

Mary Ficzer

At a young age, Mary Ficzer earned the Royal Conservatory of Music's Silver Medal for achieving the highest piano exam mark in Ontario. This early success inspired her to pursue advanced music studies, culminating in an ARCT in Performance from the Royal Conservatory of Music, as well as Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Western Ontario. Her training was shaped by influential teachers such as John Paul Bracey, Jim Anagnoson, John Hess, and Edna Golandsky.

Mary is currently the Head of School Programming and Development at the Merriam School of Music in Oakville, where she also teaches a studio of gifted piano students in the Enriched Studies Program. Over her tenure at Merriam, Mary has held leadership roles as Piano Department Head, Enriched Studies Department Head, and Director of Examinations. She played a key role in developing the Keyfest Curriculum and Examination System for all instruments and levels, co-authoring the piano syllabus and establishing the Keyfest Examiner Training Program.

As an educator, Mary has extensive experience teaching group and private piano lessons to students of all ages and skill levels. While her passion lies in classical music, she also enjoys exploring jazz and pop styles with her students and integrating technology into her lessons.

A sought-after clinician, Mary leads seminars on Performance Technique and Injury Prevention. Her training at the Golandsky Institute in New York City provided her with in-depth expertise in piano technique and coordinated movement. Mary is also an active adjudicator for Canadian music festivals and regularly performs as a collaborative pianist with instrumentalists and singers throughout the Greater Toronto Area.