



IMA HAS WELCOMED MORE NEW STUDENTS IN MARCH 2008:

Alex Yip (guitar)
Alyssa Ientile (guitar)
Anson Au (flute)
Anthony Guadagnolo (guitar)
Bibi Rahzaman (guitar)
Celia Tang (piano RCM 9, clarinet)
Chloe Bowes (piano)
Eleanor Sure (piano)
Erica Lai (piano RCM 10)
Gabrielle Doré (piano)
Garry Chang (violin RCM 8)
George Papadopoulos (saxophone RCM 6)
Helen Christosoulos (piano RCM 5)
Jane L. Smith (violin RCM 10)
Jeffrey Lee (keyboard)
Jeremiah Lewis (piano)
Jeremy Blackburn (piano RCM ARCT)
Lily Wong (guitar RCM 4)
Rita Zachariu (Suzuki violin)
Sam Ientile (guitar)
Sophia Li (guitar)
Sorgan Ragic (piano RCM 9)
Theodore Pispidikis (piano RCM 2)
Yvon Mikos (cello)
Zachary Wong (Suzuki violin)

IMA STUDENTS BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL

Diane Tam	Andrea Vitopoulos
Roman Cezar	Daniel Sharma
Andrew Dequilla	Benjamin Liang
Victoria Zank	Stefan Holosko
David Matta	Matthew
Kaylum Karmali	Cindy Ma
Alia Karmali	Warren Chu
Aundrei Alchwiki	Lenique Nurse
Arlene Lian	Chelsi Mittelhozer
Stephanie Ferrone	Brandon Ho
Anna Djalilvand	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FURTHER AHEAD...



MARKHAM EUROMUSIC PIANO COMPETITION

March 28 – April 15, 2008



PEEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

March 24 – April 30, 2008

March 31 – April 12 IMA Spring Contest



Royal Conservatory of Music SPRING SESSION

Application Deadline	March 4, 2008
Theory Examinations	May 9 – 10, 2008
Practical Examinations	June 2 – 21, 2008

WE ARE IMPROVING OUR STUDIOS

You have probably already noticed that the sound coming from our studios is much lower. Last week we have undergone a major sound insulation of all studios. We have installed soundproof panels on all pianos that have reduced the noise level by 50%. Within the next few months we are planning to extend the soundproof panels over the ceilings and further reduce the noise level by additional 15%.

FAMOUS COMPOSERS BORN IN APRIL

- ❖ April 1, 1732 – **Joseph Haydn** was born in Austria.
- ❖ April 1, 1866 – **Ferruccio Busoni**, pianist, composer was born in Empoli, Italy.
- ❖ April 1, 1873 – **Sergei Rachmaninoff**, Russian concert pianist and composer was born in Russia and became an American citizen before he died.

- ❖ April 16, 1924 - **Henry Mancini** was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He was an award-winning composer for television series and films.
- ❖ April 23, 1891 - **Sergei Prokofiev** was a Soviet composer born in Sontsovka. He received severe criticism for his contemporary style of music from Soviet government officials.
- ❖ April 30, 1870 - **Franz Lehar** was born in Komorn, Hungary. He was a composer of many waltzes.

THE PIANO: WHO? WHEN? WHY?

The modern piano is a complex mechanical device with hundreds of separate parts, much like a car in that respect. (Also like a car, it constitutes a major investment.) Here we compile answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about pianos, their construction, purchase and maintenance, and use in lessons.

(continue from the previous issue)

Buying a Piano

Q: Is a "new" piano always better than a "used" piano?

A: Not necessarily. While several current manufacturers make fine new pianos (Yamaha and Steinway, for example), high labour costs and generally lesser quality of wood available today mean that an older piano, properly rebuilt or refurbished, may well be both a better piano and more valuable. Of course, various manufacturers' pianos have subtly different sounds that may or may not appeal to you in the setting in which you intend to place a piano. Some pianos are "brighter" in tone and may not sound their best in a room with basic gypsum board walls. Others are more deeply resonant and might produce a more pleasing tone in that environment. It's a matter not only of quality, but of personal taste as well.

For example, Yamaha maintains quality with the most sophisticated tooling and efficiency you could find anywhere; they sell more acoustical pianos than anybody in the world. If you like the sound of a Yamaha, you've got one of the world's top pianos; but if you don't, there's probably little point in trying others because you may find that they sound and feel alike. The action is perfect and the sound is brilliant, but may not be as warm as the one of Yamaha or Steinway.

Q: Is a piano from a "famous manufacturer" always good?

A: Again, not necessarily. In any given manufacturer's legacy or current line there are some piano models that are more highly regarded than others in the line. Similarly, as companies change hands over time, the production quality may change. For example, Mason and Hamlin used to be one of the world's great pianos, with a wonderful singing tone and an action similar to Steinway's. But after the Depression of the 1930s it was taken over (as were Knabe, Chickering and others) by another corporation, which turned out a much less highly regarded product with a great old name on it. Later, M & H was revived by Falcone Co. of Haverhill, MA, and manufactured with integrity again, but they have gone out of business. PianoDisc is now manufacturing M&H pianos again to the original designs and specifications. Most of the traditional piano names are the products of conglomerates rather than the original families, just as with so many other products.

Q: Should I buy a spinet piano to save space?

A: If a spinet is the only choice for you due to space considerations, then go ahead. However, we tend to discourage buyers from choosing spinets for several reasons. The so-called "drop action" is a major compromise from the normal vertical piano action in that it employs an additional lever system to 'drop' the entire mechanism down below and behind the keys instead of above them; this is done solely for marketing purposes, in that it enables the piano to be much lighter and lower. But the keys are necessarily so short and the action parts so small that it tends to be temperamental and difficult to keep in regulation, as well as hard to control; also, the string lengths and soundboard area are so small that the tone is poor, especially in the bass where the low registers are extremely difficult to tune. Finally, spinets tend to be of poorer overall quality because the products are aimed at that segment of the market in which buyers are often more concerned with styling and convenience than with music. A good alternative for many people is a console piano; they are small and relatively light, but have a direct blow action and, usually, a better sound.

(continue in the next issue...)

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF PURCHASING A PIANO (NEW OR USED), PLEASE LET US KNOW. IMA STUDENTS GET UPTO 20% DISCOUNT WHEN THEY (OR, MOST LIKELY, THEIR PARENTS), PURCHASE A PIANO.