



Amici String Program

2017-2018

Student and Parent
Handbook





Welcome to the Amici String Program. We hope you will find Amici to be a place where everyone can grow in a positive and nurturing environment, where high standards of playing are expected and all students have access to fine teaching.

We welcome you to our program and invite students to participate in our weekly master-classes and technique classes, weekly chamber music coaching, workshops with guest clinicians, monthly solo recitals and the summer programs. Parents are always welcome to observe.

This Handbook is intended to provide the basic administrative information you will need for the year. A copy of it is posted on the Amici website at amicistringprogram.com, and you can always look there for up-to-date information about the program. Please be aware that the policies described in this Handbook continue to evolve and are subject to change without notice. Please advise of absences in advance by emailing to amici.stringprogram@gmail.com or calling Fiona Carnie at 403-805-7360.

Fiona Carnie, Artistic Director



Mission Statement

The Amici String Program was developed to:

- Provide a positive and inclusive atmosphere for string students to develop their skills, their love of music, and their friendships.
- Provide quality musical education in a non-judgmental environment, where all students, parents, and instructors are treated respectfully and equitably.
- Provide opportunities for students to fulfill their full potential, both musically and personally.
- Provide opportunities for students to interact with the community through music.

Expectations Of Students

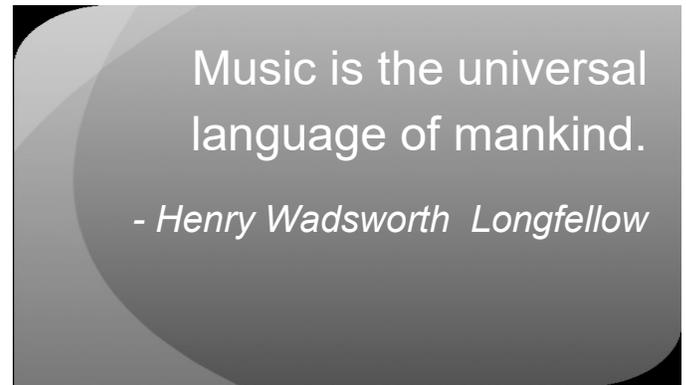
In order to make Amici a positive, productive and fun experience for all participants, students should be aware of the following expectations.

- **Students must be respectful** of other students and faculty and bring a positive attitude of expecting to learn and to enjoy music.
- **Students and parents should have an email address** which they check regularly. If you are not receiving Amici emails, it is your responsibility to inform us at amici.stringprogram@gmail.com.
- **Students should be on time, tuned, and ready to play** each week at the designated hour of rehearsal or class.
- **Chamber music parts are the responsibility of each student.** Return scores following the directions of the Music Librarian (Keiko Takahashi). In the event of lost music, contact Keiko Takahashi immediately at 403-286-4956 or email her at keikogt@shaw.ca. replacement pages will cost \$2.00 per page payable to Keiko Takahashi.
- **Absences must be reported to amici.stringprogram.com.** Last minute illnesses or emergency absences should be reported by phone to Fiona at 403-805-7360.
- **Students should bring their own snacks** if desired; a very limited range of snacks and water will be available for sale.
- It is important to make every effort to attend chamber music rehearsals, recognizing the impact of absences on others. Early notice of absences is important since it may be possible to cover the part for a day. Students who miss chamber music without notice and due cause may forfeit their chamber music placement.
- The Amici program is intended to enrich the musical education of string students currently studying privately. **All students are required to be studying on a regular basis with a private teacher.**
- Chamber music **preparation** is outlined below:
- **Students are expected to participate in the set-up of rooms** in which they are practicing and performing, and in the clean-up at the end of sessions, under the direction of the instructor of the class. This will involve helping to move music stands and chairs. Students must be respectful of the facility, taking care not to damage or dirty any part of the building. Students must not bring snacks or any sort of food into the sanctuary.



A good quartet is like
a good conversation
among friends
interacting to each
other's ideas.
- Stan Getz

How Amici Works ...



Technical Requirements

At this time Amici is able to accommodate violin, viola and cello students at an intermediate to advanced level of playing only. Minimum requirements for admission to the program are:

- repertoire level of approximately *Suzuki Book 4*
- knowledge of at least one 3 octave scale
- skills in shifting and vibrato
- skills in note and rhythm reading

Placement in classes will be at the discretion of the directors in consultation with the student's private teacher. For younger students please see the Amicini Program.

Collaborative Artist Funding

One of the goals of the Amici String Program is to support students in their study of solo repertoire, by providing weekly masterclasses and access to guest clinicians.

This year Amici is pleased to be able to continue funding for **three** hours (180 minutes) of rehearsal with an approved accompanist for each student registered in weekly masterclasses.

Working with a collaborative pianist is a very important part of a young string player's development and Amici would like to encourage regular scheduled rehearsals in preparation for performances throughout the year.

A **minimum** of two rehearsals before any performance is strongly recommended.

Music is the universal language of mankind.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Accompanists listed on the Amici recital form are approved to invoice Amici for the first three hours of rehearsal with students registered in the masterclasses.

If you wish to work with an accompanist other than those listed on the forms please contact us at amici.stringprogram.com.

Amici will pay approved accompanists for their performances at Amici Solo Recitals or at regular Monday classes.

NB: Family members may not be approved as accompanists paid by Amici. Please email with questions.

Learning Chamber Music

An important component of the Amici chamber music experience is that all the players are well prepared to play their parts. One player struggling with the notes harms the musical experience of the other players. Therefore, learning chamber music parts must be a priority for all participants. If a student is unprepared, the parents and/or teacher will be contacted. If the problem cannot be resolved, the student will be re-assigned to a more appropriate group, or supplementary coaching will be required at a cost of \$60/hour.

Students should not expect that every chamber group will be composed of equally skilled players, but should be prepared to play a leadership role when required; or to make an extra effort to learn notes when others in the group are playing at a higher level.

Technique and Masterclasses

Students enrolled in the technique/masterclass portion of the Amici program should be ready to play a polished piece or part of a piece in masterclasses on a weekly basis. Listening critically is an important part of the masterclass experience. Students should have a notebook and pencil at all classes to take notes. Masterclasses will alternate with technique classes at the discretion of the instructors. Students should be prepared to play three octave scales using the Galamian pattern, in various bowings, for the technique classes.

When guest clinicians are invited to Amici, students will be selected to perform based on readiness and equality of opportunity at the discretion of the director. Some clinicians will be available only to the older students. Students selected to perform for guests will be notified a week in advance.

Please see the schedule in this handbook and check the Amici website at www.amicistringprogram.com for updates on guest artists throughout the year.

The most perfect
technique is that which
is not noticed at all.

- *Pablo Casals*

Students must dress appropriately when playing for guest clinicians (no jeans or running shoes). In most cases this will involve bringing a change of clothes for school. If in doubt about appropriate attire, ask one of the Amici teachers. Students who are not appropriately dressed will not be permitted to play.

Students who are not selected to perform in the masterclass with guest clinicians are expected to listen to the class and take notes.

Parents and the general public are encouraged to attend masterclasses and classes with guest clinicians.



"If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a
Musician. I often think in music. I live my daydreams
In music. I see my life in terms of music."

- Albert Einstein

Recitals

Playing in public is an important part of becoming a musician, and Amici's public recitals are an important part of our musical outreach to the community.

Amici recitals are held Sundays between 1pm and 5 pm at St. Matthew's United Church. Recital participation is done on a sign-up basis, and is encouraged but not mandatory for Amici students. Exact recital time assignments will be sent out via email and scheduling will be arranged according to the needs of the collaborative artists.

Any Amici student with a "performance-ready" piece may sign up to play in the recitals, which are held approximately monthly as listed in the calendar. Registration fees are \$20 per student for each recital in which the student wishes to participate. Cash or a cheque made out to the Amici String Program Association should be paid to the assistant by the last Monday before the recital. To ensure that each piece is ready for performance, students may not sign up for recitals more than a month in advance. A fee of \$20 will be charged for NSF cheques.

We encourage Amici students to work with one of our approved accompanists listed on the recital form. Should the student wish to play with an accompanist other than one designated as an Amici accompanist, the student must pay the accompanist for the performance as well as any rehearsals incurred.

All pieces to be performed in recitals must be fluently memorized and polished (except sonatas, which can be played from music). Students must dress appropriately for each recital. Students in jeans or running shoes will not be allowed to participate in the recital.

Music is the universal language of mankind.

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Students outside the Amici program who are at a Grade 6 standard and above may also participate if there is room, subject to the discretion of the Artistic Director. These students will pay a registration fee of \$30 for each recital.

Parents are welcome to record only the sections of recitals in which their own children are playing. Please do not post group performances on the internet without the explicit permission of all performers.

Recital Dates 2017-2018

(subject to change)

October 22, 2017

November 19, 2017

December 03, 2017

January 21, 2018

February 11, 2018

March 18, 2018

Deadline for submissions and payments is the Monday before the recital.

Faculty BIOS

Fiona Carnie VIOLIN, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Fiona Carnie is the co-founder of the Amici String Program and currently maintains a large teaching studio and performs often locally while organizing and providing vision for the Amici String Program. Ms. Carnie has guided generations of string players to the fulfillment of their individual goals. Her students perform with major orchestras and teach at major institutions across the country.

In 1989 Fiona Carnie was invited to follow her mentor and much-loved teacher Dr Ilse Elson as senior violin instructor in the Academy Program at Mount Royal College. In accepting this position, she interrupted a successful freelance career in Toronto where she played professionally in the National Ballet Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony and many other groups.

Her academic credentials include a Bachelor of Music with Distinction from the University of Calgary and a Master of Music from Yale University, where she studied under New York Philharmonic concertmaster, Sidney Harth, and Syoko Aki. In 1996, Ms. Carnie was invited to join the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Music and examined until 2014. She regularly tours Canada as an adjudicator and clinician. She has also completed the Rosza Arts Management Program.

Rachel Baljeu COLLABORATIVE ARTIST

Since arriving in Calgary in 2014, Rachel Baljeu has become active as an accompanist and has started a private teaching studio. She keeps busy with a variety of jobs including playing piano for the Ambrose University vocal program, Southwood United Church, the choir One Accord, as well as other vocalists and instrumentalists.

Ms. Baljeu graduated from Michigan State University with Master of Music degrees in both Piano Pedagogy and Collaborative Piano. Her teachers included opera conductor and répétiteur Alan Nathan for collaborative piano, and Deborah Moriarty and Derek Polischuk for solo piano. She received her Bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University, where she had the invaluable opportunity to study piano pedagogy with Helen Marlais and piano with the esteemed collaborative pianist Mark Markham.

Andrea Case CELLO

Cellist Andrea Case has a Master's Degree in cello performance from McGill University where she studied on scholarship with Antonio Lysy. She spent her childhood in Calgary where she studied with John Kadz at the Mount Royal Conservatory. She made her solo debut with The Calgary Civic Symphony in 1997 after winning the Calgary Concert Competition. Andrea is co-founder and cellist of the Lily String Quartet, a group that has completed multiple tours across Canada, has performed for CBC Radio 2 and will soon release their recently recorded jazz CD with the award-winning

Faculty BIOS cont.

Hutchinson Andrew Trio. As well as being an avid chamber musician, Andrea is sought after as an orchestral musician, coach, recording artist and teacher. Andrea has played with orchestras in Europe, Japan, California, Quebec and Alberta. She can be heard on numerous recordings in multiple genres including pop/folk (Magnolia Buckskin, Jerry Brody, Heather Blush and the Uppercuts, Johanna Drummond), jazz (Hutchinson Andrew Trio/Lily String Quartet, Karl Schwonik) and classical (John Goulart, Michael Ibrahim). She has 15 years of teaching and coaching experience from Mount Royal Conservatory, Amici String Program and Chinook School of Music, all in Calgary, and the Lippert School of Music in Toronto. Andrea adjudicates regularly at festivals throughout Alberta and British Columbia, and teaches at the Amici summer programs. Andrea currently resides in Medicine Hat with her husband, jazz drummer Karl Schwonik and their sons.

Emily Fulkerson COLLABORATIVE ARTIST

Emily Fulkerson completed her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from Appalachian State University in 2011, studying with Dr. Rodney Reynerson. She went on to study with renowned pedagogue Barbara Lister-Sink, completing her program in Injury-Preventive Keyboard Technique in 2013. In addition, Emily has her A.R.C.T. in Piano Performance, studying with Allen Reiser. Returning to Calgary in the summer of 2013, Emily has been accompanying both instrumentalists and vocalists in the area, as well as teaching piano.

Eva Hordos COLLABORATIVE ARTIST

Eva Hordos was born in Budapest, Hungary and began her piano studies at the age of seven.

Eva completed her degree in Music Theory, Choir Conducting and Kodaly Method at the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest in 1983, studying with Erzsebet Szonyi. In the following years Eva studied with Edit Hambalko and received her degree in Piano and Piano Education in 1985. During her years of study at the university, Eva recorded as a piano soloist for the Hungarian National Radio children's program.

In 1987/88 Eva taught piano master classes throughout Spain on a contract with Real Musical, Madrid.

Since immigrating to Canada in 1992, Eva has continued to teach piano and accompany singers and other musicians, including students of the University of Calgary and Mount Royal University. Eva actively participates as an accompanist at the Calgary Performing Arts Festival, for Royal Conservatory of Music exams, at the Canadian Music Competition, as well as in recitals and auditions.

Eva lives in Calgary with her family and golden retriever Molly, and in her free time she loves baking and listening to jazz.

Faculty BIOS cont.

Olena Kilchyk CELLO

Olena Kilchyk, native of Odessa, Ukraine, graduated from the Odessa State Music College and the Odessa State Conservatory. Since the age 14 Olena was the winner of numerous concerto competitions. While in Ukraine, she was a principal cellist and soloist of the Acedemia Odessa Chamber Orchestra and Virtuosi of Odessa Chamber Orchestra.

After immigrating to Canada, Olena received Master of Music Degree in Cello Performance from the University of Calgary. In 2000 she was the winner of the Department of Music Concerto Competition and performed with the U of C String Quartet. She had the opportunity to study with such renowned cellist as Shauna Rolston, George Nikrug, Tania Prochazka, Raphael Wollfish, Aldo Parisot and Amanda Forsyth.

Olena has been a member of the Prince George, Okanagan, Red Deer and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra as well as Sinfonia Alberta Chamber Orchestra, Baroque Modern Chamber Orchestra, Players Chamber Ensemble and Saint Crispinis Chamber Ensemble.

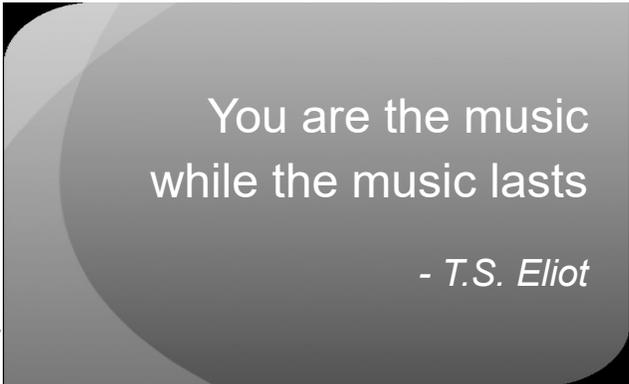
Ms. Kilchyk toured extensively throughout Russia, Ukraine, Europe, Canada and China. She is a co-founder of Sempre la Musica Chamber Ensemble, Helia Chamber Ensemble, Denali Duo and Bel Canto Strings. Many of her performances have been broadcast on CBC and other radio and television networks.

Diane Lane VIOLIN & AMICINI COORDINATOR

Born in Claresholm Alberta, Diane began her violin studies in Lethbridge before attending the Mount Royal Conservatory in Calgary. Diane graduated from McGill University with her Bachelor of Music degree under the tutelage of Yehonatan Berick. She continued her studies with Edmond Agopian at the University of Calgary and graduated with a Master's degree in violin performance.

Diane has attended The Banff Centre for the Arts as a resident and has returned many times, both as a solo performer and chamber musician. Diane is a founding member of Calgary's Lily String Quartet. The quartet participated in seminars at The Julliard School of Music and Stanford University and has performed across Canada.

Diane is a highly sought-after orchestral and chamber performer; playing with various ensembles in and around Calgary. She is currently the Assistant Concertmaster of the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra, a member of Kensington Sinfonia and a member of Rosa Barocca. Diane has adjudicated at numerous music festivals throughout Alberta and British Columbia. Diane is on faculty with the Amici String Program and maintains a violin studio at Mount Royal Conservatory.



You are the music
while the music lasts

- T.S. Eliot

Faculty BIOS cont.

Ami Longhi COLLABORATIVE ARTIST

Ami Longhi completed her Bachelor of Music degree in 1996 at the University of Calgary, where she studied with Marilyn Engle. During her degree, she had the privilege of also studying with Mayron Tsong, Jamie Syer and Charles Foreman. Ms Longhi has taught piano and music theory privately and at Rocky Mountain College, performed and recorded chamber music, toured internationally as an accompanist with several vocal quartets and choirs, and accompanied student and professional vocalists and instrumentalists.

Ms. Longhi currently teaches piano privately and is on faculty as a collaborative pianist with the Amici String Program and at the Mount Royal Conservatory in Calgary, Alberta.

Tom Mirhady CELLO, CELLO COORDINATOR

Originally from Vancouver, cellist Tom Mirhady received his Bachelor of Music degree from McGill University and Master of Music from The Juilliard School. He joined the Edmonton Symphony in 1976 and has been with the Calgary Philharmonic since 1979.

He has taken part in many chamber music performances in Calgary and was a founding member of Kensington Sinfonia and the Springbank Trio.

For 12 years Tom Mirhady was an instructor for Calgary's Suzuki Talent Education Society and he has been teaching at the Mount Royal University Conservatory since 1999.

Jeffrey Plotnick VIOLIN

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Mr. Plotnick recently retired after completing his thirtieth season as Principal Second Violin with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. After graduating from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, Mr. Plotnick performed with orchestras in Cincinnati, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; and Caracas, Venezuela before assuming his position in Calgary.

In addition to performing with the Calgary Philharmonic, Mr. Plotnick also served as concertmaster of the Calgary Bach Society and the Calgary Festival Chorus Orchestras. Mr. Plotnick often appeared as violin soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic as well as the Calgary Bach Society, and has been heard in frequent performances as a solo and chamber recitalist. In October of 1998, Mr. Plotnick participated in a cultural mission to Kazakhstan, which included solo performances for its President.

Faculty BIOS cont.

Mr. Plotnick has been a member of the faculties of the University of Calgary, Mt. Royal College and the Amici String program in Calgary, and was the founding director and conductor of Mt. Royal's Intermediate String Orchestra. In addition, Mr. Plotnick has been a faculty member of the Banff International Youth Orchestra Festival, the Valhalla, Nelson, Strings and Keys and the Los Angeles Suzuki summer music institutes, and has appeared as guest artist and clinician at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He is currently in demand as a string adjudicator at numerous music festivals as well.

Theresa Plotnick VIOLA & VIOLIN

Theresa Plotnick is a pedagogue and performer originally from Dayton, Ohio, Ms. Plotnick earned a music degree at the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and played professionally in orchestras in Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio; Caracas, Venezuela; and Erie, Pennsylvania before moving to Calgary.

Ms. Plotnick has performed frequently as a freelance violist with such groups as the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Red Deer Symphony, and other Calgary ensembles, and is a founding and current member of the Allegro String Quartet.

Theresa taught formerly for the Suzuki Talent Education Society of Calgary and for the Academy program at Mount Royal College. She is a frequent clinician and adjudicator at workshops, summer programs, and festivals. In 2007 Theresa co-founded the Amici String Program where she continues to coach and teach. She also maintains a large private violin and viola studio.

Ronelle Schaufele VIOLA & VIOLIN

Canadian violist Ronelle Schaufele is an active solo, chamber, and orchestral musician who performs frequently throughout Western Canada as well as performances in Cuba, Brazil, United States, New Zealand, and Europe. As an avid lover of new music Ms. Schaufele has been delighted to play works composed for her and looks forward to upcoming collaborations. In addition to performing music being create today, Ronelle greatly enjoys performing on period instruments and exploring the rich baroque tradition.

In addition, she has served as principal violist for the Urban Village Chamber Orchestra, and is currently assistant principal violist in the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra.

Her education includes a Music Performance Diploma from Mount Royal College with William van der Sloot, a Bachelor of Music with distinction from the University of Calgary, with Nicholas Pulos and an Artistic Diploma at The Glenn Gould School studying with Steven Dann.

Faculty BIOS cont.

Hyejeong (Hazel) Seong COLLABORATIVE ARTIST

Hazel Seong began studying piano in South Korea at the age of four and made her debut at the age of six. She received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Kyoung-won University in South Korea and a Master of Music Degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM). Hazel won the 1st prize at many competitions, including the Choong-nam Philharmonic Orchestra Piano Competition. Hazel has performed as a soloist in numerous locations such as Cleveland and Columbus (USA), Bremen (Germany), and Seoul (South Korea).

Hazel played in many master classes led by famous artists such as Klaus Schilde, Patrick O’Byrne and Yonghee Moon. Between 2008 and 2010, Hazel attended the University of Iowa as a scholarship recipient, working towards a Doctor of Musical Arts in Piano Performance and Pedagogy. In Iowa, she played the piano as an orchestra member and was also chosen to perform at Piano Sundays, a concert held by faculty and students. Hazel is currently a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at West Virginia University. Her recent musical activities include working as accompanist for the University Choir, for the 2013 International Flute Symposium, and for voice and instrumental studios. She is currently an accompanist at the Alberta School of Ballet.

Keiko Takahashi VIOLIN, MUSIC LIBRARIAN

A sense of adventure and the lure of the magnificent Rocky Mountains brought Keiko Takahashi to Calgary as a young graduate of the Toho Gakuen University of Music in Tokyo. She was trained in the European-style and did not encounter the Suzuki philosophy until she was invited by Linda Case to join the Suzuki Talent Education Society in 1978. She taught in this program for seventeen years and also acted as its chief administrator during her tenure as Acting Director.

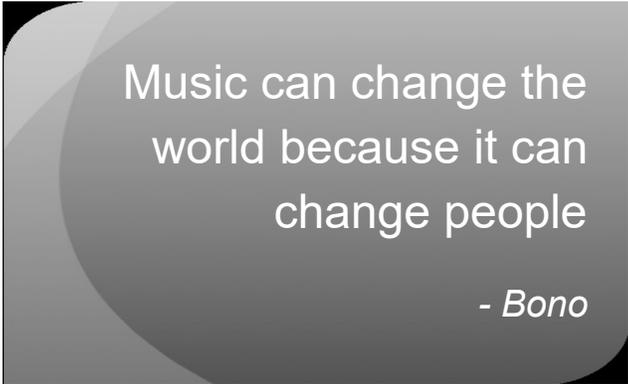
Enrolling in the Junior Philharmonic Orchestra in Japan at age 12 changed her life. She loved orchestral playing and wanted to play in a professional orchestra. Years later her dreams were realized when she was recruited into the first violin section of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and made the first of several moves to Calgary. She has since become a busy freelance violinist in demand with many performing organizations including the CPO, Royal Winnipeg Ballet Orchestra and the Red Deer Symphony. She also performs in various chamber ensembles, musical and theatre groups throughout Canada, United States and Japan. Her large private studio of violin and viola students embodies an adapted Suzuki method. She introduces note reading and scales early, includes duet and chamber music and stresses the individuality of each student.

Her philosophy is all-inclusive: If a child likes to play, she is happy to help develop their playing skills. Her motto: “Do your best”.

In the Amici String Program, aside from teaching and coaching, Ms. Takahashi has also taken on the responsibility of music librarian.

Amici at a glance ...

Please cut this page out and post for reference during year



Absences

Please let us know: in advance: amici.stringprogram@gmail.com
on Mondays: 403-805-7630

Masterclasses with Guest Artists

- You must email amici.stringprogram@gmail.com in advance with your piece, composer and requested time to play. NB: Students who are flexible (i.e., being available at 4:15 pm) will have a greater chance of playing.
- There is NO charge to play for a guest artist in a regular Monday masterclass. Lessons during a residency will have an extra charge.
- Recital dress (no jeans or running shoes) is required to play for a guest artist or in a Sunday solo recital. There is no dress requirement for regular classes.
- Students will be selected to perform based on readiness and equality of opportunity at the discretion of the Artistic Director.

Lost Music

- In the event of lost music, contact Keiko Takahashi immediately at 403-286-4956 or email her at keikogt@shaw.ca. Replacement pages will cost \$2.00 per page.

Recitals

Oct. 22, Nov. 19, Dec. 03, Jan. 21, Feb. 11, Mar. 18 - 1 to 5 pm at St. Matthew’s United Church

- Forms and \$20 payment must be in to Amici the Monday BEFORE the recital.
- Pieces must be memorized. (*Sonatas are the only exception.*)
- If using an Amici Collaborative Artist, a minimum of TWO rehearsals is required beforehand.
- If you are registered in Amici Masterclass, you receive **three FREE hours** with an Amici Collaborative Artist to rehearse. Their information is below. Email them to schedule as soon as possible.

Name	Email	Area of City
Rachel Baljeu	rbaljeu@amicistringprogram.com	SW, Signal Hill
Emily Fulkerson	efulkerson@amicistringprogram.com	Various, Priddis
Eva Hordos	ehordos@amicistringprogram.com	NW, Silver Springs
Ami Longhi	longhiami@yahoo.ca	NW, Thorncliffe
Hazel Seong	sweet8478@gmail.com	NW, Arbour Lake



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