

IMA Newsletter

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International
Music
Academy

Year XVII, No. 3

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WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Azeem, M (Guitar)
Joanna, G (Voice)
Azar, A (Keyboard)
Claudia T (Piano)
Rachel T (Piano)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN MARCH

Alexander K., Sarah K., Nuha Z., Melissa O., Natalie K.,
Gwyneth P., Sam B., Timothy N., Tajia W., Patrice B., Alyssa
F., Marcel S., Deven C., Katrina S., Valentin C., Niral M.,
Cedric L., Saeed A., Ella W., Leya H., Shafina M., Azar A.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN MARCH

Mar 5: RCM Spring session applications deadline.
Mar 11-15: Mid-Winter Break. School is open.
Mar 19-Apr 19: Peel Music Festival.
Mar 22 – Apr 7: Markham Music Festival.
Mar 29 – Apr 2: Passover. School is open.
Mar 29 : Good Friday. (School is open).
Mar 30: Markham Theatre, Kindred Spirits Orchestra
presents: Mahler's *The Song of the Earth*
Mar 31: Easter Sunday (School is open)
April 1: Easter Monday (School is open) – not a joke 😊

NEWS

Welcome our new member of the IMA Faculty. Miss **Jennifer Kee** has joined us to teach voice and interpretation on Mondays. Her experience with various styles, warm personality, and motivational approach has already won accolades from many parents and students. Read more about Miss Kee in the section "Featured teacher of the month" below.

Mr. **Leonid Sprikut** availabilities were fully "sold out" on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays. He has now added Wednesdays to his schedule at IMA. Mr. Sprikut teaches woodwinds and brass instruments, as well as music theory and piano/keyboard.

GREAT 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 - J S 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

Where you born or do you know someone who was born on the same day of on of these famous composers? Drop us an e-mail at info@InternationalMusicAcademy.ca

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Jennifer Kee, M. Mus, B.Mus.
Vocal studies and interpretation

Jennifer Kee was born in Cobourg Ontario into an environment steeped in music. Her grandfather was a pianist, her cousin was an opera singer and her father is a multi-instrumentalist who spent years in

orchestras and pit bands. Jennifer knew from a very young age that music was her passion, her dream and her life. Her talent was spotted at 8 years old and she was immediately put into music lessons with an ear tuned to the classics. Singing quickly became the only thing she was interested in doing and was fortunate enough to tour Canada with the York Region Children's Chorus and later the Mendelssohn Youth Choir. Jenn's love of drama, show stoppers and the stage led to a passion for musical theatre and opera which she eventually pursued in post secondary education. Jenn now holds a BMus from the University of Ottawa and a MMus from the University of Western Ontario. Following graduation Jenn joined a band called *The Hoolie Snatch* and moved to London, Ontario. The band enjoyed three years of writing and touring, made some great friends and one rock album in which Jenn's vocals are compared to those of Janice Joplin and Ann Wilson. From the ashes of The Snatch rose a more self assured and well seasoned artist. Without a mold to fit to, Jennifer Kee was free to explore the bounds of her own creativity and found her own voice and style: blues/R&B infused country pop. Her first solo album entitled *No Regrets* is a personal journey reflecting the past ten years of her life. The album was recorded by Mike McKyes at the Grove Studio and features the immense musical talent of Jesse Grandmont (violin), Mark Laidman (bass), Dan Baerg (drums) and Alex Baerg (everything else). Jenn is an avid performer as a solo artist. She is a recent addition to Classic Albums Live of the CBC Radio 3 and is thrilled to be touring North America alongside some of Canada's best musicians.

Mrs. Kee was happy to answer a few questions for our students and parents:

1. What do you like most about teaching?

I love the "ah ha! moment" -the moment when a student has been working and working on a song or a specific technique and things finally fall into place. It's the most exciting part about teaching and is always rewarded with high fives in my studio!

2. How do you inspire students to practice more?

I make practice materials as accessible as possible online. Daily Vocal Warm Ups and Technique of the Week are available in my dropbox as well as recordings of the repertoire my students are working on. Aside from that I try and inspire my students by constantly demonstrating my own passion for music.

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

Performance is a must in my books! It's often the thing that inspires students to practice the most. I know I certainly work harder when I have a performance just around the corner! Stage fright is something most performers struggle with but nothing calms the nerves like the roar of applause from a supportive audience.

4. Who are your favourite composers? I have always been a fan of early music- Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Handel and Mozart.

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

The most recent piece of sheet music I got was *Somebody to Love* by Queen. I perform with a group called Classic Albums Live and this song was the encore tune for our Queen show. The vocals are very dense and I was on a tight deadline to learn the harmonies. Rather than lift the part by ear, I chose to purchase the sheet music.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Katherine Lee

What instrument do you play? **Piano.**

How long have you taken lessons? I have been a student at the International Music Academy for 7 years, since 2006.

Who are your favorite musical artists? **I enjoy listening to Hedley.**

What are your other hobbies, besides music? **I love being active by Skiing, playing volleyball, basketball, soccer, and swimming.**

Favorite food? **I have a hard time choosing: Sushi, ribs, lobster, duck, chicken, steak, noodles, potatoes...**

What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? **Learning new songs is always something enjoy the most.**

Do you have any performance coming up? **I have just passed my RCM grade 6 exam. Now I am preparing for the next RCM exam and also for the IMA Summer Music Festival in June.**

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? How old is he/she? What kind of breed or 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

The New York Times

Juilliard to Bring New York-Style Teaching to China

By JOYCE LAU

Published: January 28, 2013

Music students from the Juilliard School in New York took questions from a small audience at the Asia Society in Hong Kong about their experiences at one of the world's top performing arts schools. By some measures, it sounded like any other elite college, with messy students, heavy workloads and helicopter parents.

"The on-campus freshman bathrooms were gross," said Olivia Mok, 20, a third-year violin performance major originally from Hong Kong.

They also spoke of long school days and fierce competition. On top of practicing their instruments, Ms. Mok and her friends would practice sprinting to sign-up sheets for audition slots. "There was literally a stampede one second after I put my name up," she said.

"I think everyone is trying to get their kids to be a soloist. Parents try to push as much as possible," added Kathryn Peterson, a French horn player from Texas and Ms. Mok's roommate. (They have since moved off campus.)

The talk in Hong Kong this month came on the heels of an announcement in June that Juilliard would build its first overseas branch in China. That venture is part of Juilliard Global, a 2011 initiative for overseas expansion.

Several U.S. institutions — most notably Yale and New York University — are in the process of opening Asian campuses. But Juilliard is the first major U.S. performing arts school to take the leap.

The idea is to open a facility in Yujiapu, a planned financial district under construction in Tianjin, a city outside Beijing.

The Juilliard institute in Yujiapu will not be a copy of the one in New York. It will have programs similar to those of Juilliard's smaller Pre-College Division, for students ages 8 to 18, and will not offer university degrees. It will also focus on music and lack the wide variety of performance and humanities courses found at the main campus.

New faculty will be recruited for the Chinese campus, though faculty from New York would visit for workshops and master classes, Christopher Mossey, vice president for global initiatives at Juilliard, said in an e-mailed response to questions.

But perhaps the most important difference is that Yujiapu is not New York. Juilliard is famously located within the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. It is so well regarded in the city's cultural scene that student performances are reviewed by critics in major media.

"New York Juilliard is part of a well-established arts scene, whereas in Yujiapu we are proud to be working with our partners to develop a new and rich tradition," Dr. Mossey said in the e-mail.

The Chinese campus will serve as the only non-U.S. location for students who wish to audition for the main Juilliard in New York.

"Students from Asian countries will not have to fly over to New York for live auditions anymore," said Katy Ho, a fourth-year viola performance major who has performed at Carnegie Hall.

"Everyone will now get an equal opportunity to enter Juilliard," said Ms. Ho, a Macau native who spoke at the Asia Society event.

Dr. Mossey cited an "outstanding demand for Juilliard training in Asia."

Juilliard, whose alumni include Asian-American celebrities like the cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the violinist Sarah Chang, is highly regarded in Asia.

China has been enamored by classical music child prodigies since 1979, when the late Isaac Stern plucked a 10-year-old cellist named Wang Jian out of obscurity.

Ever since, the country has been on the lookout for the next Li Yundi or Lang Lang.

Over the years, there have been attempts to open schools based on U.S. institutes like Tanglewood. The Chinese government is pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into arts funding.

However, as with many projects in China, details are sketchy. The Juilliard Journal reported in September that a feasibility study was being finalized and that plans for construction would begin after that, but there are no confirmed dates.

Dr. Mossey wrote that partners in the China project were “still finalizing a number of the specifics of the program.” The students at the Asia Society event emphasized the difference between the Asian method of teaching music and Juilliard’s broader liberal arts format.

“The school has made an effort to push for a well-rounded education,” said Ms. Mok, who co-founded a nonprofit music organization called Project Discover with her brother. “To be a successful musician, you cannot focus on just performing anymore.”

“In the future, I would like to bring back a more Western way of teaching music to Macau,” said Ms. Ho, the violist.

Riva Hiranand and Calvin Yang contributed reporting.

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