



# Céleste Music

**Céleste Music Academy Festival**  
June 6-27, 2026

Registration Deadline: March 31, 2026



**Welcome**  
from Artistic Director Andrea Botticelli

Playing on historical keyboard instruments can open a world of expressive possibilities. I invite you to take part in the Céleste Music Academy Festival (CMAF) to share your virtuosity and artistry with your peers, to challenge yourself to new heights, and to celebrate musical performance throughout the ages.

Our entire early keyboard collection will be available to all participants in the Academy Festival, located in the intimate venue of Old Town Hall in Newmarket, Ontario during the month of June, 2026. The Academy Festival will commence with a series of Masterclasses and conclude with the Céleste Music Academy Festival Showcase Concert on Saturday, June 27.

The Festival offers competitive and non-competitive performance opportunities, including a Masterclass only option, as well as a more formal Competition with prizes and scholarships.

The CMAF is part of the larger Céleste Music Early Keyboard Festival. Participants are encouraged to attend as many events of the festival as possible! Discounted concert tickets will be offered for all students participating in the festival.

I look forward to hearing your festival performances.

**Let's make music together!**



## Important Dates

**Registration Deadline:**  
March 31, 2026

**Masterclasses**  
with Andrea Botticelli  
June 6-7

**Competition Classes**  
(Adjudicator: Riko Fukuda)  
June 18-19

**Masterclass**  
with Charlotte Nediger  
June 26

**Adult Performance Class**  
June 26

**Showcase Concert**  
June 27

### Mid-18th Century Hemsch Harpsichord (Copy by Marc Ducornet, 2025)

This double manual French harpsichord is constructed in the style of the instruments of Henri Hemsch, a German craftsman, who made his career in France. This mid-18th century French harpsichord model features a lush, rich sound perfectly attuned to 18th century keyboard music, particularly French composers. The range of the instrument is FF-g<sup>'''</sup>, allowing for the most expansive repertoire by composers such as Bach, Couperin, Rameau, Scarlatti and Telemann.



### Michael Rosenberger Fortepiano, 1800

This rare, original Viennese fortepiano, built in 1800, spans 5½ octaves, from FF-c<sup>4</sup>. It's clear, transparent tone and delicately responsive touch embody the refined aesthetic of Viennese Classicism. The instrument is equipped with two knee levers – one operating the dampers, the other the moderator – an elegant precursor to the foot pedals of the modern piano. It's character and sound world are ideally suited to the music of Haydn, Mozart and the early works of Beethoven.

### John Broadwood & Son Fortepiano, 1807

This original English fortepiano, built in the early-19th century, has a compass of 5 1/2 octaves, from FF-c<sup>4</sup>. It is equipped with three pedals – una corda, damper lift and treble damper – allowing for a wide range of expressive colour. The instrument's strong, resonant, early-Romantic timbre is particularly well suited to the late "English" sonatas of Haydn as well as Classical composers of the London school such as Clementi, Dussek, Cramer and John Field.



### Conrad Graf Fortepiano, 1835

This original 1835 fortepiano by Conrad Graf is a masterpiece of Romantic-era design. Constructed from cherry wood and featuring 6.5 octaves (CC-G) with four pedals – damper, una corda, moderator and double moderator – it offers a rich palette of tonal colours and expressive possibilities. Perfectly suited for works by the late Beethoven, Schubert, Schumann, Chopin and other Romantic composers, it's deep bass register and tone-altering pedals create a lush, dynamic soundscape that also complements later Romantic repertoire beautifully.

## Rules and Regulations

Please read these Festival Rules carefully. By registering for the Festival, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to the Festival Rules. Students can participate in the following events:

### 1. Masterclass with Andrea Botticelli \$100

- Students are introduced to the different historical keyboard instruments, play some of their repertoire selection and receive feedback
- 30 minutes for each participant

### 2. Masterclass and Competition \$200-250

- Includes the initial masterclass with Andrea Botticelli, 1 hour of individual practice on the instruments, a full performance of one repertoire selection, adjudication, marks and certificates, possible awards and scholarships, and free attendance at the Showcase Concert.

The total fees are all-inclusive as follows:

Intermediate Level Fee: \$200  
Senior Level Fee: \$225  
Advanced Level Fee: \$250

Adjudicator: Riko Fukuda

### 3. Additional Competition Classes \$50

- Competitors may compete on more than one instrument by enrolling in additional categories.

### 4. Adult Performance Class \$100

## Competition Classes

### Intermediate Level: Grade 5, 6, 7

Category	Instrument	Fee*
H1	Hemsch Harpsichord	\$200
R1	Rosenberger	\$200
B1	Broadwood	\$200
G1	Graf	\$200

### Senior Level: Grade 8, 9, 10

Category	Instrument	Fee*
H2	Hemsch Harpsichord	\$225
R2	Rosenberger	\$225
B2	Broadwood	\$225
G2	Graf	\$225

### Advanced Level: ARCT, LRCM

Category	Instrument	Fee*
H3	Hemsch Harpsichord	\$250
R3	Rosenberger	\$250
B3	Broadwood	\$250
G3	Graf	\$250

\* The above fees include the mandatory masterclass as well as practice time before the competition.

### Adult Performance Class

**A1 Any Instrument(s) of Choice \$100**

This class is tailored towards adult performers over age 25 as a supportive performance opportunity. Repertoire duration may be up to 20 minutes.

If a participant chooses to participate in a masterclass, they may sign up for this extra performance opportunity as well.

## Repertoire

**Piano:** [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

**Harpsichord:** [CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

All repertoire is subject to approval to ensure it aligns historically with the instruments.

For repertoire selections that are not included in the RCM syllabus, participants and their teachers will estimate the equivalent level and submit for prior approval to Céleste Music.

There are no official time limits for classes. Consult the RCM syllabus for repertoire selections that are grade level appropriate.

**Repertoire does not need to be memorized.** *Da capo* signs are to be observed. Repeats may be taken and should be performed with appropriate embellishments and ornamentation.

The pitch for the Hemsch Harpsichord will be at the modern pitch of A440. All other instruments (fortepianos) will be at A430.

Photocopies are not permitted. Original or legally downloaded music must be provided for the Adjudicator.

### Submission Procedures

Registration deadline is March 31, 2026.

All fees must be paid upon registration by e-transfer to: [celestemusic.org@gmail.com](mailto:celestemusic.org@gmail.com).

All fees are non-refundable, unless the entry is not accepted. No receipts are issued. Late entries may be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to a \$25 late fee.

### Location

Serpa Galleries at Old Town Hall at 460 Botsford St, Newmarket, ON, L3Y 1T1.

### Prizes and Scholarships

Scholarship prizes will be awarded as a monetary reward. Winners are encouraged to use these funds to further their music career.

Each performer who achieves Platinum standing will receive a \$300 scholarship. Additional scholarships may also be awarded to excellent students at the Gold level.

Selected winners who perform on the Hemsch harpsichord will be chosen for an additional opportunity to play in the Masterclass with Charlotte Nediger, Harpsichordist of Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, on June 26, 2026.

**The Grand Prize winner of the Festival will receive a scholarship of \$1,000.**

## Evaluation and Results

Each main category (Intermediate, Senior, and Advanced) is structured as a concert so that students can participate and hear each other as well as the other instruments in the collection.

Participants are judged based on the highest artistic standards of musicianship, technical proficiency and stage performance.

Participants in competitive classes will receive Certificates, Marks and Adjudication Reports. All documents will be distributed by PDF to the participant's email address. The participant will be notified regarding their Mark/Award/Scholarship after the conclusion of the competition.

To be eligible to receive a certificate, the following minimum marks are required:

Platinum: 90%, Gold: 85%, Silver: 80%, Bronze: 75%.

The Adjudicator's decisions are final and at their sole discretion. Céleste Music reserves the right to substitute or appoint additional Adjudicators at any time.

The Adjudicator is an impartial judge and as such has sole discretion to award any or all prizes. Parents, teachers or participants may not approach the Adjudicator in person, via email or social media.

### Showcase Concert

All Platinum winners are required to perform in the Showcase Concert. Other performers may be invited as well at the discretion of the Adjudicator. Invited performers are required to perform their winning piece. Any substitute piece requires prior approval from the Festival Committee.

All awards and scholarships will be presented at the Showcase Concert. All participants in the competition can attend the concert free of charge and must confirm their attendance by June 21, 2026.

The Grand Prize Winner will be announced at the Showcase Concert.

Showcase Concert tickets are non-refundable and priced accordingly:

Adults \$40   Students \$30

### Cancellation

In the event of any unforeseeable circumstances, Céleste Music reserves the right to postpone, cancel or change the schedule of the festival. In the event of cancellation, all fees will be refunded.

Céleste Music reserves the right to modify the competition rules in the event the number of participants in any one class are insufficient to provide for a meaningful competition. In that event, all participants will be notified well in advance.

Céleste Music reserves the right to limit the number of entries due to space and time constraints.

## Authorization, Waiver and Release

No photography or audio/video recording of classes, competitors or adjudicators is permitted. Parents and caregivers may record the performance of their participant only.

By submitting the application, applicants agree that they will receive no fees for any public performances they give as a part of the Masterclass, Competition or Showcase Concert, and that they waive any and all rights to such performances.

All rights to the participant's Competition or Showcase Concert performances will become the property of Céleste Music, its assignees or licensees.

The participant also provides authorization for Céleste Music to photograph, film and/or record the participant during or in connection with the festival and/or any Céleste public events and consent to the use of the participant's name, likeness, images, and recordings in any and all Céleste publications, information and educational materials, and social media and web materials for the purpose of promoting Céleste Music.

The participant further waives all moral rights in favor of Céleste Music and releases Céleste and its employees, volunteers, directors, officers, advisors, sponsors, Céleste-appointed adjudicators and their respective assigns and successors from any and all claims that may arise in connection with the use of the Work and/or the name and photographic images, including any claims of defamation, invasion of privacy or copyright.

## Additional Information

Tickets can be purchased at [newtix.ca](http://newtix.ca) or at (905) 953-5122

Discounted tickets for the Céleste Music Early Keyboard Festival concerts are available for all participants at: [newtix.ca](http://newtix.ca)

Céleste Music is a registered Canadian charitable organization.

Donations over \$20 CAD will be acknowledged and a Canadian income tax receipt will be issued.

Please donate at: [DONATE](#)

[Learn more about Céleste Music](#)

# Céleste Music Academy Festival Showcase Concert

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Tickets: Adults \$40, Students \$30

## Céleste Music Early Keyboard Festival

June 5: "Beethoven @ 1800"

Andrea Botticelli, Daniel Ramírez Escudero, Yoni Kahn,  
Jean-François Normand, Dominic Teresi

June 14: "Elegy and Fantasy"

Riko Fukuda, Charlotte Tang

June 20: "Piano Technician's Workshop"

Edwin Beunk

June 21: "In Illustrious Company at the Graf Piano"

Patricia García Gil

June 28: "Voyage to Versailles"

Borys Medicky, Alison Melville, Felix Deak