

# Our 2021 Adjudicators

Marion Abbott

Diane Manoljovich

Stephanie Superle

Darryl Edwards

Ruben Schmidt

Anneli Loepp Thiessen

Petya Stavreva

Dr Sasha Weinstangel

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## **Woodwind Adjudicator—Stephanie Superle**

A performer and teacher in the Greater Toronto Area, Stéphanie Superle is envisioning a new educational model for young musicians across Canada. One of only two Kinderflute-certified teachers in the country, Stéphanie is the founder and lead educator of Kinderflute Canada an organization dedicated to the development of imaginative, creative, and inspiring young musicians eager to explore the flute and other wind instruments.

Stéphanie currently acts as Artist in Residence at Mayfield Secondary School in Caledon where she teaches private flute lessons, presents master classes, and serves as a panel adjudicator for woodwind entrance auditions. As a certified teacher of the Royal Conservatory of Music and a faculty member with the College of Examiners, Stéphanie shares her expertise and enthusiasm with aspiring musicians of all ages and abilities. Stéphanie is also a proud ambassador for Nuvo Instrumental, joining a team of international music educators who promote making musical instruments more accessible to young students around the world.

In 2008, Stéphanie received her Masters in Flute Performance at the University of Toronto. Previously she earned her Bachelor degrees in Flute Performance and in Music Education from the University of Saskatchewan. Stéphanie has performed in master classes with renowned Canadian flute soloist Susan Hoepfner; Timothy Hutchins, principal of l'Orchestre symphonique de Montréal; and soloist William Bennett in England, as well as in Canada at the Pender Island Flute Retreat in British Columbia. There, she also played for Lorna McGhee, principal of the Pittsburgh Symphony. Stéphanie is a new mom so she currently lives on coffee and her daughter's leftovers. She enjoys running, crafting, and hot yoga. On weekends you'll find Stéphanie coordinating kids' crafts & activities at her local farmers' market, watching the latest documentary cheesy movie on netflix, or catching up on sleep. In October 2014 she completed a half marathon (21K) to celebrate five years in remission from Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In spring 2015, Stéphanie followed up with a 15K run in Toronto where she gave an address to over 10,000 fellow runners. Stéphanie lives in Vaughan with her husband and daughter. For more information, please visit [stephaniesuperle.com](http://stephaniesuperle.com) or [kinderflutecanada.com](http://kinderflutecanada.com).



### **Festival of Stars**

**Sunday April 5th 2:30 p.m.**

**Trinity United Church**

Free will donations



### Intermediate and Senior Piano— Petya Stavreva

Praised for expressing "ultra-sensitive and highly refined pianism" (Quinte Society for Chamber Music), pianist Petya Stavreva is a Doctor of Musical Arts candidate at Western University. Prior to arriving at Western, she finished her master's degree at the University of Texas at Austin, receiving full scholarship and grant support from Canada Arts Council and the Webb Trust Fund at the Glenn Gould School. Before that, she was an artist-in-residence at the Banff Centre for ten weeks. Currently at Western, she is a four-time recipient of the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, as well as the Don Wright Graduate Entrance scholarship, and the Sherwood Fox Music scholarship. Her doctoral thesis is focused on referential meaning in Rachmaninov's first piano sonata.

Petya is currently based in both Toronto and London. Throughout her career she has performed in Europe and North America both collaboratively and as a soloist. She is active as a collaborative/chamber pianist, and is described to have "extraordinary ability to place the sound of the piano exactly where the soloist needs it to be" (Quinte Arts Council Umbrella). Petya is quickly becoming in demand as an educator, and has been an adjudicator for the Kiwanis Festival in Toronto, the Pickering GTA Music Festival, the Brant Music Festival, the Kiwanis Festival in Ottawa as well as the Ontario Music Festival Association in Hamilton. Additionally, while undergoing training for the Royal Conservatory College of Examiners, she maintains a busy teaching studio in London and Toronto/Mississauga.

Petya has been a prize winner of numerous competitions in Canada and Europe such as the international competition "Franz Schubert" in Rouse, international competition "Music and Earth" in Sofia, among many others, and has performed concertos with the Toronto Sinfonietta Orchestra. Recently she performed at the Aeolian Hall in London, as part of the Emerging Classical Artist Series. Earlier last year, she collaborated with Canadian baritone Peter McGillivray for a recital as part of the Quinte Society for Chamber Music. Her newly formed Duo Avante with pianist Todd Yaniv is looking forward to several engagements next season including a recording project and performances in Toronto, Kitchener, Mississauga and Caledon.

She obtained an Artist Diploma at the Glenn Gould School on full scholarship, and a bachelor's degree at the University of Toronto. Shortly after moving to Canada, Petya also attended the Taylor Performance Academy in Toronto with full scholarship. She has been very fortunate to study with a variety of teachers including Leslie Kinton, Anton Nel, James Anagnoson, Jamie Parker, Marietta Orlov and Arshalouis Nersessian. While in Austin, Petya also studied collaborative piano in addition to her solo degree, with Anne Epperson. Petya has spent many summers as a pianist in festivals such as the Bowdoin Music Festival as a collaborative Fellow, Young Artist Program in Ottawa, the Banff Chamber and Solo Residencies, Nice Academy in France, and Toronto Summer Music Festival.



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## Brass and Band adjudicator— Ruben Schmidt

Born and raised in Solingen, Germany, Ruben Schmidt received his musical training through The Salvation Army where his father, Heinrich Schmidt, first taught him how to play horn. Ruben studied music and history at the University of Cologne, where he also received his Masters in both music performance and history. Currently, he teaches music and history at a high school in Solingen. Ruben is an active member in his corps band and the German Staff Band. He is bandmaster of the Divisional Band and also co-directs and conducts music for band and choirs at the German music camp every summer. Ruben has composed a variety of pieces that have been published in several different journals. His music hMaster of Music French Horn and Education from the University of Cologne and the Music Conservatory of Cologne

Opera and Musical Productions in Leverkusen - including a Tour of Paris

Member of the Western Germany Youth Orchestra - Tours of Russia, Poland, the Netherlands, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Finland. Performed a concert at the Cologne Philharmonic

Solo Horn Cologne Concert Brass and Assistant Music Director

Member of the German Staff Band of the Salvation Army - Tour of Britain with Concert at the Royal Albert Hall

Former Brass Quintet Horn player with Philipp Hutter (Principal Trumpet of the Lucerne Symphony Orchestra)

Composer of Brass and Brass Band Music published in London, New York and Toronto, played worldwide and at such prestigious Concert Halls, such as the Royal Albert Hall, on several occasions

Conducting the Bonn Youth Symphony Orchestra in several concerts

Head of Music at the Gymnasium Schwertstraße High School in Solingen Germany, and also Orchestra directoras been performed worldwide.

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## **Beginner Piano, Non Competitive Piano Adjudicator**

Anneli Loepf Thiessen is a classical pianist, music educator, arts administrator, music researcher, and worship leader.



She holds a Bachelor of Music from Canadian Mennonite University, her ARCT in Piano Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, and a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management from Queens University. She is currently completing her Masters of Music at the University of Ottawa, studying with David Jalbert. Anneli was awarded a SSHRC grant for her research on the role of women in Contemporary Worship Music, and holds an excellence scholarship at the University of Ottawa. She has won awards

for her solo piano performance in both Ontario and Manitoba, and has performed with numerous soloists and ensembles. In the summers, Anneli is the director for Ontario Mennonite Music Camp in Waterloo, ON. She enjoys teaching piano, presenting her research to a variety of audiences, adjudicating festivals, composing congregational music, and leading worship at gatherings across Canada and the United States.

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## Diane Manojlovich - Junior & Intermediate Piano

Diane has been involved with and enjoying music festivals for most of her life. An avid participant as a youngster, Diane registered her own students in various festivals as an adult. She was the festival coordinator for the Rotary Burlington Music Festival for many years, is on the board of the Ontario Music Festivals Association and has attended several National Music Festivals. In 2016, with co-founder and colleague, Tom Oliver, and a fabulous committee, she created the Hamilton Music Festival. It is now gearing up for its fifth year.

Her musical education began in Niagara Falls with the wonderful Beverly Jamieson and Diane has been fortunate to have continued her journey under the guidance of other excellent teachers: Heather Laliberte and Pamela van Weelden.

Having earned a Bachelor of Science degree after high school, Diane worked in both the pharmaceutical industry and with industrial chemicals before she left work to become a mother. While home with her children, Diane began teaching piano. Realizing that music was much more rewarding than chemicals, she returned to university and earned her Honours Bachelor of Music degree.

Maintaining a very busy private music studio, many of her students perform Diane's own compositions. She sings in her Church choir, has accompanied choirs and solo instrumentalists, and has ensured that her three children have developed their talent and love for music.

As past treasurer and recital convener for the Hamilton-Halton branch of ORMTA (Ontario Registered Music Teachers Association), Diane regularly networks with other teachers in the area. Always conscious of improvement, Diane frequently attends continuing education seminars .



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## Voice, Pop and Musical Theatre Adjudicator—Marion Abbott

Marion Abbott is a proud graduate of the Musical Theatre Performance Program at Sheridan College. Upon graduating, she was immediately hired to teach for the program and was later named one of the top twenty graduates of the program. She has her Grade 10 Voice and A.R.C.T. in Piano Performance from The Royal Conservatory of Music.



For Voice, Marion studied with Christina James and Alan Reid. For Piano, Marion studied with Ted Ellis and the renowned Canadian couple, Margaret and Clifford Poole. Marion is the creator of The Confidential Project (which included Musical Theatre, Theatre, Shakespeare, Opera and Operetta), The Plain Stage Theatre Company, The Women Of Musical Theatre Festival, New Works Series, The Artist Discovery Series and The Spirit Of Maud Theatre Company.

Her mandate as a producer was to provide as many opportunities for as many artists as possible; consequently, Marion produced over 400 productions in Toronto and other cities. Of the many (many!) shows Marion has worked on, some of her favourites include *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *All Shook Up*, *Anne And Maud*, *No Safe Harbour*, *Ragtime*, *Streetcar Named Desire* and *Passion*.

As a private teacher, Marion has taught voice, piano and acting for 30 years to students of all ages. Many of her former students now work in the arts full time.

Marion is now in demand as a director-music director, consultant, adjudicator and private coach.

Marion LOVES Walt Disney and tries to get to Walt Disney World in Florida at least once a year. [www.marionabbott.com](http://www.marionabbott.com)

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## **String Adjudicator- Dr. Alexander Sasha Weinstangel**

A prolific composer, a passionate orchestral and choral conductor, and an accomplished violin virtuoso, Dr. Weinstangel was born in Croatia (Yugoslavia). He started his music education at the age of seven, completed his first published composition at the age of nine, and started appearing as a violin soloist with orchestras at the age of ten.

He received academic degrees in both Violin/Performance and Composition/Theory from the University of Belgrade, and the Doctor of Music degree in Composition/Music Theory from the University of Toronto, where he studied under John Beckwith. Along the way he also undertook studies in conducting with Sir Adrian Boult and Antonio Janigro, and electronic music with Paul Pignon, Gustav Ciamaga and Dennis Patrick.

Founding Artistic Director and Conductor of the National Chamber Orchestra of Canada, Dr. Weinstangel is a charismatic leader who leads his musicians with vigor and emotion, and is found in turn on the conductor's podium, at the harpsichord, or in concertmaster's chair, as suits the repertoire performed. His compositions include chamber, orchestral and choral works, operas, as well as concertos for diverse instruments. He has taught in universities and colleges in North America and New Zealand and has served as an adjudicator and juror for strings, chamber ensembles, orchestras, composition and conducting competitions.

**“A compleat musician... such a rarity in our times”**

Richard GALE, CKDS/Stereo 95, Canada



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