

Queens County Music Festival 2010 Adjudicators



Aury Murray- Piano

Aury Murray has completed both the Associate Piano and Associate Voice Teacher's Examinations of the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music (now Conservatory Canada). In addition, she holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts – Music Major from Lakehead University.

She has taught vocal ensemble for the Music Department of Lakehead University and has guest lectured for the Faculty of Education. After many years of teaching piano and voice in Thunder Bay, she moved with her family in 1995 to Toronto where she established her present music studio. In addition to teaching privately, Aury conducts piano, harpsichord and voice workshops and master classes. She also

accompanies vocal and flute students in master classes, auditions and conservatory examinations. Her other musical activities include Music Minister of Erindale Presbyterian Church in Mississauga, as well as adjudicator of piano and voice for ORMTA, Kiwanis Music Festivals and other regional music festivals.

Aury is excited to be part of the executive of the Canadian National Conservatory of Music (CNCM). Her CNCM roles have included Coordinator of Examiner Training, Coordinator of Vocal Programs, piano examiner, voice examiner and clinician for the annual CNCM "Summer Sizzle" Pedagogy Workshop. Aury encourages music students to develop well-rounded musicianship and a long lasting love of music.



PETER STOLL **Instrumental, Composition, Guitar**

Peter Stoll teaches at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music and is Principal Clarinetist of the Toronto Philharmonia Orchestra. A frequent and popular adjudicator up to the National level, he has worked across Canada and in the United States. Peter is particularly known for his enthusiastic, positive comments and detailed suggestions to young musicians.

Peter was a prizewinner in the International Clarinet Society Competition, and has been heard many times on CBC radio featured on several CD recordings and concert broadcasts. Tours as soloist and as clarinetist and saxophonist with various ensembles have taken him across Europe, to Russia and to the United States.

First-Prize winner in chamber music in the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals National Finals, Peter was invited back for the Festival's 50th Anniversary in Winnipeg in 1999 both to adjudicate and perform as soloist in the Gala Celebration Concert. He has judged at the finals

of five Provincial competitions, and was also a member of the jury for the prestigious Canadian Music Competitions.

Over the past 15 years Peter has been invited to adjudicate over 90 local festivals across Canada. Fluent in both official languages, he has heard countless bands, orchestras, and woodwind, brass and percussion solos and ensembles coast-to-coast. Peter has also worked for US music festivals and at the Ontario Band Association Musicfest. In addition he is a member of the Royal Conservatory of Music's National College of Examiners.

Highlights of this season include a duo recital with pre-eminent Canadian percussionist Beverley Johnston and a performance of the Mozart Concerto and a new work by young Canadian composer Mark Nerenberg with the Toronto Philharmonia, as well as a chamber music recording with the Talisker Players, and an evening as featured soloist with the Toronto Youth Wind Orchestra. Peter's website is www.peterstoll.ca

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Marena Smith – Strings

Marena Smith, a native of Calgary, Alberta began studying music at the age of five on the violin. Her teachers have included Lisa Elson in Calgary, Lorand Fenyves at the Banff Centre, and Francis Chaplin of Brandon. Ms. Smith holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Calgary and an ARCT Performance Degree from the Royal Conservatory of Music (First Class Honors). She was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Canada for several seasons and toured with them throughout Canada and the United States.

Ms. Smith began her full time professional orchestral career at the age of seventeen with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and has performed with several symphonies throughout Western Canada. She was a music specialist with the Winnipeg School Division and conducted the Winnipeg Youth Concert Orchestra for six seasons. She is currently a faculty member of the Preparatory Studies at the University of Manitoba and a

teacher for Canadian Mennonite University as well as in her own private studio. Through these numerous years of educational and musical instruction, Marena has had the privilege of working in scholastic programs geared specifically for gifted youth. She has been a member of the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music since 1984 and has traveled extensively on their behalf across Canada and the United States. Marena played a significant role in the evaluation and revision of the 1999 Violin Syllabus for the Royal Conservatory of Music and completed the revisions of the newest series of Repertoire books, Technique books, Violin Syllabus and the publication of the first ever RCM orchestral excerpt volume for violin students. She has represented Frederick Harris Music Company as a clinician to introduce the Repertoire and Encore Series in Canada and the United States. Ms. Smith is an adjudicator who has participated in local festivals, Provincial Concerto Competitions and Provincial Festival Finals from Vancouver to St. Johns, Newfoundland.



Martha Gregory

Adjudicator: Pre-Junior Piano, Junior Piano, Musical Theatre

Martha Gregory was raised in Rochester, N.Y. and studied violin, piano and singing at the Hochstein School of Music, Eastman School of Music and Roberts Wesleyan College with Dr. Robert Shewan. As a student she performed several years with the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra and later the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra.

Her first professional Music Theatre performances began in high school in Rochester and while in college, she sang with the Rochester Opera Company in their performance of La Boheme.

Martha started her teaching career with a U.S. Government Program in Inner City Schools. When she moved to Canada in 1974 she continued her vocal studies at the Royal Conservatory of Music with Meghan Rutledge, also playing with the North York Symphony and coaching strings in Toronto Schools..

She has maintained a private studio in Pickering for 30 years. For 12 years she performed with the Jean McDonald Singers, which gave her many opportunities for Music Theatre, Opera and Oratorio singing. With an active freelance career, Martha is a member of the Ontario Philharmonic, was concertmaster for the Durham Chamber Orchestra, and is first violinist with the Hamstrings of Durham Trio. She has been involved with festivals for 25 years, first as President of the Pickering Metro East Music Festival and for the last 10 years as Executive Director of the Pickering GTA Music Festival. She is currently President of the Ontario Music Festival Association and it has been her pleasure to adjudicate all across Canada.

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MELODY DOBSON, SOPRANO VOCAL, MUSICAL THEATRE, CHORAL

New Brunswick native **Melody Dobson** spent her formative years in Detmold, Germany, where her parents studied music. With the *Detmold Landestheater's* children's chorus, Melody Dobson had the opportunity to participate in over fifty performances of well-known operas. At age 12, she sang the complete role of *Gretel* in Humperdinck's fairy tale opera, as part of a special production by the *Landestheater: "Kinder singen fuer Kinder"* (children singing for children).

Following her family's return to Canada in 1980, Melody studied voice at Wilfrid Laurier University and at the University of Western Ontario, completing a master's degree (voice performance) in 1989. In the following year, she won both first and grand prize at the Edward Johnson Music Competition. A brief stint in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1991/92 saw her in the female lead roles in three Gilbert & Sullivan operas with Symphony Nova Scotia.

The desire to pursue singing full-time led her back to Germany in the fall of 1992, where she was contracted by the North German Radio Chorus. With this ensemble, she performed and recorded under Seiji Osawa, Neville Marriner, Kent Nagano, Neeme Järvi, Peter Schreier, Christoph Eschenbach, Daniel Harding, Eric Ericsson, Roger Norrington, Semyon Bychkov, Herbert Blomstedt, and others.

Parallel to her performances with the North German Radio Chorus, Melody appeared as a solo concert artist with orchestras throughout northern and central Germany – over 100 engagements in all. Her vast concert repertoire encompasses virtually all of the standard oratorios, cantatas and symphonic works for the lyric soprano voice. She was also featured in contemporary premieres and received critical acclaim from the German press for her *Liederabende*.

Returning to New Brunswick in 2003 to be near family, Melody turned her attention to teaching. Her many outstanding students have received the highest awards available to local youth, including several first prizes at the New Brunswick Provincial Music Festival; the Outstanding Junior Vocalist Award given by the Maritime Association of Teachers of Singing; and first place finishes in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Student Competition.

In addition to teaching, Melody conducts the Greater Moncton Chorale and adjudicates at music festivals throughout the Maritimes. She has been an active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing for over ten years.