



HAMILTON CONSERVATORY FOR THE ARTS
Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE CONSERVATORY | FALL 2021 | 905-528-4020 | www.hcarts.ca



STAFF at the HCA

Artistic Director:
Vitek Wincza

**Registrar &
Administrative Manager:**
Cristina Fede

Administration:
Dur-E-Aden Ahmed,
Beverly Long

School Communications:
Stephanie Lawlor

HCA Dance Coordinator:
Heather Ami Cook

Covid-19 Screeners:
Emily Ledjenac,
Madison Roberge



OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday:
9am - 9pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 9am - 4pm

Sunday: Closed, except
for special events



DATES to REMEMBER

Saturday, September 11 - Saturday, December 4, 2021
- Term 1 Dates

December 6, 2021 - March 12, 2022 - Term 2 Dates
Saturday, December 18, 2021 - Last class before
Winter Break

December 20, 2021 - January 2, 2022
- HCA Winter Break (HCA closed)

Monday, January 3, 2022 - Classes resume
after Winter Break



Student Achievements

MUSIC

Teacher - Roland Fix

Renelle Handa - Nominated & Performed at the Ontario Provincial
Music Festival

Gabriel Klassen - Winner, Dundas Valley Orchestra Concerto Competition
Jerry Wu - Scholarship recipient, Hamilton Music Festival

Teacher - Helen Hong

Samantha Gamage - Level 1 Violin - First Class Honours
with Distinction

Melody Lu - Level 8 Violin - First Class Honours

Teacher - Ivanna Monnar

Cynthia Min - Grade 8 RCM Flute - 93

Teacher: Teresa Sanecki

Nadira Okeke - Level I RCM Piano

- First Class Honours with Distinction

Willow Yiannakoulis - Level 3 RCM Piano

- First Class Honours with Distinction



THEATRE

Congratulations and best wishes to HCA Theatre graduates

Benoit Elias-Roberge, Madeline Sadai, and Olivia van Dam as they
continue their theatre studies in New York City, Toronto, and Windsor!

Dear HCA Community...

It has been great to see so many happy faces in the building as we slowly return to our “new normal”. This building was built as a home for the arts in 1904 and has been waiting for us to return to serving the community with arts programming, a tradition we have carried for over 120 years.

The pandemic has been an incredibly challenging time for everybody, and at HCA we knew that it was imperative for our community to have access to the arts to stay engaged, excited, and inspired. We have learned a lot throughout this process, and it is because of our dedicated staff that we are able to bring HCA into this new chapter. Despite our physical isolation, our staff and instructors made sure the arts remained available through creative programs for young people as well as brand new adult programming, refreshing our mental, emotional and physical being.



Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director

photo by Cathy Coward, Hamilton Spectator

Our most important priority remains keeping our community safe. We are committed to remaining vigilant about following the Provincial Government’s policies to ensure the utmost safety of our students, families, staff and instructors, and the most vulnerable members of our community. As we begin this school year, all staff and instructors are fully vaccinated. Furthermore, all entrants to the building are required to show ID and proof of vaccination. As the province continues to adapt to the ever-changing world around us, we will keep you up to date with any changes to our policies.

While navigating the pandemic, we have also been working very hard behind the scenes at HCA! With generous support from the Trillium Foundation, our Recital Hall has been completely transformed into the HCA Black Box Theatre, which is fully equipped with state-of-the-art lighting and sound equipment. We are so happy to be able to support local artists as we transition through these trying times. Thank you to Arts For All, HCA Dance Theatre and HCA’s combined efforts for making this dream a reality.

There are so many exciting things on the horizon at HCA, including our new Performing Arts Sunday Series, or PASS! PASS will feature professional performances from international and local artists in opera, music, dance and theatre, with some programming already announced! You can find out more and secure your tickets on our website.

Thank you for your continued support of not just the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts, but our faculty of local artists and our rich history of arts programming in the city of Hamilton. We will continue to serve our community in the best way possible. As we look forward into the future, we are excited at the possibilities ahead of us.

My door is open should you have any questions or concerns as we embark on a new school year. With gratitude to our staff, faculty, and student body, I look to the future with optimism and the confidence that we will continue to learn and grow from experience.


Vitek Wincza

Welcoming our New Instructors



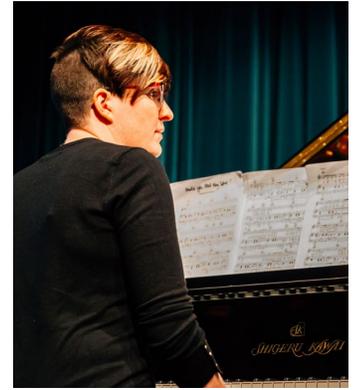
| Annie Webber



| Cipran Campianu



| Rachel Romanoski



| Sihaam Veldman

Meet our newest instructors! This year, we welcome Cipran Campianu, Rachel Romanoski, Sihaam Veldman, and Annie Webber to our dance, music, and visual arts departments. Get to know more about their creative practices and teaching philosophies here.

When did you discover music/dance/visual arts, and what drew you to it?

Annie: I discovered the visual arts at the tender age of two, making adventurous compositions and even making art on my imaginary friend Coco's behalf! My mom would tape my work to the wall in our kitchen, and I would admire the shapes and marks, my heart and mind filling with so many feelings and new ideas.

Ciprian: I discovered dance at a very young age when I was only 9. I was immediately drawn by the magic of the stage when I watched my first ballet. I found it to be a noble form of expression and immediately felt people's admiration towards the artists on the stage. This is when I realized I just want to be and feel like them.

Rachel: I first discovered dance at the age of four when my mom took me to see a live production of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker Ballet. That was the moment that I fell in love and knew that I needed to be in the performing arts.

Sihaam: I studied classical piano through the Royal Conservatory of Music from the age of 8 onwards, but I didn't personally connect with music until my teenage years. As I matured, I continued to pursue my classical training while also participating in contemporary performance opportunities.

What led you to teaching? What is your teaching philosophy?

Annie: Skill development is important to me, since visual art skills are such incredible building blocks for a whole universe of ideas, and the only way to develop those skills is through guidance and practice - but the most important thing in my studio is self-expression. I'm here to help kids create from their expansive inner worlds, to foster respectful, art-focused dialogue, and to let everyone's inner light shine.

Ciprian: Teaching and sharing my knowledge and experience is my way of giving back and inspiring young artists in the making.

Rachel: I have always had a passion to encourage others to discover and act on their goals and aspirations. I want to use my performance skills and knowledge of foundations to enable my students to be challenged and to grow; to inspire and motivate them to be the best versions of themselves.

Sihaam: I believe music inherently holds holistic value for humanity; it challenges us mentally and physically while enabling us to express our emotions in a creative manner. As a teacher, I love that my interactions with students constantly shape and challenge my teaching style and skills.



CONTRIBUTORS

Artistic Director – Vitek Wincza
Arts for All – Victoria Long

Design and Editorial
– Caroline Brown, Allison Warwick

How do you keep yourself excited and inspired about your craft?

Ciprian: To stay inspired and motivated takes lots of work and always looking into new different ways to approach each class differently. Exchanging thoughts, opinions and ideas with other great mentors it's always like a breath of fresh air. But ultimately, my students are my greatest inspiration!

Rachel: I keep myself excited and inspired about my craft by continuously learning and training. Personally, I feel that in order to grow, you must consistently be willing to improve yourself, take risks, and commit to putting in the work.

Sihaam: As a music instructor, I meet and work alongside many other talented music professionals. These individuals inspire and encourage me. This community is integral to my musical wellness!

How would you describe your artistic process in 3 words?

Ciprian: Passion, patience, perseverance

Rachel: Preparation, creativity, performance/growth

Sihaam: : Dream, experiment, define

Ciprian teaches Level IV, Level VI, and Level VIII Ballet

Rachel teaches Novice, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and Adult Hip Hop

Annie teaches Arts Exploration I & II, and Art Fundamentals

Sihaam teaches Music Wonderland, and Yamaha Junior Music Course 1A

To find out more about our faculty and the classes they teach, visit hcart.ca/hca-instructors

This interview has been condensed. Check out the #ArtsLiveHere blog to read the entire interview!

HCA & HCADT Present PASS

The Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts and HCA Dance Theatre are joining forces to present the Performing Arts Sunday Series (PASS)! Join us for the 2021/2022 season, with additional performances, masterclasses, and workshops to be announced throughout the year.



**Adrienne Pieczonka & Robert Kortgaard,
Opera Masterclass**

Sunday, October 17, 2021 at 2 PM

**Adrienne Pieczonka, Soprano
& Robert Kortgaard, Pianist**

Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 2 PM

Compañía Carmen Romero, Flamencura

Sunday, November 21, 2021 at 2 PM

Carmen Romeo, Flamenco Workshop

Friday, November 26, 2021

More information to come!

Valerie Tryon, Pianist

Sunday, February 13, 2021 at 2 PM

André Laplante, Pianist

Sunday, April 10, 2021 at 2 PM

Janina Fialkowska, Pianist

Sunday, May 8, 2021 at 2 PM



All performances take place in the HCA Black Box Theatre

Tickets \$25-\$30

Learn more and purchase your tickets at hcart.ca/PASS

We're Hiring

Development & Outreach Coordinator
Digital Content Developer
Artist Educator

To apply visit: artsforall.co/work-with-us

a charity of the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts