

AIMTAC Advisor

Association of Independent Music Teachers at Alberta College

Winter 2015

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From the President

Hello! My name is Dan Davis. I teach saxophone, jazz piano, and jazz improv at Alberta College Conservatory. This fall, I was elected President of your teachers' association, AIMTAC (Association of Independent Music Teachers at Alberta College), replacing Ron Long. I have big shoes to fill, as Ron served as a tremendous representative for us, helping to push the Conservatory and its teachers forward.

My goal is simply to continue Ron's work: to advocate for the rights of Alberta College's teachers in co-ordination with Brenda Philp; to maintain our support of student scholarships through the AIMTAC Scholarship Benefit Concert; and to foster collaboration and camaraderie amongst our wonderful, world class faculty.

If you have any ideas to help make the Conservatory a better place to teach, study and create, I would love to hear from you. And if we haven't yet met, I look forward to rectifying that situation.

Once more into the breach! Have a great semester, everyone!



Dan Davis

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Editor's Corner

Firstly, an apology to **Emilio De Mercato** for the misspelling of his name in the fall issue. (To use my students' favourite expression, "My bad!") The feature article in this issue is on Music in Early Childhood, as **Michelle Milenkovic** reflects on 17 years of dedicated service to one of the Conservatory's most valued and longest-running programs.

Robert Klakowich

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A New Era for Music in Early Childhood



"I will miss the wonder of it all," muses Michelle Milenkovic, who is fulfilling her last term as instructor of the Conservatory's venerable Music in Early Childhood program. Although Michelle will remain here as a voice teacher, instruction in MEC will be taken over by Elizabeth Grigaitis and Keltie Tichkowski in mid-February.

Music in Early Childhood continues to be one of the flagship programs at the Conservatory. Although numbers have declined somewhat since the demise of satellite studios in St. Albert, Sherwood Park and South Edmonton, the program remains robust with classes for ages 3-6 offered downtown during the fall, winter and spring terms. Michelle has been with the program since 1998 after she had enrolled her two daughters. Bonnie Anderson (then head of the program) "noticed that I had a certain panache for having fun with the children, so she asked me if I would teach some of the preparatory classes." Michelle describes herself as "a performer by nature and knowledge," with a background in opera, theatre, cabaret and inter-disciplinary work. Thus, as a mentor for very young musicians, it was "a nice fit while raising children."

Music in Early
Kodaly-based music
strong movement
children discover

*"I suppose I find this way of
unveiling the mysteries of music, to
these little souls, very satisfying."*

Childhood is primarily a literacy program, with a component that helps music through the body.

I asked Michelle what she thought was the true value of MEC, and why it is important. "If I had this training when I was young, it would have made a world of difference to me. It is a lovely program and quite organic. We carefully layer the information, the concepts and the exploration so that the children reinforce their knowledge, rather than being confronted with what they do not know. And we have fun."

So, what is it like teaching 3-year-olds? "The class is parented to begin with. Then after Christmas, we send the parents out for a while. The children are shy and reticent at first (responding through the grown-ups) until they are convinced that I am the girl for them. But the elder kids are always ready to explore through games and various tasks. Once we get through the rules of simple notation, they just take off. I suppose I find this way of unveiling the mysteries of music, to these little souls, very satisfying."

For those of us whose lifeblood is to teach the knowledge and skills of music making to young musicians, it may be well to remind ourselves that music is a humanist discipline, not an isolated one that can be cultivated solely within the confines of our studios. A program like Music in Early Childhood seeks to build a foundation that helps children succeed in all areas of life. In the expected wave of a new baby boom on the horizon, there is every reason to believe that this program, truly the Conservatory's own, will continue to thrive in our midst.

Robert Klakowich

Classes and Workshops in Winter Term

Encourage your students to benefit from group learning and participate in these attractive courses.

Music in Early Childhood

Saturdays January 10 to April 11 or

Tuesdays January 13 to April 7

Age 3: Sat 9:30-10:20 am or Tue 2-2:50 pm

Age 4: Sat 10:30-11:20 am or Tue 3-3:50 pm

Age 5: Sat 11:30-12:20 pm or Tue 4-4:50 pm

Instructors: Michelle Milenkovic

Elizabeth Grigaitis

Keltie Tichkowski

Tuition: \$195

Improv Class II

Saturdays January 17 to March 7

11:30 am – 12:45 pm

Instructor: Dan Davis

Tuition: \$275

\$200 for students enrolled in private lessons

String Quartet Class

Thursdays February 5 to March 26

5:30 – 6:30 pm

Instructors: Members of the Vaughn

String Quartet

Tuition: \$160

Piano Keyboard Classes for Beginners

Age 7-12: Saturdays February 28 to May 9

10:30 – 11:30 am

Age 55+: Fridays February 27 to May 8

3 – 4 pm

Instructor: Reinhard Berg

Tuition: \$160

Ear Training

Saturdays March 21 to June 6

11 am - noon

Instructor: Robert Klakowich

Tuition: \$180

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Great winter concerts at Muttart Hall

Midday Music at Muttart Hall

Thursdays, 12:10 – 12:50 pm

February 26, March 5, March 12

Connections

Sunday, March 22, 2 pm

Artists include Whitney Sloan,
Amanda Andrishak and Alexandra Munn

AIMTAC ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT CONCERT

Sunday, March 15

2 pm

Faculty News



Alissa Cheung



Jack Forestier



A/B Trio

AIMTAC Advisor is published approximately three times a year, and is distributed electronically to faculty and staff of Alberta College Conservatory of Music.

Email us at:
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We welcome submissions, especially articles, faculty news, achievements, milestones, newsworthy events etc. Please contact the editor with these, as well as your comments and suggestions. We would love to hear from you!

Deadline for the next issue is April 15.

Every effort is made to provide accurate information in this newsletter. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

Alissa Cheung has begun an exciting new phase of her career as a member of Quatuor Bozzini (www.quatuorbozzini.ca), a Montreal-based string quartet specializing in new music. They will be playing concerts internationally and conducting composer workshops for school-aged and emerging composers. We will miss you. *Bonne chance!*

Marie and Michel Forestier have a budding celebrity in the family! Violinist son Jack, age 10, was awarded second place in the American International Protégé Competition in his age category. He will be performing at the winner's recital at Carnegie Hall in New York City (no less) on March 28, accompanied by his grandmother, Marie Gale. Congratulations! Come and hear him and his family at the AIMTAC Benefit Concert on March 15!

The A/B Trio (**Dan Davis**, Josh McHan, Thom Bennett), one of Edmonton's flagship jazz ensembles, is set to release their latest disk, *Out West*, in February. It features 11-time Juno Award winner Mike Murley, whose powerful improvising has pushed the trio to new musical heights. Check out upcoming gigs at www.abtrio.com.

Sandra Munn is involved in the Edmonton Bach Project, which will produce a world premiere of the fugues in J. S. Bach's *Well Tempered Clavier*, Book 1, orchestrated by Michael Massey. This performance takes place on **June 24, 7 pm** at **All Saints' Cathedral**. Watch this space for further details!

Student Opportunities

The Conservatory, U of A, and King's University College are co-sponsoring master classes by flutist Sophie Davard-Goury, and Jean-Michel Goury, one of the world's great saxophonists, on February 9 and 11 respectively, 6 pm, in FAB, U of A. For further details, contact **Alison Balcetis** at 780-905-4550.

We are reminded by **Maura Sharkey-Pryma** of the March 31 deadline for the AMEF Student Recognition Awards. Apply online at www.amef.ca. The 2014 award winner for community service was our own **Candace Chu**.