

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. 5

May 2026

WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

Amelia Mak, piano
Danica Lowe-Ching, violin
Jerry Zheng, clarinet

IMPORTANT DAYS IN MAY

April 29 – May 17 International Music Festival and
Competition (Markham).
May 4 PA Day (YR) - secondary
May 8-9 RCM Theory Examinations
May 16 Meridian Arts Centre. Kindred Spirits Orchestra.
Images at an Exhibition.
May 18 Victoria Day (IMA is open).

IMA STUDENTS' BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

Leonardo P., Jonathan W., Kyla T., Emma C., Anthony W.,
Jocelyn S., Maliha T., Brian Y., Jordan H., Maksym B., Maisha
P., Benjamin M., Ariya S., Alexander D., Felix Y., Haeun K.

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.

International Music Academy

FOLLOW US

Don't miss a beat!
Follow International Music Academy
for the latest updates on classes, events, and musical opportunities!

COMPOSERS' ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

01/05/1904 Dvorak died
07/05/1833 Brahms born
07/05/1840 Tchaikovsky born
12/05/1845 Faure born
12/05/1884 Smetana died
15/05/1567 Monteverdi born
17/05/1866 Satie born
18/05/1909 Albeniz died
18/05/1911 Mahler died
19/05/1954 Ives died
22/05/1813 Wagner born
25/05/1934 Holst died
27/05/1840 Paganini died
29/05/1860 Albeniz born
31/05/1809 Haydn died

FEATURED STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Nathan Budhu



1. What instrument do you play? **I enjoy playing the piano.**
2. How long have you taken lessons? **I have been taking lessons for almost a year.**
3. Who are your favourite musical artists? **I do not have any favourites, I enjoy listening to many different artists, from pop music to classical.**

4. What are your other hobbies, besides music? **I play sports. I have fun on my school's basketball team and I also play soccer.**
5. Favourite food? **I really like chicken tenders, and I enjoy Mac & cheese.**
6. What is the coolest thing you've learnt in your lessons in the past three months? **The coolest thing I've learned is how to play on the bass clef.**
7. Do you have any performance coming up? **No, I do not have any performances coming up as of now.**

of the curricula of leading European universities as well as of the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM). Ms. Cudalbu has also been a music editor of the Romanian Broadcasting Corporation (RBC) where she hosted live music shows, wrote articles on music and designed and hosted programs for the RBC symphony orchestra's concerts. Earlier in her career, Ms. Cudalbu also was a music inspector at the Romanian Ministry of Education where she looked after the music curriculum for students from grade 1 to 12 and inspected the delivery of music lessons by teachers in various schools. Since 2002, Ms. Cudalbu maintains a private piano studio where she has developed individualized lessons plans tailored to each student's unique needs, abilities, and goals.

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

1. What do you like most about teaching? They say that teaching is the most noble profession in the world; because it shapes minds, it educates generation after generation, it passes on valuable knowledge, and many other reasons, already well known and true. One's proficiency in music has as much value as how it is transmitted further. Beyond these reasons, teaching is to put oneself aside in order to discover the miracles hidden inside students' minds. I believe that, regardless of knowledge, you cannot teach without knowing your student, without finding their likes and dislikes, their passions and fears, and most of all, what triggered their desire to learn music. And this is what I like most about teaching, whether it is piano, music theory, or music history; exploring a student's thinking and understanding it represents the first step in planning for any future lesson. Once this is established, everything else should come easier and naturally.

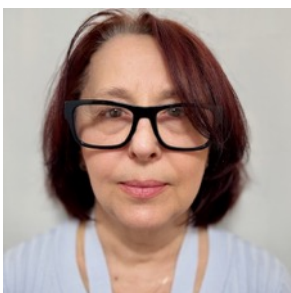
2. How do you inspire students to practice more? The trickiest part of teaching music, especially an instrument, is to inspire students to practice, an activity which for some may seem too repetitive and monotonous! I personally encourage my students to challenge themselves. I embolden them to unleash a dormant potential laying somewhere inside each one. I teach them how to train their patience and push their limits beyond their comfort zone. I give them the example of little Mozart, who was certainly a genius, but could not have achieved his excellence in instrument playing without practice.

3. What roles does performance play in student's development? Performing in public plays a crucial role in a musician's training. It provides a reason for practicing, a goal to achieve, and the satisfaction of an accomplished work. It gives students a tool for overcoming their stage fright, and a sense of pride having their names printed on a concert or recital program.

4. Who are your favourite composers? A professional musician must learn about all composers, whether they like all or some. But they are also humans, so it is somehow natural to have favourites. For me, the most satisfying music audition is the 20th century with emphasis on the first half, when the stylistic diversity, the unbelievable creativity and exploding invention surpassed any other era's music productions; Maurice Ravel, Claude Debussy, Eric Satie, Igor Stravinski, Sergei Prokofiev, Dmitri Shostakovich, Leonard Bernstein or

FEATURED TEACHER OF THE MONTH

MIHAELA CUDALBU, B.Mus.
Piano Studies, Music Theory



Ms. Mihaela Cudalbu has earned a Bachelor of Music degree with majors in Musicology and Music Pedagogy from the Bucharest University of Music. She is a member of the Romanian Union of Composers and Musicologists and is a published author of 3 books on musicology and a few dozens of articles/reviews in Romania and Canada. Ms. Cudalbu has been teaching piano since 1987 and is proficient in applying various piano methods to the delivery

Benjamin Britten always filled my desire for complexity in music. But when I play piano, I always look to unwind in the most relaxing way possible, to clear my thoughts and enter that peace zone that only music can create. Therefore, my favourite composers to play on the piano are Debussy, Chopin, Beethoven, or Schuman.

5. What was the last piece of music (sheet music or a recording) you purchased for yourself? I purchased a book titled Relaxing Music for Piano Solo from Hal Leonard which includes all my favourites: Debussy's beautiful Clair de Lune, Chopin's "cannons under flower", as his Mazurkas were called, or the dreamy Träumerei by Schumann.

FEATURED ARTICLE

SEPTEMBER LESSON SCHEDULING

Over the past several years, many parents have asked how to keep the same lesson day, time, and teacher for the upcoming school year. Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office if you have any additional questions or concerns – we are always happy to help.

Q. How do lessons work during the summer? The IMA operates year-round and does not close during the summer months.

Q. Do many students withdraw during the summer? Over the past five years, our enrolment has actually increased by approximately 15–20% each July. While a small number of students withdraw, we also experience a significant influx of new students in June, July, and August, most of whom continue lessons into the fall.

Q. How full is the Academy? As of May 1, the Academy is operating near capacity, and many teachers have little or no availability between 3:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. We are currently hiring additional teachers as we continue expanding our Stouffville campus. Families open to trying a new teacher may have greater scheduling flexibility.

Q. If we withdraw for the summer, can we keep our spot for the fall? Lesson times are booked on a first-come, first-served basis. If you withdraw for the summer, we unfortunately cannot guarantee that your current lesson day, time, or teacher will still be available in September, as those openings are typically offered to new students registering throughout the summer months. In most cases, new students who begin lessons in June, July, or August continue into the following academic year.

The key question for parents and students to consider is:

Do you want to remain with the same teacher in the fall?

If the answer is YES, there are three ways to help secure your current spot:

1. Take advantage of summer make-up lessons

We understand that many families travel during the summer. Lessons missed because of vacations may be made up in advance – even as early as May or June.

2. "Sublease" your lesson spot to a family member or friend

A sibling, family member, or friend may attend lessons in your place during the dates you are away. Simply notify the Office in advance regarding who will attend and when.

3. Request a temporary lesson day/time change for the summer

Our teachers are available throughout the day during the summer months. If your regular lesson time conflicts with camps or other activities, we may be able to temporarily adjust your lesson day or time, subject to availability.

Each September, we receive calls from long-term students who withdrew for the summer and later wish to return to the same teacher, day, and time. Unfortunately, those lesson spots are often already filled by new students who registered during June, July, or August and intend to continue lessons into the school year. While we always do our best to accommodate returning students, schedule changes are not always possible once the fall schedule becomes full.

If you are happy with your current teacher and lesson time, we strongly encourage you to keep your lesson spot during the summer. Please do not hesitate to contact the Office if you need assistance rescheduling lessons or exploring flexible summer options.

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 soooooooooo beautifull

Register for lessons by
May 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.