Liam Pond

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EDUCATION

McGill University

Master of Arts in Music Technology – Supervisor: Dr. Ichiro Fujinaga

August 2024 – Present

University of Toronto, St. George Campus

Bachelor of Music in Classical Piano Performance – Professor: Dr. Jamie Parker
Mathematics Minor, Piano Pedagogy Certificate
GPA: 3.95/4.00

September 2019 – April 2023

PUBLICATIONS

Pond, Liam, Tace McNamara and Ichiro Fujinaga. Forthcoming. "The Benchmark for Encoding Assessment in Music (BEAM-LLM): Evaluating LLM Performance in Symbolic Music Parsing" In *Proceedings of the Music Encoding Conference 2026*. Tokyo, Japan.

Pond, Liam, and Ichiro Fujinaga. 2025. "Teaching LLMs Music Theory with In-Context Learning and Chain-of-Thought Prompting: Pedagogical Strategies for Machines." In *Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Computer Supported Education – Volume 1: CSME*, 671–681. Porto, Portugal. https://doi.org/10.5220/0013506100003932.

Saini, Vinay, **Liam Pond**, Jackson Uhryn, Albert Kalayil, Aditya Tomar, Kasimuthumaniyan Subramanian, Milana Trifkovic, and Philip Egberts. 2025. "Shear-Dependent Tribological Behavior of Oleic Acid as a Sustainable Lubricant Additive in Oils and Nano-Greases." *Wear*: 205932. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wear.2025.205932.

Burt, Lauren, **Liam Pond**, Annabel Bugbird, David Hanley, and Steven Boyd. 2025. "Canadian Adult Reference Data for Body Composition, Trabecular Bone Score and Advanced Hip Analysis Using DXA." *Journal of Clinical Densitometry* 28 (1): 101535. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jocd.2024.101535.

Abid, Noor, **Liam Pond**, and Svetlana Yanushkevich. 2024. "Causality Exploration in Modeling Engineering Student Satisfaction." In *Proceedings of the 2024 IEEE Global Engineering Education Conference (EDUCON)*, 1–10. Kos, Greece. https://doi.org/10.1109/EDUCON60312.2024.10578860.

Anzum, Fahim, Ashratuz Zavin Asha, Lily Dey, Artemy Gavrilov, Fariha Iffath, Abu Quwsar Ohi, **Liam Pond**, Md Shopon, and Marina L. Gavrilova. 2024. "A Comprehensive Review of Trustworthy, Ethical, and Explainable Computer Vision Advancements in Online Social Media." In *Global Perspectives on the*

Applications of Computer Vision in Cybersecurity, edited by Franklin Tchakounté and Marcellin Atemkeng, 1–46. Hershey, PA: IGI Global. https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-6684-8127-1.ch001.

SELECTED AWARDS

2026 Mila-B21 BLUE Fellowship	2026
Bourse de maîtrise en recherche, Fonds de recherche du Québec – **$40,000**	2025 – 2027
Graduate Travel Award, McGill University – **$800**	2025
Travel Award, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology – **$1,200**	2025
Graduate Excellence Fellowship, McGill University – **$23,300**	2024 – 2026
McGill International Research Master's Award, McGill University – **$8,700**	2024
W. O. Forsyth Admission Scholarship, University of Toronto – **$5,600**	2019 – 2023
Final Essay Award, MAT335: Chaos, Fractals, and Dynamics, University of Toronto – **$100**	2023
People's Choice – Podium Presentation, McCaig Institute Summer Student Symposium	2022
PNN Scholarship, University of Toronto – **$1,200**	2021
Wayne Vance Scholarship for Organ Performance, University of Toronto – **$1,365**	2020
Harald and Jean Bohne Scholarship, University of Toronto – **$2,600**	2019
First Place, National Final 15 Years Old, Canadian Music Competition	2018
Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition, performed with the Calgary Civic Symphony – **$1,000**	2018

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, McGill University

Distributed Digital Music Archives & Libraries Lab – PI: Dr. Ichiro Fujinaga (Music Technology)

September 2024 – Present

- Supervised four summer students working on the LinkedMusic project
- Engineered an LLM-based tool to translate natural language to SPARQL database queries
- Adapted a singing voice synthesis tool for Latin medieval chants
- Presented research in a poster at LLM4MA, an ISMIR 2025 workshop in South Korea

Research Assistant, University of Calgary

Nanotribology Laboratory – PI: Dr. Philip Egberts (Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering)

January 2024 – July 2024

- Processed lubricant friction data using Python – GitHub
- Conducted experiments to test the effect of oleic acid in lubricants, results published in *Wear*
- Operated a custom tribometer using LabView software
- Synthesized and tested lubricants with varying properties
- Analyzed wear scars using a Leica DM6000 M materials science microscope

Research Assistant, University of Calgary

Biometric Technologies Laboratory – PI: Dr. Svetlana Yanushkevich (Electrical and Software Engineering)

May 2023 – January 2024

- Analyzed EDI data for first-year engineering students at the University of Calgary
- Automated survey data migration to Excel using Python
- Co-authored a conference paper for IEEE EDUCON 2024

Research Assistant, University of Calgary

Biometric Technologies Laboratory – PI: Dr. Marina Gavrilova (Computer Science)

May 2023 – October 2023

- Conducted a comprehensive literature review of music emotion recognition studies
- Recorded a multi-genre piano music database for music preference studies
- Co-authored a book chapter on computer vision advancements in online social media

Summer Student Researcher, University of Calgary

Chickadee Challenge – PI: Dr. Marjan Eggermont (Sustainable Systems Engineering)

May 2023 – August 2023

- Created classroom activities for Grade 4 students to think critically about music and nature
- Composed *Black-Capped Chickadee's Sunday Afternoon* for solo piano
- Designed and 3D printed a visualization of sound using OpenSCAD and Praat
- Presented bio-inspired pedagogical strategies in the 2023 UofC Engineering Education Forum

Summer Student Researcher, University of Calgary

Bone Imaging Laboratory – PI: Dr. Steve Boyd (Radiology)

May 2022 – August 2022

- Developed statistical analysis software using GAMLSS, a package in R
- Published results in the *Journal of Clinical Densitometry*
- Received the Audience Choice Presentation Award at the McCaig Summer Student Symposium
- Presented at the Biomedical Engineering Undergraduate Summer Student Symposium
- Integrated code into the team's website, normative.ca

WORK EXPERIENCE

System Administrator and Developer

Digital Analysis of Chant Transmission (Cantus Database)

January 2026 – Present

- Administering cloud infrastructure on DRAC (Digital Research Alliance of Canada) servers
- Maintaining Cantus Django/PostgreSQL backend
- Adding features on the frontend (cantusdatabase.org) and backend (Django/PostgreSQL)

Freelance Solo and Collaborative Pianist

September 2016 – Present

- Performed five solo piano recitals at venues at the University of Toronto, Mount Royal University, and the Avenue Road Music & Performance Academy
- Substituted as a choral pianist with the Calgary Philharmonic Chorus
- Served as the Calgary Civic Symphony's orchestral pianist (3 years)
- Accompanied dozens of singers and instrumentalists in recitals, juries, and competitions

Private Piano and Music Theory Teacher

September 2018 – Present

- Guided dozens of students (3yrs–adult) to appreciate music and build a healthy work ethic
- Prepared students for RCM (Royal Conservatory of Music) Piano/Theory exams up to Level 8
- Coached student to achieve a perfect score on Level 7 RCM Theory exam

COMMUNITY

Music Graduate Students' Society (MGSS), McGill University

President

May 2025 – April 2026

- Directed all MGSS activities and initiatives for the 2025–2026 year
- Currently organizing a travel grant for auditioning and competing performers
- Creating published conference proceedings for the annual MGSS Student Symposium

Founder, McGill Music Research Club

September 2024 – March 2025

- Founded and independently managed an interdisciplinary music research journal club
- Curated multidisciplinary guest speaker series
- Secured funding from MGSS and CIRMMT (Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Music Media and Technology)

- Managed social media presence, including designing posters and running an Instagram account

PGSS Delegate and Music Technology Area Representative

September 2024 – April 2025

- Liaised between MGSS and PGSS regarding policy updates and issues
- Advocated for music technology graduate students within the Department of Music Research
- Organized social events for music technology graduate students

Consort Eureka (Non-profit Organisation)

Founding Executive Director

December 2025 – Present

- Founded Consort Eureka, a non-profit organization that provides free educational concerts to help audiences to understand classical music
- Performed, recorded, and organized inaugural New York City concert

Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS), McGill University

Councillor

September 2024 – April 2025

- Debated and voted on university-wide initiatives and policies
- Advised legal proceedings between PGSS and McGill University
- Represented music graduate students in the PGSS council

Appointments Board Member

September 2024 – April 2025

- Evaluated commissioner applications for the 2025–2026 year

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

LinkedMusic Update: May 2025 – Present

LinkedMusic Project Meeting IV, *Montréal, Canada* December 13th, 2025

Teaching LLMs Music Theory with In-Context Learning and Chain-of-Thought Prompting: Pedagogical Strategies for Machines

6th International Special Session on Computer Supported Music Education, *Porto, Portugal* April 3rd, 2025

V2Meow: Meowing to the Visual Beat via Video-to-Music Generation

McGill Music Research Club, *Montréal, QC* September 23rd, 2024

Bio-Inspired Music and Design in Elementary Classrooms

Engineering Education Forum 2023, *Calgary, AB* June 1st, 2023

Establishment of Sex- and Site-Specific Normative Data for Adults Using Dual X-Ray Absorptiometry

McCaig Summer Student Symposium, *Calgary, AB*   August 18th, 2022

Establishment of Sex- and Site-Specific Normative Data for Adults Using Dual X-Ray Absorptiometry

Biomedical Engineering Summer Student Symposium, *Calgary, AB*   August 17th, 2022

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

SESSEMI for LinkedMusic: Democratizing Access to Musical Archives via Large Language Models

1st Workshop on Large Language Models for Music and Audio, *Daejeon, South Korea*   September 26th, 2025

LinkedMusic: Integrating Music Databases with Linked Data

26th International Society for Music Information Retrieval Conference, *Daejeon, South Korea*   September 25th, 2025

LANGUAGES

English: Native
French: Advanced (DALF C1, self-evaluated)
Italian: Basic (CEFR A2, self-evaluated)

HOBBIES

Rock Climbing · Guitar · Powerlifting · Chess · Fencing · Language Learning