

iMA Newsletter

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.



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International
Music
Academy

Year XXIX, No. 8

August 2025

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Idhaant Bajpai, Piano
Agnes Lau, Ukelele
Soren Chakamian, Clarinet
Maryam Jafarova, Piano
Medina Jafarova, Piano
Zarrie Jafarova, Piano
Elena George, Piano
Luke Khalil, Piano
Ella Lim, Violin
Evie Lim, Guitar
Alison Qi, Piano

IMPORTANT DAYS IN AUGUST

August 4 – Civic (Bank) Day. IMA is open.
August 8-9 – RCM theory examinations
August 11-23 – RCM practical examinations

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Lydia L., Jonathan T., Moira C., Ava F., Jason T., Krish C., Ira V.,
Ezekiel B., Antoinette O., Faustyna H., Noah D., Elena G., Kiara
S., Sophia C.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

2/08/1945	Mascagni died
8/08/1975	Shostakovich died
09/08/1919	Leoncavallo died
10/08/1928	Janacek died
12/08/1992	John Cage died
13/08/1912	Massenet died
22/08/1928	Stockhausen was born
22/08/1862	Debussy was born
25/08/1918	Bernstein was born
26/08/1958	Vaughan Williams died
28/08/1959	Martinu died

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 family who registers at the International Music Academy as a result of your referral.

FEATURED STUDENT OF THE MONTH

LEAH AGNES



What instrument do you play? I play the piano

How long have you taken lessons? I have been taking lessons at the IMA for 3 years.

Who are your favourite musical artists? I like the music of Livingston and Alex Warren.

What are your other hobbies, besides music? My other hobbies besides music is playing basketball, soccer and drawing.

Favourite food? My favourite food is pasta and ramen.

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? I learned new musical pieces and became better at reading music notes.

Do you have any performance coming up? My next recital will be in winter.

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Antonia de Wolfe, M.Mus., B.Mus.

Piano Studies and Interpretation, Music Theory



Ms. Antonia de Wolfe has graduated with a degree in piano performance from the George Enescu Institute of Music in Bucharest, Romania and, later, with another degree from the Central School of Music affiliated with the P. I. Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in Moscow. She has also graduated from the Academia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, where she studied with Sergio Perticaroli, and

has earned a Master in Music (piano performance) degree from the University of Toronto. In addition, Ms. de Wolfe has studied with Maestro S. Petricaroli at Mozarteum Hochschule für Musik in Salzburg (Austria). Ms. de Wolfe has given several recitals and concerts in some of the finest concert halls in Bucharest, Moscow, Rome, Paris, Salzburg, and Toronto. She has also taught piano at the Columbus Centre, Cosmo school of Music, and Koffler Music School. As a collaborative pianist and accompanist, she has been in great demand for several productions of the Centuries Opera Association, Toronto Opera Repertoire, Palestrina Choir, Ethobicoke Centennial Choir, and others. Ms. de Wolfe is a registered teacher with Royal Conservatory of Music.

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

1. What do you like most about teaching? I feel a great satisfaction upon following the development of my students' skills and of their understanding of music. When I teach pieces that I myself have played I get a new perspective on them and I get new ideas about alternative ways to approach them. Teaching requires a keen analysis of musical structure, which helps the teacher to unveil hidden or new meanings involved in the experience of music. Also, I like to perpetuate the love of classical music for the new generations.

2. How do you inspire students to practice more? It's very important to listen to music. Listening to recordings, going to concerts... Listening to music is an active process that inspires a student. It awakens in them the expressive possibilities that music offers. I always demonstrate a piece of music on the piano. Also, I give the student several repertoire choices and let them pick their favourite one. Finally, it is important to put a piece in historical

context: information about the composer and the period the music was written in. All of this leads to inspiring my students to learn more.

3. What roles does performance play in student's development? It is important to have performances as milestones in a student development. Such events contribute much to shape the self-image of a student. Once a student has a performance as a set goal practicing becomes more exciting! Simply, a motivated student puts more effort into practicing. The performance in itself represents the culmination of all the effort put into practice. Plus, it's a great feeling to be on stage and create beautiful music.

4. Who are your favourite composers? Robert Schumann has been a long-standing favourite composer of mine. His intense romanticism has always moved me. His ability of changing moods from lyrical calm to passionate torment, from sadness to great joy and glamour, exemplify is depth of character (as a composer). Also, from orchestral repertoire I like *Symphonie Fantastique* by Hector Berlioz. Wagner and Berlioz were both innovators of program music (music that has a story line behind it).

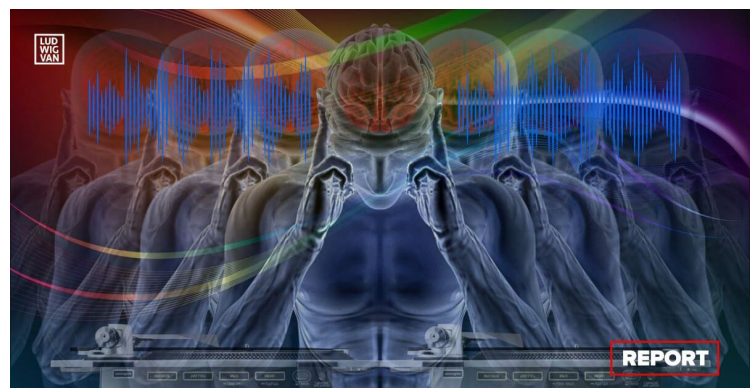
5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? I purchased *Carnival* by Robert Schumann, a piano piece.

FEATURED ARTICLE



New Study Suggests We Learn to Process Music Naturally

by Anya Wassenberg



Music exists in virtually every human society in one form or another, and shares certain acoustic features across many modes of expression. It is processed in the brain by specific

neural circuits, and that happens irrespective of any musical training. Just how that all happens, though, remains unclear. That's the focus of a new study by Korean researchers.

Researchers from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology used artificial intelligence (AI) to develop a model that produced interesting data suggesting music processing is an innate part of brain development.

Published in the January issue of Nature magazine, the paper is titled [Spontaneous emergence of rudimentary music detectors in deep neural networks](#).

Music is Innate: The Study

The researchers created an artificial deep neural network (DNN), designed to duplicate the function of neural networks in the human brain. DNNs have been used in recent studies to look into brain and neural functioning. The researchers first fed their DNN a series of 17,585 test data of natural sounds, including speech, music, dogs barking, traffic, and so on.

Not surprisingly to the authors, the DNN developed a distinct method of processing music.

When they left the music out of the training data, however, **the results were the same**.

In other words, without knowing anything about music, **the AI model recognized... music** (or, more accurately put, basic musical patterns).

Others have suggested that the brain learns to recognize music via exposure. Even before birth, babies in the womb can hear, explaining the way newborns seem to react to music – or so that theory goes. Multiple possible scenarios were examined in the current study, but the data told the same story.

The data for processing music emerges as distinct from any other sound, just as it does in the human brain. Specific populations of neurons respond to music.

What does it mean?

The evidenced that emerged from the study points to the idea that our brains can develop the neural circuits to process music **spontaneously**. It seems to occur as a natural part of the way the brain learns to process all-natural sounds.

The researchers posit that this innate musical processing machinery, driven by evolutionary pressure, would also explain why some non-human species also perceive and react to music. Rhesus monkeys, for example, can discern octaves, and ferrets can perceive two-tone sequences, among others. Neurons in the auditory cortex of all primates respond to pitch and harmony.

At the heart of the research is the notion that adapting to our environment fine tunes specific functions in the brain, such as processing sound. That's why music is universal.

It's a glimpse into the innate workings of the brain.

International Music Academy

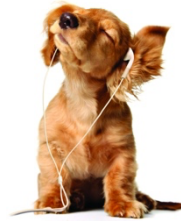
GIFT CERTIFICATE

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 soooooooooo beautiful!

Register for lessons by
August 15, 2025 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.