

iMA Newsletter

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.



4981 Highway 7, Suite 1
Markham ON L3R 1N1
Canada M1K 3K1
Phone: 905.489.4620
Fax: 905.489.4621
www.internationalmusicacademy.ca
info@internationalmusicacademy.ca

International Music Academy

Year XVII, No. 6

June 2013

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Vera Y. (piano)
Kara Y. (guitar)
Hannah L. (piano and guitar)
Noor A. (guitar)
Rida A. (guitar)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

Rheegan G., Jonathan I., Shingo A., Ally K., Joanne L.,
Joanna G., Tiffany W., Merve A., Hayden C., Patrick C.,
Therese M., Henry M., Dominic T., Jesper R., Alexander
C., Janis C., Sara L., Neetha U., Eric C., Kunzang M.,
Wyseman P., Vicky W., Gary L., George O., Daniel Y.,
Sarika C., Hannah L.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

IMPORTANT DAYS IN JUNE

June 4. RCM summer session application deadline
June 7. PA day (YR)
June 10-29. RCM practical examinations
June 15-16. iMA Summer Festival
June 15. iMA Spring term students evaluation reports
June 17-30. Canadian Music Competition (National)
June 27-28. PA day (YR)
[June 27. Markham Theatre: Mendelssohn's Last
Symphony with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra](#)

NEWS

THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 15 AND JUNE 16 AT CORNELL RECITAL HALL

The end of the school year is fast approaching and we have already begun preparations for the iMA Summer Music Festival. As usual, we are planning on having a series of one-hour concerts starting on both Saturday, June 15 (from

10:00 am to 8:00 pm), and on Sunday, June 16 (from 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm). Participation in the iMA Summer Festival is based upon a teacher's recommendation and it represents a natural culmination of several months of studying at the International Music Academy. Performing in front of public builds essential skills and develops a high level of self-esteem and confidence. All students are encouraged to participate.



The concerts will take place in the magnificent ambiance and extraordinary acoustics of Cornell Recital Hall located on the 2nd floor of the newly open Cornell Community Centre at 3201 Bur Oak Ave. in Markham. All concerts are open for the public – bring your friends, family members, neighbours and share the gift of music.

TWO MORE TEACHERS HAVE "SOLD OUT" THEIR AVAILABILITY AT THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC ACADEMY.

Last month, we announced that Mr. **Leonid Sprikut** (woodwinds and brass teacher at the International Music Academy) has "sold out" all of his available lesson time slots on Monday, Friday and Saturday and has opened one

additional day (Wednesday) to accommodate a our growing waiting list. We are happy to announce that his Wednesday schedule is getting full and he has only a few available spots left. Mr. Sprikut is a Professor at the University of Toronto where he is in a process of completing his PhD degree. His motivating teaching style and motivational approach has gained him a growing popularity among many students and their families throughout the York Region. Mr. Sprikut is fluent in both Wnglish and Hebrew.

Meanwhile, two other teachers have “sold out” their time slots at the International Music Academy. Ms. **Hasmig Surmelian** (violin and piano teacher) has been solidly booked on Wedensday and Saturday since September 2012. She has recently agreed to open additional time clots on Thursdays and is already accepting new students. Ms. Surmelian has a doctor’s degree in piano and violin performance from the Sorbonne in Paris (France) and has quickly gained the respect of our community for her professional approach towards learning as well as her uncompromising attitude in order to achieve the highest quality of learning. In addition to fluency in English, Ms. Surmelian speaks French and Armenian.

Ms. **Lili Imastounian** has also been fully booked on Monday, Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday. Although there is a growing waiting list with students for her, at this point she is not considering opening another day at the International Music Academy. During the summer months, though, a limited number of time slots will become available – for more information, check directly with the IMA Office at 904.489.4620.

GREAT COMPOSERS ANNIVERSARIES IN JUNE

01/06/1804 **Glinka** (Russian) was born
02/06/1857 **Elgar** (Brittish) was born
03/06/1875 **Bizet** (French) died
03/06/1899 **Strauss J.** (Austrian) died
06/06/1903 **Khachaturian** (Armenian) was born
08/06/1810 **Schumann** (German) was born
21/06/1908 **Rimsky Korsakov** (Russian) died
11/06/1864 **Strauss R.** (German) was born
14/06/1671 **Albinoni** (Italian) was born
15/06/1843 **Grieg** (Norwegian) was born
17/06/1818 **Gounod** (French) was born
17/06/1882 **Stravinsky** (Russian) 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.

2013 GREAT COMPOSERS ANNIVERSARIES

- **Gesualdo** - 400th anniversary of his death on 8 September
- **Corelli** - 300th anniversary of his death on 8 January
- **Verdi** - 200th anniversary of his birth on 9 October 1813
- **Wagner** - 200th anniversary of his birth on 22 May 1813.
- **Mascagni** - 150th anniversary centenary of his birth on 7 December
- **Britten** - 100th anniversary of his birth on 22 November.

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Hasmig Surmelian

D.M.A., M. Mus, B.Mus.
Piano and Violin Studies

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 (RCME 64706).

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

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

2. How do you inspire students to practice more? For each student I 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 also gives the motivation to practice more and do their best.

3. What roles does performance play in student’s development? Performance plays undoubtedly a very significant role. 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 motivating and challenging.

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

5. 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.

FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Edward Tang

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

How long have you taken lessons? **I have been a student at the International Music Academy for 5 years, since 2008 when I was 7 years old.**

Who are your favorite musical artists? **I like pieces written by Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach and Frédéric Chopin.**

What are your other hobbies, besides music? **My favourite hobbies are in the sports, specifically soccer, table tennis**

and basketball. I also enjoy basic scripting/computer programming.

Favorite food? **My favourite food is Chinese food. I also enjoy fruits.**

What is the coolest thing you’ve learnt in your lessons in the past three months? **I enjoyed learning Für Elise by Beethoven and a Prelude in E minor, to the satisfaction of my grandma who also plays piano.**

Do you have any performance coming up? **Yes, I am performing at 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 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?

FEATURED ARTICLE



What is the key to a successful education system?

By Caroline McClatchey

The education systems in Hong Kong, Finland, and South Korea are often lauded as among the best in the world, scoring highly in international league tables. Here academics suggest reasons why the state-run education system in these countries is top of the class.

HONG KONG

Prof Bob Adamson is head of department of international education and lifelong learning at the Hong Kong Institute of

Education:

Emphasis on diligence: It's not natural ability, it's hard work. Hong Kong was built on hard work, as a refugee society. There was no in-built class system and the way to achieve social mobility was through education.

There was no social security blanket, so you were investing in your pension by educating your child. It's called the elderly parent tax.



Parents in Hong Kong often send their children for tutorials

The term "tiger mum" is a little too strong but parents do take a very keen interest in their children's education. They emphasise diligence and will complain if schools don't provide enough homework.

The shadow education system is booming in Hong Kong - some 70% of secondary school-age children have private tuition.

Continues in the next issue...

International Music Academy
4981 Highway 7, Unit 8
Markham ON L3R 1N1

International Music Academy

GIFT CERTIFICATE

for new students only

ONE FREE LESSON

Call the IMA Office at **905.489.4620**
to schedule your first lesson.

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

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.



Music is soooooooooo beautiful!

Register for lessons by **June 30,**
2013 and receive

\$30 off

New students only.