



HAMILTON CONSERVATORY FOR THE ARTS
Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE CONSERVATORY | FALL 2017 | 905-528-4020 | www.hcarts.ca



STAFF at the HCA

Artistic Director: Vitek Wincza
Operations Manager: Jessica Lea Fleming
Education Manager: Hanna Wolf
Marketing & Communications Manager:
Harold Sikkema
Registrar and Office Manager: Cristina Fede
Administration: Bev Long, Allison Warwick
Housekeeping: Linda Van Sickle



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 9am-9pm
Friday, 9am-5pm
Saturday, 9am-4pm



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.



HCA COMMUNICATIONS

In an ongoing effort to reduce paper, student info and memos can be found in the following places:

- **Website:** hcarts.ca/information-current-students
- **On site:** Bulletin board on the ground floor
- **Email:** Official class memos are emailed to students. If you do not currently receive HCA emails, please contact the Front Desk to be added to the list or check that we have the correct address on file.

DATES to REMEMBER



- 1st Term: Monday, September 11 – Saturday, December 2 (12 weeks)**
- Saturday, September 23 – Saturday, November 11:** Ted Basciano Gallery Exhibition
 - Monday, October 9 – Thanksgiving Day – HCA Closed**
 - Sunday, October 15 – HCA Concert Series 2pm – Ensemble Made in Canada (EMIC)**
 - Sunday November 12 – HCA Concert Series 2pm - David Braid**
 - Saturday, November 18 – Thursday, December 21:** Ravinder Ruprai Gallery Exhibition
 - Saturday, November 25 – Music Performance Class**
 - Sunday, November 26 – HCA Winter Dance Recital**
 - Monday, November 27 – Saturday, December 2 - CELEBRATION WEEK/OPEN HOUSE**
- 2nd Term: Monday, December 4 – Saturday, March 10 (12 weeks)**
- Sunday, December 3 – Music Performance Class**
 - Saturday, December 9 – Junior Musical Theatre Ensemble Winter Showcase**
 - Saturday, December 16 – HCA Sounds of the Holiday Music Gala**
 - Saturday, December 23 – Friday, January 5, 2018 - WINTER BREAK**



Get your Tickets Now!



Ensemble Made
in Canada
with Scott St. John

Sponsored by
Mr. Robert Summers-Gill

*“The sound is everything
you would hope for
(and expect)” Wholenote*

Sunday, October 15,
2017, 2:00 pm



Tickets: Regular \$25, Seniors: \$20, Students: \$15
Call 905-528-4020 to reserve tickets now

Welcome...

As we usher in the fall season at Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all new and returning students, parents, instructors, and staff. I am excited by the diversity of our student body; our HCA community is enriched by every one of you. We are happy to support each individual journey – whether you are a long-time student looking toward a professional career in the arts, or a new student taking the exciting plunge into new artistic waters.

During the summer months, we remained busy, with expanded camp programming that produced the highest attendance in HCA history. With our commitment to providing high quality artistic instruction that is both affordable and accessible, we saw campers return week after week. We also worked hard to launch a new website that is more intuitive, interactive, and visually appealing. Your comments on the site are welcome, as we strive to make it more user-friendly.

The HCA Administration team strongly encourages our student community to provide ongoing feedback regarding programming, instructional quality, communications, operations, etc. You can do so in person, over the phone, via email, or anonymously through our website. We are working to reduce our environmental impact and reliance on paper. To stay up-to-date on the latest class information, please check our social media channels, the HCA Students website section, and hard copy notices on our bulletin board.



Vitek Wincza
HCA Artistic Director

In addition to our regular classes, the Conservatory is dedicated to expanding the visibility and impact of the arts in Hamilton. Each month, we host a new gallery exhibition in our historic halls. Until November 11, see Ted Basciano's whimsical show featuring original drawings and mosaics. As well, with the support of our sponsor Mr. Robert Summers-Gill, we are happy to launch our 2017/18 HCA Concert Series, with such world-class artists as Juno-award winning jazz pianist David Braid, local favourite Valerie Tryon, and the all-female Ensemble Made in Canada and Lafayette String Quartet. We strongly encourage students to take advantage of these events to enrich your arts education.

I wish all of you a fantastic year full of learning and exploration.

Sincerely,



Vitek Wincza
Artistic Director

DANCE



From Student to Teacher:

SPOTLIGHT ON ALEXANDRIA DIFAZIO

25-year old Alexandria DiFazio has been dancing almost all of her life. From the age of three, she immersed herself in all forms of dance at Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts - from Russian Classical Ballet and modern to jazz, musical theatre, hip hop, tap, and flamenco. She has also studied both classical voice and piano at HCA for several years. A graduate of York University's dance programme, Alexandria is now an instructor at the Conservatory - bringing her love and passion for dance to Adult Beginner Contemporary class on Wednesday evenings.

How have you seen HCA change and grow over the years that you've been here?

What are some of your favourite memories?

I remember watching the painting of the beautiful ladies above the front desk come to life, the artist [Alexander Dzuybko] allowing my older brother to climb up and paint a small portion of it. I remember walking up the flight of stairs above the third floor studio, as it used to be an attic that held beautiful costumes from The Nutcracker and past performances. I have seen HCA grow into a studio that offers classes in all areas of the arts, growing and expanding to provide instruction in music, dance, drama, visual arts, and musical theatre as well as field trip programming for local school boards.

What impact has your time at HCA had on you, and in your role as instructor, what impact do you see in your students?

Without the experiences I gained and the training I received here, I would not be where I am today. I learned the discipline, resilience, and strength to become a well-rounded dancer and person. I was given endless support and guidance from my teachers who helped me realize my potential. As an instructor, I strive to have a positive impact on my students. I hope that they will leave my class feeling good about themselves and proud of the work they do. I want each of my students to feel safe in the classroom so that they can ask questions and take risks without feeling judged. Finally, I wish nothing but wonderful experiences for my students, just as I had during my time as a student at HCA.

What other projects are you working on right now? What's next on the horizon?

This is my third season as a member of Hamilton Tiger-Cats Cheerleaders and my first season as Captain. I absolutely love being a part of this team. I get to dance and perform in front of 25,000 fans at every home game and choreograph dances that are performed centre-field. I just recently got accepted onto the Occasional Teacher List with the HWCDSB, so I am looking forward to this new chapter in my life. *Read more of our interview with Alexandria on our blog at hcart.ca.*

0-6 Year Olds

with Nancy Leung-Simmons



With the Conservatory expanding its focus on arts programming for 0-6 year olds, our Creative Explorers music instructor Nancy Leung-Simmons takes us through the benefits of enrolling young students in our early years programming:

Sensory Stimulation

With young children's brains growing at such a rapid rate, enriching sensory-motor interaction helps an infant's physical and neurological development. Young children have a natural tendency to touch and handle everything within their reach. Instrument and scarf play (the latter involving games and movement with scarves such as 'peek-a-boo,' bunching and folding them to form different shapes, textures, etc.) will not only develop motor ability but also encourage their exploration of sound and movement. For language development, infants need reinforcement of their vocalizations; Singing games and Call-and-Respond songs allow for the child to listen and be heard - also through music-making, it can be a great opportunity to introduce the concept of community.

Order and Orientation

Children need points of reference to understand the structure of their environment to help them make sense of the world. During early years, it is important to balance repetition with the challenge of newness so as to avoid overwhelming the child. Participating in music activities allows for the child to explore newness but also retreat to the safety of structure in familiar songs. This helps children understand and recognize greater patterns found in language, numbers, social interactions, and nature.

Play

Play allows infants to develop independence, self-awareness and self-worth. Storytelling and imaginative play encourage good listening skills. Through play, the child is also given the opportunity to express and explore activities and feelings of everyday life through mime and drama.

NEW Early Years Music & Theatre Programs

Title	Age	Date
Theatre Adventures	4-6 years	Saturdays, 9am-10am, October 14 - December 2 (8 wks)
Creative Explorers A	12 months - 2.5 years	Saturdays, 10am-11am, October 14 - December 2 (8 wks)
Creative Explorers B	2.5 - 3.8 years	Saturdays, 11am-12pm, October 14 - December 2 (8 wks)



Drawings & Mosaics by Ted Basciano

September 23 - November 11

Feast your eyes on 16 watercolour pencil drawings and five mosaic wall sculptures in this exhibition. Ten of the drawings were created while Ted lived and worked at the Suncheon Namdo Guesthouse in Korea between 2013 and 2015. Although the subject matter varies, the works are displayed in two main groups: animals and people. They have a youthful quality showing individuals under 40 years old. Playful characteristics can be seen in each figure's face and clothing and in the cartoonish animals. There are lots of big smiles. And these works are intriguingly colourful.



Culture for Kids in the Arts' (CKA) Board of Directors presents an evening of merriment, food (The Other Bird) and drink at its inaugural fundraising gala, Art Escape.

Join us with special guests, The Vaudevillian, be dazzled by our silent art auction and test your wits in our pop-up escape room. It'll be a good time for a good cause with all proceeds in support of access to arts for all.

Event Details:

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 8PM-1AM
Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts,
126 James St S, Hamilton

Tapas | Cash Bar | 19+ event | Cocktail Dress Code
Ticket Price: \$50.00

To purchase tickets, please visit:
www.bruha.com/event/1561

Youthcrawl

On Friday, September 9, Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts hosted its annual Youthcrawl field trip – an art crawl along James Street N organized and designed especially for older elementary and secondary school classes. Nearly 800 students from both the HWDSB and HWDCSB participated, with visits to cultural spaces and galleries such as Workers Arts and Heritage Centre, you me gallery, Artword Artbar, Hamilton Youth Poets at The Spice Factory, the Art Gallery of Hamilton, and more! A special thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for helping us run a smooth event. Youthcrawl is part of HCA's effort to bring professional community artists and students together, celebrate Hamilton's cultural heritage and growing creative industry, and promote healthy living through walking.



Photo Credit: Wendy Peng



CONTRIBUTORS

- Artistic Director – Vitek Wincza
- Music – Nancy Leung-Simmons
- Dance – Alexandria DiFazio
- CKA – Melissa Schwyer
- Design and Editorial – Caroline Brown, Allison Warwick