



ENRICHING

THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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Gilles Comeau and Julia Brook, researchers with the Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory, work with a promising young piano student.

ENABLING RESEARCH

IN MUSIC READING

There is a need for sustained commitment to providing the best tools we can in order to allow the potential of bright young researchers to flourish. Students often have a wealth of research ideas, but without the right tools, it is difficult to see these ideas come to fruition.

The Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory provides this kind of opportunity, thanks to a legacy gift from the late Canadian composer Ann Southam. A long-time champion of the Lab, she followed the Lab's research with keen interest, specifically research on music reading.

Now, thanks to the Ann Southam Music Reading Research Fund, students can go a step further in realizing their research ideas. Normally an anonymous donor, Ann decided to publicize her name as a way of emphasizing her association with the Lab and promoting the research taking place as a result of her donation.

With the advanced equipment the Fund provides, students can now pursue their ideas and plan new and

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exciting research projects. The infrastructure of this laboratory allows researchers to observe specific visual or auditory occurrences that allow them to measure the complex activity of learning to play the piano. Researchers digitize a beginner student's performance, save it on computer or videotape, and convert it into statistical graphs and measurements. The benefits from the Lab's accessibility to students, researchers and teachers in this field of research are far-reaching and significant.