

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 XXIV, No. 11

November 2021

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Aaron Josemin, piano
Daniel Yuen, piano
Neriah Belle, violin
Leah Agnes, piano
Aidan Agnes, piano
Thieyana Ramanan, piano
Sophia Chen, violin
Selena Chen, piano
Inesh Vigith, piano
Luximi Vigith, piano
Mia Mangal, piano
Zoya Akosua Biney, vocal

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Ahana N., Tanisha M., Jack L., Carina G., Rex H., Chaarun J., Theesik A., Clara F., Mickaylah M., Jianna J., Jashvir R., Marcia W., Solara S., Yazhou L., Eric L., Daniella F., Logan W., Abigail V.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 4. Diwali.
November 9. Canadian Music Competition registrations deadline.
November 11. Remembrance Day.
November 19. PA day (YR). IMA is open.
November 28-December 6. Hanukkah.



NEWS

IMA WINTER MUSIC FESTIVAL

After a 2-year hiatus, our traditional iMA Winter Music Festival is back and will take place on **Saturday and Sunday, December 4-5, 2021** at the recital hall of the IMA - Stouffville located at 50 Innovator Avenue.

The festival will consist of 16 (sixteen) 45-min concerts (8 on Saturday and another 8 on Sunday) for small groups (maximum 10) students and their parents: on Saturday – for any instrument and voice; and on Sunday – for piano and guitar only.

The IMA Stouffville location is only 10-15 minute drive from the Markham location and has plenty of free parking available in front and at the back of the school. You may also recall that back in June 2020, both the IMA Stouffville and the IMA Markham were retrofitted with HEPA air filters, UV air purifiers and high-capacity air ventilators that run 24/7.

Our teachers will speak with you to confirm your child's participation. The deadline for finalizing the schedule is this coming Friday, November 12.

Book your calendars for this exciting event – together with the iMA Summer Music Festival, this has always been one of the most significant moments for many of our students. The iMA Faculty, staff, and I, we are looking forward to encourage, support, and rejoice our students' performances.

Detailed information about the Festival's schedule will be sent by email in the last week of November. Students who have their lessons on Saturday can choose to perform on Sunday and vice versa.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. If for any reasons you or your child cannot participate or would like to perform at specific time, please let our Office know **by NOVEMBER 14**.

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.

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 International Music Academy.



KINDRED SPIRITS ORCHESTRA

REFLECTIONS

Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 8 p.m. (EST)

Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts

TCHAIKOVSKY, *Capriccio Italien*
KORNGOLD, Violin concerto
SHOSTAKOVICH, Symphony No. 15



Kristian Alexander
conductor



Conrad Chow
violinist

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

in-person, streamed and recorded

Ontario  Canada 



COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER

14, 1719	MOZART, Leopold (father of Wolfgang)
14, 1778	HUMMEL, Johann Nepomuk
14, 1900	COPLAND, Aaron
18, 1786	WEBER, Carl Maria Friedrich Ernst, Freiherr von
18, 1860	PADEREWSKI, Ignacy Jan
22, 1710	BACH, Wilhelm Friedemann
22, 1913	BRITTEN, Lord Benjamin

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.

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 STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Ava Ford



• **What instrument do you play?** I play the piano and recently started learning trumpet.

• **How long have you taken lessons?** I have been taking lessons at the IMA for about 5 years.

• **Who are your favourite musical artists?** Hard to choose... I like so many of them.

• **What are your other hobbies, besides music?** Other than music I enjoy sports.

• **Favourite food?** I like sushi.

• **What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?** I really like the expression in the piece "Shivers" that I have recently started learning.

• **Do you have any performance coming up?** Not yet but I look forward to performing at the IMA Festivals.

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.



The Importance of Music in Education

Music is arguably the most life-enriching academic subject of them all. A universal language that triggers emotional responses and kickstarts creativity like no other, music is a fundamental pillar of arts education.

This article outlines the far-reaching benefits of music that stretch way beyond the subject itself and why music is an indispensable part of any academic programme.



13 Benefits of Music in Education

Music can bring a series of important benefits to your child's education, many of which you may not have considered before.

1. Improve language capabilities

Music and language have a deep and profound relationship. The link between musical instruction and better language development in young children has long been established. Musical training stimulates and trains the same part of the brain that deals with understanding language. Children who have some exposure to musical education will, therefore, have a greater understanding of tone and how different segments of speech align. It can also be incredibly useful if your child is learning a second language.

2. Better cognitive abilities

Playing an instrument increases the use of your neural network. When compared to those who don't play an instrument, there is some suggestion that musicians have a larger growth of neural activity. A 2009 study in the [New York Academy of Sciences](#) showed how children who received musical instruction showed improved sound discrimination and fine motor tasks, with visible changes in those networks showing during brain imaging.

3. Better maths skills

Children who undertake music in education are also enhancing their maths ability. A link between music and better control of spatial-temporal tasks, as pointed out here in the [Journal of Aesthetic Education](#), means children are better equipped to learn key mathematical skills. One theory says that learning rhythm is responsible, as maths involves picking up patterns and how visual elements go together.

4. Better test scores

With better maths ability comes the potential for better test scores. A 2007 study from the University of Kansas found that students in primary schools with better musical programmes scored 22% higher in English and 20% higher in maths when compared to those in weaker musical programmes. This was regardless of the socioeconomic factors between the different schools.

5. Inspire creativity

Music is one of the most creatively stimulating tasks any person can undertake. If you want to spark your child's creativity, there are few better things you can do than to encourage them to create their own unique music by picking up an instrument or engaging in their music class.

6. Refined hand-eye coordination

Learning an instrument to an elite level is no easy task. It takes considerable hand-eye coordination to learn almost any instrument. Those who master their craft are blessed with a unique skill; it's something that can be applied to other areas of academia and general life. Hand-eye coordination is important in many sports, especially bats or racquet sports like tennis or cricket. It can also help elsewhere in education, as writing skills and art require the hands and eyes to work together. In adulthood, your child will find them relying on their hand-eye coordination to do any number of tasks. Practical things like DIY are easier with good coordination. Allowing your child to improve it with music will benefit them for a lifetime.

7. Better memory

Improved memory is another well-established benefit of music in education. Learning an instrument, the language of music and the notes and lyrics that make up songs all require a flexing of memory. Music is also one of the easiest things to store in your memory, often to our frustration. Songs get stuck in our heads, sometimes for days; a perfect display of how music can stick in our minds.

8. Encourage teamwork

Music is often considered a solo effort, but it's unlikely your child will go through their musical education alone. In class or as an extracurricular activity, music is one of the best ways to learn vital life skills like teamwork. Be it in a band or singing group, teamwork is vital to creating good music.

9. Relieve stress

School is such an important time for children and at times it can be stressful – especially during tough examination periods. Music has become a proven remedy to relieving stress, with research from [Stanford University](#) linking this to the beat of music. At 60 beats per minute, music can cause our brain to synchronize and cause alpha brainwaves – which are present when we are relaxed. Over a period of 45 minutes or so, it can help induce sleep too. After a long

day studying, a musical session is an easy way to relieve stress and take your child's mind off of deadlines and exams.

10. Develop social skills

As an extension of improving teamwork, music is also a great way for your child to meet new people and create lasting friendships. Music is a great way to bring people together. If they decide to take up music as an extracurricular activity, they'll be bonding with likeminded children who share their passion. In a time when children are increasingly interested in communicating online and focusing on digital skills, music is a refreshing return to face-to-face contact.

11. Instill perseverance

Speak to anyone who has mastered a musical instrument or played in a successful band; musical excellence is hard to come by. It requires plenty of practice and a willingness to keep going. To continue to improve and progress requires perseverance. A child understanding they have to work hard to achieve something is incredibly powerful and something they will lean on for the rest of their lives. There are few better ways to instill perseverance than through music.

12. Bring about a sense of achievement

When your child does achieve a musical goal, they get the incredible satisfaction that comes from working hard to attain something. In that sense, music is a great confidence builder. Creating something as expressive and loved as music and seeing audiences on stage or family members at home enjoy it can be an incredibly rewarding experience. Confidence is one of the most valuable skills a child can have and music is one of the best ways to allow it to flourish in your child.

13. Learn an enviable life skill

How many times have you met an adult who says their biggest regret is not learning a musical instrument as a child? Musical skills they didn't learn as a child become some of the most sought after in adulthood. Help your child to develop their skills in music from an earlier age and you'll be giving them a gift that will bring them, and others, joy for the rest of their life.

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

November 30, 2021 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.