



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



OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 1pm-9pm
Saturday: 9am-4pm
HCA is closed on Friday and Sunday



TALK TO US

Got feedback to share? We welcome your comments! Please call us at 905-528-4020, email info@hcarts.ca, provide your comments in person, or submit feedback on our website.

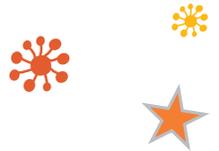
DATES to REMEMBER

Saturday, December 5 - Last day of First Term

December 7 - March 13 (12 weeks) - Term Two

December 19 - Last day of Class before Holidays

Winter Break: December 20, 2020 - January 3, 2021 - HCA CLOSED



HCA Dance Theatre is excited to announce our very first virtual Together in Dance Festival this upcoming 2021!

We will have more information very soon on the dates and time.

We are also excited to share Dusk Dances 2020 Virtual Video with you, available online until November 17th. Although we are sad we could not present Dusk Dances Hamilton this year, you can still enjoy the magic of four site-specific choreographies performed outdoors - some of which were filmed at Bayfront Park!

- Directed and edited by William Yong
- Works by Julia Aplin, Carmen Romero, Santee Smith & Gerry Trentham
- Performed by Julianne Blackbird, Raelyn Metcalfe, Santee Smith, Carmeno Romero, Justin Brown, Kaitlin Standeven, Brodie Stevenson and Michael Caldwell
- Music by Amadou Kienou & Patty Chan with Marjolaine Fournier
- Hosted by Coach Tanguay, aka Vincent Leblanc-Beaudoin

WATCH NOW...

Performances will be available online until November 17.

Pay what you can, if you can.

Welcome...

After a long absence, I am very excited to welcome our students and faculty back to Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts this fall! We thank you for your support during this time. Amid the uncertainties that we have faced as a community during the past several months, I am happy to see so many returning students as well as new faces. In transitioning back to in-person classes after many months online, we hope to emphasize the human elements of the arts - the inspiration of creating with others, of sharing, of forming lasting relationships, of learning and growing together.

Of course, with in-person classes resuming, we have increased safety measures, which include mandatory mask usage, daily COVID-19 symptom screening, physical distancing in our classrooms, and thorough cleaning measures. We always welcome your ongoing suggestions, and ask that you contact us with any feedback.

You may have noticed the exciting transformation on our building's second floor! Our technical director Chris Litfin has been working tirelessly on the construction of a new Black Box Theatre. His knowledge, passion, and dedication have been instrumental to the development of a new state-of-the-art space. This dream project would not be possible without the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the work of Culture of Kids in the Arts, Victoria Long. When construction is complete, our plan is to present world-class performances in all disciplines, host workshops, and serve as a hub of inspiration in Hamilton.



Vitek Wincza
HCA Artistic Director

I am excited about the possibilities of this space as all three sister organizations - HCA, Culture for Kids in the Arts, and HCA Dance Theatre - work together to create a lasting impact on our community.

I'd like to express my gratitude to our administrative staff for our ongoing operational success; with Cristina, Bev, Denise, and Allison working with me, I believe I have the best team in town! A special thank you to Karly for being such an integral part of our team this past summer. As well, I'd like to acknowledge our

newest staff members for helping everything run smoothly and safely as people enter and exit HCA. Chalisa, Emily, Josie, and Rachel - we appreciate all of your work.

I'd also like to thank our instructors for their professionalism, flexibility, and dedication to excellence during a time of change. Finally, thank you to our students and families for continuing to support HCA and entrusting us with your arts education.

We are strongly committed to the safety and wellbeing of our community, and creating a supportive creative environment.

We look forward to another year of growing and learning together, and wish all of our students the best!

Sincerely,

Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director

Congratulations to the following students for their accomplishments!



TEACHER: VITALI AFANASSIEV

David Beyers - Level 6 Piano, First Class Honours

TEACHER: MICHAEL ANDRUSHKO

Alena Godal - Level 1 In-House Piano, First Class Honours

Graham Mulroney - Level 4 In-House Piano, First Class Honours

TEACHER: LAUREN CHO

Melody Lu - Level 8 Piano, First Class Honours

Ana Cincarevic - Level 9 Piano, First Class Honours; Level 10 Piano, First Class Honours

Elizabeth Phan - Level 7 Piano, First Class Honours with Distinction

Coco Zhang - Level 5 Piano, First Class Honours

Yohanna Harris - Level 5 Piano, Honours

TEACHER: ROLAND FIX

Natalia Gayowsky - Accepted to Etobicoke School for the Arts

Gabriel Klassen & Gerald Kiing - both accepted to the Bachelor of Music program at University of Toronto

TEACHER: FRANCES GOWER

Alexandra Moushi - Level 6 Piano, First Class Honours;

Level 6 Theory, First Class Honours. Accepted into Mohawk College's Applied Music Program

TEACHER: IRINA JACOB

Jared Abogadie - Level 5 Piano, Honours; Level 8 Music Theory, First Class Honours with Distinction

Sofia Bravo - Level 7 Piano, Honours

Sara Bravo - Level 3 Piano, Honours; Level 4 Piano, First Class Honours

Eli Faddoul - Level 1 Piano, First Class Honours

Mark Faddoul - Level 1 Piano, First Class Honours

Cynthia Min - Level 9 Harmony, First Class Honours with

Distinction; Level 9 Music History, First Class Honours;

Level 10 Piano, First Class Honours with Distinction

Marla Halim - Level 3 Piano; Level 4 Piano, Honours

Renelle Handa - Level 9 Piano, First Class Honours with Distinction

Jasmine-Maya Justin - Level 2 Piano, Honours; Level 3 Piano, First Class Honours

Rose-Laila Justin - Preparatory A Piano, First Class Honours

Zaldy Velasco - Level 4 Piano, Honours

Jack Salaba - Level 2 Piano, Honours; Level 2 Piano, First Class Honours

Thejan Witharana - Preparatory B Piano, Honours

Sithum Witherana - Level 3 Piano, Honours

Kelly Zhong - Level 7 Piano, Honours

TEACHER: NANCY LEUNG-SIMMONS

Callum Prendergast - Level 3 Piano, First Class Honours

TEACHER: JASON SCOZZARI

Sofia McMillan - Level 1 & 2 Piano, First Class Honours

Angelica Di Ianni - Level 3 Piano - First Class Honours

MUSIC
DISC
SNOW



Congratulations to all of Miss Teresa's Yamaha students who took exams in July 2020!

HCA welcomes its newest instructors!



Haleigh Eady

Haleigh-Rain Eady is a dance artist, educator and arts manager originally from Burlington, Ontario. She has a Postgraduate Certificate in Arts and Cultural Management at Humber College and is a graduate of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre's International Scholarship Program in 2016. Haleigh has danced alongside companies like Martha Graham Dance Company and Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet as well as performed roles for a vast array of productions with artists such as Darrell Grand Moultrie, Sidra Bell, Roberto Campanella, David Wilson, Hanna Kiel, Malgorzata Nowacka and many others. She is an Alumni of George Brown College's Dance Performance Studies Program, Quinte Ballet School of Canada, Etobicoke School for the Arts and Burlington Dance Company.



Heather Dunn

I began my professional ballet training at Canada's National Ballet School, where I studied for five years. After graduating from NBS, I moved to England to continue my dance education at the English National Ballet School where I received a Trinity National Diploma in professional dance and was also given the opportunity to dance with The English National Ballet. After completing my training I started my professional career with the Scottish Ballet. During the first years of my career I also danced with the Tivoli Ballet Theatre, the Deutsche Oper Berlin and performed in several international galas around the world. I then spent the rest of my career with the Royal Danish Ballet, where I stayed for over five years dancing soloist roles. After deciding to hang up my pointe shoes and move back to Canada, I am excited to share and pass on my extensive knowledge and joy of dance to others. I look forward to inspiring many to follow their dreams in dance and fall in love with the art form, as I did.



Anyone who is involved in the arts knows the dramatic effects of not being able to perform or create in our favourite spaces. We also know how much our hearts long to be in a space that inspires us to create and to feel like we belong to an amazing environment.

As a teacher of almost 15 years, my main priority is to inspire and educate my students in the healthiest, most enjoyable environment possible. I focus on imparting proper attention to detail, discipline, body awareness, and time management to my students. My passion has always been to move to music, in any shape or form. It is a passion that has run deep since I was a little girl and my only hope is to inspire children to find their passion too.

When the pandemic hit back in March, movement and inspiration was very difficult to find. Every day, my students and I counted down until

the next time we would be back in the studio to finish the creations we had started. Keeping in contact with my dancers was so important to me and vital for all of us as we collectively faced uncertainty.

In April, HCA decided to try Pay-What-You-Can online classes for our students, to give them a sense of normalcy during these times. At first, I was concerned that students would not have enough space or the right flooring to be able to dance full out, or perhaps wifi would become an issue while doing online classes. After troubleshooting and setting it all up with HCA's amazing staff, our online classes were underway. It was so wonderful to see my students and be able to share our experiences from our homes, not to mention all the cool pets I got to meet along the way! Even my own dog, Maggie, got to join in on our online classes and share her two cents worth of corrections and feedback!

From April to July, I taught Ballet, Modern and Lyrical online and I can say the experience was eventful! It was so interesting to be able to work in a different space, with various requirements and needs, and create exercises and choreography you would never think of, given the circumstances. My students were so completely dedicated - taking class every week and maintaining their technique and passion for dance. We shared many laughs and amazing moments together online, and it gave us a sense of connection that we might not have otherwise had if HCA hadn't decided to do online classes.

In August, I decided to do a trial run of in person classes while running online classes simultaneously. We put all the proper protocols in place to ensure a safe learning environment. What I can say is the results were miraculous! Seeing my students in person, being able to move with them again, feel their energy, and feed off of their amazing talents and passion was the most humbling experience for me during the pandemic. My students worked harder than ever and it showed - come September my students were well prepared, stronger than ever before, and we were able to continue from where we left off, leaving them ahead of their technique level rather than behind.

We spent our first couple of weeks back learning new material, building on our knowledge, improvising almost every class to feel "normal" again in the space, and being completely open about how we felt in every class.

The best thing a student told me after all of this was, "Miss Denise, can we do this every summer, so we can dance all year long?"

That question alone was enough for me to say, "Yes! We should!"

Artists thrive on being able to express themselves and live their passions every day of their lives, and it is so important for them to always stay connected. I am so privileged and honoured to work in a community that desires to always inspire others. The best thing we can take from all of this, and I know I especially do, is realize how lucky we are to have each other and to be able to dance and move together with our hearts wide open.

To dance and move is to sing with the body, and our body is an instrument that never stops playing.



Founded in 1999 by Vitek Wincza, **Culture for Kids in the Arts** is the charitable organization of the **Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts**

This summer, Culture for Kids in the Arts delivered Artasia visual and media arts programming online to childcare spaces at no cost.



"In a time of uncertainty with the world, the young artists were very keen to support each other with the process of creating the layers to their window artwork. With simple shapes like the heart, polka dots, and stars, they hoped to draw in their neighbours to join the conversation of spreading happiness to uplift each other."

- DEESHANI FERNANDO, 2020
[ARTIST EDUCATOR]

ckarts.ca



CONTRIBUTORS

Artistic Director – Vitek Wincza
Dance - Denise van Es
HCADT - Haleigh Eady
CKA - Victoria Long
Design and Editorial – Caroline Brown, Allison Warwick