



**HAMILTON CONSERVATORY
FOR THE ARTS**
Continuing an Artistic Tradition since 1905

Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director

bits & bites

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE CONSERVATORY | FALL 2015 | 905-528-4020 | www.hcartarts.ca



STAFF at the HCA

Artistic Director: Vitek Wincza
Visual Arts & Education Manager:
Victoria Long-Wincza
Registrar & Administrative Manager:
Cristina Fede
School Administrator: Ericka Wagner
Admin: Bev Long
Outreach & Development Manager:
Laura Kappel
Housekeeping: Linda Van Sickle
Bookkeeping: Brenda Luci

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday to Thursday: 9:00am-9:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am-5:00pm
HCA is closed on Friday and Sunday

BRING A FRIEND WEEK: JANUARY 12TH ~ 17TH FOR ALL GROUP CLASSES

HCA encourages all students in dance, group music, visual arts or acting classes to invite your friends to join you in your lessons at HCA. Please speak with your teacher or the front desk for additional information.

LOST AND FOUND

Missing something? Be sure to check the lost and found bin; located on the first floor by the teacher's corner. The bin is emptied on a monthly basis and the unclaimed contents are donated to charity.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We're always looking for volunteers, especially for HCA Celebrates, Concerts & the Music Gala—see the administration desk for current opportunities!

DID YOU KNOW?

You can receive a Children's Activity Tax credit? Visit our website www.hcartarts.ca for more information!

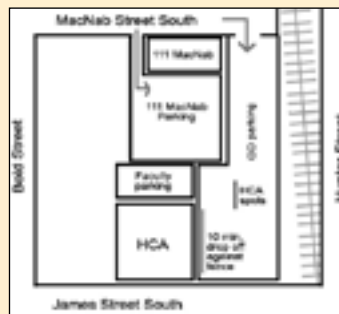
DATES to REMEMBER



- November 30 to December 5: Open House week**
- Sunday November 22: HCA Concert Series, David Jalbert @ 2pm**
- Sunday November 22: HCA Gallery Opening Reception: Maria Sarkany @ 4pm**
- Second Term is: December 7 - March 12, 2016 (12 weeks)**
- Sunday December 6: Music Performance Class**
- Saturday December 12: Encore! Triple Threat Performance**
- Sunday December 13: Music Performance Class**
- Saturday December 19: HCA Winter Gala**
- Monday December 21 to Saturday January 2: Winter Break - HCA CLOSED**
- Monday January 4: Classes Resume**
- Friday January 8: HCA Gallery Opening Reception: Mike Kukucska**
- Monday January 11th-Saturday January 16th - Bring a Friend Week**
- Saturday January 30: Dance Costume Fees Due**
- Sunday January 31: HCA Concert Series, Andre Laplante @ 2pm**
- Friday February 12: HCA Gallery Opening Reception: Cornelia Peckart**
- Sunday February 14: HCA Concert Series, Valerie Tryon @ 2pm**
- Monday February 15 Family Day - HCA CLOSED**
- Saturday February 27: Ballet Exam Fees Due**
- Sunday February 28: Music Performance Class**
- Sunday March 6: Music Performance Class**
- March 14 to 19: Open House week**
- Monday March 14 – Saturday March 19: MARCH Break – HCA CLOSED**
- Friday March 25 – Monday March 28: Easter Weekend – HCA CLOSED**
- Third Term is: March 21 – June 18, 2016 (13 weeks)**



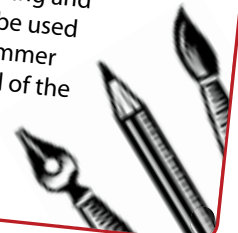
Parking:



Did you know that there is additional parking for parents of HCA students? Not only do we have the 11 GO Parking spots (green signs with Conservatory written on it) but there is also parking behind 111 McNab Street.

**Give the gift of ART
this holiday season!**

HCA gift certificates can be used for private music lessons as well as group classes in dance, music, visual arts, acting and triple threat. They can also be used towards our HCA all arts summer programming. Perfect for all of the **art lovers** on your gift list! Gift Certificates are available through the front desk.



Welcome Students!

We're coming to completion of our first term, preparing for the Holiday season so it's a good time to give you the Fall edition of Bits & Bites.

As some of you may have noticed, HCA is more active on social media (Facebook and Twitter) as another way we can communicate with you. We do appreciate parents and students comments on Twitter: @HCArts and on Facebook: Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts.

In addition to our online presence, our goal is to become paperless and more environmentally friendly and this year our newsletter will begin to transition into an e-newsletter format. If you have not already done so, please make sure we have your email address so that we can include you on our mailing list. We keep all of our e-mails confidential and will only send you messages relating to our newsletter and any pertinent school activities.

The HCA Music department has grown again this year, we would like to welcome 4 new music teachers to our faculty: Alina Shmanova, Frances Gower, and Christina Puchalski our piano teachers, and Sophia Perlman who teaches our Music and Movement Classes for ages 3-5. Check their bios on our website for more info on them; they are a great addition to our school. We also welcome two new dance teachers; Josh Court who teaches Hip Hop and Lisa Emmons who teaches Ballet, Novice Jazz and Novice Hip Hop.

This December we have a number of performance opportunities for our music students. We are looking forward to celebrating everyone's learning at our performance classes on December 6 and Dec 13. The Holiday Music Gala will take place on Saturday, December 19th. It is a cherished tradition that we all look forward to.

This year we also have coming back our Sing! Move! Play! Program with Treasa Levasseur, the session starts January 13 and runs until March 2. Please contact the office for more information. Our Yamaha Program has grown by leaps and bounds this year, we now offer JMC I on Wednesday nights and welcome the addition to our Yamaha Program: teacher Shelley Crossman.



Vitek Wincza
HCA Artistic Director

Our concert series is ready to kick off for another year. It is a great opportunity for our music students to experience live performance by some of the finest classical musicians in Canada. This is also a wonderful opportunity to inspire anyone who is considering a career in music. We have a special rate for HCA students, \$10 and Parents \$15.. Check our website Events page to see our full season of concerts.

In the dance department, this year I return to teaching. I will be co-teaching with Ms. Denise for the Pre-Elementary Demi-Pointe Classes. Ballet teacher, Denise van Es and I are working on a new standardized curriculum for ballet. It is the culmination of my 30 years of teaching and experience as a professional dancer along with

Denise's knowledge as a graduate of the National Ballet School there by combining the old and the new. I am also pleased to share we have added more modern dance to our class offerings and have a great enrollment in these classes. Thank you to our teachers Julia and Denise for drawing students to this great dance form.

Our Encore Triple Threat Company also has new energy with a new teacher. Stephanie Lawlor returns and we welcome Sophia Perlman as the music director of this program. More about Encore is included within this newsletter, if you'd like to join you can come and see the performance this December and register for the new session in January.

And finally, HCA is getting a much need face-lift. Keep an eye out for some improvements happening around the Conservatory. I wish much success for all the students and classes and for the upcoming performances and events here at the HCA. Thank you to all our teachers and the administrative team for keeping us organized and running smoothly. I look forward to all that the year brings ahead.

Vitek Wincza

RCM EXAM RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Students!

TEACHER: MICHAEL ANDRUSHKO Carly Kavanagh: <i>Grade 6 Piano, First Class Honours</i>	Natalie Kurasz: <i>Grade 4 Piano, First Class Honours</i>
TEACHER: HELEN HONG Megan Clement: <i>Grade 6 Violin, First Class Honours</i>	Ivanna Monnar: <i>Grade 6 Flute, accepted to McMaster University music program for Flute</i>
TEACHER: ROLAND FIX Nicole Tan: <i>Graduated with a Masters in Music – Vocal Performance from Western University</i>	TEACHER: SUE DING Amy Li: <i>Grade 3 Piano, First Class Honours</i>
TEACHER: VITALI AFANASSIEV Megan Clement: <i>Grade 8 Piano, First Class Honours</i>	Rebecca Hu: <i>Grade 4 Piano, First Class Honours</i>
Angela Quesada Mora: <i>Grade 3 Piano, Distinction</i>	Jacqueline Cho: <i>Grade 6 Piano, Honours</i>
Isaure Prat-Kalonji: <i>Grade 1 Piano, Distinction</i>	TEACHER: LAUREN CHO Julia Robertson: <i>Grade 8 Piano, Honours</i>
	Jessica Malek: <i>Grade 3 Piano, Honours</i>
	TEACHER: JANINE HUNT Sofia Bravo: <i>Grade 4 Piano, First Class Honours</i>
	Sarah Daly: <i>Grade 3 Piano, First Class Honours</i>



CONTRIBUTORS

Artistic Director:

Vitek Wincza

Music:

Michael Andrushko
Helen Hong
Roland Fix
Vitali Afanassiev
Sue Ding
Lauren Cho
Janine Hunt

Visual Arts & CKA:

Victoria Long-Wincza

Design and Editorial:

Caroline Brown
Ericka Wagner



Importance of Dress Code in Ballet Classes

Dress code is an important part of dance ethics and training. By "dressing the part," dancers feel like dancers. Allowing the teacher to see a dancer's alignment and positioning clearly. Students of all levels should wear the required leotard, tights, and shoes have their hair in a bun (or secured off the face, in the case of short hair) and not be wearing any jewellery for each lesson. Dress codes can also create unity among the dancers instead of causing a few dancers to stand out, much like a school uniform policy.

Check out this interesting article by Brittany White 5 BENEFITS OF KIDS HIP-HOP DANCE CLASSES

Many parents find themselves in a common predicament when they have high-energy kids: what extracurriculars are there available for their kids that help release their energy, without wearing them down?

Fortunately for children and parents alike- there are high quality dance classes for kids out there that do just that! Kids hip-hop classes can benefit a child of any age in several ways.

ALLOWS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Creativity is vital to a kids' mental health, and giving them the outlet of dance is a great way to get those juices flowing! Enrolling your child in hip-hop dance classes can give them just the creativity break that they need after the rigours of a long day at school.

ACTS AS A HEALTHY OUTLET OF ENERGY

Anyone who has kids knows that they have enough energy for themselves and the whole household combined! And as they get older and get into school, it becomes increasingly difficult to get their energy out in appropriate and acceptable ways. Coming home after a long day of sitting in a classroom can make kids antsy, and if you live in an area that has any sort of rainy season, like Seattle, children will be inside even more, which only adds to the restlessness they may experience.

Putting them into after school hip-hop dance classes will give them a way to learn how to focus that energy towards achieving a goal. (Not to mention it will give you a much needed break after a hard day of work)

GIVES KIDS A SAFE SPACE

Let's face it- growing up is hard, especially nowadays. As generations go on, there is an increase in pressure to get the best grades, score the highest scores, and fit in at school. Growing up in a big city like Chicago, or New York also comes with it's own set of everyday stressors as well, and it is often hard to find those "safe spaces" in the bustle of the city. There is no better option than something as simple as a kid's hip-hop dance class! Finding a place where children have a safe space away from home and school to relax, and get their mind off of everyday stresses, can not only improve the mental health of your child, but also create a mindfulness of their own mental health.

To read more, source: [Dance to Evolve blog](http://www.dancetoevolve.com/blog/the-benefits-of-kids-hip-hop-dance-classes)

<http://www.dancetoevolve.com/blog/the-benefits-of-kids-hip-hop-dance-classes>

At HCA we have Hip Hop classes for all ages including a Pre-Hip Hop class just for 5 year olds!

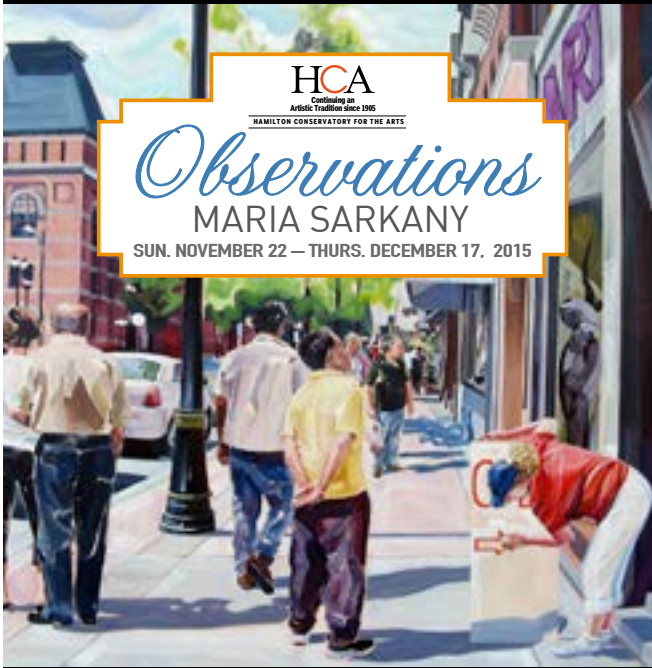


ENCORE

This year Triple Threat Encore class returns on Mondays: 5:00pm-7:00pm. Stephanie Lawlor returns to the class – alongside our new teacher Sophia Perlman. Stephanie Lawlor is a professional stage actress. She has appeared in shows like The Sound of Music, Grease, Pippin, and Evita, and is a graduate of McMaster University and Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts. Stephanie has taught children, teenagers, and adults in acting, musical theatre, and movement. Sophia, a fixture of the Ontario jazz and blues scene, her musicality and old-soul voice and skill as an improviser have made her a first call featured singer with some of the top ensembles and musicians in the country. She is so excited to join the faculty at HCA!

Students rehearse weekly towards the mid and end of year performances in December and June.

See the front desk for additional details or to register.



November 22 – December 17, 2015

Opening Reception

– Sunday, November 22, 4pm

With the HCA Concert Series featuring David Jalbert,
Sunday, November 22, 2pm

The artworks reflect local lifestyle changes.


"We are living in a diverse cultural environment where new galleries, exhibitions, art crawl, indoor and outdoor music festival, indoor and outdoor fine dining establishments are changing and enhancing the lives of Canadians. I have been inspired by these changes and they are the focus of my artwork."

Maria H. Sarkany, SCA was born and educated in Europe and graduated from the School of Fine Arts in the Faculty of Textile. She is a winner of the 1999 Royal Canadian Mint contest. Maria has had numerous solo, juried and group exhibitions. Her award-winning paintings and graphics are displayed in corporate and private collections in three continents.

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

SATURDAYS

THURSDAYS WEDNESDAYS

9:15 – 10:15 Saturday Art Exploration IA Ages 4 – 6 Cornelia Peckart	 New! 5:00 – 6:00 Thursday Art Exploration Ages 7+ Cornelia Peckart	5:30 – 9:30 Wednesday Classical Realism Intermediate Alexander Dzyubko
10:15 – 11:15 Saturday Art Exploration IIA Ages 7 – 9 Cornelia Peckart	6:00 – 7:30 Thursday Teen Art I/II Ages 12 – 15 Cornelia Peckart	6:30 – 8:30 Wednesday Classical Realism Beginner Alexander Dzyubko
11:30 – 12:30 Saturday Art Exploration IIB Ages 7– 9 Cornelia Peckart	7:30 – 9:00 Thursday Teen Art III/IV Ages 16 + Cornelia Peckart	

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Children's Art Department with Cornelia Peckart for children 4 – 12

The Conservatory is a great place to create! We've developed programs that encourage children to explore their creative sides in interesting ways using a variety of mediums and techniques. Work is displayed confidently on our walls as imaginations take flight and skills are developed. Principles of design emerge under our instructors' gentle guidance as children reassemble textures, colours and shapes in their own way. The end results put fresh perspectives on how children see themselves and their surroundings.


New! Children can create with Cornelia Peckart on
Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings this year!



CULTURE FOR KIDS IN THE ARTS

Artasia is a Culture for Kids in the Arts community arts project, bringing high quality arts education to children across greater Hamilton neighbourhoods. Our goal is to share the voices of children with the community, and encourage children to engage their imagination to see the potential in one another and their city.

ARTASIA 2015: Hope is a Thing with Feathers was inspired by the Japanese tale of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes that engaged children of Hamilton to collaboratively make 1000 paper cranes with messages inscribed inside about their hopes for all children. A city with hope in it could easily become the best place to raise a child, and the City of Hamilton is living up to its goal of being this place. Partnering with the Hamilton Best Start initiative to recreate a Hamilton Charter of Rights of Children and Youth, Artasia 2015 engaged art as a vehicle to collect ideas from children and youth. Repurposed paper was transformed into handmade origami paper with their most valued right written inside and folded into a paper crane to become a part of the sculpture....Hope is a Thing with Feathers.



**VISUAL ARTS
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Congratulations to
ALINA TUREAN FOR HER
2015 VISUAL ARTS AWARD
presented in June 2015.**

Hamilton Conservatory
for the Arts presents



Sponsored by
Mr. Robert Summers-Gill



David Jalbert

Sunday, November 22, 2015
at 2:00 pm

*“Wide-ranging musical imagination,
phenomenal technique and an unerring
lightness of being...” TORONTO STAR*

HCA
Students, \$10
& Parents \$15

Programme: Soirée Parisienne
Poulenc: Mouvements Perpétuels, Les Soirées
de Nazelles, Nocturnes
Satie: Gymnopédies nos.1 et 3
Stravinsky: Trois Mouvements de Pétrouchka

HCA

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Vitek Winca, Artistic Director

126 James St S, Hamilton
905.528.4020
www.HCArts.ca

MEDIA SPONSOR

THE
HAMILTON SPECTATOR

The Key to Musical Learning is Play

By Jen Hinkkala – HCA Piano & Theory teacher

Practice after your lesson, five times during the week including before your lesson. Regular practicing allows students to progress more quickly and retain what has been taught in the lesson. Parents and students are encouraged to discuss weekly practice plans with their teachers in order to determine a plan that is effective. Students are also encouraged to set goals with their teachers each week in order to improve weekly practicing.

Learn, learning in individual lessons takes place through teacher diagnosis of students playing; through observing the teacher and through imitation. Students are encouraged to provide their teachers with feedback about how they learn best in order to foster effective communication and facilitate learning.

Ask questions, during your lessons and keep a note book with questions to ask your teacher each week. Parents are also encouraged to write down questions and give them to their student to bring to lessons. By asking questions both parents and students enhance their understanding of musical concepts and approaches to musical learning.

YouTube, is an excellent resource to enhance student's musical learning. Recordings of the entire Royal Conservatory repertoire, studies and ear-training exercises are available on You Tube. Students are also encouraged to use You Tube to critically evaluate performances, analyze performer's technique and compare and contrast performances of works explored in lessons.

Message from the Teachers

Parents who would like to speak to teachers about student's progress or any concerns, please relay this to the front desk. The administrator can assist in booking a time to talk or meet with the teacher as our teachers teach back to back lessons.

