



HAMILTON CONSERVATORY FOR THE ARTS
Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director



NEWS AND VIEWS FROM AROUND THE CONSERVATORY | WINTER 2022 | 905-528-4020 | www.hcarts.ca



STAFF at the HCA

Artistic Director:
Vitek Wincza

Executive Assistant to
the Artistic Director :
Alice Boratto

Registrar & Administrative
Manager:
Cristina Fede

Administration:
Dur-E-Aden Ahmed,
Beverly Long

School Communications:
Stephanie Lawlor

HCA Dance Coordinator:
Heather Ami Cook

HCA Housekeeping:
Cindy Serbula

HCA Maintenance:
Steven Mitchell

Covid-19 Screeners:
Emily Ledjenac,
Madison Roberge



OFFICE HOURS

Please note: Under Provincial
restrictions, the building is
closed to the public until at
least January 27, 2022.

Monday to Thursday:
9am - 9pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 9am - 4pm

Sunday: Closed, except
for special events



DATES to REMEMBER

December 1, 2021 - March 12, 2022 - Term 2 dates
Monday, January 3, 2022 - Classes resume after Winter
Break

Monday, February 21, 2022 - Family Day
(no regular classes)

Monday, March 14 - Saturday, March 19, 2022
- HCA March Break

March 21 - June 18, 2022 - Term 3 dates

PASS
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES



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.

Valerie Tryon, Pianist
Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 2 PM

André Laplante, Pianist
Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2 PM

Janina Fialkowska, Pianist
Sunday, May 8, 2022 at 2 PM



All performances take place in the
HCA Black Box Theatre

Tickets \$25-\$30

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

Happy New Year!

As we welcome in 2022, we leave the old year behind us. 2021 certainly brought its challenges, celebrations, tears, and laughter, and while 2022 has already presented surprises to navigate, I'm looking forward to the new year with anticipation and excitement.

The ongoing pandemic has affected us all deeply. It has disrupted our everyday routines, forced us to change plans, and affected our own personal wellbeing. I believe that these testing experiences are an important part of the learning process, and in turn, will make us more resilient as we look ahead to the future.

Through these challenges, we have learned how to maintain flexibility and understanding. Our best-laid plans may fall through, or we may not always get exactly what we want, but the way we choose to react to these situations develops our character and integrity.

It has never been clearer to me that engaging with the arts can help us to protect our mental health. By allowing ourselves to get in touch with our creativity and have fun, we build community, develop emotional wellness, and find ourselves in a healing environment.

These discoveries fuel HCA's development in 2022. I plan to further develop the Conservatory's policies, procedures, and protocols for staff and students. Our goal is to constantly improve: Developing a clear learning process and communication strategy will create an inspiring environment for all of us and assist in cementing our legacy.

Our newest inspiration is the Black Box Theatre: A home for our students that will also serve to inspire and engage our own community and beyond with professional programming. Our two charities are growing at the speed of light, bringing with them live and digital performances, from Arts for All's Kinderfest to HCA Dance Theatre's Performing Arts Sunday Series. This work will inspire you! We spend so much time in front of screens, but experiencing live performance develops memories, empathy, creativity, and emotional development. It is a necessary component of studying the arts.

I am so proud of our staff and instructors for continuing to pivot to ensure that high-quality arts training is available to all of our students. Leading our over 120 programs, their specialized knowledge is what builds the cornerstone of HCA's legacy: One that has been serving Hamilton for over 120 years.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may wish to share. I wish you a safe and healthy new year and look forward to seeing HCA's studios filled with our community again soon.



Vitek Wincza, Artistic Director
photo by Cathy Coward, Hamilton Spectator

Vitek Wincza



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following student for their accomplishments!

Teacher: Kasia Gasiors

Dineli Jayatunge - Level 4 Piano Honours

STAYING CREATIVE & GETTING INSPIRED

The pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have made it pretty challenging to remain creative in our traditional group class setting. We checked in with a few of our instructors to see how they have maintained their creative practices during this time, and some of their favourite ways of getting inspired.

Melissa Star Charles

Art instructor, Teen Art I and II

"I stay creative and inspired by learning new things. A seemingly 'random' fact about the medium I'm working with, or a new technique can inspire new ways of working with the tool or develop my approach to what I'm trying to communicate/represent in the art piece I'm working on. When I put effort into the research and exploration of what I'm creating, I am empowered with knowledge that I can then express and share in my work. Oh! And listening to uplifting music that makes me shake and dance is always helpful!"



Celine Cascanette:

Private voice and piano teacher

"When I feel that I am hitting the same wall over and over again in the practice room or just can't get connected to the music I am working on, it is SO important for me to step back, take a break, and listen to the music that inspired me in the first place. Right now that is 'Waiting in the Wings' performed by Eden Espinosa. Alternatively, I will go watch a masterclass by my favourite opera singer, Joyce Didonato, who is full of inspiration, deep artistry, and kindness. Whatever slump you may find yourself in, give yourself permission to go back and connect to the music you KNOW gets you fired up. Remind yourself why you are working so hard and why you love making music. It is worth it!"



Rylan Allen:

Novice Triple Threat instructor, Musical Theatre Ensemble Music Director

"I'm able to stay creatively inspired by researching analytical videos on some of my piano rep. While expanding my rep with new material, it is also important for me to take a step away for a couple of days every few weeks, so that I can come back to my craft with a fresh perspective, rather than dig myself into a rut. Going to bed before 11 pm has worked wonders, and holding myself accountable to read at least one chapter of a book every day has kept my world feeling broad and open. Also cooking new things!! Nothing too fancy, just different recipes that my phone's algorithm shows me from time to time."



To learn more about our teachers, visit HCArts.ca!



CONTRIBUTORS

Artistic Director – Vitek Wincza
Arts for All – Victoria Long, Jane
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Design and Editorial
– Caroline Brown,
Stephanie Lawlor



Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts
presents



with Stacey Camp
and Sylvia Simpson

Thyme Travellers

Exploring our Path to the Afterlife

Monday, November 15 - Saturday, February 19, 2022



*Before children speak, they sing.
Before they write, they paint.
As soon as they stand, they dance.
Arts is the basis of human expression.*

-Phylicia Rashad, Tony-winning performer, activist



Cranes were sweeping through Hamilton during the holiday season, heralding a new year filled with hope, inspiration and arts for all. Arts For All was so grateful to partner with the Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts in presenting a holiday campaign designed to raise awareness and funds to support the AFA quest to offer arts programming to children each year in more than 20 neighbourhoods, at no cost to children or their families.



Special Crane designs were available at the HCA reception desk, for visitors to place on the holiday tree following a donation through the newly-installed TipTap touchless giving system. The Holiday Campaign also saw a virtual staff workshop in origami crane making, and a crane-themed full page in the Personal Giving section of The Hamilton Spectator. Huge thanks to the HCA staff for the support of Arts For All.



By providing artistic and creative opportunities, AFA offers a platform for children and youth to share their voices, ultimately contributing to the foundation of a child's or youth's sense of wellbeing, belonging, and self-confidence. The crane is here for good! Watch for more sightings as the 2022 Campaign launches soon.



Founded in 1999 by Vitek Wincza
Arts For All is a charitable organization of the
Hamilton Conservatory for the Arts