



### Brigitte Poulin-Piano-Grades 8 and up

Montreal-based, Brigitte Poulin is an active and accomplished soloist, chamber musician, vocal accompanist and teacher whose repertoire covers all periods. A proponent of 20th and 21st century music, Brigitte has commissioned and premiered more than fifty works for solo piano, prepared piano and various chamber ensembles.

Graduated from the Université de Montréal (DMus), the Vienna Music Academy and the Montreal music Conservatory, Brigitte has been several times artist in residence at the Banff Centre for the Arts.

Brigitte counts among her faithful collaborators violinist Silvia Mandolini, doublebassist Ali Yazdanfar and pianist Jean Marchand. She has also founded two contemporary chamber ensembles: Ensemble Transmission and Trio Phoenix.

Brigitte Poulin teaches as a part-time lecturer at The Schulich music School of McGill University. She is also accompanying at Université de Montréal. She is regularly called upon to adjudicate Arts Councils grant proposals as well as Canadian Music Competitions. She is as well a member of the Summer Academy of Orford Music and the Domaine Forget.

Her most recent CD recordings include: **Folklore imaginaire** music by Ana Sokolović (Naxos), **Pierrot lunaire** (Atma), **Transmission**, and her own solo CD **Édifices Naturels** (Dame). Her performances can be heard on Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Naxos Records.



## Breanne Dietrich-Musical Theatre, Pop and Speech Arts

Breanne Dietrich is a Guelph based musical theatre performer and teacher. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theatre from The Boston Conservatory and a Bachelor of Classical Voice from The University of Western Ontario.

Breanne has performed across New York and Toronto. Most recent Toronto credits include Andy Warhol in Rehearsal (Mary Woronov), Mary Poppins (Mary Poppins), Going Under (Mary Anne), and Legally Blonde (Vivienne). She has also produced and performed numerous solo concerts and cabarets in Toronto, Boston and New York.

Breanne has a voice studio of forty singers (private and Bravo Academy – Toronto). With an incredible passion for teaching and working with youth, Breanne specializes in training musical theatre performers. As an active performer, along with her dual education and performance degrees, Breanne provides her students with not only technical proficiency and musicianship skills, but also storytelling and acting coaching. She is deeply dedicated to her studio and has coached numerous students to top honours and scholarships with RCM, Kiwanis Music Festival, North York Music Festival and NATS.

Breanne has adjudicated for NATS for the past five years and is thrilled to be working with such wonderful singers at Kiwanis this year. Bravo to all who have braved this new technical world of lessons and performing!



Sarah Velasco-Strings

Canadian violinist Sarah Velasco has performed across North America, Asia and Europe and is currently residing in the Valais region of Switzerland where she is an active soloist and chamber musician.

She has worked with world renowned artists including Shmuel Ashkenazi, Dmitri Berlinsky, Patrice Fontanarosa, Ilya Gringolts, Ilya Kaler, Igor Volochine and Krzysztof Wegrzyn. Her professors included Victor Danchenko, Erika Raum, Aaron Rosand, Sergiu Schwartz, Mark Skazinetsky and Yuuki Wong.

Her 2019/ 2020 season lineup included performances at the Crans Montana Classics Series, 70ème festival de musique de Menton, Festival de Rocamadour, le Festival du Piano de la Roque d'Antheron, Variations Musical de Tannay, The Sion Festival and the opening of Concordia Festival. During this season, performance venues included La Grange Au Lac (Evian), MC2 (Grenoble), Grand Theatre (Aix-en-Provence), Scène 55 (Mougins), Dôme Théâtre (Albertville) France, Schloss Elmau (Germany), Sommets Musicaux de Gstaad and the Beau Rivage Palace (Switzerland).

Early in 2020 "Start Now" was released for the 2020 Youth Olympic Games where she recorded the violin solo and was first violinist in the quintet.

Since 2018 Sarah has been an artist for Les Concerts du Cœur, an association which brings music to retirement homes and prisons. In 2019 she joined the ensemble Les Lausanne Soloists alongside Renaud Capuçon.

This past year Sarah has been doing virtual concerts and teaching. She recorded during the summer for Swiss composer Jean Froidevaux's latest CD, released December 2020 and has been coaching chamber groups at L'Orchestre du Collège et des Jeunesses Musicales de Saint- Maurice.

This month she will be performing and interviewing for Radio Television Suisse.

Sarah graduated with her Bachelor of Music Degree (USA) *Magna Cum Laude*, her Master de Concert with the Domaine Musique et Arts de la Scène de la HES-SO-2018 prize and her Master de Soliste diploma at the Haute Ecole de Musique de Lausanne.

Outside of her musical endeavours Sarah has collaborated with a number of visual artists including Bo Bartlett and was featured in his painting Sea of Galilee.



Giles Tomkins-Voice

Canadian/British bass-baritone Giles Tomkins is widely praised for his vocal virtuosity and lyricism in an impressive range of repertoire. His rich, resonant voice brings “authority and power” to the concert and operatic stage. Giles begins this season as Colline in Against the Grain Theatre’s updated production of *La bohème*, on tour from the Yukon to Toronto. In 2020, Giles debuts the role of Zuniga in Manitoba Opera’s *Carmen* and is featured in “Hugo and Willie: Songs of the Soul”, singing the lieder of Wolf and songs of Willie P. Bennett with Toronto’s Confluence Concerts. Giles also brings his considerable Gilbert and Sullivan comedic skills to “Topsy-Turvy”, with Chorus Niagara and Niagara Symphony.

Noted for his convincing portrayal of the philosopher Colline in *La bohème*, Giles has performed the role with Scottish Opera, as well as with Saskatoon Opera, Manitoba Opera, and Pacific Opera Victoria. Contemporary works include Gandalf in Dean Burry’s *The Hobbit* with Canadian Children’s Opera Company, and *The Overcoat* with Tapestry Opera and Vancouver Opera.

In 2019, Giles adds Thunder Bay Symphony and Regina Symphony Orchestra to his many Messiah performances, most recently with Elmer Iseler Singers. Giles sang Dvorak’s *Stabat Mater* with Vancouver Symphony, and Beethoven’s *Mass in C* with Bach Elgar Choir.

Giles recently joined the fun as Don Basilio with Manitoba Opera’s *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and portrayed Dr. Grenvil with both Edmonton Opera and Pacific Opera Victoria, in their co-production of *La Traviata*.

Acclaimed operatic roles for Giles include Timur (*Turandot*), Raimondo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Pistola (*Falstaff*), Superintendent Budd (*Albert Herring*), Leporello/Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*), and Sergeant of Police (*Pirates of Penzance*). He has been engaged by Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Edmonton Opera, Manitoba Opera, Canadian Opera Company and Scottish Opera. He looks forward to a debut with Calgary Opera in 2022.



## April Young In, Piano, Grades 1-7

Ms. In is a graduate of the Academy and Advanced Performance Program of the Mount Royal School in Calgary, where she studied with renowned Canadian pianist Marilyn Engle. She received her B.Mus from the Manhattan School of Music under the tutelage of Solomon Mikowsky, as well as her M.A. from Columbia University. April has also performed in master classes and studied with renowned pianists such as Marc Durand, John Perry, Anton Kuerti, Sergei Babayan, Nina Svetlanova, and Constance Keene.

April has been featured as both a soloist and chamber musician throughout North America, Europe and Asia. She has been an active collaborator with numerous operatic and orchestral organizations, including solo performances with the Calgary Civic Orchestra. She was also featured on CBS radio with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and is a winner of numerous competitions, scholarships, and awards, including the Kiwanis Music Festival, Provincial Music Festival, Calgary Concerto Competition, Canadian Music Competition and Shean Competition.

Ms. In has worked with the New York City Department of Education, Columbia Grammar School, and Yamaha Music School. She is currently working in the Toronto District School Board, specializing in Orff and Kodaly methodologies. In addition, April maintains a busy private piano studio in Toronto where many of her students have received top honours, distinctions and awards.



Adam Ruzzo, Composition and Self-Accompanied Guitar

Adam Ruzzo is a multifaceted artist, experiencing success in both the Classical Music and Folk Music world. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree and a Master of Music degree in Classical Guitar Performance from the University of Toronto, as well as a first place award in the FCMF National Music Competition. His original music for classical guitar led him to be a guest speaker for TedxAlgonquinPark and is also being featured on documentary films by Canadian Filmmaker Matt Steeves. More recently, Adam has spent a significant amount of time traveling the country writing songs inspired by Canadian places and people. His most recent six month stay was in Newfoundland learning traditional music on several instruments, and he was a headlining singer/songwriter at the long-running 'Folk Night' series presented by the Folk Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. Adam has been a long time guitar teacher and has been adjudicating exams and festivals since 2012. He currently resides in Northern Ontario where he makes his living as a musician.



Alyssa Michalsky BMus, BEd, MMus

[www.divineharp.com](http://www.divineharp.com)

Alyssa Michalsky is a seasoned professional in the harp industry. Having started her company, Divine Harp in 1997, her accolades and awards span over 20 years in the business and she continues to teach, perform and adjudicate all over Ontario.

A graduate of the Bachelor's and Master's Harp Performance program at the University of Toronto, and a Bachelor of Education from OISE, Alyssa had the privilege of studying with one of the world's most renowned harpists, Judy Loman, for six years.

After winning the prestigious US National Harp Scholarship Competition in 2001, Ms. Michalsky went on to record four CD's: two classical harp and flute albums and two contemporary solo harp albums on her Lyon and Healy Concert Grand Electric Harp.

Ms. Michalsky has held several esteemed positions over her career including six years as the harp professor at the University of Western Ontario and 15 years as the head adjudicator of the harp examinations for The Royal Conservatory of Canada. She has also been on the panel for the Toronto Chapter of the American Harp Society competition and adjudicated harp for the London, Guelph, and Ottawa and provincial Kiwanis Festivals.

Ms Michalsky houses a large private music studio in Dundas where she has a full schedule of young as well as mature students. She is also well known for being one of the most active performing modern harpists providing electric harp entertainment to clients all over Ontario, blending classical sounds and techniques with her uniquely stylized arrangements of contemporary music