

Meet the Adjudicators

Week 1

April 22-26



**Classical Voice, Musical Theatre,
Pop, Choral**

Amie Debrone is a multi-genre singer, actor and mover-who-loves-to-dance, and is an in-demand voice & acting teacher and workshop clinician. She teaches all ages and levels and her students can be found on screens and stages across Canada. She received her Honours BMus with a minor in Languages from Wilfrid Laurier University and has completed additional training at NYU Langone Medical Center, Shenandoah University, The Banff Centre, Stratford Festival, and more. In 2023, Amie became the first person in Canada (and is currently the only level 2-certified practitioner in Canada) certified by The Singing Athlete – a program which uses neuroscience and Neuro Athletics to train singers. Favourite credits include performances with Drayton Entertainment, Spiritus Ensemble, The KW Symphony, Lost & Found Theatre, The Jazz Room, and more. She has also music-directed a number of musicals and award-winning choirs. Amie is passionate about encouraging her students to become unique and elite artists and coaches, and to share their gifts with the world. In her free time, Amie loves to travel, camp, cook/eat, read nerdy voice & brain science books, do yoga and dance. **AmieDebrone.com**

Junior Strings



Violinist Elspeth Durward was a member of the Kitchener Waterloo Symphony for 17 years, performing as Assistant Principal Second since 2016. She holds a B.Mus. in Performance from the University of Toronto and a M.Mus. in Performance (with an emphasis in Suzuki Pedagogy) from the Hartt School of Music. Prior to joining the KW Symphony, Elspeth spent three years performing with the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida under the direction of Michael Tilson Thomas. Highlights of her time with the NWS include residencies with MTT at Rome's National Academy of Saint Cecilia and New York's Carnegie Hall.

As an orchestral performer, Elspeth has appeared with the Pacific Music Festival in Japan, Spoleto Festival USA, the Britt Festival Orchestra, the Elora Festival Orchestra, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and the Toronto Symphony. She has been featured in concert with the Emerson String Quartet and participated in masterclasses and chamber music at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France, and attended the Pinchas Zukerman Young Artists Program in Ottawa.

Since 2005, Elspeth has been a Faculty member of the Suzuki String School of Guelph where she teaches private lessons and group classes to students of all ages and abilities. A firm believer that "Every Child Can", Elspeth completed long-term Suzuki Teacher Training with Linda Fiore at Hartt. She completed a Violin Practicum at the Chicago Suzuki Institute with Teri Einfeldt (2010) and Book 9/10 with Tom Wermuth (2021). In 2024, Elspeth will lead a group of advanced SSSG students on a tour to Hawaii.

Prior to pursuing a musical career, Elspeth earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Queen's University. She lives in Guelph with her husband and two children.



Senior Strings

Lance Ouellette has been a featured soloist, chamber musician, and has performed with orchestras across Canada and abroad for over 2 decades. Highlights include concert tours of Mexico, Europe, and Asia along with productions for film, radio, and television.

Currently, Lance holds the position of Associate Concertmaster for the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra, Associate Concertmaster for the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, and performs regularly with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra.

As an educator, Lance teaches violin for the University of Waterloo as well as privately and online. He has collaborated with the National Academy Orchestra of Canada and the National Youth Orchestra of Canada as a mentor and masterclass clinician.

Being the recipient of the top awards in both the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals and the Canadian Music Competition, Lance understands the significant role of music festivals and travels across the nation serving as an adjudicator.

As an avid modular synthesizer enthusiast, Lance enjoys exploring the possibilities of sound design and music/video production. New projects provide a constant creative outlet challenging the “normal” concept of playing the violin by blending the electric violin eurorack modules.

Aside from music, Lance enjoys gardening, fishing, and is a certified Golf Canada coach working for RBC First Tee Ontario providing the golf experience to youth across the Kitchener-Waterloo region.

Woodwinds and Mixed Ensembles



Trevor earned a BMus degree from the University of Lethbridge and his Masters in clarinet performance from Eastern Michigan University. He attended the Aspen Music Festival and School for two years, studying with Bil Jackson. He is a past Fulbright scholar and now lives in Windsor, Ontario, where he teaches clarinet at the University of Windsor. He is a regular substitute with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and has played with many orchestras throughout Windsor and the Michigan area. In addition to his orchestral playing, Trevor has performed numerous solo, chamber and concerto concerts throughout North America and Europe, including recent performances as part of the international ClarinetFest in Belgium and the US. In addition to teaching clarinet, Trevor currently works as the Concert Producer/Operations Coordinator for the School of Creative Arts at the University of Windsor.

Harp



Maurice Draughn, a native of Detroit, is an experienced and versatile musician. He has appeared as a soloist with several orchestras including the International Symphony, Rochester Symphony, Plymouth Symphony, Michigan Philharmonic and the Detroit Symphony Civic Orchestra. He also appeared in performance with legendary artists such as Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder. Maurice is an arranger and composer of music for harp. Past and current commissions include works for flute and harp, cello and harp, harp and organ as well as harp ensemble. His music is featured on harp.com and harpcolumnmusic.com.

Maurice is currently a freelance harpist performing with several orchestras and ensembles throughout Southeastern Michigan and Western Ontario including the Detroit Symphony and Detroit Opera Orchestras. He can be heard on several CBC broadcasts in performance with the Windsor Symphony under the direction of Maestro John Morris Russell, present conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. He performs regularly as a recitalist featuring the works of Carlos Salzedo. Maurice was a presenter and performer at the 2008 and 2014 National Conference of the American Harp Society. He was also a performer at the Lucile Lawrence Centennial Celebration Concert at Ball State University where he premiered his arrangement of George Gershwin's Three Preludes arranged for two harps.

As a chamber musician, Maurice performs chamber music regularly at the Scarab Club in Detroit and other chamber music series throughout Metropolitan Detroit. He is a collaborative musician performing various genres of music including jazz, neo-soul and gospel and has recorded with notable artists from each respective genre. Maurice is also a founding member of the Modern Harp Quartet. He recorded with the quartet in their debut recording entitled *Pantomime* featuring the works of Salzedo, Wickey, Ravel and Corea. In addition to being a harpist, Maurice is also a prize-winning organist and choral director.

Maurice began his harp studies at Cass Technical High School with Patricia Terry-Ross, Principal Harpist of the Michigan Opera Theatre. He continued his studies earning a Bachelor of Music in Harp Performance from Wayne State University. Maurice completed two summers of study with world-renowned harpist Lucile Lawrence at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute. He later earned a Master of Church Music with a concentration in Harp and Organ Performance from Southern Seminary where he also studied harp with Elaine Cook and Laura Byrne at the University of Louisville.

As an educator, Maurice served as co-director of the Harp Instruction and Performance Program which provided harp instruction for elementary and middle school students in the Detroit area. He regularly performs for educational concert series with local and regional orchestras at schools and other community venues. He is a certified teacher having taught vocal music in the public school system for several years. He also taught in the Department of Music at Wayne State University as a member of the adjunct faculty and as academic advisor. He currently serves as the Director of Choral Activities at Cass Technical High School.

Week 2

April 29-May 3



Elementary Piano

Kate Acone is an American pianist and teacher based in Toronto, Ontario. She recently completed her doctorate in piano performance and pedagogy, where her research focused on the intersection of classical and popular music pedagogies. She has presented her research at every major national conference, including MTNA and NCKP. Her work on creative teaching was published in the *MTNA e-Journal* in 2023. She currently runs a private studio, works for the Faber Piano Institute, and adjudicates across North America.

Junior Piano



In demand as an educator, lecturer and adjudicator in the Greater Toronto Area, pianist Charles Lin's commitment of excellence in the field of piano pedagogy has led to local and international recognitions through his students' performances. In addition to giving workshops and master-classes, he is an instructor of applied lessons and piano pedagogy at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music, is an active member with the Royal Conservatory of Music's College of Examiners, and serves as the Director of the University of Toronto Piano Pedagogy Program (UTPPP). In his position at the UTPPP, Charles oversees the creation of a well-rounded musical experience for young beginners and provides graduate students with the opportunity to teach both group and private lessons. He maintains a successful studio with students as young as four years old.

Charles holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Toronto, under the tutelage of Marietta Orlov and Midori Koga; further studies in children's piano pedagogy with Irina Gorin through The Gorin Institute. His early years studies were with Alexandra Munn at the Alberta College Conservatory of Music, and Janet Scott-Hoyt at the University of Alberta. He is the recipient of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts Grant, the University of Toronto Fellowship, and the Winspear Fund for Advanced Classical Music Studies.

Performance highlights include appearances at the 14th World Piano Pedagogy Conference in Phoenix, Arizona, the Toronto Summer Music Festival, the Canadian Chopin Festival, and the Academy at Centre d'arts Orford. He has performed as soloist with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the Concordia University College Orchestra.



Intermediate Piano

Daniel Tselyakov has garnered acclaim for the sensitivity and depth of his interpretations, as well as the rare emotional intensity, bold energy, and virtuosity that he brings to his performances. His musical journey began within a family deeply rooted in music, as he started his piano studies at the age of five under the guidance of his father, the renowned Canadian pianist Alexander Tselyakov. Additionally, he received instruction from Aster Lai and his mother, Alla Turbanova.

His prodigious talent became evident when he completed his Royal Conservatory of Music First Exam for Grade 8 with exceptional results at the tender age of eight.

Continuing his musical journey at Brandon University's School of Music, Daniel's dedication and talent flourished under the guidance of Dr. Michael Kim. His pursuit of musical excellence led him to complete a Bachelor of Music degree at the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory, where he studied with Angela Cheng. Subsequently, he achieved a Master of Music degree at the Université de Montréal under the tutelage of Jimmy Brière. Daniel's unwavering commitment to music and his exceptional talent propelled him to earn a Doctoral degree in Piano and Musicology under the mentorship of Dr. Ning Lu at the University of Utah, USA, where he also imparted his expertise by teaching piano keyboard courses.

Daniel's journey has been adorned with numerous high-profile scholarships, trophies, awards, and competition wins. Noteworthy among these are the MRMTA National Competition, Winnipeg Chamber Orchestra Young Artist Award, McLellan Orchestra Competition with Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra Award, Women's Musical Club of Winnipeg Best Performance Competition, National Canadian Music Competition, Livorno International Piano Competition (Italy), MTNA National (USA) Piano Competition, Utah Music Teachers Association Piano Concerto/Orchestra Competition, Utah MTNA Competition Artist Performance, and the San Jose International Piano Competition (USA), among others. His exceptional talent earned him full scholarships to esteemed music academies, including Pinchas Zukerman's Young Artist Program, Art of the Piano Festival, Toronto Summer Music, and PianoTexas International Academy & Festival.

Throughout his musical education, Daniel studied under legendary mentors such as Sergei Babayan, Yoheved Kaplinsky, Olga Kern, Marc-André Hamelin, André Laplante, Marc Durand, and John Perry. His remarkable accomplishments include being the youngest musician ever invited as a guest artist with the prestigious Virtuosi Concert Series. He has also performed as a soloist with renowned orchestras, including the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Canadian Sinfonietta, the Winnipeg Symphony Chamber Orchestra, and the San Luis Potosi Symphony Orchestra in Mexico. Notably, at the age of 12, he performed Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2 as a soloist with the Penderecki String Quartet. His performances have graced prominent festivals worldwide, such as Music and Beyond, Ottawa ChamberFest, Perry Sound Festival (where he was twice honored as Young Artist of the Year at the Charles W. Stockey Centre for the Performing Arts), Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival (where he also serves as artistic director), Agassiz Chamber Music Festival, Texas International Festival, and the Gijon International Piano Festival in Spain. Daniel's acclaimed performances have adorned prestigious music stages including Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto, Markham Performing Arts Centre, Gallivan Performing Arts Center, and many more. He has also presented captivating solo recitals across Canada, the USA, and Europe in countries like Italy, France, and Spain.

Presently, Daniel proudly serves as the co-Artistic Director of the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival in Canada. Through his dedication, he aims to nurture a rich musical experience and share his immense talent with audiences around the world.

Senior Piano



Christopher Foley is a pianist dedicated to the fields of pedagogy, opera, contemporary music, art song, and chamber music. At the Eastman School of Music, he received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 1994, majoring in Piano Accompanying and Chamber Music as a student of Jean Barr and David Burge. He is on the faculty of the Royal Conservatory of Music and serves as a Senior Examiner for the RCM's Certificate Program. He also served as Artistic Consultant for the RCM's 2015 Celebration Series recordings and Adjudicator Certification Program Specialist for the Certificate Program.

Dr. Foley is highly active as a clinician, with recent webinar appearances at The National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, The Frances Clark Center for Keyboard Pedagogy, The Aspen Music Festival, Collabfest, **Tom Lee Music Canada, Trinity Western University, and Millionaire Musician. As author of the Collaborative Piano Blog**, he writes about issues of importance to the collaborative pianist, as well as current musical events in Toronto and elsewhere. Recent projects include Foley Music and Arts, a blog about productive creativity in the arts, as well as The Suleika Project, an art song initiative with Edmonton-based mezzo soprano Aliya Amad.

As pianist and répétiteur for Tapestry New Opera, he has been involved with numerous productions, as well as being on the creative team for Tapestry's unique Composer/Librettist and Director/Musical Director laboratories. In 2010 he was the first Leadership Legacy Intern at Tapestry, where he created the Tapestry Songbook program, a workshop and recital program aimed at educating emerging singers and pianists in the new opera development process. Some of the many venues at which he has performed include the Eastman School of Music Faculty Concert Series, the University of Western Ontario, Cleveland State Composers' Forum, Vancouver International New Music Festival, April in Santa Cruz, Sonic Boom, Toronto Arts Week, Word on the Street, Canadian Contemporary Music Workshop, Toronto Dance Theatre, Algoma Fall Festival, and the Gamper Festival of Contemporary Music.