded by a celebrity cast for a BBC charity single. Ian Broudie from the Lightning Seeds, who sang on the single, told the BBC Reed was able to convey life in New York.

International Music Academy

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