

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 XVIII, No. 2

February 2014

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Carolyn W. (violin, voice)
Hazel Joy R. (piano, voice)
Adel A. (piano)
Narmin A. (piano)
Adam A. (piano)
Nitin R. (piano)
Jatynne R. (piano)
Navid P. (piano)
Brenda E. (theory)
Theresa E. (piano)
Matthew E. (ear training)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Lucy F., Christian A., Anisha R., Sophia M., Gabrielle D., Kyler N., Kiara B., Claudia I., Carolyn W., Radomir D., Alina B., Noah M., David Y., Conan W.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN FEBRUARY

- February 3 – PA day (YR)
- February 10 – North York Music Festival
 - registrations deadline
- February 14 – Valentine’s Day
- February 15 – Markham Theatre.**
 - Jacques Israelievitch plays Brahms
- February 17 – Family Day. School is open.**
- February 18 – March 1 – Kiwanis Music Festival

NEWS



GREAT COMPOSERS BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

3/02/1809 Mendelssohn was born
17/2/1653 Corelli was born
23/2/1685 Handel was born

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.

2014 GREAT COMPOSERS ANNIVERSARIES

- **C.P.E. Bach** – 300 years from his birth (March 8)
- **M. Mussorgsky** – 175 years from his birth (May 21)
- **R. Strauss** – 150 years from his birth (June 11)

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Mr. Cole Higgins has earned and ARCT in piano performance form the Royal Conservatory of Music and a Master of Music in piano performance and musicology degree with a minor in psychology from York University. He studied with George McElroy and Christina Petrowska- Quilico. Mr. Higgins is a registered teacher with the RCM.

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What do you like most about teaching? What I enjoy most about teaching is helping students learn and understand tasks that very often seem, at least at first sight, very daunting, both mentally and pianistically. I find it thoroughly satisfying to be able to present methods of learning and practising passages that the student finds both technically and musically complex in a more clear, efficient manner, so that that they can focus on the performance of the repertoire, and not just the practice of it.

How do you inspire students to practice more? I always endeavor to inspire more by trying, routinely, to show them the sonic possibilities of the piano, using my own repertoire - for instance, if even a young student has questions about the difference between *piano* and *forte*, I will not hesitate to play the opening bars of Liszt's *Don Juan Reminiscence* followed by the opening bars of Schubert's *Impromptu, op. 142 no. 2*, in order to illustrate my point to the extent possible.

What roles does performance play in student's development? Performance plays one of, if not, the biggest role, in the development of a student. By performing regularly, students learn not only the value of a good work ethic as well as how to control their nerves, but also confidence, trust in themselves, and how to set and achieve goals.

Who are your favourite composers? My favorite composers are Liszt and Rachmaninoff.

What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? The last recording I purchased was a CD of the great pianist Lazar Berman playing numerous works of Liszt that includes a phenomenal performance of the Dante Sonata.

FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Clement Chen

What instrument do you play? I played piano and now I am taking voice lessons.

How long have you taken lessons? I have Autism and I started with Music Therapy at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehab then began taking music lessons. I have been taking

lessons at the IMA for the past five years.

Who are your favourite musical artists? I like many different kinds of music. I enjoy the classical hymns at church as well as many musicals and movies (Sound of Music, Oliver, Aladdin, The Lion King). On January 29 I will go to hear Luca Pisaroni (Bass-Baritone) sing at Koerner Hall.

What are your other hobbies, besides music? I like to do jigsaw puzzles, bake cookies (and eat them!), and listen to music on Youtube.

Favorite food? I like to eat eggs, noodles, Chinese onion pancakes, and I like vegetables. I also like to eat potato chips.

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? My piano teacher Mr. Tichonov is a very good teacher. I like learning the chord patterns on the piano and hearing the sounds they make.

Do you have any performance coming up? I sing in the choir at school and we have lots of performances. We will have a spring concert and also sing for the school Open House. At Christmas I sang the song "A Whole New World" from Aladdin with my friend Jasman.

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.

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 your pet? Any special skills or abilities.

FEATURED ARTICLE



Oscar-winning American actor Philip Seymour Hoffman has been found dead in New York.
2 February 2014



The 46-year-old was found in his Manhattan apartment after a friend called the emergency services. Hoffman made his name in the 1990s in films including *Boogie Nights* and the *Big Lebowski*, before winning the best actor Oscar for his 2005 portrayal of writer *Truman Capote*. Throughout his career he featured in independent films as well as Hollywood blockbusters such as *Mission Impossible III*. His latest role was in the Hunger Games series of

films. As well as films, he also starred in Broadway plays and was nominated for two Tony Awards. British actor John Hurt, who starred alongside Hoffman in the 2003 drama *Owning Mahowny*, said the news had hit him "very hard".



Steve Coogan and John Hurt paid tribute to an "extraordinary" talent

"He was a great actor, a great member of the film and theatre community. An extraordinary talent, directorially as well as an actor. He'll be greatly missed," he told the BBC. Hollywood stars have also been paid tribute. "Dear Philip, a beautiful beautiful soul," **tweeted** actor Jim Carrey. "For the most sensitive among us the noise can be too much. Bless your heart." Hoffman has over 60 film credits to his name, including *Magnolia* and *The Master* with director Paul Thomas Anderson, for which he was nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar. He received two other Oscar nominations for his roles in Charlie Wilson's *War and Doubt*. He made his debut as a director in 2010 with the New York-set *Jack Goes Boating*, in which he also starred. British film critic Jason Solomons said he "lit up the screen". "He'd take the weirdest parts and give them a human element. He was a fantastic director as well and showed a real touch with actors," he said.



He portrayed 2nd Violinist Robert Gelbart in the 2012 **Seth Grossman** and **Yaron Zilberman** film 'A Late Quartet'.

Our condolences are with his family, friends and colleagues.

What are your memories of Philip Seymour Hoffman?

If you would like to comment on this story or anything else you have seen on BBC Culture, head over to the IMA Facebook page or message us on Twitter.

International Music Academy

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Your name: _____

Name of the new student: _____

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