

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 XXV, No. 5

May 2022

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Dorgin Wong, violin

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Ty Zeineddine, Alan Joel Anand, Kyla Thompson, Colin Geng, Reese Bi, Aashwin Aravinthan, Madison Hardi, Mia Mangal, Ava Pascual, Krish Nandakumar, Jason Li, Jocelyn Su, Catherine Yu, Harshika Mathan, Maliha Thayalan, Janessa Puyo, Avril Li, Jonathan Yu Sing Wong, Chloe Ji Giard, Brian Yu, Maksym Borovilos, Benjamin Mieres, Victoria Macchione, Kris Fang, Brayden Watts, Felix Yu, Sienna Puopolo

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN MAY

May 6. PA day (YR) - secondary

May 13. RCM Summer examination session registrations deadline.

May 14-15. RCM theory examinations.

May 21. *Richmond Hill Centre.* **Kindred Spirits Orchestra.**
Love and Turmoil

May 23. **Victoria Day.** IMA is open

NEWS

EARN OSSD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT HOURS

The Ontario Ministry of Education requires that all high-school students get involved with a charitable or non-for-profit organization volunteer 40 hours in community service. Our affiliated charity, the Kindred Spirits Orchestra (KSO), has several projects with various time commitment that can be done either at home or at its locations in Markham and Stouffville. If in the fall of 2021 you will be in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 and looking for community service, email GM@KSOrchestra.ca The projects are open to all students (including those who are not taking lessons at the IMA), so feel free to refer your friends.

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. 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.

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 June 4-5, 2022. 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.

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.

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 IMA.

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 to let us know.



KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA

LOVE AND TURMOIL

Saturday, May 21, 2022 at 8 p.m.

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

HINDEMITH, *Amor and Psyché Overture*
RACHMANINOFF, *Piano concerto No. 4*
PROKOFIEV, *Symphony No. 6*



Kristian Alexander
conductor



Ludmil Angelov
pianist

Tickets: \$20-\$40
KSOrchestra.ca
905.604.8339

in-person, streamed and recorded

Ontario  Canada 



FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Warner Chan, M. Mus., B.Mus

Piano Studies, Music Theory



Born in Hong Kong, Werner Chan started to learn piano at the age of 5. At the age of 11, he had his first piano recital in the local church and became the accompanist for the Don Bosco Choir for 7 consecutive years. He secured a place to study music at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts (HKAPA) and obtained a Diploma of Music in 2001. In September of the same year, Werner received the Conservatory

Ovation (Piano) Award and the International Chancellor's Award, to study music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, USA. He graduated with distinction with a Master's degree in Music in 2007. Mr. Chan has over 15 years of piano teaching experience. He

started his piano teaching career in 2001 as a private in-campus tutor. Mr. Chan teaches students ranging from very young age to adults and seniors. He adapts his teaching style according to the personal learning style of his students. He is patient, observant and can establish good rapport with his students in no time. Mr. Chan shares his passion for music with others and makes the music lesson a stimulating and joyful experience to those who learn with him. On the other hand, with students of higher grades, Mr. Chan would focus a lot on interpretations of works of various composers, leading to achieving high marks in the RCM examinations and competitions. In tune with his belief in life-long learning, Mr. Chan continues to polish his piano teaching techniques by taking courses of pedagogic nature. Apart from teaching piano and music theory, Werner has been performing piano publicly in Toronto. In the past, he performed in the Open Score Salon Series of University of Toronto; the Opus One home concerts for classical music; the 2015 and 2016 Concerts hosted by the Ontario Cross-Cultural Music Society. In August 2016, Werner was invited to perform as the pianist of the Broadway Rock Musical "Rent", a two-and-half hour production presented by the Markham Youth Theatre. Mr. Chan is a registered RCM teacher and a member of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers Association (ORMTA). He speaks fluently French, Mandarin and Cantonese.

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

1. What do you like most about teaching?

There is a great satisfaction for me to inspire students to discover the meaning of music in their lives. It is crucial to motivate them to find out what kind of music is the dearest to their hearts. For me my goal is to build chemistry and connection with the students throughout the semester and help them achieve their musical goals through supply of inspirational repertoire to kindle their motivation to learn. When they have achieved the goals they set out to attain, that is my moment, and all the hard work along the way is all worthwhile.

2. How do you inspire students to practice more?

As I build rapport with my students, I will begin to understand their particular interests in music and I will incorporate their favourite music that would motivate them to learn, that would keep them engaged in practicing during the week. With music they are interested in, they will definitely be willing to make practicing piano as part of their daily routine and it will become a pleasure and not a chore. Close communication with their parents is also important so that they know and understand the progress of their children and in turn help them attain their goals.

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

Performance is the ultimate goal for all my students. It is a goal for them to work on throughout the semester and it is a great method to set a standard for themselves to follow. A performing experience is also a positive reinforcement of what they have learnt, an encouragement for them to continue with music making. It becomes a defining moment for them every single time they step on the stage to perform.

4. Who are your favourite composers?

A lot of different composers with different genres have influenced throughout my whole life. For example, I love Beethoven and Mozart with their endless piano repertoire. But if I have to choose between them I would choose Beethoven because his music suits my musical tastes better. I also love 20th century composers such as Stravinsky, Bernstein, Bartok, Boulez and Ravel. Asian American composers also have a huge influence on me as I am interested in blending eastern and western music together. Composers who had a deep impact on me as a musician are Tan Dun, Bright Sheng, Chen Yi and Zhou Long.

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

I purchased Beethoven's complete 32 piano sonatas because I love playing his sonatas everyday. I also have been researching on Bartók's music so I also purchased his Compositions for piano, which has Suite, Op. 14 and Romanian Folk dances and other piano pieces.

FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

ELLE ZHOU



What instrument do you play? – I played the piano.

- **How long have you taken lessons?** I have been taking lessons for about 4 years.
- **Who are your favorite musical artists?** I like Lang Lang.
- **What are your other hobbies,**

besides music? I enjoy art, school, jumping on the trampoline, and going to fun places.

- **Favorite food?** My favourite food is popsicles.
- **What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?** The coolest thing I have learned about is how to read simple melodies with finger numbers.
- **Do you have any performances coming up?** Nothing coming up soon, except the IMA Summer Music Festival in June.

MAR ZHOU



What instrument do you play? – I played the piano.

- **How long have you taken lessons?** I have been taking lessons for about a year.
- **Who are your favorite musical artists?** I like Lang Lang.
- **What are your other hobbies,**

besides music? I enjoy rollerblading and walking in the park.

- **Favorite food?** My favourite food is sushi.

- **What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?** The coolest thing I've learnt is how to use the damper peddal.
- **Do you have any performances coming up?** Not yet as I start learning how to play the piano just about a year ago.

E-mail to 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

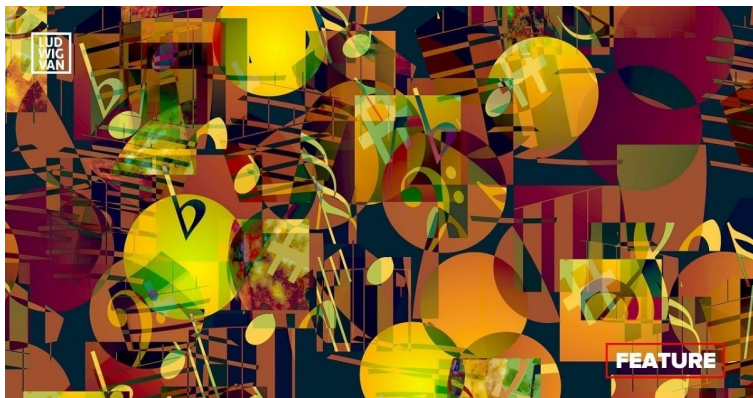


Eight Pop Songs That Found Inspiration (and more) in Classical Music

By Anya Wassenberg on April 12, 2022

The world of pop music, and that of classical music, are usually presented almost as if in opposition to each other. In many pop culture movies, if a character is hip, they notably scorn Western classical music.

It's far more accurate, though, to say that modern pop music is a younger relative of the venerable and centuries old genre. Here are eight examples — among many more — where pieces of classical music have a direct link to radio hits.



Lady Gaga – 'Alejandro' / Vittorio Monti – *Csárdás*

In her 2010 single "Alejandro", Lady Gaga samples from Vittorio Monti's *Csárdás*, a piece written along the lines of a traditional Hungarian dance. Monti (1868-1922) was an Italian composer and violinist from Naples. His *Csárdás* was written in 1904, and is the

most famous of his compositions. Gaga samples *Csárdás* in the opening of the single, and it becomes the song's iconic theme.

Eric Carmen/Celine Dion – 'All by Myself' / Rachmaninov – *Piano Concerto No.2 in C minor*

Eric Carmen couldn't deny that he lifted the second movement, Adagio sostenuto, of Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 2 in C minor* for the verse of his power ballad "All By Myself". Released in 1975, the song hit No. 1 in North American charts. Apparently, Carmen believed he could use it at will, but later had to settle with the Rachmaninov estate since the work was not yet in the public domain. Celine Dion would release her own version of the song in 1996 on her album *Falling Into You*.

Multiple Artists / Pachelbel – *Canon in D*

Many, many pop artists have used the instantly recognizable chord progression of Pachelbel's *Canon in D* for their songs. That includes pop star Kylie Minogue's "I Should Be So Lucky", and rockers Oasis' "Don't Look Back in Anger" as well as Maroon 5's "Memories". As quoted in *The Independent*, noted British pop music producer Pete Waterman (who co-wrote Minogue's 1988 hit) described Canon in D as, "almost the godfather of pop music because we've all used that in our own ways for the past 30 years".

Multiple Artists / Erik Satie – *Gnossienne No. 1*

The opening strains of Erik Satie's *Gnossienne No. 1* have been used in a few different pop and rap songs. In 2020, there was Avatar Caine and "Versaille", and in 2017, rappers G-Eazy & Carnage had a hit using it in the song "Guala". French popsters Dooz Kawa and Ky-Mani Marley used it in their 2007 song "Destinée". That's just three examples of about eight that currently exist. The piece's mood and modernity seem to ensure its continued popularity as source material.

Muse – 'The Globalist' / Elgar – *Nimrod*

English rock band Muse used the inspiration of Bach's *Tocatta in D minor* for the guitar line on their song "Plug In Baby". They went back to the classical music well for their 2015 song "Globalist". The dystopian track depicts a dictator destroying the world, and gets its sense of grandeur from Elgar's "Nimrod" from his *Enigma Variations* (Variation IX (Adagio) "Nimrod"). "Drones", from the same Muse album, samples from Giovanni Pierluigi Da Palestrina's *Benedictus*.

Janelle Monáe – 'Say You'll Go' / Debussy – *Clair de Lune*

American singer and rapper Janelle Monáe is clearly a fan of Claude Debussy. She samples from his famous work *Clair de Lune* in her song "Say You'll Go". The 2017 track begins with minor 9th chords in a jazzy mode. The last two minutes or so transition from moody piano and vocals to Debussy's unmistakable melody from the 3rd movement from his *Suite Bergamasque*. The song arrangement adds a chorus of singers as it fades out.

Zayn – ‘Blue’ / Johann Sebastian Bach, Prelude No.1 in C Major from The Well–Tempered Clavier

British singer Zayn’s song “Blue” was a bonus track on his 2015 album *Mind of Mine*. In it, he sings a sad song about regret and romance against the Prelude No.1 in C Major from Bach’s *The Well–Tempered Clavier*. Many critics singled out the track from the album for its musicality and the beauty of the melody.

Bright Eyes – ‘Road To Joy’ / Beethoven – *Ode to Joy*

Bright Eyes is an American indie folk band led by founder and frontman Conor Oberst. They’re back together in 2022 after several years in hiatus. Back in 2005, on their album *I’m Wide Awake, It’s Morning*, they included the song “Road To Joy”. The lyrics are cynical and, in fact, the very antithesis of Beethoven’s message, so it’s probably fair to characterize their use of his ubiquitous *Ode to Joy* as ironic.

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

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Name of the new student: _____

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