



HAMILTON CONSERVATORY FOR THE ARTS
Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director

bits & bites

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE CONSERVATORY | SUMMER 2021 | 905-528-4020 | www.hcarts.ca   



STAFF at the HCA

Artistic Director:
Vitek Wincza
Registrar &
Administrative Manager:
Cristina Fede
Communications &
School Coordinator:
Allison Warwick
HCA Dance Coordinator:
Denise van Es
Admin: Bev Long



SUMMER HOURS

Monday - Friday,
9am-5pm
Tuesdays from
July 6 - August 24,
9am-9pm
Closed Saturday &
Sunday



DATES to REMEMBER

June 19 - Last Day of Class and Final Day of Pre-Registration
July 6 - August 24: 'Summer After 5' Session (8 weeks)
September 11: First Day of 2021/2022 classes

HCA CELEBRATES PRIDE MONTH



In celebration of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, our building lit up the sky with an installation by our technical director Chris Litfin, with support from Charlotte Carmichael and Tristan Little.

Instructor Melissa Star Charles worked with her Art Fundamentals and Art Exploration classes to create Pride hearts and flags.



Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts is committed to providing a safe and inclusive space for all people.

MUSIC • DANCE • THEATRE • VISUAL ARTS




REGISTER TODAY!
hcarts.ca/summer-camp

Dear HCA Community...

As the school season comes to a close, I'd like to thank each of our HCA families for choosing us as a place to explore your artistic passions. I know that it has been a difficult year - but it is also one in which we learned to adapt to changing circumstances and truly appreciate how the arts both anchor and enrich our lives.

Rather than slow down during the pandemic, HCA remained optimistic and continued working diligently to bring creative opportunities to our students. Especially during turbulent times, we believe that the arts and arts education are vital to promoting mental health and wellness. We began an Adult Workshop program and plan on continuing to expand our adult programming into the future. We're excited to welcome children back into our building for summer camps throughout July and August. As well, HCA is returning with our popular Summer After 5 programming, which gives students of all ages a chance to explore different artistic disciplines over 8-weeks. New this summer is our Evening Dance Intensive, providing students ages 10+ an opportunity to hone their skills, challenge themselves with new repertoire and choreography, and get back into shape for the fall session.

Our sister charitable organizations HCA Dance Theatre and Culture for Kids in the Arts have also been busy developing new plans for the future. Stay tuned for some exciting new developments! Our technical director Chris Litfin has been working throughout the year to oversee the construction of the new Black Box Theatre, a joint project with our charitable organizations with financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. We look forward to this new theatre space that will not only be used by our three organizations but also become a collaborative site that will present the best local and international artists.

Looking towards fall, pre-registration for our current students is open until June 19, which is also the final day of classes. We are dedicated to serving HCA families first and providing a period for our current students to book their desired courses before opening enrollment to the general public. Please register as soon as possible to save your spot in class! Should you have any questions, our friendly admin team is happy to help you.

It's important to HCA that our students are given opportunities to fulfill their greatest potential, and that we provide the best customer service experience and highest quality arts education possible. I am proud of our instructors and administrative team for their hard work and dedication this year - I couldn't ask for a better faculty or staff. Thank you again to our students for remaining part of our HCA family. We wish each of you a happy and safe summer, and will see you in the fall!


Vitek Wincza



Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director
photo by Cathy Coward, Hamilton Spectator



Congratulations to the following music students for their accomplishments!

Teacher: Celine Cascanette

Avery Cryer - Level 2 piano (RCM), First Class Honours

Henna Ludin - Level 1 Voice (RCM), First Class Honours - 88%

Teresa Sanecki Yamaha Group Classes

Most people have that one special teacher in their lives - the one that fosters a life-long love of the subject, is always encouraging, and is dedicated to helping each student reach their fullest potential. Teresa Sanecki is one of those special teachers. Over the past 8 years, she has been an integral part of HCA's Music Department, leading our children's Yamaha group classes. At the end of the year, Teresa will be retiring after 44 years of teaching in the Yamaha program; although we will miss seeing her every Saturday, we'd like to thank her for all that she has done for HCA and her students, and wish her the very best! We recently spoke to Teresa to learn more about her experiences teaching and her plans for retirement.



MUSIC

How did you get started on a musical path, and why did you decide to pursue it as a career?

My mother loved to sing and my father loved to dance. I used to sit at the kitchen table and pretend I was playing the piano while everyone was singing. One day, my father's friend came over and saw me 'playing' on the table. He told my father that I needed to learn the piano. My father went to the corner grocery store and borrowed \$300 to get a piano for me. My father's friend knew of a lady who had taught piano in Russia, and she came over and taught me. She spoke no English but music is a universal language, and I learned to play without hearing her words. I was seven at the time. When my son was four years old, I heard about Yamaha Music programs through a TV commercial. It sounded like learning and fun combined! I took my son to his first lesson and as I watched him learn, I remember thinking, 'This is it. This is how I want to teach.' I applied and went through their rigorous training. And I have not looked back!

How would you describe your teaching philosophy?

Creating musicians for life! They may not go to Carnegie Hall but the best reward is meeting a 20, 30 or even 40 year old and have them say, 'Ms. Teresa, I still play!' I had that happen a few years ago. A potential school board nominee was canvassing and he recognized my name. He said, 'Ms. Teresa, I still play!'

You've been instructing with the Yamaha program for 44 years! What is it about the Yamaha that you've been particularly drawn to?

I love how it teaches young children through the senses - it instills music inside. For the two and three year olds, it really prepares them for the time when they will be actually playing the keyboard.

What makes it a special program?

Its philosophy that children learn by first hearing the song, singing the song, playing and singing their repertoire, and then reading! The JK/SK program's first two years focus on this philosophy, stimulating creativity, imagination, ear, and rhythm. Yamaha creates well-rounded musicians and it's a fun program!

What has been your favourite part about teaching at HCA during the past 8 years?

HCA is a great place to be! The staff are amazing and I am thankful that I have always loved coming into 'work.' The teachers I interact with are so friendly and it feels like a family.

What are your plans after retiring and what are you looking forward to doing in the future?

I will always be involved with music in some way - keeping in touch with Yamaha activities and of course the goings-on at HCA! After 44 years, this is the first year I will be able to sleep in on a Saturday or be able to go to the Farmer's Market!

Do you have a message that you'd like to convey to your students as they continue their musical journey?

Yes - don't give up! You will have ups and downs, sometimes more downs than ups. You have come so very far with your music and it will always be with you - for life! I would like to meet you one day and have you say, 'Ms. Teresa, I still play.'

THEATRE



Our Theatre Department is excited to offer the HCA Creation Collective once again this summer from July 5 - 16. This unique 2-week immersive arts program for ages 14-25 is open not only to theatre students but also to young artists of any discipline. No theatre experience is necessary! Participants will learn acting and creation techniques and work together to create and present a piece of digital theatre for the Hamilton Fringe Festival. We spoke to program leaders/theatre artists Erica May-Wood and Stephanie Hope Lawlor about what to expect from the program.



The HCA Creation Collective participants will be working together as an ensemble to create a digital devised theatre piece. What is devised theatre? Can you tell us about the process of creating theatre in this way?

Erica: Devised theatre (also called collective creation) is the process of starting with nothing, working together to find out what interests the ensemble both creatively and in terms of story – and from there building, creating, rehearsing, and presenting theatre together. It's a sometimes scary, but amazingly fun and rewarding process.

Stephanie: Devising a piece of theatre is great, because it lets the collective create something that is meaningful to them. Instead of working with already existing texts and characters, you can craft something that speaks directly to you and tells the story you want to tell. In the HCC, we explore lots of different creation techniques from writing to improv to movement to music – if you are inspired by it, you can create art about it!

The Creation Collective is a program for students aged 14-25. Why is providing a youth-focused theatre intensive particularly important to both of you?

Erica: Youth don't always get enough opportunities to showcase their talent and offer audiences their wisdom, in my opinion. Youth know lots of stuff and see the world in a really unique way. There is so much we can learn from youth, and being entertained by their wicked humour is a big plus.

Stephanie: Young people are often underrepresented on stage! Being in your teens and early twenties is a formative age in terms of your creativity and artistic growth. It's empowering to learn to trust in your own voice.

Why should students join the HCA Creation Collective this summer?

Erica: You will make theatre. You will make new friends. You will have the experience of presenting a show in a festival. You will have the experience to make this uniquely yours.

Stephanie: You're going to build new connections and develop a new theatre family. It's going to be an outlet for you to synthesize the emotions and feelings of the past year and turn it into art, and it's going to be a BALL. I can't wait.

Interested in joining the Creation Collective? Visit hcarts.ca/creation-collective to register. Deadline to enrol in June 23.

**Evening
Dance Intensive**
August 30 - September 3
Ages 10-13 | Ages 14+
Register at hcarts.ca/dance-intensive

**July 6 - August 24
All Arts. All Ages.**
Register at
hcarts.ca/afterfive

**SUMMER
AFTER 5**



CONTRIBUTORS

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Lucky 21.

That is how Culture for Kids in the Arts is feeling about the number 21.

21 DAYS

21 years since its establishment.

The year 2021 will go down in the record books.

June 21 is the first day of summer.

And...June 21 is also the day where the identity of CKA will launch onto a new path for the next 21 years.

You see, the organization is getting a new name. Shhh – a secret until... you guessed it, June 21. What can be shared is the thinking around a new name and new brand, and the exciting plans for the summer of 2021.

These are exciting times for Culture for Kids in the Arts. CKA's love language is the exploration through music-art-drama-dance and community – and 21 years into sharing that language, CKA is taking stock.

Through his own experiences, founder Vitek Wincza knew that arts programs can motivate and inspire learning, and foster health and well-being. His quest has been to remove barriers for access to the arts, and to provide innovative community arts programming. CKA was formed with this quest at its heart and this will be embedded into all new directions.

Events on June 21 will include the brand reveal, including the new name; the culmination of a countdown-themed social media campaign; a very special video launch; the installation of a new Board of Directors and the Annual General Meeting; the start of the Artasia program; the release of a thought campaign on #WhyArtsMatter; and the inaugural Conversation Café.

The Conversation Café will see Arts luminaries – be they performers, organization directors, funders or thought leaders – have conversations about the arts and how they impact all aspects of a community. These guided chats will be soulful and pointed, thoughtful and articulate. Be sure to tune in and follow the social media channels and the website to view.

Culture for Kids in the Arts is heralding in an exciting new era, yes; what will not change is the same commitment to using education, connection and inspiration to ignite creativity, critical thinking and actions in future citizens and leaders. Professional Artists and Artist Educators are a critical part of the **collaborating, sharing, mentoring**, guiding, and inspiring that is accomplished through CKA's unique programming. It will continue to create opportunities for Arts and Wonder to flourish, while fostering community building and well-being through accessible arts programming for children and youth in greater Hamilton.

Follow along and join us for the ride.

ckarts.ca

CULTURE FOR KIDS
in the ARTS



A charitable organization of the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts.

