# **Kimberley Ganter - Dance**

Kimberley is a performer, choreographer, teacher, and adjudicator based in Toronto. Originally from Saskatchewan, Kimberley began training in various styles at a young age. She has trained with Harbour Dance Centre's Intensive Training Program, The Source Dance Company, and RubberbanDance Group.

Kimberley has worked on multiple projects and toured across Canada and the Middle East with Creativiva, PRP and Wondersee Entertainment. She performed at HUM Awards with BNF Entertainment Dubai and Elation Avenue Event Management, and has worked on the CBC mystery-drama series Frankie Drake Mysteries.

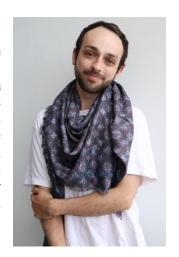
Kimberley currently teaches and choreographs all across the GTA and is a faculty member at City Dance Corps. She performs at various events in Ontario with TDC Entertainment and most recently started working as a choreographer for the company.

Kimberley has extensive teaching and adjudicating experience and has choreographed for all ages. She is always inspired by new dancers and cannot wait to create new memories with your students this competition season!



# **Christopher Knowles - Dance**

Christopher Knowles is a Canadian based creator, choreographer and teacher. He has had the chance to travel across Canada and the US creating work for many companies and events, sharing his love and knowledge of dance with the world. Christopher is a George Brown Dance College Alumni. In the past he served as Artistic Director of Precision Dance Company and choreographed for the George Brown Dance College. Christopher was honoured to create and perform work for: Millennium Dance Complex T.O., Sony Music Canada, Mac Cosmetics CA, MTV UK, City Dance Corps, Toronto's Choreographers Ball, Fever After Dark, Fall For Dance North, as well as "Dance Weekend" for Dance Ontario, all events showcasing Toronto's Professional working talent. Christopher is currently a faculty member at Studio North, Edge Studios, and Edge High School. He is currently focusing on the launch of his professional dance company @knowledgedancecompany.



# <u>Jennifer Higgin – Speech Arts</u>

Jennifer Higgin is recognizable from her supporting lead roles in "Cranberry Christmas" (Leo Award Nomination), "Time for Us to Come Home for Christmas" and "The Christmas Contest" for Hallmark Channel. As well as being an experienced adjudicator in Speech Arts, Voice, and Musical Theatre, she has performed on the stages of almost every province in Canada. Highlights are "Cabaret", "School for Scandal", "Othello" and "Weill Women" at the Stratford Festival, "Sweet Charity" at Rainbow Stage, and the world premiere of "Lake Nora Arms", an a cappella musical with words by Michael Redhill, winner of the Giller Prize for Canadian Literature. Jennifer was trained at the Neighbourhood Playhouse under Bill Esper and Sanford Meisner, and at the York Graduate Programme with Michele George and David Smukler. She holds an ARCT in Singing (Performance) and MFA in Theatre. Her students in Toronto were consistent gold medal winners in RCM Speech Arts examinations. Additional film and television credits include "Murdoch Mysteries"



(Mrs. Pearson), "The Handmaid's Tale", "Flashpoint" and "Kim's Convenience". In addition, she co-wrote/co-produced and appeared in "Misconceptions", an advocacy film for Actra Toronto's Act Your Age Committee, for which she has been given a Life Membership in Actra. Jennifer is happy to regale you with stories of travelling to Arezzo, Italy, to appear in a musical adaptation of Sheldon Rosen's play "The Love Mouse" and dubbing films at the Barrandov Studios in Prague. This Spring you can watch for her in the dramas "Secrets of the Morning" and "Twilight's Child", part of the Dawn Cutler family saga which will be shown on Lifetime Channel

#### **Marion Abbott – Speech Arts**

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. Marion has 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 31 years to students of all ages. From festivals to recitals to performing in Disney World, Marion cherishes her memories of her time with her students dearly. 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. She has also uploaded over 800 accompaniment tracks on her YouTube Channel for Singers and Voice **Teachers** utilize: www.youtube.com/c/MarionAbbott/Videos Marion has written a musical about the true life story of Lucy Maud Montgomery entitled Maud: The Musical. She is currently buried in rewrites in preparation for a workshop of the piece. Marion LOVES Walt Disney and would live in Walt Disney World if that were possible.

#### **Lauren Eselson – Band & Woodwind**

Lauren Eselson is an Instructor of Flute at Mount Royal University Conservatory. She was a regular extra musician in the flute section of the Calgary Philharmonic from 1980-2019, including several seasons as Acting Assistant Principal Flute. Ms. Eselson has also performed with the National Ballet Orchestra, Royal Winnipeg Ballet Orchestra, Calgary Bach Society, Kensington Sinfonia, Chicago Civic Orchestra, the American Wind Symphony, and in pit orchestras for Theater Calgary, Alberta Theatre Projects, and Broadway touring productions. She has appeared as a concerto soloist with the Calgary Philharmonic, Calgary Bach Society, Kensington Sinfonia and the Calgary Chamber Ensemble, and has been recorded in recital by CBC Radio.

At Mount Royal University Conservatory, Ms. Eselson recently retired as the Woodwind coordinator for the well-known Academy program for gifted young musicians. She is a Woodwind-Brass examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music, and is in demand as an adjudicator across Canada. She has also taught at the University of Calgary and Grande Prairie Regional College.



Ms. Eselson holds a Bachelor of Music from the Cleveland Institute, and a Master of Music from Northwestern University. Her principal teachers were Walfrid Kujala, Maurice Sharp, Jim Walker, Claude Monteux and Geoffrey Gilbert.

#### Dr. Eugena Riehl - Band

Dr. Eugena Riehl has taught music for more than forty years in her private studio which is currently in Woodstock, Ontario. She has taught at both Western University (formerly the University of Western Ontario) where she earned her B.A Honours Music and M.A. Music Theory and the State University of New York at Buffalo where she earned her Ph.D., Music Theory, M.Mus. Flute Performance. Eugena holds an A.R.C.T. from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Flute Performance and Flute Teaching. The RCM has certified Eugena for teaching flute, clarinet, saxophone, piano, and music theory. Eugena founded the Oxford Winds Community Concert Band and the Oxford Breeze Novice Band where she was the conductor for their first ten years. Eugena is an adjudicator with the Canadian Music Festival Adjudicators Association, and an examiner with the Royal College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music where she shares her expertise across Canada and the United States.



#### **Robert McLeod - Band**

Robert McLeod has been living and working in Vancouver as a freelance trombonist since 1983 when he returned to Canada from London, England, after studying with Denis Wick, principal trombonist of the London Symphony Orchestra. He holds a Master's degree in trombone performance from the University of British Columbia, a Bachelor of Music degree with a Certificate for Excellence in Performance from Mount Allison University, and a teaching degree from Simon Fraser University.

As a professional trombonist, he has toured extensively throughout Canada and the United States, and internationally in such major centres as New York, London, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brisbane, Bombay, including a debut recital in Tchaikovsky Hall in Moscow. As an active freelance trombonist in Vancouver, he has performed with such ensembles as the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver Opera Orchestra, and the Victoria Symphony.



Rob has extensive experience as an adjudicator, having worked at major music festivals all across central and western Canada, and has been a presenter and clinician at music conferences both Provincially and Nationally. He has over 25 years of experience as a music teacher and band director at the Elementary, Secondary and College levels and his ensembles have won acclaim both provincially and nationally.

Rob recently retired from the world of public education to be able to dedicate more time to his family, and to his love of music. Rob and his wife Pam celebrate their roots on both of Canada's coasts, and split their time between North Vancouver, and the family farm in Sackville, N.B.

# Michael Kevin Jones - Strings, Harp, & Guitar

The English cellist, Michael Kevin Jones, studied Music Performance Piano/Cello at Royal College of Music in London. While a student there he was chosen to play for the Royal family and awarded a German government scholarship for further study in Köln and at the Robert Schumann Hochschule Düsseldorf, Germany. He studied with Pauline Ballard, Dulce Haigh Marshall, Michael Evans, Joan Dickson, Johannes Goritzki.

Michael Kevin Jones has found a unique place for himself among today's performers. After his studies he quickly became solo cellist and toured the world with top musical groups. He has developed a non-conventional career incorporating multi-musical activities and he is also an avid teacher and coach.

Michael Kevin Jones had his first top 10 selling CD 'Original music for cello and guitar' in Hong Kong and China and as a soloist his recording of the complete <u>J.S. Bach' Cello Suites (BWV 1007)</u> on a 1667 Stradivarius cello for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York has received international critical acclaim and several audio awards



# Dr. Greg Caisley - Piano

Dr. Greg Caisley completed his Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Keyboard Collaborative Arts at the University of Southern California, in Los Angeles, working with Dr. Alan Smith. Earlier studies included two years of Aufbaustudium in Germany, as well as special studies and concerts in Vienna, Banff, and throughout the United States. Since moving to Vancouver in 2006, Dr. Caisley has worked and performed for many music institutions around Vancouver, including the Vancouver Academy of Music, City Opera Vancouver, and UBC. In addition, he has made several CD albums, tours, and even music videos across western Canada. He has collaborated with some outstanding musicians over his career, including Martin Katz, Heinrich Schiff, Michael Uhde, Elly Ameling, Kevin Fitzgerald, Robert Höll, Tracy Dahl, Ruth Golden, Rudolf Janzen, and Hans Hotter.



Dr. Caisley has taught both solo and collaborative piano for 15 years in his private studio, now located in downtown Vancouver, and a number of his students have continued on to both professional music careers, and further studies at important musical institutions, including as far as the Conservatory in Milan, and as close by as the University of Victoria School of Music. In addition to his career as a performance artist and piano teacher, Dr. Caisley has worked extensively as a vocal coach and répétiteur. He has worked for opera companies, and coached over 50 classically trained singers. Some of these singers have gone on to successful careers in German and Italian opera houses, as well as well as working in various groups throughout the Vancouver region.

Dr. Caisley is a strong proponent of music education as an inspiration and vocation for both listener and performer, and as such is a passionate champion of the Canadian music festival movement. He has adjudicated more than 200 festivals across Canada, and has held masterclasses in many smaller communities in support of music education, communication skills, and the links between music, history, and psychology. Dr. Caisley also currently holds the position of President of the Canadian Music Festivals Adjudicators Association.

Dr. Caisley also founded and continues to direct what is now referred to as United Voices Choir, a choir of approximately 50 auditioned singers which is paired with professional singer soloists and instrumentalists to perform large-scale sacred music concerts. Their repertoire extends from Handel's Messiah, Bach's Saint John Passion, through to the Brahms' Requiem and Lauridsen's Lux Aeterna.

In his spare time, Dr Caisley enjoys cycling, hockey, and reading the poetry of Charles Bukowski, e.e. cummings and Billy Collins. He loves to spend time with his three children, aged 7, 19, and 23, and his wife, Yi Zhou, who is a violinist in the Vancouver Symphony.

#### **Cherith Alexander - Piano**

Cherith Alexander is a dynamic pianist based in Weyburn, Saskatchewan. As a respected piano and theory teacher in the community for more than twenty-five years she has worked with a variety of students of all ages and levels. Many of her students have received awards including RCM gold medals and provincial music festival honors.

An experienced collaborative pianist and chamber musician, Cherith has performed with many renowned musicians and especially enjoys coaching young musicians "from the piano bench". She spent a number of years employed as an accompanist/coach at the Conservatory of Music in Regina. One musical highlight for Cherith has been travelling ten times to the National Music Festival as an accompanying pianist for the Saskatchewan competitors. In 2015 she was delighted to perform as a guest pianist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players.

Cherith is passionate about the value of music festivals and has had the privilege of adjudicating at festivals throughout Western Canada including Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, and the Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver Kiwanis Festivals.

Cherith was educated at the University of British Columbia where she was a pupil of Kum Sing Lee. Some of the other influential teachers in her life have included William Moore of the University of Regina and Marcelle Guidos of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan under whose



direction she completed her A.R.C.T. at the age of fifteen. As a young student she was honoured to win the SMFA Concerto Competition in 1991 after which she performed as a guest soloist with the Regina Symphony Orchestra.

Cherith lives on a farm near Weyburn with her husband Tim and her two youngest children who are also very involved in the musical communities of Weyburn and Regina. Her two older sons are attending university in Calgary. Committed to lifelong learning, Cherith is an avid reader, concert-goer, and podcast listener

# Cindy Romphf - Elementary School Music, Choral & Orff

Cindy Romphf (she/her) was born in the unceded traditional territory of the Tsimshian people (Prince Rupert). The Pacific Northwest Music Festival was the first music festival she had ever participated in (piano) and she is very excited to return as an adjudicator! Cindy is currently the President of the Greater Victoria Music Educators' Association, the current Past President of the B.C. Music Educators' Association and the 2nd Vice President of the Greater Victoria Teachers' Association. With 20 years of experience of teaching in public schools, she is the music department head at Cedar Hill Middle School in Victoria, B.C. which includes 15 performance ensembles under the direction of 3 music teachers. Their bands, choirs and orchestral ensembles have been awarded Superior marks at regional, provincial and national festivals in Canada.

Cindy completed her Bachelor of Music in Secondary Music Education at the University of Victoria graduating with distinction with a major in Piano and a minor in Voice. She completed her Masters of Music majoring in Instrumental Conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University (Texas). Cindy Romphf is a recipient of the "Fine Arts Champion Award" in 2014 and 2022 from the Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils.



She is a sought after clinician, guest conductor, and honour ensemble conductor across the province of BC.

Cindy Romphf is one of the founders of the national award winning community choir, the Vancouver Island Chamber Choir. In her spare time, she performs locally in Victoria at churches and with different ensembles and she is also in the cover band "Bobby Dazzler" where she plays tenor sax, keyboard and back up vocals. She loves baking and spending time with her husband Jon and 2 young children, Elayna and Jackson.

# Joslin Romphf Dennis - Vocal, Vocal Music Theatre & Choral

Joslin is the studio owner and lead teacher at JRD Voice Studio in British Columbia, Canada and is owned by a very snuggly chihuahua named Fred. She is obsessed with helping singers of all ages and ability find THEIR unique voice - and will dispense plenty of unicorn sparkle and encouragement along the way!

She has been on faculty with the Vancouver Academy of Music since 2015 where she now teaches college-level diction classes. She is the author of The Singers' Aural Skills Drill Book For Teachers, a how-to ear training book specifically designed for teachers of singers. She is a member in good standing of the BC Registered Music Teachers Association, Richmond Branch.(BCRMTA), The Speakeasy Cooperative (SECO), and is a certified teacher of the Neuro-Vocal Method in popular microphone styles. Joslin received her Bachelors and Masters of Music from The Curtis Institute of Music and was a Young Artist in the Lindeman Program at the Metropolitan Opera in New York City.

An avid performer and recitalist, recent performances include soprano soloist in Beethoven's 9th Symphony and Verdi's Requiem with Leslie Dala conducting the VAM Symphony Orchestra and the Vancouver Bach Choir. Joslin is currently working on a one-woman cabaret show, set to debut in early 2024.



Joslin is a sought-after adjudicator and clinician at various Canadian music festivals, including the Richmond Music Festival, the Port Coquitlam Music Festival, the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, the Pacific Northwest Music Festival in Terrace, BC, and the Lethbridge Music Festival in Lethbridge, Alberta. She has been a member of the panel to adjudicate the McLellan Competition for the Winnipeg Women's Musical Club multiple times and has served as a judge for Juno Awards. She is thrilled to return to Terrace to adjudicate this year!