

Christa Grix

Harp Adjudicator



www.christagrix.com

Christa fell under the spell of the harp during her first lesson at 16. Two years earlier, she was transfixed by a live jazz performance at her high school. Those two events form the foundation for her career. Equally adept as both a classical and jazz harpist, she is one of those rare individuals who can make the transition from the jazz rhythm section to the symphonic string section sound effortless. As a contracted second harp with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra for over 30 years, Christa has had the privilege of playing under the baton of some greatest conductors in the world, including Neeme Jarvi and Leonard Slatkin. The appeal and respect her music generates has taken her throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe as an invited soloist and clinician at major harp festivals and conferences.

“Christa has a great sound. I work with orchestras all over the world and so it’s rare that I’ll notice and single out the harpist for their technique and talent. Christa is a total pro with amazing technique and sound.” ~ Jack Wall, Composer, Conductor and Executive Producer of Video Games Live.

Christa enjoys using the sound of the harp and the sound of her voice to create meaningful, beautiful communication and connection with her audiences. In addition to her 4 recordings on the Freefall Music label – Freefall (1996), Cheek to Chic (2002), Moonlight on Snow (2012) and Christa’s Presents (2014) – she is an on-air development host for WRCJ-FM in Detroit, where she researches, writes, and produces short educational spots that highlight the numerous connections between classical and jazz

music. Her wide-ranging love for all kinds of music has influenced her compositions and recordings for the harp, which are enjoyed by harpists worldwide.

“Christa is one of only a handful of harpists that I insist on having in the orchestra whenever we’re close. She is a consummate professional, sensitive musician and a delight to know personally.” ~ Scott Lavender, Composer/Arranger and Music Director for Johnny Mathis.

Christa Grix is a past executive board member of the American Harp Society, served as conference chair for the Society’s 2008 National Conference, and served as secretary of the Detroit Musicians Fund for over a decade. National and international appearances include performances in Tobermory Ontario, Tacoma Washington, Maubege France, Prague Czech Republic, Monterey Mexico, and the 2011 meeting of the World Harp Congress in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Besides her active career as a harpist, Christa Grix is the proud mother of a college sophomore, and won’t go to bed until she’s reached “genius” status on the New York Times Spelling Bee app.

“Be it classical or jazz, it takes little time to realize what a precious musician Christa Grix is.”

~Michael G. Nastos, Music Critic

Linda Fletcher

Voice & Choir Adjudicator



Linda Fletcher, of Oakville, is very active in the music community as a teacher, composer, singer, adjudicator, clinician, accompanist, and music director. She began her piano studies with Grace Vandendool and went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music (honours) degree in Music Education from McMaster University, where she studied piano with Reginald Bedford, and voice with Dr. Gladys Whitehead. She received her Bachelor of Education from the Ontario Teacher Education College and her A. Mus. degree in voice from the University of Western Ontario, for which she was awarded the gold medal for the highest mark in Canada. Linda continued her study of voice with Tom Oliver and organ with Keith Hopkins. She also plays French horn and guitar.

Linda is a composer of choral and vocal solo music, and writes both secular and sacred music. Her first published choral composition, *A Song of Sharing*, became the publisher's best-selling song with international sales of over 15,000 copies and has since gained more popularity as a festival and exam selection. Another, Linda's setting of *The Olde Irish Blessing* was performed in Rome for World Youth Day before an audience of 3,000 and continues to be performed worldwide. More recently, she was the compiler and editor of a series of Canadian song books entitled *Sing!*, published by Leslie Music Supply. In 2021, some of Linda's newest songs will be distributed in partnership with Full Voice Music Inc. (www.thefullvoice.com)

Linda was a member of the creative team for the 2012 Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) voice series, and recently worked as a compiler and editor for their 2019 voice

syllabus. Fifteen of her songs are included in the latest voice syllabus with five of those appearing in the voice repertoire books. In 2019, Linda was invited to be a presenter for the RCM “Artistry and Innovation” Summit.

Linda was co-writer, performer and arranger, with director Tom Oliver, for *Voices in the Night*, a non-profit fundraising vehicle, created by Linda and Mr. Oliver in 1996, which travelled throughout Southern Ontario for over 10 years. Linda also acted as singer and chorus director for two Juno-nominated recordings of children’s entertainer, Eric Nagler.

In 2006, Linda was the recipient of the Pauline McGibbon Lifetime Achievement in the Arts award, presented at Roy Thomson Hall. In 2012, she was the recipient of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers’ Association’s Special Teacher Award. At the 2016 convocation at Koerner Hall, the Royal Conservatory of Music honoured Linda as a Teacher of Distinction in recognition of her commitment to music education and contribution to the field of teaching. Linda was a featured composer in the 2002 Canadian Composer’s Calendar and has also been featured in the magazine *Arts About Town*.

Linda has served as organist and choir director at Walton Memorial United Church for 40 years where, in addition to multiple weekly worship services, she directs many concerts and music presentations. Walton has a vibrant music programme of over 70 singers in three choirs.

Linda has taught piano and voice privately for close to 50 years but in later years has focused primarily on voice. She still maintains a thriving private studio. Her students and choirs have won many local, provincial, and international awards for piano, singing, and composition including numerous RCM gold medals. Several of Linda’s students have gone on to perform professionally on international stages including Disney, Mirvish, Broadway Tours, Stratford, American Idol, America’s Got Talent, and as composers and recording artists.

Linda has adjudicated major music festivals across Canada. She is actively involved in local music festivals as syllabus advisor, concert fundraiser, and accompanist. She is co-founder and President of the Oakville Vocal Arts Festival. She also continues to work as an accompanist for voice and music theatre for the OMFA Provincial competitions.

Linda is a member of ACTRA, NATS, SOCAN, and ORMTA, where she served on the executive for ten years and was a workshop clinician for their 2012 ORMTA Provincial Convention.

Linda continues to reside in Oakville with her husband, John. They are blessed with four children who also share Linda’s love of music, and five grandchildren.

Amanda Kind

Music Theatre Adjudicator



AMANDA KIND:

Originally from White Rock, BC, Amanda Kind is a versatile singer having performed in various musicals, operas, and choral works as well as in jazz and pop, rock, and country concerts. A sought-after voice teacher, Amanda shares her passion for music with aspiring singers, songwriters, and multi-disciplinary performers in her private voice studio in Waterloo, Ontario. Amanda has released her own original music, written music for other artists, and been a featured artist and back-up vocalist on various recordings. In 2021, she released four singles including easier (pop), We're Okay (country duet with James Downham), Distant Memory (country), and Hold Me Close (holiday), which was played on radio across the country. Select theatre credits: The Drowsy Chaperone (Drowsy), Anne of Green Gables (Miss Stacey), Into the Woods (Witch), Annie (Miss Hannigan), and others. Select classical credits: Fauré Requiem (Soprano Soloist), Handel's Messiah (Soprano Soloist), Menotti's The Telephone, and more. More about Amanda at www.amandakind.com

Haley Marie

Woodwinds and Speech Arts Adjudicator



Three-time Carnegie Hall performer **Haley Marie** became the founder and director of Aurelia Productions in 2011, a company devoted to presenting classical music in new, yet authentic ways to audiences. Its main series, *The Men Behind the Music*, introduces the behind-the-scenes history of composers through projections, storytelling and live performance, often leaving the audience stunned about the circumstances and background of much-loved music.

Prior to forming Aurelia Productions, Miss Marie obtained degrees from the Royal Conservatory of Music, McGill University and the prestigious School of Music at Yale University. She is also the recipient of the 2002 Governor General's award at the Winnipeg Music Festival. Since completing her studies, Miss Marie has carried out concert tours both in Canada and in Europe. Her recordings have been distributed in the Americas, Europe, Japan, Mexico and Australia. She is also honoured to be a member of the College of Examiners at the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Nonetheless, preserving the authentic history of classical music is where her true passion lies—she can often be found giving talks to audiences about Bach's jail time or Chopin's fear of large audiences. Miss Marie's unique combination of music, multimedia and history has led many audiences on a journey to discover the inner workings of genius and the human spirit. Aurelia Productions is one of the most extensively-toured organizations of its type in North America.

Megan Jones

Junior Strings Adjudicator



Megan Jones began her musical training at the age of 6 in Deep River, Ontario. Despite being from a small town, there was no shortage of inspiration in the field of classical music and Ms. Jones knew by the age of 9 she would be an orchestral musician. As a child Ms. Jones played in the Deep River Symphony Orchestra, the Ottawa Youth Orchestra and travelled to Ottawa for weekly lessons with Calvin Sieb. In 2000, Ms. Jones graduated from McGill University with a Bachelor of Music in violin performance after four years of study under violinists Richard Roberts and Yehonathan Berick.

Currently the concert master of Sinfonia Ancaster, Ms. Jones performs regularly with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony, the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and London Symphonia as well as being the principal violinist with Arcady Ensemble and the Jeans n Classics Rock Symphony. For the last decade Ms. Jones has worked alongside Maestro Boris Brott furthering the education of countless young musicians with the National Academy Orchestra of Canada both as a violinist and as the orchestra's manager.

As a soloist Ms. Jones has performed with the Kitchener Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, the Timmins Symphony Orchestra, the Deep River Symphony Orchestra and Arcady Ensemble and has appeared on several occasions as a vocal soloist with the National Academy Orchestra.

Lance Ouellette
Senior Strings Adjudicator



Lance Ouellette is currently the Associate Concertmaster for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. While attending the University of Toronto and Wilfrid Laurier University, Lance received the top awards at the national finals of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals and the Canadian Music Competition.

Lance teaches violin for the University of Waterloo, is an orchestral coach for the KWS youth orchestra program, teaches privately, and has adjudicated across Canada for the FCMF and CMC.

Other current projects include mentorship for the National Academy Orchestra of Canada as well as educational presentations of electric violin in schools showcasing a wide range of music.

Dr. Roger Lord
Senior Piano Level 9 - ARCT
& Concertos Adjudicator



Pianist **Roger Lord** from Moncton, New Brunswick, has won First Prizes in piano in the *Canadian Music Competition* as well as in the *Canadian National Festival of Music*. He toured extensively with *Jeunesses Musicales* playing over 120 concerts in Canada and in Europe between 1987 and 1992. His various engagements have since taken him to some of the world's great cities such as Paris, Oslo, Vienna, Parma, Montreal, Melbourne, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Santiago de Chile, Quito, Cairo, Tunis, Riyadh, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Saigon, Beijing, Shanghai, Tokyo, etc. He has performed as a soloist with orchestra on four continents. Hailed at the "Piano Prince of Canada" by the China Daily, he was one of the guest artists in 2013 on one of the prestigious Chinese New Year TV Galas broadcast for hundreds of millions of viewers. That same year, he released a CD entitled *Chinese Treasures* which was recorded in Beijing thus becoming the first non-Chinese pianist in the world to release a CD of Chinese piano music. He has travelled 33 times to China and was named one of "150 illustrious Canadian things and people" on the popular Chinese website Sina Weibo. Dr. Lord served as an adjudicator for several national and international music competitions in Canada, USA, Malaysia, and Australia. He studied at *Université de Moncton*, McGill University, *Université de Montréal* as well as in Paris and Strasbourg, France. He also attended special summer sessions of the Moscow Piano Institute in Russia at the Gnessin Music Academy. He holds a Doctorate in Music and is presently Professor of Piano at the *Université de Moncton*.

Christine Tithecott

Intermediate Piano Level 7 - 8 & Compositions Adjudicator



Christine Tithecott holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Iowa, as well as a MMus in Performance and a BMus (Honours) in Music Education from the University of Western Ontario. She has worked previously at Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

In high demand as a clinician and adjudicator, Dr. Tithecott presents master classes for young pianists and workshops on pedagogical topics for piano teachers throughout North America. She has presented lectures at national conferences for the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) and the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA). Christine is a member of the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM), Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators Association (CMFAA), and a clinician for the Ontario Registered Music Teachers Association (ORMTA). Additionally, Dr. Tithecott has served as an editor for Conservatory Canada's New Millennium Series.

An avid performer, Dr. Tithecott has had the opportunity to perform as a solo and collaborative artist throughout Canada, USA, and Europe. Christine has a strong passion for performing and promoting contemporary repertoire, and has performed with numerous new music ensembles including Ensemble 319, and The CNM Ensemble (Iowa City, IA).

Christine currently resides in London, where she is on faculty at Western University's Don Wright Faculty of Music. She also works as a collaborative artist, and maintains a full studio of private piano students.

Amelia Yates
Junior Piano Levels 4 – 6
Adjudicator



Amelia Yates, D.M.A., is a pianist, adjudicator, and instructor from Ancaster Ontario. A recent graduate of the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the University of Western Ontario, Dr. Yates's research focusses on the solo piano music of Canadian composer Ann Southam. She is passionate about researching and performing the music of contemporary Canadian composers. In addition to performing as a soloist, Dr. Yates also enjoys collaborating with others in chamber groups and working with large ensembles and choirs.

Dr. Yates teaches piano lessons from her home studio, AGYPiano. Her goal is to help students perform, understand, and enjoy music thoughtfully, healthily, and artfully. She is also passionate about applying teaching approaches that nurture students' mental health and empower them to think critically and independently. Dr. Yates's students have received awards for both composition and performance at the local and national level, and frequently achieve First Class Honours and First Class Honours with Distinction standings on their conservatory examinations.

Before receiving her doctorate, Dr. Yates also earned an ARCT diploma in piano performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music as well as a Bachelor of Music Honours Music Education and a Master of Music in Performance and Literature from the University of Western Ontario. She had the privilege of studying performance with Dr. Leslie Kinton, Dr. Brett Kingsbury, and John-Paul Bracey, and pedagogy with Dr. Diana Dumlavwalla and Dr. Christine Tithecott.

Dr. Yates holds positions on the board of the Hamilton/Halton Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association and the Hamilton Music Festival. She is honoured to support the Association of Canadian Women Composers as an Associate member. Dr. Yates is also a member of the Royal Conservatory of Music's College of Examiners.

When she is not performing or teaching, Amelia enjoys spending time with her husband Daniel, a musician and lawyer, as well as practicing yoga, riding her bike, and watching her favourite show: *Downton Abbey*.

Petya Stavreva
Primary Piano Levels Prep – 3
& Duets Adjudicator



Praised for expressing "ultra-sensitive and highly refined pianism" (Quinte Society for Chamber Music), pianist Petya Stavreva is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at Western University. Prior to arriving at Western, she finished her master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin, receiving full scholarship and grant support from Canada Arts Council and the Webb Trust Fund at the Glenn Gould School. Before that, she was an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre for ten weeks. Currently at Western, she is a four-time recipient of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, as well as the Don Wright Graduate Entrance scholarship, and the Sherwood Fox Music scholarship. Her doctoral thesis is focused on referential meaning in Rachmaninov's first piano sonata.

Petya is currently based in both Toronto and London. Throughout her career she has performed in Europe and North America both collaboratively and as a soloist. She is active as a collaborative/chamber pianist, and is described to have "extraordinary ability to place the sound of the piano exactly where the soloist

needs it to be” (Quinte Arts Council Umbrella). Petya is quickly becoming in demand as an educator, and has been an adjudicator for the Kiwanis Festival in Toronto, the Pickering GTA Music Festival, the Brant Music Festival, the Kiwanis Festival in Ottawa as well as the Ontario Music Festival Association in Hamilton. Additionally, while undergoing training for the Royal Conservatory College of Examiners, she maintains a busy teaching studio in London and Toronto/Mississauga.

Petya has been a prize winner of numerous competitions in Canada and Europe such as the international competition “Franz Schubert” in Rouse, international competition “Music and Earth” in Sofia, among many others, and has performed concertos with the Toronto Sinfonietta Orchestra. Recently she performed at the Aeolian Hall in London, as part of the Emerging Classical Artist Series. Earlier last year, she collaborated with Canadian baritone Peter McGillivray for a recital as part of the Quinte Society for Chamber Music. Her newly formed Duo Avante with pianist Todd Yaniv is looking forward to several engagements next season including a recording project and performances in Toronto, Kitchener, Mississauga and Caledon.

She obtained an Artist Diploma at the Glenn Gould School on full scholarship, and a bachelor’s degree at the University of Toronto. Shortly after moving to Canada, Petya also attended the Taylor Performance Academy in Toronto with full scholarship. She has been very fortunate to study with a variety of teachers including Leslie Kinton, Anton Nel, James Anagnoson, Jamie Parker, Marietta Orlov and Arshalouis Nersessian. While in Austin, Petya also studied collaborative piano in addition to her solo degree, with Anne Epperson. Petya has spent many summers as a pianist in festivals such as the Bowdoin Music Festival as a collaborative Fellow, Young Artist Program in Ottawa, the Banff Chamber and Solo Residencies, Nice Academy in France, and Toronto Summer Music Festival.