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WINTER 2019



MANITOBA
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Take Note . . .



MANITOBA REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

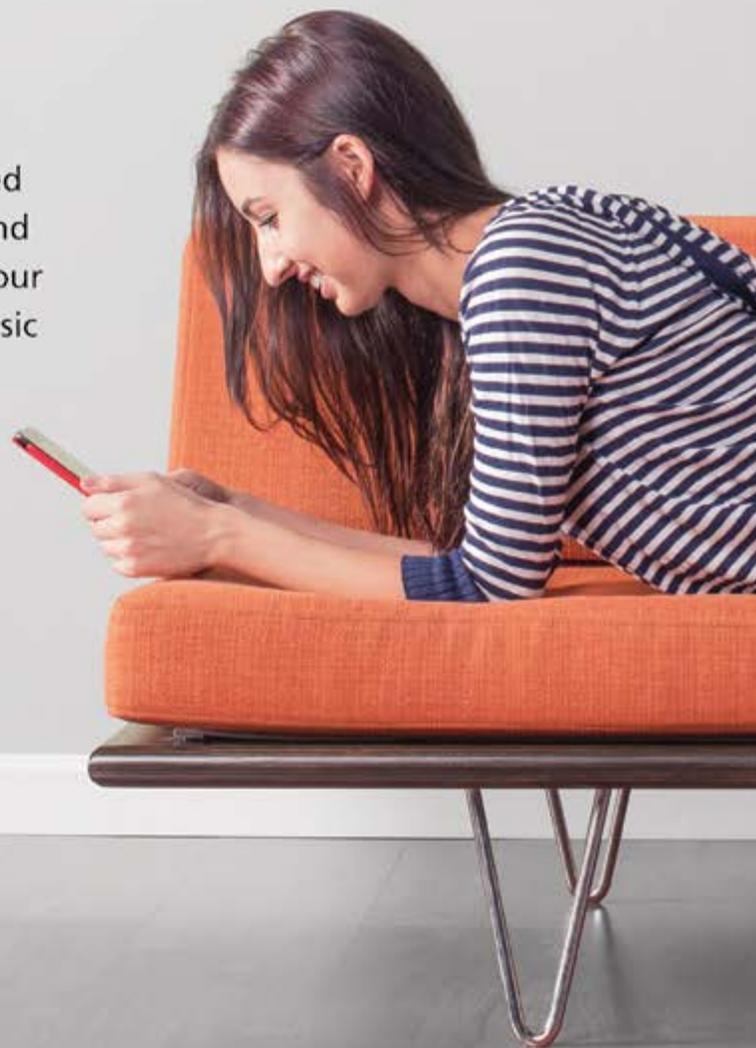
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editor@mrmta.org

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the
*President's
Message*

The 101st AGM has now taken place for this organization. This is actually so exciting that Past Prez Tiffany Wilson has spearheaded a crew of us to overhaul our bylaws. And not only exciting, it turns out that it's kind of fun working on bylaws. Maybe it's not the bylaws, but the company of fellow keeners that make it fun!

In this edition of Take Note you will read about the tremendous success of A Century of Sound Connections Conference in Winnipeg this past July. At the CFMTA meetings this summer, it was decided that in order to make it easier to fund a second national competition at the biennial conference (only the piano competition is funded by CFMTA every 2 years), membership fees will be raised by \$2. In honor of our 100th birthday, Manitoba will cover this increase for the 2020/21 year. As for the rest of the profit from our conference, we have increased our advertising budget, and will be considering other opportunities moving forward.

I really hope you took advantage of attending the annual Coffee, Cookies, and Computers event to get help updating or creating your personal PDF (which is linked to your profile on our website). There is an administrative fee of \$10 to make



MRMTA EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019-2020:

back row (L-R): Dianne Norris, Lori Jede, Linda DePauw

middle row (L-R): Christina Hutton, Gina Wedel, Betti Canning, Bernadette Geras, Viktoriya Tuz

front row (L-R): Laura Liu, Tiffany Wilson, Evangeline Keeley, Leanne Hiebert, Muriel Smith, Eleanor Epp

missing: Rachel Dueck, Wes Hamm, Michele Leclerc, Sister Josephine Chudzik, Norinne Danzinger-Dueck, Eleanor Lwiwski, Virginia Heinrichs, Jane Duerksen, Lee Houghton Stewart

Photo by Carla Buelow Photography

changes to your PDF outside of this annual coffee party. Be sure to keep your information current!

Enjoy the magazine, keep watching your email for updates, and be sure to print out any exciting tidbits (like the calendar, our wonderful new MRMTA advert, and of course a picture of your MRMTA friends on the steps of the Fort Garry Hotel!

Have a healthy and happy holiday season filled with music, family and friends. I hope that your students leave your studio for the holidays keen to work toward their MRMTA community service award! The holidays are a great time to go and do some musical volunteering. Find details at: https://www.mrmta.org/?page_id=8087.

All the best, Leanne





Call For Performers

Serata: An Evening of Musical Delights May 3, 2020

The MRMTA needs **YOU!** All RMTs are invited to perform as we continue this popular event. Going forward, we are raising funds for the Professional Development of our MRMTA members as well as continuing to fund-raise for our next convention!

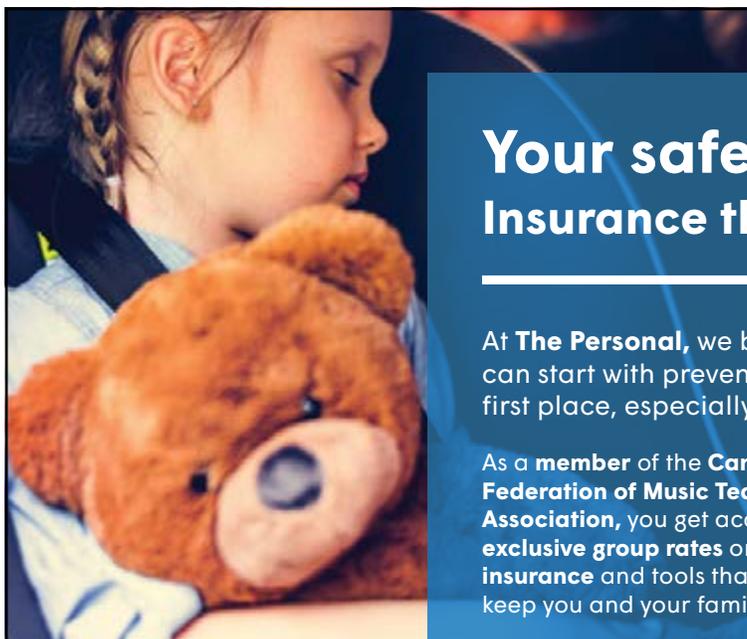
Dust off your instruments, gargle away the phlegm and let us know that you will participate in this prestigious annual concert and award ceremony. Remember, it qualifies as your volunteer time (\$50 value) too! Duets, trios, groups, etc. are all welcome and yes, we will have 2 grand pianos again.

Sign up before Dec.30 to be sure of a spot on the program!

Contact: tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com

Get your application in by April 1, 2020 for the RMT Professional Development Award

https://www.mrmta.org/?page_id=8064



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2019 MRMTA's 101st Annual General Meeting

September 22nd, 2019

Sunday, September 22nd, 2019 was a lovely afternoon on which to hold the MRMTA's 101st Annual General Meeting. Everyone had a wonderful time eating a delicious Fort Garry Hotel lunch, honoring our long-standing members, and talking through MRMTA business. Certainly, a highlight was Thelma Wilson saying a few words on the acceptance of her 75-year membership award.

In honour of our 100 years, we had hoped to get 100 members out for a photo on the steps of the Fort Garry Hotel much like the one from the 1937 CFMTA conference photo that you'll see on our website. Well we had almost 50 members there as you can see which is pretty good for a membership of about 160! The Women's Musical Club offered free concert tickets to all members present and there were a few door prizes (from the Manitoba Opera Company and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra). There was also some leftover conference swag for sale!

Orders of business included the announcement of 2 new initiatives:

- The MRMTA Community Service Awards
- The RMT Professional Development Award

and the adoption of a new membership category (the auxiliary membership). Over lunch, members added quips to conference photos a few of which you will see below.

Enjoy the AGM photos, add a quip of your own to the contest photo on page 17 and send it to info@mrmta.org. The best quip will win a prize!

Members that were honored this year were: (those present at AGM in bold):

- 20 years:** Tracy Dahl
Wesley Hamm
Margot Harding
Tatyana Rodionova
Elizabeth Rotoff
Henriette Schellenberg
Josee Vaillancourt
- 30 years:** Carilee Dueck
Susan Goleski
- 40 years:** **Ruth Douglas**
Donna Engel
Elsie Machovec
Jane Petroni
- 50 years :** Caroline Lenover
Ken Nichols
- 60 years:** Winnifred Sim
Leona Sorenson
- 75 years:** **Thelma Wilson**

Respects were paid to long standing members Remi Bouchard and Pearl Eyford who both passed away in 2019



I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree! **



I know it's sad but MRMTA teachers do not teach on Sundays **





Ruth Douglas, 40 year member with President Leanne Hiebert



Elsie Machovec, 40 year member



Jane Petroni (40 year member) with teacher Thelma Wilson (75 year member)



** MRMTA members gather for commemorative centenary photo on the steps of the Fort Garry Hotel

** Photos by Carla Buelow Photography

Take Note





Our roster of executive and committee members for the 2019/2020 year is completely full! Go MRMTA!

MRMTA EXECUTIVE 2019-2020

PRESIDENT	Leanne Hiebert	204.284.8581	president@mrmta.org
VICE-PRESIDENT	Evangeline Keeley	204.269.7549	vicepresident@mrmta.org
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SOUTHERN MB BRANCH	Wes Hamm	204.362.1715	wes.hamm@live.com
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PAPER SCHOLARSHIPS	Eleanor Lwiwski	204.255.3403	elwiwski@shaw.ca
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YOUNG ARTISTS' COMPETITION	Virginia Heinrichs	204.222.5844	dongin@mts.net
ARCHIVES	Muriel Smith	204.642.8549 ^(h) 204.781.2307 ^(c)	muriel.smith58@gmail.com
CFMTA COMPOSER COMPETITION	Jane Duerksen	204.371.2128	janeduerksen@gmail.com
CANADA MUSIC WEEK	Lee Houghton Stewart	204.284.6354	leeh399@hotmail.com
EDITOR-TAKE NOTE	Dina Pollock	604.614.3298	editor@mrmta.org
PHONE	Sister Josephine Chudzik	204-284-5501	joschudzik@mts.net
MUSICTHON	Christina Hutton	204.487.3899	pianostudio.christina@gmail.com
SERATA	Tiffany Wilson	204.488.3325	tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com ▶



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MRMTA Executive is looking for ...

Assistant Webmaster

This person would work alongside superb webmaster Bernadette Geras in maintaining and updating the MRMTA website. The Assistant would be an apprentice of sorts, learning what to do and helping out should there be updates that need to be done when Bernadette is out of town and unavailable.

Please note that website work is often 'on demand' particularly if a certain aspect of the site fails to function when necessary.

Interested? Please email Leanne Hiebert at president@mrmta.org

Vice-president for 2020-2022

It would be great to have someone ready to step into the supportive role of Provincial Vice-president in September 2020 when Evangeline Keeley moves into the position of provincial President.

Keep an open mind! Maybe this person is you!!

Editor for *Take Note*

We are so thankful for the great work Dina Pollock has done as the editor of MRMTA's provincial magazine *Take Note* over the last few years (all the way from BC!). Is there a member here in Manitoba interested in filling this paid position starting in June of 2020?

Necessary skills include:

- Editing and layout
- Securing ads to help offset the costs of the magazine
- Creativity and design

Any interested persons should email Leanne Hiebert at president@mrmta.org

Change in Membership Fees for 2020/21

There will no longer be two membership fee options for Winnipeg & Region.

We will have one fee of \$205 for the membership year. A \$50 cheque will be issued to those that volunteer at our MRMTA events when their volunteer commitment has been completed.

Many hours have been spent cross checking the lists of who paid the rebated membership fee against the volunteer list, so just issuing cheques as the volunteering happens will save us time. You will once again be given a chance to choose where you will volunteer on your renewal form. Gina Wedel, our Registrar, will get in touch with you before the various events and let you know if your choice of volunteering has been accepted.

We are happy to have you volunteer at as many events as you are willing and able, but each member can only receive ONE rebate of \$50 on their membership. After that, you will just reap the benefits of volunteering through feeling really good and getting together with a fun community! So please consider a 3-4 hour donation of your time to MRMTA – it's worth it!

Get your membership fees in early and be entered in a draw for an exciting prize! Register by February 14th to be eligible for the Early bird draw!



IMPORTANT DATES

2019/2020

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Friday, Jan. 3 rd	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Artist Competition Applications • Form online, competition Jan. 31st 	Virginia Heinrichs 204-222-5844 dongin@mts.net
Sunday, January 19 th 1:30 pm	Simultaneous Masterclasses with U of M Faculty Voice/Piano/Strings/Flute at U of M	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 prediplomagroup@mrmta.org
Mon, Jan. 20 th 9:15am	Executive Meeting: 56 Garnet Bay (Leanne's)	president@mrmta.org
Jan 27-30 th (Mon-Thurs) Sun Feb 2 nd	Scholarship Competition Sterling Mennonite Church (1008 Dakota)	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-338-0571 scholarships@mrmta.org
Friday Jan 31 st 10am	Young Artist Competition Sterling Mennonite Church (1008 Dakota)	Virginia Heinrichs 204-222-5844 dongin@mts.net
Sunday Feb. 2 nd 7pm	Scholarship Gala Concert at Sterling Mennonite	As above- Norinne
Feb. 1-22	CFMTA E-Festival - All Repertoire	Cfmta.org (Prog. and Comp.)
February 8-9 (Sat-Sun)	29 th Annual Musichon Fundraiser Grant Park Mall 1120 Grant Ave	Christina Hutton 204-487-3899 pianostudio.christina@gmail.com
February 14 th	Early Bird Deadline *Membership Renewal	See March 1 st Information
March 1 st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Scholarship Applications 	Eleanor Lwiwski 204-255-3403 elwiwski@shaw.ca
March 1 st (or Feb 14 th for early bird draw eligibility)	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRMTA Membership renewal • Be an early bird! 	Gina Wedel 204-284-8806 registrar@mrmta.org
April 1 st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMT Professional Development Award • See website for details 	Tiffany Wilson-Serata Chair 204-488-3325 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
April 1 st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRMTA Community Service Awards 	Stephen Haiko-Pena MRMTAcommunityservice@outlook.com
April 3 rd or 4 th DETAILS TBA	Pre-Diploma Group Masterclass with Thomas Sauer American International Pianist In Partnership with Virtuosi Concerts Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall (U of W)	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 prediplomagroup@mrmta.org
Mon, April 6 th 9:15am	Executive Meeting: 56 Garnet Bay (Leanne's)	president@mrmta.org



IMPORTANT DATES

2019/2020

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
April 9th	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Composer Competition 	Jane Duerksen 204-371-2128 janeduerksen@gmail.com
Sunday, April 26 th 2pm	Workshop with Amanda Ciavarelli Orff specialist "Sing, Move, and Play the Orff Way- Using Orff in Private Lessons" Venue TBA	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 prediplomagroup@mrmta.org
May 1st	Take Note Magazine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Issue submission deadline 	Dina Pollock editor@mrmta.org
May 1st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holtby Scholarship Application 	Leanne Hiebert 204-284-8581 president@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 3 rd 7pm	SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights St. Andrew's United Church (255 Oak St.)	Tiffany Wilson 204-488-3325 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
August 1st	Take Note Magazine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Issue submission deadline 	Dina Pollock editor@mrmta.org
Sunday September 20 th 1pm-Lunch/ 2pm-AGM	101st AGM and Luncheon	president@mrmta.org

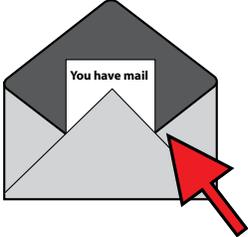
Have a great year everyone! And be sure to read your email correspondence and check the website in case of any changes to this calendar!



To ensure your *Take Note Magazine* and the *Canadian Music Teacher Magazine* is delivered, please update your address with our **Provincial Registrar**.

registrar@mrmta.org

Thank you!





a century of
**Sound
 Connections**

The Last Word!

July is now a rather distant memory, and you likely thought you'd heard all there was to hear about "A Century of Sound Connections". But just like those annoying TV commercials... ☺
 "Wait! There's more!"

We are thrilled to announce that the conference finances look fabulous!! After the final numbers were calculated, the Financial Statement was sent for review to the CFMTA/FCAPM Executive. In early November, Treasurer Lori Jede was informed that Conference Financials were approved and the books could now be closed on the 2019 Conference.

Hopefully by now your curiosity has been piqued. What is the big deal?

Well, we knew right from the start that we needed to support the additional expenses of a National Vocal Competition. We worked hard to raise these funds through sponsors, donors, and grants.

The bottom line: Conference ended in the black to the tune of \$21,459.80!!

This amount has now been divided with MRMTA receiving \$12,875.88 and the remainder going to CFMTA/FCAPM.

Thanks to everyone who supported this huge endeavor. All of the hard work paid off!!

*Annette Hay and Evangeline Keeley
 Conference Co-chairs*

*A Century of
 Sound
 Connections*

The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919-2019

\$25

MURIEL SMITH

DR. MURIEL SMITH

The portfolio career of Muriel Smith, PhD as a musician, educator, adjudicator, and cultural musicologist has been shaped by her nomadic life. Moving to Manitoba in 2007, she was intrigued by the wealth of music cultures alive across the province. For her research on Winnipeg choral communities she was awarded the 2015 SOCAN Foundation/MusCan Award for Writings on Canadian Music. In collaboration with arts associations, Muriel's cultural narratives have aided several successful fundraising projects.

A Century of Sound Connections: The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919 – 2019 can be purchased from McNally Robinson Booksellers

<https://www.mcnallyrobinson.com/home>.

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2020 Performance Scholarship Competition

M RMTA is gearing up for another wonderful week of music from many disciplines in the New Year.

The Performance Scholarship Competition will begin **Monday, January 27th** with Junior, Intermediate and Senior Vocal competitors.

Tuesday morning, January 28th, we will begin with Instrumental classes and continue with Advanced Vocal classes that afternoon.

Wednesday, January 29th will be a full day of piano - Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels.

Thursday, January 30th afternoon will see the continuation of Senior and Advanced level Piano.

The week will conclude with the Scholarship Gala Concert showcasing all the winners on Sunday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. All these events will take place at Sterling Mennonite Fellowship, 1008 Dakota Street.

For more information, please visit <https://www.mrmta.org/> where the schedule is posted. Teachers with competing students will receive the schedule by email.

The scholarship committee consists of:

- Norinne Danzinger-Dueck
- Margot Harding
- Laurel Howard.

Thanks to all teachers who have registered their students for this competition:

Piano: Bennet Charter, Darryl Friesen, Stephen Haiko-Pena, Leanne Hiebert, Lori Jede, David Moroz, Jane Petroni, Leanne Regehr Lee, Jacqueline Ryz, Yaroslava Shevchenko, Caron Whitlaw Hiebert

Vocal: Valdine Anderson, Mel Braun, Tracy Dahl, Norinne Danzinger-Dueck, Monica Huisman, Tuesday Royko, Tiffany Wilson

Instrumental: Andrea Bell, Karin Erhardt, Inga Granovskaya, Annette Hay, Laurel Howard, Lori Jede



Carla Buelow Photography

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we've kicked it
up a notch
or two*

explore the benefits
of membership



mrmta.org

Since 1919.... We've kicked it up a notch or two!

The MRMTA is reaping the benefits of hosting the CFMTA/FCAPM National Conference this past July. There has been an injection of energy among the executive and renewed sense of purpose for the organization. We want to continue to raise the profile of the MRMTA among the general public in Manitoba. Let's move past our centennial celebrations, look ahead and step into the MRMTA's second century!

President Leanne Hiebert and I began meeting with Vienna Badiuk of The Buzz Communications Group in August. Annette Hay and Leanne first met Vienna while connecting



with businesses at The Forks Market last Spring while looking for shops willing to purchase ad space in the conference program book. The Buzz works with *Tall Grass Bakery*, and we liked their catchy ad with the mouth-watering photo of a

cinnamon bun. (Did you see it in the conference program?) Hmm – if they could do that for *Tall Grass Bakery*, what could they do for MRMTA?

A couple meetings with Vienna to brainstorm, an MRMTA executive vote and – ta da! - our new logo was revealed on September 22nd at the AGM.

Two great taglines -

For the Joy of Music
For Professional Partnerships

along with a striking photo of musical socks, will form the basis of most MRMTA ads you'll see over the 2019-20 year. Vienna is great to work with and her expertise is giving us a new, up-to-date approach for MRMTA advertising.

These new ads have already been seen by teachers at the province-wide Manitoba Music Educators' Association Tempo conference, and audience members of the Manitoba Opera, Virtuosi Concerts, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra and more. We're proud to spread the word that MRMTA is a vital association with an important role to play in music education in this province.

Submitted by Evangeline Keeley



Create a caption to this photo and send it to info@mrmta.org by January 5th, 2020.

Best caption wins a prize!

Photo by Carla Buelow Photography



Your MRMTA executive singing at the final luncheon of A Century of Sound Connections.



Canada Music Week® - Brandon/Westman

Submitted by Eleanor Epp RMT

Workshopping with Janet Gieck @ The Music Studio in Brandon



Canada Music Week Recital®
The School of Music, Brandon University

The Brandon/Westman RMT Branch culminated Canada Music Week® 2019 with guest composer Janet Gieck from Saskatchewan. On Friday evening (November 22), president Ann Germani hosted a Wine & Cheese Reception in her beautiful studio to meet Janet and finalize Saturday’s schedule. Attending were special guests Evangeline Keeley (MRMTA Vice President) and Everett Hopfner (E-Gre Conservatory Director at Brandon University) as well as RMT executive members.

Saturday morning (10:00 am) Janet encouraged young musicians as 8 students performed in a mini recital of Canadian music. She also facilitated some “fun” improvising with the use of 8 keyboards. Each student could do some rhythmic composing using all the C’s on their keyboard. They were also able to randomly compose using a dice and cards in floor activities.

A “health break” (consisting of cookies and punch!!) was enjoyed at 11:30. This was followed by Master Classes with Level 4-10 performances. Janet presented some interesting trivia about each composer whose works were played. The improv techniques she shared with this older group had them motivated to do some rhythmic “noodling” in various basic keys on multiple keyboards.

The CMW Recital was held in the Lorne Watson Recital Hall at BU at 3:30 pm. There were 40 performances ending with Janet’s own composition “Gorge Creek Trail” for 2 pianos/8 hands commissioned for the Kick -Start Piano Camp (August 2019) -a joint initiative of the E-Gre Conservatory and this RMT Branch.

The recital was well attended, and a reception followed.



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Canada Music Week® - Winnipeg

Submitted by Lee Houghton Stewart

Our Canada Music Week® recital for 2019 was great fun! Throughout the afternoon we enjoyed a total of twenty-nine performances which included piano solos, a flute duet and a piano trio. In addition to hearing pieces by Canadian composers from coast to coast we highlighted two pianists, Julianna Sadr and Evan Miles, who played their own compositions. Evan's piece entitled Sparaticus was a second place winner in the open category of CFMTA's Student Composer Competition.

All of our performers received Canada Music Week stickers and pencils as well as a coupon for a free book from the Pre-Diploma Group's used book sale. Books and scores were also available for purchase with proceeds going to support upcoming masterclasses.

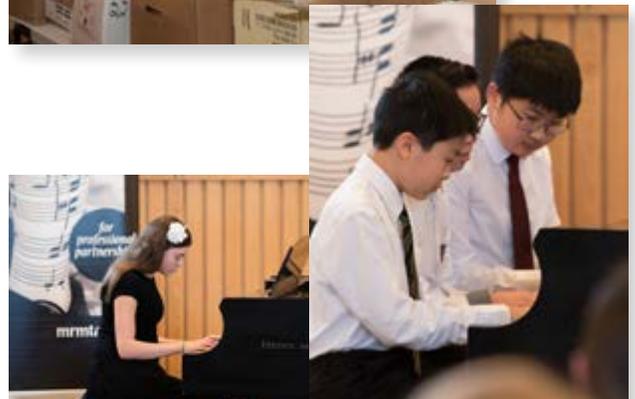
Our performers filled out a Canadian Composer Information Sheet that was posted at the event for all to read. This gave the students an opportunity to share their thoughts about their pieces as well as to do some research about their composers.

MRMTA's 100th Anniversary book *A Century of Sound Connections* was also for sale during intermission. Author Muriel Smith spoke briefly during the concert and was available for book signings throughout the afternoon.

Following the concert everyone was welcome to enjoy a slice of our specially prepared Canada Music Week cake and some coffee or juice.

Thank you to the following MRMTA teachers who entered and prepared their students for this event: Elsie Fehr, Julianne Warkentin, Laura Liu, Virginia Heinrichs, Gwen Allison, Yaroslava Shevchenko, Rita Bergen, Nadia Orlov, Tetyana Novytska, Evangeline Keeley, Lori Jede, Gina Wedel, and Victoria Tuz.

A special thank you to Leora Loewen, Tricia Reimer, Laura Liu, Julianne Warkentin, Rachel Dueck, Vivian Klosse, Melissa Gingrich and the MRMTA executives who volunteered their time to help make our Canada Music Week recital a terrific success. It was a wonderful afternoon!





Musicthon is Coming!

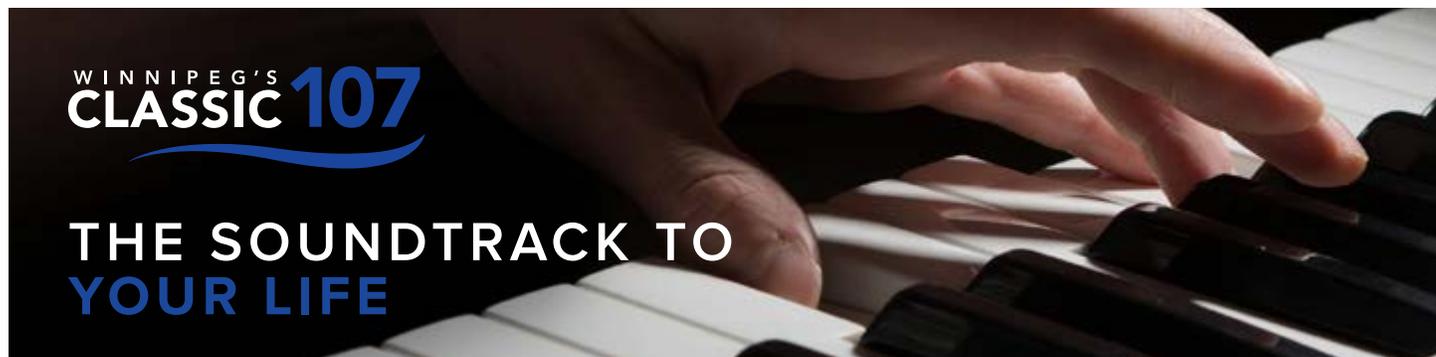
Submitted by Christina Hutton (on behalf of Musicthon Committee)

Excitement is building as we prepare for Musicthon 2020! In a nutshell, this fundraising drive is about performances, pledges and donations to inner-city music programs. Visits were scheduled to a few of the music classes for which we are fundraising (Little Miracles Music and Play and Tiny Tunes) so that we may better understand the programs being supported in 2020. Both programs serve in the inner-city and lower income areas of Winnipeg where families often do not have the funds or access to early-childhood music programs, particularly of this calibre.

Little Miracles Music and Play provides a free music program for children and their caregivers, taught by Joanne Diplock, B.Mus, RMT. Tiny Tunes classes are held in daycares reaching 250-300 children, taught by Margot Harding, B.FA, B.Mus Opera, RMT. Clearly these programs are well run and children are thriving under this programming. It was touching to see the connection children had with the music and instructors, especially considering many of the challenges these children have faced in their short lives.

Let's share this cause with our studio families and encourage our students to collect pledges and perform their music at Grant Park Shopping Centre on February 8th and 9th! Teachers may sign up for performance spots at <http://bit.ly/Musicthon2020>. Volunteers are still needed and can sign up at <http://bit.ly/VolunteerMusicthon2020>. Also, new this year, online donations are now accepted at mrmta.org on the Musicthon page!

Participating in Musicthon is a tangible demonstration of "Kids Helping Kids". We hope you enjoy the following stories and insights shared by Margot Harding and Joanne Diplock.



Musicthon is coming!

30 years of kids helping kids



Carla Buelow Photography

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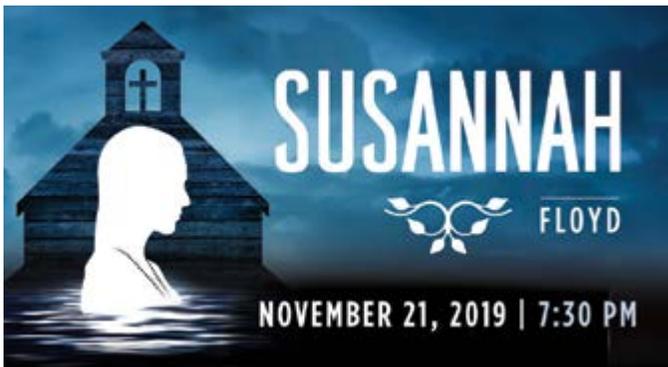
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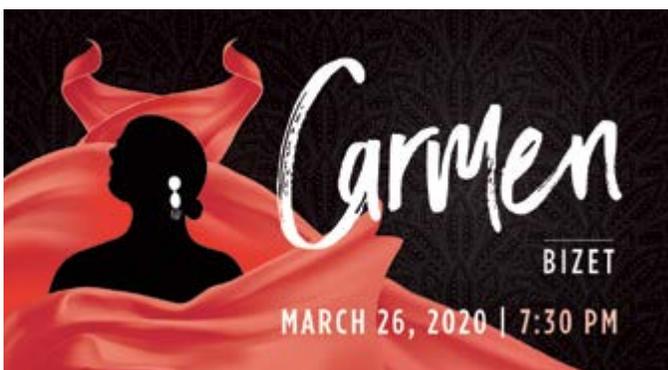


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About *Tiny Tunes*

Submitted by Margot Harding, B.F.A., B.Mus Opera, R.M.T.



Tiny Tunes - Dance of the Leaves



Tiny Tunes - Sharing time

Tiny Tunes is a music program formulated especially for children up to 7 years of age. The children are grouped by age and put in a class where they then experience age appropriate music. They learn to sing and listen, as well as explore various instruments such as, bells, sticks, resonator bars, wood blocks, drum, triangle, singing bowls, maracas and whatever else I can get my hands on. They are taught to always respect the instruments but also to be creative in thinking of how to use them.

Recordings are used to encourage the development of listening skills. The children guess what the sounds are (animals, kitchen sounds, etc.), and have musical stories that they act out, such as Dance of the Leaves, Little Rabbit etc., set to a variety of classical melodies by Mozart, Rossini, Bizet, Tchaikovsky, and others as well as music from other genres.

For over 20 years I have taught music in the daycares and the response from these children is always humbling and amazing at the same time. All these daycares are in low income areas and a number of the children are Child and Family Services rescues with foster parents/single parent. Most are unable to afford extra activities that others take for granted. Music is a ray of sunshine and something they really look forward to. It awakens their creativity, expands their brains and teaches them confidence in themselves. It also gives them the belief that they can do anything no matter where or what they come from and above all - **BREAKS THE VICIOUS CYCLE OF POVERTY!**





About *Little Miracles Music and Play*

Submitted by Joanne Diplock, B.Mus, R.M.T.

Situated in Winnipeg’s North End, the Little Miracles Music and Play program has touched the lives of many families, both in the immediate neighbourhood and larger Winnipeg North West community. The program, which was developed by Ann Brough and myself, came into being when I mentioned to Ann my long-held dream to offer free pre-school music classes to our community. Unbeknownst to me, Ann’s husband and another church elder had been discussing the possibility of creating a free mom and toddler program at St. John’s Presbyterian Church. The synchronicity seemed bigger than all of us, so we got busy procuring funds, instruments, books, toys, volunteers, and whatever else it took to begin.

Classes began in September 2012 and have run each school year since. The program is open to children birth to 6 years of age and every child is accompanied by a caregiver. We begin at 9:30am each Monday with a 45-minute music class. Caregivers take an active role in supporting and encouraging their child’s musical participation. Music class is followed by snack, then play and crafts. The momentum and support received by the Little Miracles program has been a blessing and a miracle in itself, as well as a lesson to dream big!

The music curriculum draws primarily from the Suzuki Early Childhood Education (SECE) program, which fosters the development of musical



skills through aural, rote and visual supports and recognizes the importance of an engaged and encouraging community. With its multi-sensory approach, Suzuki pedagogy works well with the very young who usually learn through all senses at once. Dr. Shinichi Suzuki (1898-1998) developed a system of teaching music that mimics how we teach language. He was particularly passionate about Early Childhood development. His dream was to inspire the development of a “noble soul” in children’s hearts through the appreciation and creation of beautiful music, and for that he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. With this core intention and non-franchised nature, Suzuki Music has been a big inspiration and resource in creating the Little Miracles program. Dr. Suzuki’s book, *Nurtured by Love*, (first published in 1969) reflects his wisdom, passion and dedication to the significance of early childhood experience and remains an inspiring and important source to this day.

Music class begins with each child playing “Good Morning to ____ (C C E G high C)” on either an alto metallophone or xylophone. The instruments used are of the highest standards with the goal of this activity being less about playing correct pitches and more about attaining a soft mallet technique that results in lovely, rich tone. The children are drawn by the beautiful sounds



About *Little Miracles Music and Play* - cont.

created, and in this age of electronic music, what a wonderful introduction into the world of acoustics! Even the very young seem focussed as we let the rich sounds linger, fostering the development of attention as well as musicianship. Each child in attendance is given a turn, even if it is only through listening. I was once told by a 3-year-old boy who hid behind his mother as she played and we sang to him each week, that his favourite part of the class was when everyone sang his name. Mirror neurons, which allow us to learn through observation only, are in abundance with the very young. I have seen children play a perfect melody with beautiful tone when they have mostly only watched for a period of time. Environment and support are as crucial to learning as actual experience.

Because the SECE curriculum was created for children up to 3 years of age, music class is supplemented with Orff activities suitable for the very young. We have many age appropriate instruments such as shakers, drums and resonator bells that we play as we sing or listen to recorded music. A really good source for Early Childhood songs and games is *Move Sing Listen Play – Preparing the Young Child for Music* by Donna Wood (©1982, Gordon V. Thompson Limited, Toronto, Canada).

With great humility and appreciation, I would like to thank the MRMTA for its support of the Little Miracles program. Our hope and intent is to make a difference in the lives of those whom we reach.

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October 19 7:30 PM ASHU Saxophone ALEXANDRE MOUTOUZKINE Piano <i>Ibert Rachmaninoff Creston Piazzolla Morricone Demersseman</i>	January 11 7:30 PM TRIO SAINT-LAURENT Clarinet, Viola, Piano <i>Clara Schumann Burge Widmann Francaix Kurtág- Schumann</i>	April 4 7:30 PM COLIN CARR Cello THOMAS SAUER Piano <i>Beethoven</i>
November 23 7:30 PM MEAGAN MILATZ Piano AMY HILLIS Violin <i>Gershwin Heifetz Prokofiev Mozart Morlock Debussy Messiaen Fauré</i>	February 1 7:30 PM KARL STOBBE Violin ANDREW ARMSTRONG Piano <i>Mozart Nielsen Sibelius Brahms</i>	May 2 7:30 PM DOVER QUARTET String Quartet <i>Beethoven Britten Shostakovich</i>

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Canada Music Week® - Southwestern Manitoba

Submitted by Tenley Dyck

Southwestern Manitoba's nod to Canada Music Week® was the 14th Annual *Composers & Kids* event on Friday, October 18 and Saturday, October 19, 2019 - an exciting celebration! It was a privilege to welcome two composers – Beth Hamilton and Jen Smith Lanthier from Owen Sound to Boissevain, Manitoba. Both are accomplished musicians as well as teachers. Approximately 42 students (beginners to adults) from Deloraine, Goodlands, Minto and Boissevain participated in this event, each performing one of Jen or Beth's pieces. The composers posed for pictures, signed autographs and answered questions.

Beth & Jen have co-composed the *Voyageur* series of piano music with each volume including a work representative of each Canadian province and territory. They've both written additional works for piano solo and duet. For students, parents, grandparents and teachers it was an exciting day of sharing ideas and their love of music with Beth & Jen. They even showed pictures and told stories about the inspiration for the selected pieces. The result was a day of wonderful musical memories that will last a lifetime!

Composers & Kids is a CNCM (Canadian National Conservatory of Music) event which promotes connecting Canadian composers with Canadian students across the country.

Participating teachers were: Dianna Neufeld (RMT), Jo-Anne Neufeld, Dale Whetter, & Tenley Dyck (RMT).





Panel Q & A With Piano Examiners:

Nancy Nowosad, Marlene Pauls Laucht and Jenny Regehr

DOn a beautiful Sunday afternoon, October 27th, a group of students and MRMTA teachers came together to listen and ask questions to 3 well known examiners in Winnipeg. For 2 hours, our examiners answered all kinds of questions from technical details to human approach in certain situations. They were able to bring many examples and anecdotal stories with every answer. The fact is that together, these 3 examiners had more than 100 years of experience!

The most important thing we learned that day is how “human” the examiners can be. We often have the impression that the examiners are insensitive, all dedicated to their job, and not very attentive to the feelings of the candidates going in to the examinations room. It’s not true. Actually, Jenny said a phrase that explains it so well: “Every person has a story...” as she spoke about these adult students, and students of all ages who are challenged with difficulties in their life, and who still have the courage to go ahead and do their exams.

Of course, the examiners have expectations, and there is a strict list of rules to follow to ensure that every candidate is treated equally. But, if the student has done the work, well guided by his or her teacher, the result should be successful. When the music played is felt, respecting the expected elements, tempo, nuances, etc. it’s not a memory blank, or a slip that will make you fail your exam. The mark on each piece is all-inclusive, like a picture of the performance, based on all the elements together.

We would like to thank our 3 examiners for sharing their expertise with us, for their generosity, and their passion... they all stayed for discussion with the students during the coffee and refreshments time at the end! A big thank you to Eleanor Lwiwski who was hosting the event. We all came back to our studios with a new energy that day!

Good luck to all the students doing exams this year!
Michele Leclerc
MRMTA Members Programming Coordinator and
President of Pre-Diploma Group



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Piano: Michele, prediplomagroup@mrmta.org

Cello: Annette, annettehaygeige@shaw.ca

Violin: Annette, annettehaygeige@shaw.ca

Flute: Lori, lorijede@gmail.com



Audience Admission:
MRMTA members, \$10
Non-members, \$15
Five workshops will run simultaneously





Holtby Scholarship - Update

Lauren McIlroy

Dear MRMTA Scholarship Committee:

Thank you once again for selecting me as one of the recipients of the 2018 Phyllis Holtby Scholarship. I have had the opportunity to continue to grow and learn as a musician as a result of the generous scholarship that I received.

Since being awarded this scholarship, I have spent my time preparing for exams, festivals, and other performances. In August 2018, I wrote the ARCT History exam and in May 2019, I wrote the ARCT Analysis exam, thereby completing all of the ARCT theory requirements. In June 2018, I performed the Level 10 Technical exam and in January 2019, I performed the Level 10 Repertoire exam.

In January 2019, I performed in the MRMTA Scholarship Competition at the Senior level, placing Runner-up. I also performed in the 2019 Winnipeg Music Festival at the Diploma level. In the Winnipeg Music Festival, I participated in the Diploma Baroque Composers class, placing Runner-up. Now that I have finished all of my Grade 10 requirements, I am focused on working towards attaining my ARCT Performance Diploma. I plan to participate in more Diploma-level classes in the 2020 Winnipeg Music Festival and in the 2020 MRMTA Scholarship Competition. In addition to the Winnipeg Music Festival, I also performed at several other events including the Millennium Library Skywalk Concert Series, studio recitals, and at formal assemblies at my school.

In May 2019, I was fortunate and proud to receive the Nita Eamer Memorial Scholarship. I am incredibly thankful to the MRMTA for this scholarship.

Over the past year, I have volunteered as the pianist for all formal occasions at my school including Honours Day, Remembrance Day, and Grade 12 Convocation. I also volunteered as an accompanist for the SJR Junior School Choir at the 2019 Winnipeg Music Festival.

In addition to my volunteer work as a musician, I have also continued to teach piano to beginner students in my home studio. This was my second year of teaching and I am looking forward to seeing my students' progress again in the 2019-2020 season! I have seen my studio grow over the past two years and could not be more excited to continue to teach young musicians.

For the next two years, my goal is to complete my ARCT Diploma in Piano Performance. I hope to continue to develop and learn as a pianist and a musician. Thank you once again for the amazing opportunity you have provided me to pursue my musical goals and fuel my passion for music.

Sincerely,

Lauren McIlroy





2019 RCM Teacher of Distinction Award

Jacqueline Ryz

November 23, 2019

Since the age of 14 I have always wanted to teach, and so my teaching career began when I was still in high school. As I became more serious as a piano student and performer, completing an ARCT in performance and later a M.Mus. in performance from McGill University, I also became more serious about teaching.

Encouraging students to explore the interpretation of musical ideas and helping them to gain technical mastery of the piano has always excited me. Whether it's with a five year old beginner learning their first scale, or with an advanced student exploring one of the great composers, sitting on the piano bench and guiding a student has always been a large part of my life.

In both my performing and pedagogical activities striving to be the best I can be is always extremely important to me and is a key principle in my teaching. When I think a student is doing less than their best, I never hesitate to tell them so – a musical ship doesn't always have smooth sailing. At the same time, when I see potential in a student, even if they may have some temporary setbacks, I have no hesitation to assure them "... I KNOW you can do this..."

Clearly something has worked along the way in this journey.

I am very happy and humbled to be receiving this award and want to thank all the people who recognize my contribution to the music teaching profession and supported my nomination.

However, equally important to me is the recognition from past and present students that the confidence, self-expression, work ethic and discipline they have developed through their musical studies with me have helped them to grow and succeed in other aspects of their lives as well.

I would also be remiss if I did not acknowledge the three teachers who guided me along my own musical journey and so wisely helped me develop as a pianist and teacher: John Melnyk Sr., Dr. Lorne Watson and Professor Charles Reiner.

Thank you



Jacqueline Ryz delivering acceptance speech for RCM Teacher of Distinction award



Jacqueline Ryz, RCM Teacher of Distinction, with six gold medal-winning students





CFMTA/FCAPM Program Available for Branches

CFMTA/FCAPM is pleased to present the 2019 – 2020 Branching Out Initiative “Music on the Move”.

Branches are encouraged to organize and present recitals in non-traditional venues. By doing this, we are demonstrating the benefits of music education, as well as encouraging our students to present their music to an audience who otherwise may not have access.

Some suggestions for venues would be:

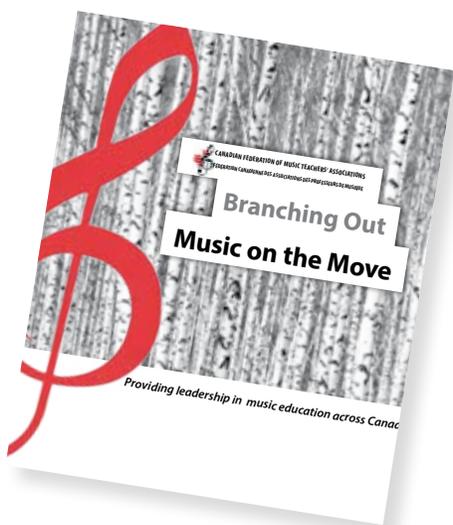
- Hosting a recital in a local park
- Hosting a recital in a local mall, restaurant, or small business
- Hosting a sidewalk recital in front of a small business
- Hosting a recital during intermission at a sporting event

By taking our music directly into the community we can continue to branch out in new and innovative ways.

CFMTA/FCAPM will donate \$100.00 to each branch that hosts an event by March 15, 2020.

Applications can be submitted on-line www.cfmta.org.

Deadline for submission is March 31, 2020.



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Hello from the Editor

Hello Everyone,

With our studios filled with decorations and holiday cheer - I wish to all of you a happy and safe holiday with you and your families.

Enjoy this edition, I am impressed with all your projects and opportunities you give your students.

Thanks,

Dina



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