

New director of music, organist at Westminster United Church

Nancy Sicsic, who teaches courses in the Alexander Technique and piano as a member of the graduate music faculty at the University of Toronto, is the new organist and choir director at Westminster United Church, Orangeville.

The Alexander technique, named after Frederick Matthias Alexander, a Shakespearean orator, teaches people how to avoid unnecessary muscular and mental tension while performing. Sicsic is one of just a handful of performing pianists in the world qualified to teach the technique, which helps people and artists, musicians and dancers in particular to maximize their potential by erasing unnecessary effort and tension in their movement.

Sicsic also teaches private piano lessons in Orangeville and is extremely excited to engage interest in singers and instrumentalists in the community.

Her career spans 25 years of teaching music and piano in the United States and Canada in almost every kind of academic setting. She designed and taught piano pedagogy courses at Rice University and at Frostburg State University in Maryland and is now extremely active as a professor, studio teacher and promoter of health and wellness for musicians.

She received her degree in the honors program at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where she studied piano performance with master teacher John Perry and organ with Clyde Holloway.

Sicsic performs in the U.S. and Canada as soloist and chamber musician. She is in demand as a pianist, a collaborative artist, an organist and as a dynamic clinician who gives workshops on piano teaching and the Alexander Technique.

A graduate of the Vancouver School of the Alexander Technique, Sicsic served on the executive council of CANSTAT, Canada's Society of Teachers of the Alexander Technique.

Sicsic recently performed a concert at Westminster featuring music from the Baroque era, including works by Bach and Corelli, meditative selections by Arvo Part, along with seasonal offerings.