



WELCOME NEW STUDENTS

Anika P. (Voice)
Kaitlyn M. (Violin)
Alyssa F. (piano)
Patrice B. (piano)
Arthur T. (Piano)
Sameera K. (voice)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Danielle A., Tiger Z., Ethan J., Paavni S., Odosa O.
Nicholas S., Kaitlyn M., Radhika K., Victoria T., Louis
H., Roy J., Garrett K., Branavan, Shayan S., Jason L.,
Michelle W.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 6. RCM Winter session applications deadline.

November 11. *Remembrance Day.*

November 15. Kiwanis Music Festival registrations deadline.

November 23-25. Richmond Hill Music Festival.

November 23. PA day (YR)

November 30. Canadian Music Competition registrations deadline.

FAMOUS COMPOSERS BORN IN NOVEMBER

- November 10, 1668 – François Couperin (French)
- November 12, 1833 – Alexander Borodin (Russian)
- November 14, 1719 – Leopold Mozart (the father of W.A. Mozart)
- November 14, 1900 – Aaron Copland (American)

- November 16, 1895 – Paul Hindemith (German)
- November 18, 1786 – Carl Maria von Weber (German)
- November 22, 1710 – W.F. Bach (one of the sons of J.S. Bach)
- November 22, 1913 – Benjamin Britten (English)
- November 23, 1876 – Manuel de Falla (Spanish)
- November 24, 1868 – Scott Joplin (American)
- November 24, 1934 – Alfred Schnittke (Russian)
- November 28, 1632 – Jean Baptist Lully (Italian)

Were you born (or do you know someone who was born) on the same day as one of these famous composers?

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Hasmig Surmelian, piano, violin, music theory

Ms. Hasmig Surmelian has earned a Master of Music in Piano Performance (Belgium) and a Master of Arts in Piano Pedagogy (France) as well as a degree in Violin Performance and Music Theory. For nearly 20 years she was a professor in piano studies at the Conservatoire National de France as well as assistant professor in piano pedagogy at the Conservatoire Royal de Brussels



and piano instructor at the Academie de Musique de Schaerbeek (Belgium). Ms. Surmelian has had a distinguished career as a concert pianist in Europe where she has given numerous recitals, solo performances with orchestra and Chamber Music concerts. Having recorded 5 CDs

of classical and contemporary composers, she became known as an eclectic and virtuous interpret with an energetic temperament. Ms. Surmelian is the recipient of several awards from the Concours International de Piano Maria Canals de Barcelone, Premier Prix de Violon au Concours National Pro Civitate de Belgique, Médaille d'Honneur de Professeur d'Enseignement Artistique de la République Française, Prix d'Excellence et Médaille

du Gouvernement de Violon avec La Plus Grande Distinction Académie de Musique de Schaerbeek, among many others. Ms Surmelian is also a co-author of a Piano Beginners Method “L’Univers du Piano” (Editions Gerard Billaudot – Paris). Ms. Surmelian is a registered teacher with the Royal Conservatory of Music.

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

What do you like most about teaching? Teaching inspires me for different reasons. The most important is probably the communication I can have with my students and their established confidence. In my point of view, a music lesson is not only “teaching” an instrument but a dialogue between two personalities. I enjoy the transmission of knowledge and experience, explaining my pedagogy in order to assist my students achieve progress and to love music.

How do you inspire students to practice more? For each student I naturally adapt my approach. Students practice more for many different reasons. Some like the instrument they have chosen or a certain kind of music, others like the choice of the repertoire or simply like the teacher!! Progress gives them also the motivation to practice more and do their best. It is a virtuous circle.

What roles does performance play in student’s development? Performance has undoubtedly a very significant role. I usually consider that a piece is not totally accomplished unless performed at least once in public. The conditions of a live performance in terms of concentration, self-control, quality requirements and emotional feelings are unique. Music is a performing art and for that reason it is difficult, but at the same time it is motivating and challenging.

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to schedule your first lesson.

Once scheduled, the lesson cannot be rescheduled. Cannot be combined with any other offer. No refunds, no exchanges.

Who are your favourite composers? Some of my favourite composers are *Mozart, Schumann* and *Ravel*.

What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? Czech composer *Bohuslav Martinu’s* piano repertoire music and enjoyed listening to *Melody Gardot*, a Jazz and Blues singer from Philadelphia.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Alex Moore



What instrument do you play? - Piano.

How long have you taken lessons? - 4 years.

Who are our favourite musical artists? -In the classical genre, I like Beethoven and Mozart. I also like Pitbull, Usher, Bob Marley and Beach Boys.

What are your other hobbies, besides music? - I like writing books, writing music, swimming, rock climbing and camping.

Favourite food? - Favourite food is homemade macaroni and cheese.

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? - I'm trying to learn Sonata in C Major by Mozart.

Do you have any performances coming up? – Yes, the IMA Winter Music Festival.

E-mail to info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca a photo of yourself (or your child) together with the answers of the following questions: What instrument do you play?, How long have you taken lessons?, Who are our favourite musical artists?, What are your other hobbies, besides music?, Favourite food? What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months?, Do you have any performances coming up?). 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? Hold 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 you pet? Any special skills or abilities?



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\$30 off

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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.

Teen violin star is Venezuela's youngest conductor

June 26, 2012 | Diego Ore | Reuters

MARGARITA ISLAND, Venezuela (Reuters) - At 2 years old, he was given his first musical instrument: a "cuatro," or small four-string guitar. At 8, he cried with emotion at a brass band concert.



Now, at just 14, Jose Angel Salazar is Venezuela's youngest orchestra conductor - the latest prodigy from his nation's famed El Sistema (The System) music development program - and possibly the youngest in the world.

Since the mid-1970s El Sistema has taught hundreds of thousands of youths, many from impoverished homes in Venezuela's tough slums, to play in orchestras. Supporters say it gives them discipline, cuts truancy and boosts self-esteem.

"For a boy of 14 to be conducting an orchestra at the same time as going to school is a miracle that only happens in Venezuela," Salazar told Reuters in an interview last week on Margarita, the Caribbean island where he was born.

The teenager, who delights in the complex symphonies of Franz Schubert and overtures by Antonio Vivaldi, is the second of three siblings raised by two local schoolteachers.

At a concert that night, the other musicians applauded him warmly as he took the stage to conduct 40 other youngsters, many of them older than him. Smiling shyly, he raised his baton and silence fell before the first notes rang out.

After two pieces, he received a long standing ovation, with his proud family looking on from a private box.

Jose Antonio Abreu, a local pianist, politician and

economics professor, founded El Sistema in 1975 to get poor youngsters off the street, especially in shantytown "barrios" with some of the highest murder rates in the world, by offering them a classical musical education focused on ensemble playing.

Today, it is made up of 180 orchestras and about 350,000 youths, some 2,000 of whom recently flooded the Caracas metro to play in a simultaneous concerts at 23 stations.

Its most well-known alumnus is 31-year-old Gustavo Dudamel, who is now director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic and shot to rock-star levels of fame after leading Venezuela's Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra at rapturously received concerts worldwide.

Another prodigy is Edicson Ruiz, who at 17 became the youngest musician to join the Berlin Philharmonic.

Youth orchestras inspired by Abreu's methods are being set up in places including Los Angeles, Scotland and Spain.

GLOBAL AMBITION

Salazar, who spoke to Reuters between rehearsals while wearing his high school uniform - a pale blue polo shirt, says he too hopes to travel the world one day, thanks to music.

In preparation, he said he plans to study languages after he leaves school in two years' time. And, as a fan of Schubert, he says he will start with German.

His love of Schubert, and classical music in general, began when he was age 8 and he saw a concert in Margarita by a local brass band with a trumpet player from the Berlin Philharmonic.

"I wanted to play the trumpet. ... I remember crying three times because of the impression the music made on me," he said.

He soon gave up karate lessons in favor of his new passion.

He began by learning the recorder, which all initiates to El Sistema are taught, and then the violin. He excelled at that instrument and was soon named as a concertmaster - or the leader of the first violin section of the orchestra.

Salazar, who also plays the guitar and the "cuatro," said the first time he directed the orchestra it was spontaneous.

"I was playing (the violin) and there was a teachers' meeting so our teacher had to leave. Since no one was left in charge, I put down the violin and began to conduct," he said with a smile.

Before long, Salazar was conducting boys twice his age, but always under the watchful eye of his teacher, Felipe Izcaray.

His life has changed a lot. After school he runs, without changing his uniform, to rehearse late into the night. It is only during the weekends when there are no concerts that he has something resembling a normal teenage life with his friends.

One day, he dreams of conducting at New York's storied Carnegie Hall, or the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow.

"I want to continue developing myself so that in the future I can pass on the gifts that I'm receiving now," Salazar said.

(Editing by Daniel Wallis and Will Dunham)