

Meet our Music Instructors

Columbus Centre School of Music



Mila Germanovsky

Instrument: Piano (up to Grade 10) & Theory (up to Grade 9)

Mila has been teaching music students of all ages for over 30 years. Her goal is to inspire students to love & understand music. She also tries to expand her student's curiosity by introducing them to different genres of music such as classical, popular, & jazz. Mila is very dedicated to her students & her work; she has been teaching full time at Columbus Centre since 1997.

Marco Marrone

Instrument: Piano, Clarinet, Flute, Trumpet, Woodwind, Brass

Marco has been teaching with the Toronto Catholic District School Board for almost three decades. He is passionate about education, and brings his love of music, performance, and creativity to students of all ages and experience levels. Marco is also a proficient clarinet and saxophone player and continues to play in various musical ensembles throughout Toronto. Additionally, Marco is a skilled electronic musician/composer, and has scored original music. He has been with Columbus Centre since 1984 and has taught many students who have now pursued their own musical dreams - most notable is Ricky Tillo, one of Lady Gaga's guitarists.



Alex Purcell

Instrument: Piano, Guitar, Drums

Alex brings his developed performance experience, RCM qualifications, and warm personality to contemporary music lessons. He was trained at a young age by the *Royal Conservatory of Music* on the guitar and piano. Alex started playing piano when he was six years old. Alex comes from a background of live performance, and currently plays throughout the GTA in groups as eclectic as jazz-fusion, and avant garde rock'n roll. Alex graduated with honours from the *Humber College* Program in Jazz Performance, and has been an active teacher in the GTA for five years. Alex is a **MA** candidate at *York University* for music. He performs weekly in Toronto with his two bands, one of which is signed to the *Agency Group* label.



Aysel Taghi- Zada

Instrument: Violin

Aysel came with high recommendations from fellow performers, her professors, and the parents of her past students. In addition to her degree from McGill, Aysel received private instruction from Professor Emeritus David Zafer from the University of Toronto. Aysel previously taught in Montreal before moving to Toronto. She also performs with Euphonia Toronto, Sneak Peek Orchestra, and Toronto Symphony Orchestra.



Dan Ryan

Instrument: Vocal, Piano

Dan Ryan holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Toronto where he studied voice with Peter Barnes and conducting with Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt, Dr. Lori-Anne Dolloff, and Ivar Torins. With years of experience as a vocalist in solo, choral, and music theatre performance, Dan's interests turned to choral conducting and choral music education. He now holds several conducting positions with ensembles in Toronto and Mississauga.

Having completed five years of teaching with Carswell Music Studios, Dan enjoys passing on his knowledge and love of music and can't wait to join the Columbus Centre Team!

Wing-Ching Poon

Instrument: Guitar, Bass

Originally from Edmonton, Wing went on a soul searching trip to Japan in 2007, living and working there for almost 4 years. With no prior experience in music, Wing began to take guitar lessons with a local teacher and started playing in an English cover band in a small rural town in Hokkaido. Discovering his calling, he auditioned for and was admitted to Berklee College of Music in 2011, and graduated with a dual major in *Guitar Performance and Contemporary Writing and Production* programs. While his main instrument is guitar, he utilizes any instrument that is sonically sufficient to express his musicality.

In addition to teaching, Wing writes, produces, mixes, and performs around Toronto with his band The Unlikely Story. Having experience performing and composing in many genres such as Classical, Jazz, Funk and Rock, Wing has learned to embrace diversity. In his lessons, he strives to inspire students to explore the multi-faceted world that is Music.

Alison Ryan

Instrument: Vocal, Piano

Alison Ryan has loved music ever since it has touched her ears. She started singing at the age of five and has never stopped. Alison started taking private voice lessons at the age of six with a private teacher and continued her vocal education at the Columbus Centre. There, the seed of appreciation for music was planted. Alison started competing at the age of 10 and won various awards as a soloist singing in different styles of music.

Alison Ryan completed an Artist Diploma in Voice at the University of Toronto as a soprano under the instruction of Frédérique Vézina. She is also entering her 7th season with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale. This group is dedicated to music education through afrocentric music and is one of the only professional choirs in Toronto. She also sings with the Mississauga Festival Choir, Mississauga Festival Chamber Choir, Oriana Women's Choir, and is a section lead at Kingsway-Lambton United Church.

Alison is really excited to return to the Columbus Centre and continue to inspire youth through music education.