

BITS & BITES

NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM AROUND THE HAMILTON CONSERVATORY FOR THE ARTS | [HCARTS.CA](https://hcartarts.ca)

AUTUMN 2025

Welcome back to HCA!

LETTER FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR by Vitek Wincza

Welcome back to all our returning students — and a warm welcome to those joining us for the first time! We're so excited to begin another journey together this year. There's so much ahead to discover, create, and celebrate, and we can't wait to watch wonderful things unfold in our studios and on the stage.

At HCA, our mission is to inspire you; to help you build confidence, learn deeply, achieve your goals, and make meaningful connections. We cherish our student body and the supportive, respectful environment you've helped create. Together, we continue to build a space where everyone feels safe, encouraged, and challenged to grow artistically.

We're thrilled to welcome new teachers and staff to our 2025–2026 season, rounding out our fantastic team. With the support of our outstanding faculty, we'll be offering several workshops and extracurricular opportunities designed to spark creativity, expand skills, and provide extra challenges for those eager to explore creation and performance at a deeper level. Keep your eyes peeled for lots of exciting information, coming soon!

Our **Creative Futures** program continues to grow, with the Theatre School launching its exciting first year and the Music School set to follow next season. These programs give students a chance to create and perform under the expert guidance of our faculty mentors –

a cornerstone of the HCA experience.

We also invite our music students to join us for the **Performing Arts Sunday Series (PASS)**, a series featuring some of the finest musicians you'll find, performing on the very same world-class piano our students use for recitals! Witnessing these artists is an incredible complement to your training, and HCA students receive special discounts. You can visit the front desk for more details and to book your tickets before they sell out!

As always, we appreciate your continued patience and cooperation as we navigate our ongoing parking challenges due to nearby construction in the Metrolinx parking lot. Thank you for helping us maintain a respectful relationship with our neighbours by using street parking when possible and keeping the 10-minute drop-off spots clear. Every small act of consideration helps our community thrive.

I'm excited to share that our Associate Artistic Director, Stephanie, and three of our own HCA students are performing in a professional production of **A Doll's House** this November – a wonderful achievement worth celebrating! And be sure mark your calendars for **Where the Wild Things Are**, an exciting collaboration with our sister organization, Arts For All, and Carousel Players on Monday, November 10 at 9:45 am right here at HCA.



Our fall term brings so much growth and inspiration. I can't wait for our winter music and dance recitals, a time to celebrate the progress of each of our students and share the joy of performance.

Thank you, as always, for your energy, enthusiasm, and support as we continue to grow and evolve. We wish you a wonderful year of exploring the arts, discovering your voice, and being inspired by the creativity around you.

Sincerely,

Vitek Wincza
HCA Artistic Director

Important Dates

September

S M T W T F S

(1) 2 3 4 5 (6)
7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30

September 1: Labour Day (HCA School)

September 6 – November 29: Term One

September 6: First Day of Classes!

October

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9 10 11
12 (13) 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 (25)
26 27 28 29 30 31

October 13: Thanksgiving Day (HCA Closed)

October 25–31: Halloween Week! Wear your costumes to class!

November

S M T W T F S

1
2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 (10) 11 12 13 14 (15)
16 17 18 19 20 21 22
23 24 25 26 27 28 29
(30)

November 10: Where the Wild Things Are, 10 AM

November 15: Winter Dance Recital – Tickets on sale!
Tickets \$19 | Children 5 and under are free

November 30: PASS Presents Flamenco Vivo!, 2 PM

December

S M T W T F S

(1) 2 3 4 5 (6)
(7) 8 9 10 11 12 (13)
(14) 15 16 17 18 19 (20)
21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31

December 1 – March 14: Term Two

December 6: Music Performance Classes, 5–8 PM

December 7: Music Performance Classes, 1–6 PM

December 13: Winter Music Gala, 5 PM

December 14: Winter Dance Recital at McIntyre Performing Arts Centre

December 14: PASS Presents the Seiler Trio, 2 PM

December 15–20: Winter Celebration Week

December 20: Last Day of Class before Winter Break

December 20: Musical Theatre Ensemble Winter Showcases, 1 & 3 PM

December 20: HCA Festive Feast – For all HCA students, ages 5+, details to come!

December 22 – January 4: Holiday Break



Music Student Accomplishments

Instructor: Michael Andrushko – Piano

Emma Garcia Pineda RCM Level 4 Piano – First Class Honours with Distinction

Nadira Okeke RCM Level 4 Piano – First Class Honours

John Tenzi Fiel RCM Level 4 Piano – Honours

Emma Godal RCM Level 6 Piano – First Class Honours

Felix Troberg Serruys RCM Level 7 Piano – Honours

Instructor: Lauren Cho – Piano

Andy Nguyen RCM Level 3 Piano – First Class Honours

Rhea Fuller RCM Level 4 Piano – First Class Honours

Willow Yiannakoulis RCM Level 7 Piano – First Class Honours with Distinction

Instructor: Kasia Gasior – Piano

Juliana Mrva-Geluch RCM Level 2 Piano – First Class Honours

Joshua Fowler RCM Level 3 Piano – Honours

Owen Figar RCM Level 4 Piano – Honours

Sophia Wee RCM Level 5 Piano – Honours

Instructor: Helen Hong – Violin

Jacklyn Sparrow RCM Level 1 Violin – First Class Honours

Julian Andres Hoaran-Quintanilla RCM Level 3 Violin – Honours

Samantha Gamage RCM Level 6 Violin – First Class Honours

Instructor: Sihaam Veldman – Piano

Winston Hall (HCA In House Piano Exam) Level 1 - First Class Honours

Ronny Wang (RCM Piano Exam) Level 4 - First Class Honours

Evan Saha (Composition Achievements) Performed his original songs "Dashing on the Rings of Saturn" and "Blue Sea Flow" at the March and June Performance Classes



Theatre Student Accomplishments

Theatre School students **Olivia Camporese** and **Laila McCabe**, appear in *Bonnie & Clyde* with Playful Fox Productions!

HCA students **Harvey Hodge**, **Maeve Lally**, and **Jay Watson** appear in *A Doll's House* with Rook's Theatre, with faculty member Stephanie Hope Lawlor



HCA Graduate Accomplishments

- **Jordyn Kavanagh** (student for 14 years) has been accepted to Laurier University for Music Therapy
- **Graham Mulroney** (student for 8 years) has been accepted to Western university for Mechanical Engineering
- **Christian Velez** (student for 7 years) has been accepted to Mohawk College to become a paramedic
- **Xavier Troberg Serruys** (student for 13 years) is living in Ecuador, working in Community Development

Finding Connection & Creativity at HCA

Sawyer Davidson is in her fourth year of class at HCA, studying acting in the HCA Theatre School. Having graduated through Junior, Intermediate, and now in Teen Acting, this emerging theatre and film actor shares some thoughts about finding her voice at HCA and her growth as an actor.

Q: What's your favourite part about studying acting?

A: I feel like everywhere else it's hard to connect with people, but here it's different. Everybody likes the same thing. I can connect with them because we all have acting in common. We all want to do great plays, learn about theatre, and just be big theatre people together.

Q: What do you love most about acting and performing?

A: I like that I can understand people better. When I play different characters, I get to relate to them and explore their personalities – it's like stepping into someone else's world.

Q: What are some of your favourite roles you've played at HCA?

A: Last year I played the Award-

Winning Diva in *The Ghost Light*, which my mom says really suits me. I went so overboard with it, and it was so fun! I also loved being a Hippie in *The Almost Complete History of the Universe*.

Q: You've also done a fair amount of film work. What is that like?

A: I've done three short films and one documentary. My favourite was *Mica*. It's creepy but fun. I played a little girl who believes in fairies, which I loved because I really do believe in magic.

Q: How has HCA helped you grow as an actor?

A: It's taught me to stay committed and not break the fourth wall (unless it's on purpose!). It's also helped me blend techniques for both stage and camera work.



Sawyer Davidson at HCA
Photo by Stephanie Hope Lawlor

Q: What are your hobbies outside of acting?

A: I love writing! I'm working on a ghost story right now. I also paint, sing, and dance with my friends. I used to do cheerleading, and at recess we even practice lifts on the grass.

Q: And finally, what do you like about the space at HCA?

A: It has such a creative vibe. We're theatre kids, so we make the most of it – whether it's props, cool architecture, or just the energy of the room, it all inspires us to create something together. 🏠



Sawyer Davidson in *The Ghost Light* at HCA
Photo by Stephanie Hope Lawlor



Excel Program

Stretch. Strength. Technique.

Our **Excel Program** is taught Aurora, who while being a trained ballet dancer, also holds her certification in Barre, Jump and Body Sculpt. Develop your strength and technique, no matter what style you prefer!

Ages 12+ | Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 PM

[Register Here!](#)



Adult Acting

Acting Foundations

Back due to popular demand, Adult Acting returns with a **6-week Acting Foundations** course, led by film, television, and theatre actor Andrea Runge!

Ages 18+ | Mondays, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Monday, November 10 – Monday, December 15

[Register Here!](#)

Creative FUTURES COMING SOON!

HCA SCHOOL OF DANCE
**Choreography
Projects**

HCA THEATRE SCHOOL
**Spotlight
Projects**

ROOK'S THEATRE x SAME BOAT THEATRE PRESENT

A DOLL'S HOUSE

I B S E N

ADAPTED BY
AARON JOEL CRAIG

NOVEMBER 13, 14, 15 + 20, 21, 22, 2025

THE BACK HALL - 130 VICTORIA AVENUE NORTH

TICKETS \$20-\$50 & AVAILABLE AT ROOKSTHEATRE.COM



HCA
DANCE +
THEATRE

PASS
PERFORMING ARTS SUNDAY SERIES

2025/2026 SEASON



November 30, 2025

FLAMENCO VIVO!

A Fusion of Music & Movement



December 14, 2025

SEILER TRIO

*Celebrating the Holidays,
Together*



February 8, 2026

VALERIE TRYON

*Celebrate Valentine's Day
with the Romantic Classics*



February 22, 2026

JANINA FIALKOWSKA

*Returning for her
75th Anniversary Tour*



April 26, 2026

QUATUOR MAGENTA

Technical Discipline Meets Musical Excellence

World Class Artists, Live in Hamilton!

Tickets available at hcadancetheatre.com
or call 905-528-4020 to purchase by phone

**HCA STUDENTS CAN PURCHASE \$15
TICKETS TO ANY EVENT!
SEE THE FRONT DESK TO BOOK.**



Where the Wild Things Are

for Preschool - Grade 3

USE PROMO
CODE
HCAWILD
FOR 20% OFF
YOUR TICKETS!

Monday, November 10, 2025
10:00 AM | 65 minutes
HCA BLACK BOX THEATRE
126 James St. S, Hamilton
artsforall.co/kinderfest2026



BITS & BITES CONTRIBUTORS

Vitek Wincza, Stephanie Hope Lawlor, Arts For All,
HCA Dance + Theatre



impact

this summer, Artasia reached...

3752

children

383

caregivers

660

educators

55

neighbourhoods

16

artist
educators

10

community
partners

Thank you for visiting us at Supercrawl!



- view more at artsforall.co/artasia2025 -

Service
Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



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HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

CAMERON
KROETSCH
City Councillor



Johansen Larsen Foundation