

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 XXX, No. 3

March 2026

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Lawrence Lin, piano
Faan Samson Mok, piano
Dhanvik Aditya, piano
Chloe Kaydence Reveche, piano
Binu George, alto sax
Gareth Hui, double bass

IMPORTANT DAYS IN MARCH

March 1. International Music Festival and Competition registrations deadline.
March 2. RCM Spring examination session (piano only) registrations deadline.
March 8. International Women's Day
March 8. Daylight Saving Time
March 21. Meridian Arts Centre. Kindred Spirits Orchestra. *Virtuosity and Revolution.*
March 14-22. March break. IMA is open.



IMA STUDENTS' BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Samantha C., Shiraz I., Thrugkeesh V., Antoinette O., Naitik B., Shanlini C., Arun G., James M., Ahaana E., Lawrence L., Cameron X.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



GET A \$30 CREDIT ON YOUR NEXT MONTH TUITION

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.

COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

1/03/1810	Chopin was born
2/03/1824	Smetana was born
4/03/1678	Vivaldi was born
5/03/1953	Prokofiev died
7/03/1875	Ravel was born
8/03/1869	Berlioz died
16/03/1736	Pergolesi died
18/03/1844	Rimsky-Korsakov was born
21/03/1685	JS Bach was born
21/03/1839	Mussorgsky was born
25/03/1881	Bartok was born
25/03/1918	Debussy died
26/03/1827	Beethoven died
28/03/1881	Mussorgsky died
28/03/1943	Rachmaninoff died
31/03/1732	Haydn was born

**VIRTUOSITY and
REVOLUTION**

Saturday
March 21, 2026
8 p.m.

Meridian Arts Centre
George Weston Recital Hall



Kristian Alexander | conductor
Antonio Di Cristofano | pianist

Manuel de Falla
The Tree-Cornered Hat suite no. 2

Maurice RAVEL
Piano concerto in G

Dmitri SHOSTAKOVICH
Symphony no. 12

M 5040 Yonge St.
416.733.9388

KS KSOrchestra.ca
905.604.8339

**Ontario
Canada**



FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Summer Dove



- **What instrument do you play?** I play the violin and the piano with IMA and the flute in my school band. Yes, I get to be both fancy and musical!
- **How long have you taken lessons?** I've been taking lessons for over five years, which feels like forever in kid years!

- **Who are your favourite musical artists?** My favourite artists are Katseye and Beabadoobee because their music is super cool and creative.
- **What are your other hobbies, besides music?** When I'm not playing music, I love praying, drawing in different styles, swimming, doing drama, crocheting, and baking yummy treats. I like to stay busy!
- **Favourite food?** Right now, my favourite foods are sushi and salmon any style and of course pizza!
- **What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?** The coolest thing I've learned in the last three months is how to play higher notes on my violin. It makes my music sound more exciting and helps me play more variety of songs.
- **Do you have any performance coming up?** Yes! I love playing music so I do play at church and school also. I

have two performances coming up at the end of February in just a couple of weeks. I'm excited.

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

John Mills, M.Mus., B.Ed.
Guitar Studies



Mr. Mills has earned his Bachelor of Education degree from York University and music certification from University of Toronto. He brings over 25 years of teaching experience to the International Music Academy in various guitar styles, music theory and numerous bluegrass instruments. For many years, Mr. Mills taught all the concert band instruments for the Toronto District School Board. His youth stage bands performed at Ontario Place and numerous Community Centers, while his choirs were featured on children's television. He organized Master classes for the Scarborough night studies programs for many years, along with teaching at various music schools throughout the city. As a performer, he was lead guitarist for the Arrivals for two years before touring with the Elvis Memories retro show. His caring, unique, multi-resource approach to teaching has met with measured success throughout his instructional career. Mr. Mills is a registered teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music.

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

1. **What do you like most about teaching?** Teaching is a dynamic time of sharing. The knowledge imparted by the teacher is but a small part of the overall procedure. As an instructor, I would be allowed to participate in the joy and excitement of the student's commitment to higher learning. Sharing in the active growth of the student offers a window of observation into a learning progression which serves to enrich both participants. Self-discovery and self-fulfillment are ongoing processes that lend excitement to the overall development and serve to reinforce and validate the applied methods.
2. **How do you inspire students to practice more?** As an instructor I hope I would serve as a valuable role model to the student. Through demonstration and visible commitment, I am placed in the position of being able to encourage the students. The resultant effect often assists in the motivation of the student. Appropriate praise and critiquing are also a factor in inspiring the students to demand more of themselves. This often quickly translates into a greater dedication to their practice time. Offering suitable challenges to the student may also help to enrich their practice time and facilitate more productive results.
3. **What roles does performance play in student's development?** Performance offers the students an opportunity to justify and proudly display the results of all the hours put into perfecting their skills. It is a time to let peers know that total commitment is a quality to be admired and

appreciated. It is also a time for the student to revel in their accomplishments as well as become aware of their own limitations. In effect, performance becomes a secondary learning device that hopefully serves to inspire and enrich their IMA experience.

4. Who are your favourite composers? John Dowland, J.S. Bach, Charlie Parker, Lennon/McCartney and various traditional blues composers are but a few of the artists the I draw inspiration from. There is something in the quality of their compositions which speaks to me at a profound level and inspires me to achieve greater success in my own arrangements.

5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? My most recent acquisition was the complete Verve works of Charlie Parker. It gives me pleasure to know that there are artists out there that can provide me with an opportunity to learn, experience and appreciate the depths to which the human spirit can reach.

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 soooooo beautiful

**Register for lessons by
March 15, 2026 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.