

Dr. Edward Turgeon Senior Piano



Dr. Edward Turgeon has served as senior examiner for RCM's College of Examiners since 1990. Academic appointments include Professor at HARID Conservatory and Director of Collaborative Arts, Director of Collaborative Arts and Keyboard Studies and Associate Professor of Music at Florida Atlantic University. He currently serves as Professor and Artistic Director of Great Lakes International Summer Music Institute at Algoma University.

Turgeon won first prizes in major international competitions for piano duos including the International Schubert Competition for piano duos (Czech Republic), and Murray Dranoff International Two Piano Competition (Miami). Since 2000, he has performed more than 500 concerts worldwide with his wife Anne as member of Canada's internationally acclaimed "Duo Turgeon", as well as with the Canadian Piano Quartet which includes pianists Anne Turgeon, Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann. His numerous recordings can be heard on Marquis, ClassXDiscs and Vanguard Classics labels.

He has performed at Carnegie Hall, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory, the Concertgebouw of Amsterdam, Krakow Philharmony Hall, International

Pianistenforum Germany, San Francisco International Music Festival, and throughout Russia, where Duo Turgeon's four visits since 1999 include most major Russian cities from one end to the other on the Trans-Siberian Railway line! Recently, Duo Turgeon's "Latin American Journey" recording received special citation from Instituto Piano Brasileiro. Turgeon's other recordings have received 5-star ratings from CBC, La Scena Musicale and Wholenote magazines. As an adjudicator, Turgeon has judged festivals in Ontario, Manitoba, the provincial finals of OMFA, CMC national finals, International Liszt, Premio Brasil and Isidor Bajic International Piano Competitions as well as the Murray Dranoff International Duo Piano Competition. Dr. Turgeon has been heard on classical music radio stations around the world, including CBC Radio, National Public Radio ("Performance Today"), the BBC and the Australian Radio, as well as the PBS television documentary "Two Pianos – One Passion". He has given world premiere performances of new works by Libby Larsen, John Corigliano, Aaron Copland as well as Juno award winning composer Derek Charke, who was commissioned by the Duo Turgeon to compose "Drift", a work inspired by Northern Ontario scenery and weather phenomena.

Dr. Andrew Aarons Intermediate Piano



Canadian pianist Andrew Aarons has given performances in such prestigious venues as the Carnegie Hall in New York; the Manuel Theatre in Valletta, Malta; and the Wigmore Hall in London, England. He has been heard on live radio in Canada and the United States, and has been soloist with numerous orchestras, including the National Academy Orchestra, Toronto Philharmonia, and L'Orchestre Symphonique de Québec. Andrew is featured exclusively on the Introductory CD recordings which accompany the 2008 ABRSM edition of the Complete Beethoven Piano Sonatas, edited by Barry Cooper. Having been a student of Marc Durand and Leon Fleisher in modern piano and Colin Tilney in period instrument, Andrew was more recently a pupil of late Yonty Solomon (modern piano) and David Ward (forte-piano). Andrew holds a degree of Doctor of Music from the Royal College of Music (RCM), London; his research focused on the concept of quality sound and tone production on the modern piano, and its practical application in artistic interpretation and performance. In the digital world, Andrew produces a series on YouTube called 'Ask a Pianist', wherein he demonstrates complex artistic concepts that underpin high-level performance on the piano. He recently adjudicated the Crescendo Competition (2018), The Pickering GTA Music Festival (2019), and the 2019 Markham Music Festival. Dr. Aarons maintains a studio of select students in Toronto.

Petya Stavreva

Junior Piano Levels 4-6



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.

Charles Lin

Junior Piano – Levels Preparatory – 3



A sought-after educator and mentor in the greater Toronto area, pianist Charles Lin runs a professional studio in Toronto, is an active member of the Royal Conservatory of Music's College of Examiners, and serves as the artistic director of the University of Toronto Piano Pedagogy Program (UTPPP). In his position at 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 in a supervised setting.

Charles holds his 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. 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.

Haley Marie

Woodwinds, Brass, Speech Arts



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.

Lance Ouellette

Senior Strings



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 is 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.

Megan Jones

Junior Strings



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.

Dr. Robert Loewen

Voice



Robert Loewen, baritone, is a graduate of McGill University (D. Mus. in Performance and Pedagogy, M. Mus.) and University of Toronto (B. Mus.). His career is now centered on teaching, having taught at The Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, McGill University, and presently at The Royal Conservatory School and the Phil and Eli Taylor Academy of The Royal Conservatory of Music. Dr. Loewen is a Senior Examiner of the Royal Conservatory of Music, and Voice Discipline Specialist the RCM Certificate Program. 2020 marks the 5th year of the Royal Conservatory High School Voice Intensive, started by Dr. Loewen in 2016. This High School intensive has drawn singers from St. John's, from each region of Canada to British Columbia. Robert Loewen has been a lead voice presenter for the Royal Conservatory across North America. A particular joy is the privilege of adjudicating Festivals each year.

Dr. Loewen's students have been admitted into North America's leading voice programs including the Curtis Institute of Music, Eastman School of Music, Julliard School of Music, Peabody Conservatory, Indiana University, Manhattan School of Music, McGill University, Lamont School of Music – University of Denver, University of Toronto, The Glenn Gould School, as well as Oxford University. Former student, Dimitri Pittas, performing as Rodolfo at The Metropolitan Opera, attributed his success in the role to his work with Dr. Loewen early in his career. Bass-baritone Vartan Gabrielian, Academy alum of The Royal Conservatory, and graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, is a current member of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble.

Christa Grix

Harp



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