

Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory – Highlights

The Piano Pedagogy Research Laboratory experienced a rewarding opening year beginning with a successful inaugural ceremony in October 2005, followed by a series of lectures, workshops and VIP tours. In total, over 360 guests have visited the research facility, distinguishing the Piano Lab as a dynamic environment within the Music Department.



Director **Gilles Comeau** presented the Piano Lab and its major research projects at the Internet 2 conference organized by Indiana University via videoconference in March 2006. Shortly thereafter, the Piano Lab hosted its first conference series entitled Music and the Brain. World leaders in psychology, neuropsychology, speech pathology and human kinetics, namely Isabelle Peretz, Laurel Trainor, Caroline Palmer, Sylvie Hébert, and University of Ottawa professor Ramesh Balasubramaniam, shared their latest research findings with over 70 audience members.

Both students of the music department and local piano teachers were eager to take part in a hands-on Eutony workshop organized by the Piano Lab. Specialist Ursula Stuber from Université Laval was invited to give 3 days of intensive sessions designed to create body awareness during instrumental performance.

The Piano Lab was privileged to host private tours for numerous VIP guests, among them Jon Kimura Parker, Aline Chrétien, Philip Steenkamp, deputy minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Alastair Glass, deputy minister of Research and Innovation, and Toru Saruya, president of Yamaha Canada Ltd.



Within a short period, the Piano Lab has established itself among the most specialized laboratories in Canada, drawing the interest of experts in the field of piano pedagogy and beyond.

Research Projects – Update

Recherche en éducation musicale, an academic journal published annually by the Faculty of Music at Université Laval, will release a special volume featuring the latest research involving the Piano Lab. Partners from the fields of engineering & information technology as well as mechanical engineering will share their findings regarding the design and use of the MIDIator software for analyzing students' piano performances, and the biomechanical implications of piano playing, respectively. Also, motivation research stemming from the fields of music and psychology will report on the development and initial testing of a measure designed to assess the motivation of piano students.

The Piano Lab and its partners at the National Research Council (NRC) and the Virtuosi – International Centre of Chamber Music of Finland recently established a special phone line connection between pianos equipped with MIDI technology. A piano in Ottawa can thus reproduce the action of a piano in Finland in real time, considerably enhancing the quality of distance teaching via videoconference technology.

Finally, director Gilles Comeau signed a contract with Routledge to publish a reference work entitled Piano Pedagogy: A Research and Information Guide. Involving the retrieval and analysis of appropriate resources in piano pedagogy and related fields, this annotated bibliography of resources will surely become an indispensable tool for any researcher in the field of piano pedagogy.

Piano Pedagogy – Academic Programs

Julia Brook and **Nisreen Jardaneh** are the first students to successfully complete the new Graduate Certificate in Piano Pedagogy Research. Both will pursue an MA with a thesis in Piano Pedagogy in the fall of 2006, joining second-year MA students **Jason Ray** and **Yi Fei**, as well as first-year MA student **Catherine Lemay**. Congratulations all!