

# Composition & Jazz

**Colin Labadie** is a composer, performer, educator, and sound designer.

As a composer, Colin writes notably un-classical music for classical instruments. Through simple patterning and subtle variation, he seeks to build intricate yet clear structures and sounds. As a performer, he does exactly the opposite; he creates noisy and chaotic textures, usually with mutant guitars or homemade circuits. He often roots around in thrift stores, hunting for odd sounds in the world of forgotten electronics. Somewhere between these two extremes lies his work as a sound designer. He has spent countless hours in darkened sound booths crafting rich soundscapes for productions of several theatrical works.

Colin has also taught music both in classrooms and private studios. Above all, he encourages people to find their own path through music by exploring the boundaries between imagination and technique. He is also committed to fostering music in the community, having held various administrative and organizational roles in several local arts and not-for-profit organizations.

Colin's work has been performed across Canada and internationally by various groups and individuals, including: New York New Music Ensemble, Blue Rider Ensemble, Arraymusic, NODUS Ensemble, QUASAR Saxophone Quartet, Penderecki String Quartet, TorQ Percussion Quartet, the Toy Piano Composers Ensemble, Ensemble Paramirabo, and Thin Edge New Music Collective. His work "Entwined" will be premiered this spring by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra.

Colin holds his Doctoral degrees in Music from the University of Alberta.

# Ensembles

## Bands, Orchestras, Small Ensembles

**Bill Thomas** is an Associate Professor of Music, Chair of the Department of Music, and director of the Wind Symphony at York University in Toronto.

Prior to his time at York University Bill taught music for twenty-three years at the elementary and high school levels in the York Region District School Board spending most of that time as the head of the music department at Markham District High School. Bill is a graduate of the jazz program at Humber College and holds Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Education degrees from the University of Toronto as well as a Master of Arts (composition) from York University. He is a former Drum Corps International adjudicator and he has been an arranger for over forty marching bands and drum & bugle corps in Canada and the United States. Bill's concert band compositions are published by Eighth Note Publications.

A past board member of the Ontario Music Educator's Association and is much in demand as an adjudicator and clinician. His performing groups have won many accolades and awards including the *Jazz Report Magazine* award for High School Program of the Year. Bill is a member of the international bandmaster's fraternity Phi Beta Mu.

## Brass & Woodwind Solos

**Dawn Pear** holds a Master of Music degree in Flute Performance from Bowling Green State University, as well as a Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education degree from Memorial University in Newfoundland. Dawn has been a member of the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Toronto, and the Etobicoke Philharmonic. She recently joined the Ontario Pops Orchestra.

# Guitar

**Drew Henderson** is a renowned Canadian classical guitarist known for his sensitive performances and virtuosic technique. He has earned the highest praise from audience and critics, and is often cited as one of the best classical guitarists in the country. His performances have taken him throughout Canada, the United States and Italy. He has adjudicated local and international competitions, conducted masterclasses at Universities, and is often invited to perform at International guitar festivals.

Drew studied with several teachers both at the University of Toronto and at the Academia Tema in Milan, Italy. Most influential of his teachers were Eli Kassner (Liona Boyd's teacher), Jeffrey McFadden, and the great Italian virtuosos Lorenzo Micheli and Matteo Mela. Drew's studies in Italy were made possible by a generous grant from the Canada Council for the Arts.

During his studies, Drew was heavily involved in the competition circuit, so far being awarded six international prizes.

In addition to performing, Drew is a dedicated teacher. Drew is a faculty member at the Toronto School for Strings, where he works with both young and adult students. His students have gone on to study guitar performance at the University of Toronto, have won Provincial Kiwanis Competitions, and have have been awarded the "silver medal" (highest mark in the Province) for RCM exams.

In 2011, Drew was honoured to be invited to judge, perform and teach at the Guitar Foundation of America's annual guitar festival and competition - the largest and most important guitar competition in the world.

In 2009, Drew's second duet CD received numerous glowing reviews, and was featured on the Classical Guitar Alive! radio program as a Best New Release. The program is syndicated in over 100 countries. The duo was also invited for an interview at Classical 96.3 FM.

# Strings

## Solos & Chamber Music

**David McFadden** studied violin at the Royal Conservatory of Music and the University of Toronto with former Toronto Symphony Concertmaster Jascha Milkis, and the Utrechts Conservatorium in Holland with Concertgebouw Concertmaster Wiktor Liberman. He performed regularly with the Toronto Symphony for 15 years and is active in the recording studio and freelance music scene of Toronto. The long list of affiliations includes the Canadian Opera Company, National Ballet, Kitchener Symphony and Symphony Nova Scotia. His varied career has taken him from chamber music to musical theatre where he was Concertmaster for shows like Ragtime, ShowBoat and Sunset Blvd. Other shows include Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and Phantom of the Opera and Beauty and the Beast. Other ventures have included recordings and concerts with a wide range of musical styles and performers such as Ray Charles, Liza Minelli, Natalie Cole, Bobby Vinton, Donny Osmond, Smokey Robinson, Andrea Bocelli, Olivia Newton John, Sisqo, Blue Rodeo, The Philosopher Kings, and Allan Jackson. Mr. McFadden teaches both the traditional Conservatory methods as well as the Suzuki method. He is actively involved in worship ministry in his community and beyond.

# Elementary Piano

## Level 2 & Under Solos & Ensembles

**Paul Coates** holds ARCT diplomas in both piano and voice as well as a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music from the University of Western Ontario. He also studied at the Chautauqua Institute and the Banff School of Fine Arts. He was privileged to perform for Elisabeth Schwarzkopf in London England and has attended master classes with Gwendolyn Koldofsky, Elly Ameling and Rudolph Jansen. Since his graduation he has enjoyed an active and varied performing career as both singer and accompanist, including solo concerts, chamber music, appearances with orchestra and CBC and TV Ontario broadcasts.

Paul has been a faculty member of the School of Music of Windsor and the Royal Conservatory of Music where he taught in both the Community School and the Glenn Gould Professional School. Currently he maintains a private studio in Stratford. He is also active as an adjudicator and a clinician for ORMTA and is excited about his new series of talks on “Teach and Learn from a place of joy. The importance of being mindfully present in the now while celebrating the whole student. You are AWESOME just because you are. Not because of what you do or do not do! Your imagination is your limitation in life. You should have no limits when it comes to your imagination. However it is important to have boundaries.”

Mr. Coates has examined for RCM & CC and has been travelling across Canada presenting a workshop for teachers, parents and students entitled: “Calming the Practice Monster.”

# Junior Piano

## Level 3-5 Solos & Ensembles

**Rebecca Leung** is the recipient of numerous awards and scholarships, and has enjoyed solo and chamber music performances in Canada, U.K., and France. She has performed in venues and festivals such as the Duke's Hall (Royal Academy), Hammerson Hall, the Toronto Chinese Cultural Centre, Elora Festival, Orford Arts Festival, NUMUS, among others, and has premiered a number of works including the world premiere of Bruno Gabirro's *Miroir*, composed for her, in London, England. She currently plays with the Oakville Children's Choir, maintains an active private studio where she teaches and works, and is involved with various freelance and concert projects. She is a highly sought after educator with students earning distinctive awards and entrance to professional music programs across the country.

Ms. Leung earned with merit standing a Master of Music in Piano Performance under the tutelage of Tatiana Sarkissova from the Royal Academy of Music in London, England. She holds a Bachelor of Music from Wilfrid Laurier University where she entered on scholarship and completed within two years. Influential teachers include Nancy Hou and Anya Alexeyev.

# Intermediate Piano

## Level 6-8 Solos & Ensembles

**David McEvoy**, pianist and composer has performed extensively in Canada, the United States, and Europe including recitals in Seiji Ozawa Hall (Lenox, MA), Hahn Hall (Santa Barbara, CA) Steinway & Sons (New York, NY) and the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Music Society. A gold medalist in the 2005 OMFA competition, Mr. McEvoy was also a finalist in the National Knigge Piano Competition (2012) and the National TD Elora Festival Competition (2012).

Awarded a solo piano fellowship by the Music Academy of the West in 2014, Mr. McEvoy spent eight weeks studying under the renowned pedagogue Jerome Lowenthal. In 2015, Mr. McEvoy was selected as an instrumental piano fellow of the Tanglewood Music Center. Highlights of that summer include performing in the world premiere of Robert Ziudam's *Tanglewood Concerto* with pianist Emanuel Ax, a performance of George Crumb's *Ancient Voices of Children* which was reviewed by the Sunday Times of London, England as having been "...staggeringly well played," and performing under the baton of Andris Nelsons in a performance of Mahler's 8th Symphony to an audience of more than 7,000 people.

Mr. McEvoy has studied with and performed for many of today's leading pianists including Garrick Ohlsson, Jonathan Biss, Stephen Hough, Jeremy Denk, Angela Hewitt, Peter Serkin, and Emanuel Ax. His principle teachers include Anya Alexeyev, Gabriel Chodos, and Edna Golandsky.

Mr. McEvoy holds a Master of Music degree from the New England Conservatory.

# Senior Piano

## Level 9 & Above Solos & Ensembles

### Piano Duos & Quartets

### Age Achievement

**Charlene Biggs** received her Doctorate in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music, and a Masters in Performance and Piano Literature from Goldsmiths College, University of London, England. She has performed extensively in Great Britain as a soloist and collaborative artist, appearing at such prestigious venues as the Royal Festival Hall, the Purcell Room, Greenwich Festival, Glasgow University, The National Theatre and the Barbican Arts Centre. She has also been a guest artist with several orchestras including the Toronto Symphony, Colchester Symphony and North Bay, and has performed in France, Holland, Austria, Italy, Canada and the USA.

Dr. Biggs was Assistant Chair of Piano in the Community Division of the Eastman School of Music and held faculty positions in both the Professional and Community Schools of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, where she was also the National Academic Advisor. For five years she was Coordinator of Music Performance at Cambrian College in Sudbury Ontario, and is currently the Director of Piano Studies and Music History at the College. She is also a member of the piano faculty at Laurentian University. She is also Director of the 'Music to Munch By' concert series, and is much sought-after as an adjudicator and pedagogy clinician across Canada.

Dr. Biggs has written nationally-published articles on pedagogy, and continues a hectic schedule as a solo and collaborative artist.

# Vocal

## Solos & Ensembles

**Gregory Cross** has appeared in Choral Concerts, Musicals, Theatre, Television & Opera across Canada and Great Britain. For five years he played the role of 'Monsieur Firmin' in the award –winning Toronto production of “Phantom of the Opera”. He has appeared on London’s West End in such shows as “Miss Saigon”. In Canada, Mr Cross has sung with choirs coast to coast; his theatrical appearances include the Charlottetown and Shaw Festivals . His operatic performances include appearances with the Edmonton, Vancouver and Canadian Opera Companies, and Opera in Concert in such roles as 'Goloud' in "Peleas et Melisande", 'Ramiro' in "L'heure Espagnol", and 'Papageno' in "The Magic Flute". His TV credits include “Due South”, “Wind at my Back”, “The Twilight Zone” and a recurring role as ‘Ed Caruso’ (The Singing Telegram Man) on the children’s series “Noddy”. Gregory has Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from the University of Toronto. He is much in demand across the country as an adjudicator and clinician, his areas of expertise being Choirs, Choral Speech, Musical Theatre, Dramatic Arts & Classical Voice.

# Choirs

**Dr. Marta McCarthy**, Conductor, is an Associate Professor at the University of Guelph, where she has been directing the choirs and teaching musicianship for ten years. She also conducted the University of Waterloo Choir for five years, and taught choral techniques at Wilfrid Laurier University and at the University of Toronto. A graduate of Westminster Choir College of Princeton (M.Mus), the Royal Conservatory of Music (ARCT, piano performance) and of the University of Toronto (B.Mus, B.Ed., Ph.D.), Marta was awarded the 1999 Elmer Iseler Conducting Fellowship. She also received an Ontario Volunteer Service Award, was named a member of the June Callwood Circle of Caring and, in 2005, was named a Woman of Distinction for Arts & Culture in Guelph. Dr. McCarthy conducts the University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, Chamber Singers, Women's Choir and Women's Chamber Choir. The Women's Chamber Choir were finalists and received an Honourable Mention award in the 2006 CBC National Radio Competition for Amateur Choirs. The Chamber Singers perform at national events such as Podium 2002, University Voices 2002, 2004, 2006, Festival 500 (2005) in St. John's, Newfoundland, and at Kathaumixw International Choral Festival in Powell River, British Columbia. In the fall of 2005, the choir joined the Elora Festival Singers for a conducting workshop led by Noel Edison, and were featured in July 2006 at the Elora Festival.