



CASSA NEWS

In 2022, Cassa once again faced challenges in delivering high quality, all-inclusive performing and visual arts programs. We offered programs in-person and online, including the Piano Masterclasses in November and February, but we were very pleased that they were so well received. The Musical, Pedagogy, Piano, Adult Piano, Jazz, and Composers programs ran in-person, while Pedagogy, Piano, and Adult Piano also took place online.

We'll be offering our summer programs both in-person and online in 2023. We'll also have workshops, including the online Piano Masterclass with 2023 Clinician, Michel Fournier, in February, in-person Guitar for Beginners in May, and in-person Jazz for Teachers in June.

In our programs, Cassa students establish friendships, and develop discipline, leadership skills and confidence, all in a spirit of creativity, community, and fun. Participation in well-designed arts programs also improves academic performance in reading, math, and science. Enrolment in our programs is limited. Don't miss your chance to join in a unique arts enrichment experience, as we proudly celebrate thirty years.

2023 IN-PERSON PROGRAMS

Cassa Kids at Play - July 10 to 14

Cassa Jazz - July 10 to 14

Cassa Composers - July 10 to 14

Cassa Songwriting - July 10 to 14

Cassa Guitar for Beginners - July 10 to 14

Cassa Recital - July 16, 7:00 pm

Cassa Piano - July 17 to 21

Cassa Pedagogy - July 17

Cassa Adult Piano - July 18 to 20

Cassa Staging - August 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10

Cassa Musical - August 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10

2023 ONLINE PROGRAMS

Cassa Piano Masterclass - July 13

Cassa Jazz - July 24 to 28

Cassa Pedagogy - July 24 and 25

Cassa Piano - July 24 to 28

Cassa Adult Piano - July 25 to 27

All in-person programs except Cassa Musical are held at St. Vladimir's Cultural Centre, 404 Meredith Road NE, Calgary.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please donate to Cassa in 2023. All contributions are most very welcome and all contributions over \$10 will receive a charitable receipt. Donations may be made at www.cassamusicalarts.com. For more information contact info@cassamusicalarts.com. Cheques may be mailed to Cassa at 10 Mount Apex Green SE, Calgary AB T2Z 2V2.

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CASSA MUSICAL 2023

Cassa Musical is an exciting six-day music and drama camp for students who want to get on stage, get into the drama, and burst into song! Beyond accessing world-class instructors to build theatrical and musical performance skills, students learn about teamwork and community building, en route to staging a full musical production. This is a very popular program, and tends to sell out quickly.

This year, Cassa experts Derek Stoll and Eric Nyland are creating a brand new musical for us! Deep into the future, 10,000 light years from Earth, a crew on a spaceship struggles with love, loss, and conflict while they peer into Earth's past and try to figure out what is real and what is not, what they can trust of what they perceive, and what they cannot, and what they're going to do about all those pesky deepfakes that keep throwing their experiment results to the interstellar winds.

We're calling on student mentors and Cassa alumni to help us put on the most amazing production Cassa has ever seen. We're looking forward to seeing some familiar faces, welcoming new ones to the fold, and working with many talented and inspired young people to bring this masterpiece to life. We hope to see you at Cassa this summer!



Eric Nyland is a pianist (ARCT, LRCM) and actor (BFA, CAEA). For twenty years, Eric has worked professionally in theatre, film, voiceover, music, and music pedagogy throughout Canada. He runs a private teaching studio in Calgary and is a member of the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators' Association. He serves as the piano program coordinator, vocal coach, and pianist at Cassa Musical Arts, as well as the provincial piano competition convenor for the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association, and works as an active festival adjudicator at all levels. Eric developed and taught two courses for Mount Royal University (Introductory Keyboard for Adults – Learn to Read, and Play by Ear/Improvisation), and served as the musical director for the long-form theatre improvisation duo *One Lions* (winner, Best Show at Vancouver International Improv Festival, 2016). In 2015, Eric appeared as soloist in Beethoven's First Piano Concerto for the inaugural concert of the Calgary Arts Orchestra, and in 2016 he served as composer, music director, and lead actor in Armin Wiebe's *The Moonlight Sonata of Beethoven Blatz* for the Station Arts Centre. He is the winner of the 2013 Jack Friedenbergs Memorial Scholarship for pianists and was nominated for the 2015 Outstanding Actor in a Play by the Calgary Theatre Critics' Awards for his work in the world premiere of Nicholas Billon's *Butcher*. He has studied piano with Linda Kundert, Dr. Lillian Upright, and Dr. Irena Kofman, and has taken masterclasses from Dr. Jennifer Snow, Dr. Jacques Despres, and Dr. Ludmilla Lazar.



Derek Stoll obtained a Bachelor of Music degree in Composition from the University of Calgary. He has composed works for concert band, jazz band, small ensembles, and solo instruments. Derek has traveled extensively with bands throughout Canada, the United States, and Japan. He studied jazz and brass performance at the Banff Centre. He has taught science and music in the British Columbia school system, and was the Director of Musicamrose from 1989 to 1995. He teaches jazz piano at Mount Royal University and has served as a clinician, adjudicator, and examiner.

He is active in Alberta's music scene, and is a board member of Cassa Musical Arts, by whom he was commissioned to write the music for *A Vampire's Tale*, and is looking forward to collaborating with Eric Nyland on Cassa's new commission in 2023.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT CASSA MUSICAL



Doing musicals are always fun. I liked meeting like-minded and talented people.

-David

I enjoyed getting to meet other like-minded people, which gives opportunity to discuss the program and improves my personal acting ability.

-Eleanor

I had a blast learning this great recent composition and I look forward to more new works. Everybody was so kind to me and was very considerate and understanding! So much fun!

-Maria

I liked the acting, singing, and dancing.

-Sofia

The people were always so nice and I loved singing!

-Karma

My experience was fun and exciting. I enjoyed putting in the work to make a cool musical. I enjoyed interacting with lots of people and I hope to come again.

-Nate



I liked socializing with old friends and meeting new friends. I like Cassa in general.

-Konnor

I liked the people who attended with me, the singing, and the dancing.

-Kaslyn



OUR 2023 CLINICIAN

We're delighted to welcome Michel Fournier as our 2023 clinician.

Praised both as a soloist and a chamber player, Canadian pianist Michel Fournier has performed with a number of orchestras and is widely appreciated for the many recitals he has given in Canada, Europe and United States. His repertoire covers a broad spectrum of piano music from different eras and styles. He has a special fondness for French music and has earned critical acclaim for the originality of his interpretation and his refined sound.

Dr. Michel Fournier toured extensively with world-class musicians and ensembles; he has several Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) recordings, many albums and movie soundtracks to his credit.

Highly appreciated as an educator, Michel Fournier has provided guidance to thousands of musicians, teaching masterclasses, coaching, and adjudicating national competitions for young musicians across North America, Europe and Asia. As a teacher, many of his students are award-winners in national and international competitions (Tureck International Bach Competition, American Protégé, Thousand Islands International Chopin Competition, Canadian Music Competition, National Music Festival in Canada and others). His private music studio in Montreal welcomes students from around the world for artist residency. He was a guest artist at the 2022 ORTMA last July, where he offered a masterclass on French Impressionist Music and a Debussy recital, and was one of the adjudicators for the instrumental and vocal competitions as part of this event.

As a student of French pianist Yvonne Hubert, Michel completed a Master's degree before continuing his studies in France and Austria. He also studied under legendary pianist Menahem Pressler at University of Indiana. He earned a Doctorate in Music from University of Montreal. Michel Fournier's numerous CDs have won public and critical acclaim all over Canada.

The featured composer for Cassa Piano is Claude Debussy.

In addition to his work with us in July 2023, Michel Fournier is also offering his Piano Masterclass online from Montreal on February 18, from 9:00 am to 1:15 pm.



WELCOME OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



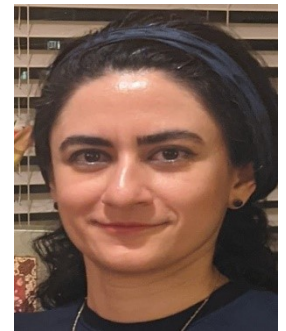
Regina Chan was first introduced to Cassa in the 1990s, when she attended her first piano camp. She is excited that Cassa continues to run fine arts programs that her two children have attended over the past seven years.

Regina has extensive professional experience in risk analysis and non-profit management. She's also very excited to contribute to Cassa as a new board member.

Nafiseh Dadgostar has a PhD in chemical engineering and has worked as a researcher in the energy and chemical industries. Nafiseh has maintained her connection to music, taking piano classes and singing in a number of choirs.

She has been attending Eric Nyland's piano studio since 2014 and is currently working on her RCM Level 10 repertoire. Nafiseh participated in Cassa Adult Piano in 2021 and 2022, and is enthusiastic about engaging more adult learners in future Cassa

workshops.



CONGRATULATIONS



Our Office Manager, Darcy van Helden has once again done a fabulous job for the Cassa organization throughout the year.

We would all also like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Darcy and her husband, Matthew Turner, on the recent birth of their wonderful daughter, Elizabeth, who is now seven months old. Congratulations and thank you from everyone!

CASSA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Remember that you can always catch up with all the news about Cassa Musical Arts on social media, all year round.

We have a Facebook page where you can always find news and updates about what's going on with Cassa. Be sure to visit our page and like us, so that you'll always be up to date with everything that's happening. You can also connect with Cassa on Twitter and Instagram.

Cassa news updates also appear on our website, along with regularly posted articles about interesting local events, upcoming camps, our many instructors and students, the world of arts education, and much more.



SUMMER JUST FLEW BY!

Sandra Low

I really don't know what happened, because I remember looking forward to July and then suddenly, it was September! Where did all the time go?

I retired from my paid job at the end of May and I remembered that I was looking forward to embracing my newfound freedom of spending more time on my music learning. The first thing I did in 2022 was to participate in the weeklong Cassa Jazz piano camp from July 11 to 15 for the first time. Wow, it was really intense. The first few days put me into a tailspin, with the jazz theory concepts of 7ths, 9ths and 13ths chords and the learning of the scales, other than just the Major and Minor scales, such as Dorian, Phrygian, Mixolydian, and Blues scales. On the third day, we were introduced to a condensed overview of the history of the origins of blues and jazz, along with an introduction to the master artists of both of these genres. There is so much to study. I think there's a minimum of 250 recordings of master artists that I have to listen to and familiarize myself with.

Next, we were introduced to all the different ways that jazz improvisers can change a melody, or how composers can create a melody. With all these tools we were given a jazz standard, namely *Autumn Leaves*, and had to notate the best jazz chords to accompany the melody that we'd be playing and we had to get comfortable improvising on top. We performed cabaret style at the end of the week in a trio with Derek on bass guitar and John DeWaal on drums. I was really nervous performing, not because improvising was scary but because I'm not a good enough calibre of musician to be able to play a lead sheet well, in a few days. In other words, my lack of musicianship and my poor sight-reading was limiting me. I hope to change that by using my extra gifted time, now that I have it, to work on making sure I improve in those areas.

I really loved this course and can wholeheartedly tell you that even though I'm not good at improvising and playing lead sheets right now, I felt like this was where I wanted to go and be. The act of improvising felt so freeing to me compared to classical, where you have to play exactly what's on the page. Derek Stoll and Lorna MacLachlan were the jazz masters teaching the course this year. As with Cassa Piano, the clinicians aren't always the same each year, which is a big selling point as participants can return every year to learn from different masters.

I really appreciated the extraordinary skills of Derek, a phenomenal jazz pianist, and Lorna, an amazing composer. I learned so much from both of them. They really taught so well as a team, which made the course so interesting. And the great rapport that they had with each other and with us, the participants, put us all at ease so that we were able to be vulnerable and share our improvisations and compositions each day. I will definitely be taking Cassa Jazz again and I encourage everyone to try it.

The following week was Cassa Piano for ages nine to nineteen, and Cassa Adult Piano. I didn't participate, but I attended all three recitals, an afternoon and evening recital on Thursday and then a Friday afternoon recital. On Thursday afternoon, I was there to support Edel, Linda, and Evan, who were participating in Cassa Adult Piano. All three of our group members performed their duets really well. To me, the biggest stressor of the program is playing as part of a duo at the end of three days.

On Thursday evening and Friday afternoon, I was there in my role as a mother, as my daughter and her campmates were playing their pieces over the two recitals. I heard so many beautiful pieces at these two events. And it was such a treat to hear my daughter play four pieces, one a duet. My daughter went to her first camp last year and she looks forward to it every year. She's caught the Cassa bug! And now that I've had time to reflect, I realize what happened with the rest of the summer.

After the two Cassa camps ended on July 22, the following week I was reflecting on all the beautiful music I'd heard at all three recitals and also trying to digest what I'd learned at Cassa Jazz. I purchased the Jazz Theory Book from Mark Levine right after the camp. In it, Mr. Levine states that any serious jazz pianist has to listen to and learn a minimum of 250 jazz recordings. I spent a couple days cross-referencing the essential recordings Mr. Levine recommended, with the lead-sheets from the Just Jazz Real Book that I bought from Derek a couple of years ago. And I have about eighty-three that I can work on from that Real Book alone. I have to get cracking!

I'm learning to be the musician that I know I have the potential to become. And the fact that I can now make this statement makes me really happy!

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT CASSA

Justine Cherry-Delisle

Cassa is about sparking your creativity and connecting you to a collaborating community that loves musical arts. In my time with Cassa, I've formed lifelong friendships, and gained immense confidence and invaluable experience.

It's now an honour to help build Cassa's mentorship program, showcasing Cassa's unique programming that will inspire youth to build tangible skills in the musical arts. Cassa goes beyond *just* music lessons or another school play, introducing you to a world of possibilities. Once you start, you'll be hooked. Cassa's team of experts support the development of original works. Who knows, the next musical could be written by you! With Cassa, the opportunities are endless.

Let us know if you'd like a presentation by our mentor team in your school!

GUITAR FOR BEGINNERS

Want an introduction to the amazing world of guitar? This guitar camp will give you the fundamentals of guitar playing and technique, and will help you launch your journey, whether you aim at Granados or AC/DC. Join Cassa Expert, Brett Gunther for your early experiences with guitar this summer. Brett will also give a three-hour workshop on May 6th. Join us and have some fun!

THIRTY YEARS! **Janice Dahlberg**

This is a celebration year for Cassa and a time for reflection and gratitude. We thought that the summer months were too long to be away from piano, but that we could perhaps offer an inspiring plan for seasonal practice. With that in mind, we hoped to offer pianists the challenge to learn new repertoire, take risks, think creatively, meet fellow musicians, and reach new musical heights, with a program of solo and ensemble performance, live recitals, and arts enrichment.

The idea above led to the addition of several summer cultural programs now offered, including Cassa Kids at Play, Jazz, Composers, Songwriting, Guitar for Beginners, Piano for Youngsters and Adults, Piano Pedagogy, Musical Theatre, and Staging. Each summer there's a Cassa Recital followed by a reception. Cassa has offered both in-person and currently online musical education throughout the year for musical arts students of all ages. Please visit the website for the latest information at cassamusicalarts.com.

CASSA ADULT PIANO **Nafiseh Dadgostar**

I learnt about Cassa Adult Piano workshop a few years ago from my teacher, Eric Nyland. However, it took me some time to convince myself to finally register for the 2021 class.

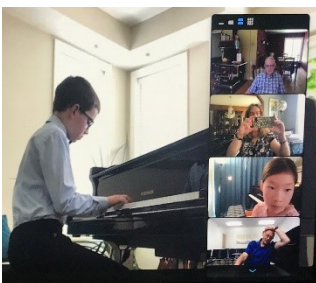
My first thought when I attended Day 1 sessions was why did I wait so long? I believe it was a combination of things that held me back, but if I were to pick one thing, it would be self-doubt. Am I skilled enough to attend a masterclass? Well, today my stand is that no one is! Learning is a continuous process and Cassa is an outstanding learning program.

Cassa Adult Piano has become a constant presence in my schedule for the last couple of years. To me, it is a motivation more than anything. Meeting like-minded adults, who care about music and are willing to commit to it in their busy lives, has been a blast too. I look forward to attending many more Cassa events in the coming years!

CASSA ADULT PIANO ONLINE **Emma Handford**

In the summer of 2022 I took Cassa piano lessons for the first time. My experience was amazing. Each of the instructors took their time to give great advice and feedback.

Out of this class, I was able to improve my ability to emote, connect with my piano, and also learn some great techniques. After working with such talented musicians, I feel I have grown as a musician myself. I will be attending Cassa in future years. It was such a great experience.



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT CASSA PIANO

I liked making friends, learning more about my strengths and areas for improvement.

-Sarah

I liked getting to work with different instructors with different personalities and teaching styles.

-Kiana

I make so many friends and I learn a lot with all the teachers and I have the opportunity to play the duet with my friends. Overall, it is a really good experience.

Nikki

I liked so many different ideas from astounding musicians. Also it's not just piano elemental classes. It's a really fun environment.

-Misha

I can be immersed in the music that I bring to the program for a whole week without distraction, which helps me focus on and sort through the different feedback I'm getting.

-Casper

Misha absolutely loves the Cassa Piano program and the musical, which was new for her this year. Seems you guys put on a very high level, professional program and that's so nice in this day and age.

-David

I really enjoyed experiencing different teaching styles. All the advice I received from the teachers was helpful. During the lessons, I found all the teachers were positive when providing feedback.

-Amanda

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT CASSA JAZZ

I like the theory, breakouts, with one-on-one instruction. I like the focus on simplicity and working in pairs.

-Clay

I learned a lot about jazz theory and had a blast doing so!

-Ben

I liked composition, and this camp really made me think better that made me have nicer tunes. I really liked the teachers and overall it was 10/10!

-Michael

I really loved the teachers, Lorna and Derek, and the information presented. I found the processing so freeing and it took me out of my confines.

-Sandra

The students had strong theory skills, and for the most part, technical skills. Great work by all!

-Lorna



CASSA ONLINE PEDAGOGY

Janice Cherniak

Calgary is a great place to live for many reasons, not the least of which is the availability of the wonderful Cassa programs for music and musical theatre lovers and teachers. It's such a benefit for Alberta musicians, music students, and teachers to have access to high quality summer programs, right in their back yard. The pedagogy programs this summer featuring the eminent Charles Foreman were an example of this. It was an added advantage that registrants could choose to attend in person or via separately scheduled online sessions. Mr. Foreman was Professor of Piano at the University of Calgary from 1973 to 2009 and is an active chamber musician, performing throughout the world. I happily took some time off work to seize the opportunity to obtain his insights.

For the first online session (which I attended barefoot in a light sun dress with my favorite coffee mug in hand - huge benefits of joining from the comfort of my own home), Mr. Foreman listed and discussed eight keyboard pedagogy books that he felt were influential and provided valuable pedagogical insights. These ranged from Couperin's *Art of Playing the Harpsichord* to the lesser known *Men, Women and Pianos* by Arthur Loesser. As an interesting addition to the list, the latter book presents a social history of the piano. Although piano teachers may have seen throughout their studies references to a few of the books identified, it was valuable to have a compiled list of the most notable treatises. I've started by ordering Alfred Brendel's *Musical Thoughts and Afterthoughts* from my local bookstore. Here in Calgary, we experienced a fabulously hot and sunny summer, which made technical reading difficult when swimming pools and tennis courts were beckoning, but I plan to work through Mr. Foreman's list starting this winter.

Mr. Foreman's next topic was weight transference on the piano. As a pianist moves his or her fingers across the keyboard, the first thing that comes to mind isn't necessarily how the muscles of each finger are being utilized in relation to one another and to the keys themselves. But this is a crucial consideration for pianists so that they aren't developing the wrong finger muscles, which could result in hitting the keys rather than transferring the weight from one finger to another. With the attendees in their own studios or homes, a few of the attendees virtually demonstrated the technique of dropping a finger onto a key, while also dropping the wrist then raising the wrist to move onto the next finger. All of the technical exercises attempted by attendees translated very well across the screen to the other people. We're all accustomed to virtual meetings by now and know how to set up our screens so that we can easily see what's being demonstrated. Linda then showed us how to get away from jogging on the keys by relaxing into every key. The interactive session moved into discussions of how to effectuate "piano" versus "forte" sounds and voicing of chords. Again, the aforementioned amazing summer of 2022 got in the way of my practising this on my piano as much as I'd have liked, but I have no doubt about what I'll be working on over the winter.

When Mr. Foreman distributed to us by email his template for a practice chart in advance of the next day's session regarding practice techniques, I knew that this was an area in which pianists and piano teachers alike could improve. His chart includes many columns representing various ways to practice, including counting the phrases, blind practice, rhythmic distortion, playing a voice silently, and more. Of course, it's much better to have Mr. Foreman himself explain how he uses these practice techniques. In fact, it was very enjoyable to hear him intersperse his presentations with personal stories. This pianist has been around! And with that comes interesting stories. I also loved the additions by the attendees. One suggested the practice technique of photocopying the piece, cutting it up into sections, and then randomly choosing which section to focus on or a random order in which to play the sections. Another pianist suggested colour coding the phrases, on a photocopy, of course. The ideas were coming fast and furious at the session and it was great fun to build on Mr. Foreman's superb template.

The last session regarding phrasing is difficult to put into words and is best demonstrated. During the webinar, the Beethoven Sonata #1 was used to show how important it is to count the phrases, by being aware of where the phrases begin and end. Like a speaker of a sentence, the "speaking" pianist needs to grasp what's important in the musical sentence and where the climax of that sentence is located.

Learning from well-regarded professional pianists is the spice that provides a kick in the step of any pianist or piano teacher. By providing access to high quality learning opportunities in the summertime, Cassa Musical Arts is a gem to be supported by all of us.

CASSA KIDS AT PLAY

Explore singing, acting and dancing all while developing your writing skills in our newest program, Cassa Kids at Play!

Performers are given voice and choice with the support of our experts, Mackenzie Schaan and Michelle Delisle, to write their own collaborative mini-musical. Explore your options in musical theatre - Learn the visual communications that will influence your collaboration, how to market your musical, and test your creativity with set/prop design.

In a playful and safe environment, performers move and groove to popular tunes, further develop their character with playwriting, and improve their vocal and ensemble skills. You'll be amazed at what the performers can create when let loose to play and create together.



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Darren Dyck



Hello Friends, Followers, and Family Members of Cassa,

It has been my honour and privilege to be a director, writer, parent, and vice president of this exceptional organization. As a director, I have directed the Cassa Musical for the past twenty-two years. I have watched it grow and evolve and work with hundreds of talented performers, as we work to produce a full-length musical in just six days. It has been a joy to see young performers grow, connect, and create together in such positive and dynamic ways. As a writer, I have had the pleasure to write two of the past twenty-two musicals we have developed. It was so much fun to see my words come to life on the stage.

I am the father of four young adults, who have all been through the Cassa Musical experience. It has been so special for me to see my own children grow and thrive in this organization. After a few years of no Dyck kids at Cassa, it was extremely heartwarming to have my two youngest perform and work backstage in this past summer's production. Serving as the Vice President has been a rewarding and challenging endeavor. I have celebrated all of the great successes of this class organization and I have seen the hard work to keep a non-profit afloat during the difficult pandemic times.

Over the years, I have met some very incredible people through Cassa. I have had the pleasure to work with professional actors, writers, musicians, and instructors. I have worked alongside enthusiastic young people, patient parents, and talented teachers. Through my many years at Cassa, I have been wowed by the people in this organization and their absolute commitment to excellence. Cassa has provided top-notch musical opportunities for children and adults alike for the past three decades. Thank you Cassa, for an amazing thirty years!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Our sponsors and supporters have been a major part of Cassa's success over the years and we couldn't have done it without you. Your support of Cassa and the local arts community has been outstanding. Thank you, everyone!

Once again, Steinway Piano Gallery provided most of the pianos and keyboards onsite. St. John's Music also supplied some, and Cassa experts lent us their digital instruments.

Thank you to the Alberta Registered Music Teacher's Association (ARMTA) Provincial and Calgary Branch for support of our students. Thank you to the Harry and Martha Cohen Foundation for their continued support of Cassa Musical, and to the Bell Family Foundation, Edelweiss Imports, and the Alberta Music Education Foundation, who have also been longstanding donors.

We're also extremely grateful for the support of the Government of Alberta, without whom our programs in the performing arts would simply not be possible.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CHAIR
Linda Kundert

Thirty years ago, I was approached to lead a group of artists wanting to start a summer music program...and, I'm still here!

Truly, Cassa has fulfilled much of my life's purpose, which is to guide as many people as I can to personally achieve and experience great musical education, and to facilitate high level musical events. It has been my great pleasure to serve our community in this capacity. I have met so many wonderful people along the way, and have become a better person and a better teacher, because of my Cassa experiences.

Last summer, it was a pleasure to have many of our programs back in-person. It took an extra week to run everything, as we ran some online programs as well as in-person. All of the programs went very well, and as always, we are blessed to have such a great team of experts.

We are pleased to offer the following online programs in 2023: Cassa Piano, Adult Piano, Pedagogy, and Jazz. Jazz did not run online in 2022, but we are hopeful that people from outside Calgary will take advantage of it this summer. If you cannot make the in-person dates, go for the online program instead. Save the date for the Jazz, Composers and Songwriting Cabaret on July 14th and come out and have some fun.

Cassa Musical was outstanding, with its small group of actors, and with the help of four returning students who were our Cassa Mentors for the week. They carried the show, and the space at Glenmore Christian Academy worked extremely well. The musical will be held there again this summer.

Last year, we featured *Sand* by Justine Cherry-Delisle. This summer we have commissioned a new musical, written by Cassa Experts, Eric Nyland, and Derek Stoll. This sci-fi experience promises to be great fun – sign up soon! We give a special thank you to Charles Foreman, as Clinician for Cassa Piano, Adult Piano, Pedagogy, and the Cassa Recital. He gave us his best, even though he was not feeling his best. All of his programs were successful.

We welcome Michel Fournier from Montreal as our 2023 clinician. I invite you to read his bio, and see his interesting topics for Pedagogy in this newsletter and online. Jump at the chance to meet him, and sign up soon. He will give a piano masterclass on February 18 and July 13. Sign up now and start practising.

Over the years, programs have come and gone. We will now miss Cassa Kids and Playwriting. I wish to thank all of the experts who made these programs unique and memorable for Cassa youngsters. We welcome two new exciting programs in 2023: Cassa Kids at Play and Guitar for Beginners - check them out.

I wish to thank all of you who have supported Cassa in so many ways for so many years. We are incredibly grateful to all of you who have given gifts in kind, and have donated your time. We ask that you consider giving Cassa a monetary donation this year. It has been difficult to keep going through the pandemic, as numbers have been low for a number of years and expenses keep rising. We have applied to many foundations, but help is slow coming.

I would like to make an exciting announcement! Steinway Piano Gallery of Calgary will be the exclusive supplier of all of the pianos and keyboards for Cassa in the future, and we are incredibly grateful. This is a huge gift to our organization, and it means that we can continue moving forward. Please visit their showroom and let them know that you've attended Cassa.

Please support us by coming to a Cassa event this summer, and celebrate with us on July 16 at the Cassa Recital: A Showcase Celebrating 30 Years!

All the best to everyone for a happy and healthy year ahead. Cassa appreciates each and every one of you!

Please add us to your Christmas/New Year's list.

