



Take

mrmmta.org

Note...

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- Workshop with Diana Dumlavwalla
- Masterclass with Thomas Sauer

Canada Music Week Review

Congratulations

- the first recipient
of the MRMTA Student Community Service Award

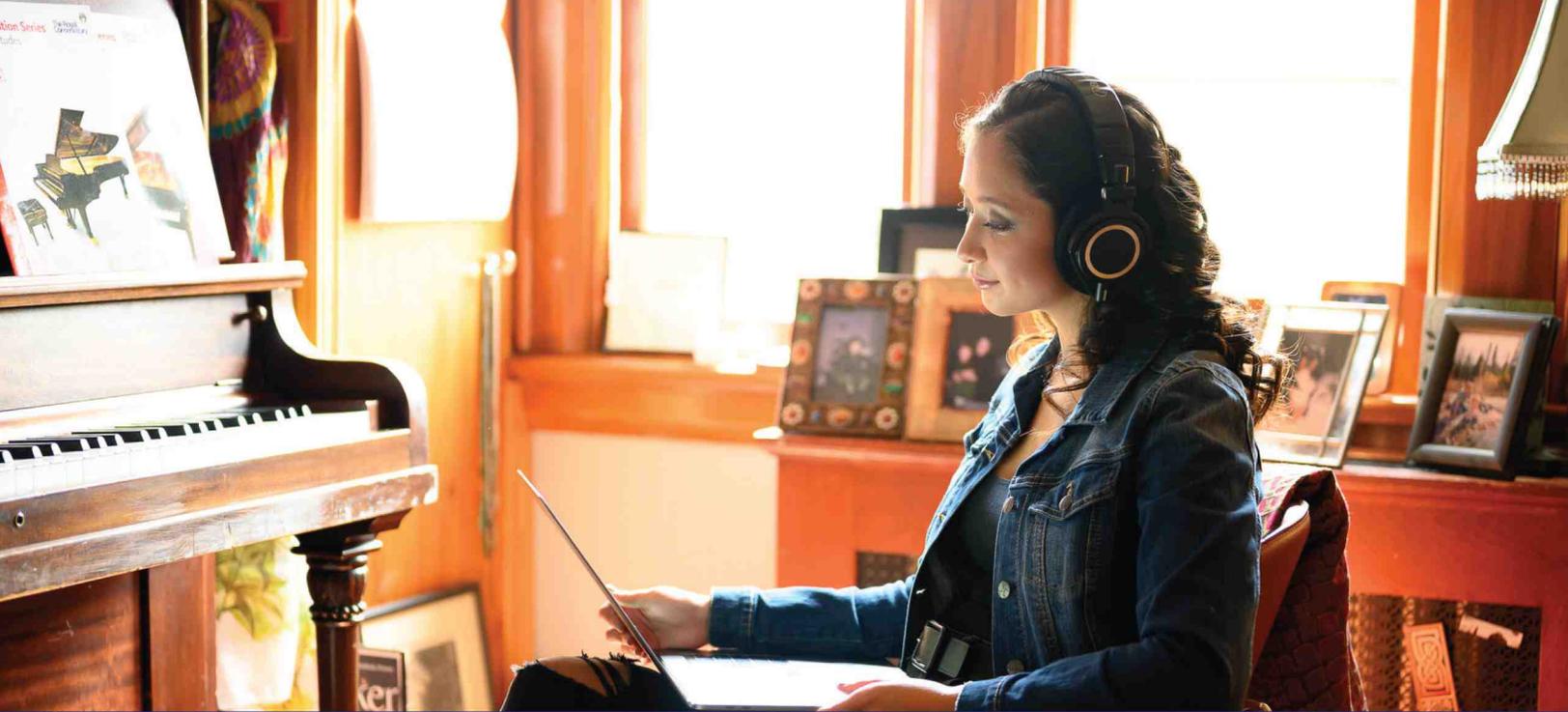
COVID -19 Special

- Teaching during a pandemic

Afternoon Tea with Take Note

- Meet Bernadette Geras

and much more.....



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- Fee: \$15/ year (3 issues)

****Cover Photo by Rachel Dueck**

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...with the help and inspiration of music, we carry on...

Dear MRMTA Members,

Have you ever found yourself in a situation and wondered how you got there? Sometimes that kind of surprise can be positive, such as finding myself in the position of President. One of my first 'official' duties was to sign a new member's certificate. I hope to sign many more over the next two years!

We can also find ourselves in less satisfying situations, such as finding a way to continue teaching safely in the middle of a pandemic. MRMTA members are coming up with creative ways to keep students learning in spite of the current limitations. Life is full of twists and turns and, with the help and inspiration of music, we carry on.

This Fall there have been two excellent opportunities for professional development and personal enrichment. The first, on September 27th, was Diana Dumlavwalla's online presentation which you can read about on page 21. Then on October 18th four students of MRMTA members had the privilege of participating in a Master Class with Thomas Sauer. Details can be found on page 23. These two events alone are great examples of how technology can help us keep the music going.

Events have all been revamped to go online. A huge amount of thinking and planning has gone into this process and I highly commend the Executive members and committee heads who have worked out the multitude of details. As a result, we'll be able to listen to online recorded performances for Canada Music Week, Performance Scholarships Gala, Musicthon and Serata. Please plan to attend events and be involved where and when you can. Remember to watch your email for bimonthly updates and zoom links before each event.

Family traditions may look different this year from your usual, but no matter how you celebrate, have a joyful holiday season this December!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Evangeline Keeley
President, MRMTA





MRMTA EXECUTIVE 2020/2021

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IMPORTANT DATES 2020/2021

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Monday, Dec. 7 th 9:15 - 11:00 am	Cookies, Coffee and Computers! Socialize online and greet your colleagues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • via zoom 	RSVP to: Leanne Hiebert 204-284-8581 Leanne.hiebert@gmail.com
Mon, Jan. 11 th 9:15am	Executive Meeting	president@mrmta.org
Sunday, January 17 th 1:30 pm	Simultaneous Masterclasses with U of M Faculty Voice/Piano/Cello/Violin/Flute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online 	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Monday, Jan. 18 th	Deadline Performance Scholarship Competition videos due	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-338-0571 scholarships@mrmta.org
TBA	Performance Scholarship Competition Gala <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIDEO concert 	
Feb. 1-22	CFMTA E-Festival - All Repertoire	cfmta.org (Programs & Competitions)
Sunday, February 7 th 2:00 pm	31 st Annual Musichthon Fundraiser YouTube premiere	Christina Hutton 204-487-3899 mrmtamusichthon@gmail.com
Mon, Feb. 22 nd 9:15am	Executive Meeting	president@mrmta.org
Monday, March 1 st	Deadline Paper Scholarship Applications	Eleanor Lwiwski 204-255-3403 elwiwski@shaw.ca
Thursday, April 1 st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMT Professional Development Award (See website for details) • Serata Video submissions due 	Tiffany Wilson - Serata Chair 204-488-3325 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Thursday, April 1 st	Deadline MRMTA Community Service Awards	Stephen Haiko-Pena MRMTAcommunityservice@outlook.com
Friday, April 9 th	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Composer Competition 	Jane Duerksen 204-371-2128 janeduerksen@gmail.com
Mon, April 12 th 9:15am	Executive Meeting	president@mrmta.org
Thursday, April 15 th	Take Note Magazine Spring Issue submission deadline	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org

IMPORTANT DATES 2020/2021 - CONT'D

Sunday, April 18 th 2pm	Workshop with Amanda Ciavarelli ORFF specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Sing, Move, and Play the ORFF Way- Incorporating ORFF in the Private Music Studio” 	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Saturday, May 1 st	Deadline Holtby Scholarship Application	Evangeline Keeley 204-269-7549 president@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 2 nd 7pm	SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online pre-recorded concert 	Tiffany Wilson 204-488-3325 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Friday, May 14 th	Early Bird Deadline * Membership Renewal	See June 1 st Information
Tuesday, June 1 st (or May 14 th for early bird draw eligibility)	Deadline MRMTA Membership renewal	Gina Wedel 204-284-8806 registrar@mrmta.org
Sunday, August 15 th	Take Note Magazine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Issue submission deadline 	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Sunday, September 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 102nd AGM and Luncheon 	vicepresident@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!



Need More Brochures or Business Cards?

Additional business cards and brochures like the ones pictured here are available at cost to MRMTA members by emailing communication@mrmta.org.

These are a great resource to have on hand for potential students, student parents, or members.

YOU are our best advertising so spread the word!





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COOKIES, COFFEE AND COMPUTERS!

By Evangeline Keeley

Monday, Dec. 7th, 2020 @ 9:15 to 11:00 am

Who doesn't need all three? Come online and socialize - Monday, December 7th. Have your coffee and cookies ready and join for a few minutes, or stay awhile! A Zoom link will be provided to members through the MRMTA email newsletter.

Usually this event is a time when members can update their online profile at mrmta.org.

Since we are gathering virtually, you will be able to submit your PDF updates (<https://form.jotform.com/92494851093263>) **AT NO COST** from December 7th to December 19th.



After Dec. 19th, there will be a \$10 fee. Please note that your website can be linked to your name instead of a PDF.



CONGRATULATIONS!

THE FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE MRMTA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

By Stephen Haiko-Pena

Congratulations to the first recipient of an MRMTA Community Service Award! **Jiayu Zhang** (student of Xueyan (Laura) Liu) received a bronze level certificate through 10 hours of music-related volunteer work in her community. As this program is still in its infancy, I'm sure you're curious about the details of her volunteering:

- played piano at Golden Door Geriatric Centre
- tutored younger students in Laura's studio and helped with exam prep
- performed at a Canada Day celebration
- hosted, decorated and cleaned at a Chinese New Year event where music was featured

The next deadline for the MRMTA Community Service Awards is April 1. Why not head over to our website, print off an application, and start a conversation with your students? Virtual performances can count as 1hr, even if the actual performing time is less.



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Dr. Peter Simon
President, The Royal Conservatory

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MRMTA MASTERCLASSES WITH FACULTY OF MUSIC AT U OF M

By Michele Leclerc

Sunday, Jan. 17th, 2021 @ 1:30 pm to 3:30pm

**Registration due: Friday, Dec. 18th, 2020
(Performers)**

It has become an annual rendez-vous with the professors of the Faculty of Music at U of M, and this year the event is happening on **Sunday, January 17, 2021**. Five classes will run simultaneously, from **1:30pm to 3:30pm** - a chance for our students to work with these great masters, and to live an amazing learning experience! Judy Kehler Siebert and David Moroz will conduct the Piano class, Laura Loewen and Mel Braun, the Voice class, Layla Roberts and Laurel Ridd, the Flute class, Oleg Pokhanovski, the Violin class, and finally Minna Chung, the Cello class.

Due to the pandemic, the masterclasses will be presented in a Zoom format, with the students playing from the comfort of their homes. We strongly recommend that a separate microphone is used to improve the sound quality. A sound check will be done just before the masterclass to make sure everything is in place. We can take 4 students only in every class, and each student will have 30 minutes with the master. The deadline to register is **Friday, December 18**, and you need to submit your repertoire at the time of registration. We suggest a piece no longer than 8 minutes, so the master can really work with the student in a reasonable time frame. There is NO FEE for the student playing in the masterclass.

To register, please contact:

PIANO

Level 8 & up

Michele Leclerc

piano.mleclerc@icloud.com

VOICE

Level 8 & up

Linda DePauw

lmdepauw@mts.net

FLUTE

Level 8 & up

Lori Jede

lorijede@gmail.com

CELLO

Level 6 & up

Natalie Dawe

nat.dawe@gmail.com

VIOLIN

Level 6 & up

Tianhao Wang

tianhao_wang@hotmail.com

Members will be able to register at a later date via a Zoom link sent in the MRMTA email newsletter.

Registration fees: Members \$5; Non-members \$15; Students of RMTs - no cost

2021 PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP SERIES

By *Norinne Danzinger-Dueck*

Submission Deadline: January 18th, 2021

We are gearing up for another wonderful week of music from many disciplines in the New Year but with Covid 19, the scholarship competition will look very different. All entries are online and are due to the convener by January 18th, 2021.

For those who are not familiar on the “how to's” of recording, I refer you to the PDF on the website or to p. 13 in this Take Note edition. Once the links are checked, they will be emailed to the different adjudicators. Since online adjudicating is quite new to many, I am unsure at this point when final results will be available.

A date for the Gala performance on YouTube will be announced in the New Year, once things have been finalized. There are many kinks to work out for this new Performance Scholarship Competition format so we appreciate your patience. The nice part of the online competition is that we are able to have students compete from outside of Winnipeg this year for a total of 81 participants in multiple disciplines. Sometimes our Manitoba weather makes highway travel difficult so this is truly a Manitoba Scholarship Competition this year!

Thanks to all the teachers that have registered their students for this competition.

PIANO: *Jacqueline Ryz, Lori Jede, Jane Petroni, Caron Whitlaw Hiebert, Yaroslava Shevchenko, Everett Hopfner, Lee Houghton Stewart, Leanne Regehr Lee, David Moroz, Darryl Friesen, Leanne Hiebert, Karla Fillion, Nancy Nowosad*

VOCAL: *Tracy Dahl, Monica Huisman, Valdine Anderson, Stephen Haiko-Pena*

INSTRUMENTAL: *Laurel Howard, Andrea Bell, Natalie Dawe, Lori Jede, Wes Hamm*

The scholarship committee consists of: *Norinne Danzinger-Dueck
Margot Harding
& Laurel Howard.*



GENERAL RECORDING HOW TO:

1) Collaborative Artists:

- In-person recordings should be made in accordance with Manitoba Public Health Guidelines.
- A local collaborative artist may be hired to provide a pre-recorded accompaniment to which the competitor will perform and record.
- Please provide the name of the collaborative artist when you submit the YouTube Link.

2) Experiment with the microphone and video placement:

- Example – strings – optimal recording placement is approximately 6 feet away.
- Check your background – keep it as minimal as possible. Don't record in front of a window (glare).
- Take a test recording for sound, framing, lighting etc.
- Recording must be done in ONE TAKE – no editing whatsoever of video or sound files.
- If at all possible, record with a microphone other than the one on your phone, tablet etc.

3) Make sure your body is in the frame:

- Piano: angle must show your full body and pedaling. Video must be done from a side profile and not from above.
- Instrumental: entire instrument including finger technique must be visible.
- Voice: entire body must be visible.

4) Take multiple recordings:

- Recording takes more time than you would expect. Allow at least ONE WEEK to record, upload and submit your single best video.

5) Memorization:

- Piano and Voice: entire program must be performed by MEMORY.
- Instrumental: Memory is optional (Regulations and Eligibility). If recording with music, the stand must not compromise the view of the player in any way.

6) Uploading your video to YouTube:

- Create a YouTube account and sign in.
- In top right-hand corner, there is a video symbol with a plus in the middle of it. Click on that and upload video
- Select file, Choose.
- Title must be: Name of the competitor, instrument, level.
- In Description: list names of pieces and time stamps; name your collaborative artist if applicable.
- In Visibility: mark the video as **UNLISTED** (only those with the link will be able to view your video).
- Save, upload and preview your video in a new search bar to ensure that it works.
- Copy and paste link into an email and send to scholarships@mrmta.org

All correspondence with the convenor **MUST** include full name (both the competitor and the teacher), discipline, and level of competition.

2020 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION

By Jane Duerksen

This was a hallmark year for MRMTA students in the National CMW Student Composer Competition. The winning provincial scores are forwarded to compete in the National competition each year in June.

We have TWO Second Place Winners nationally - so much to be proud of. A Huge congratulations go to these two MRMTA students:

GRAHAM NASH, student of Leanne Hiebert, in Category C for 19 years and under with his composition, *Ataraxia* for piano solo.

ANNA SCHWARTZ, student of Loren Hiebert, in Category D, Open, with her composition, *Prairie Sunrise* for orchestra.

We want to extend huge congratulations to these two second place winners and their teachers. This is one more illustration that Manitoba has much to offer in the line of excellent instruction and talent in the world of music composition.

The deadline for the receipt of submissions to the CMW Student Composer Competition is **APRIL 9TH, 2021**. Please look online under our website, mrmta.org for regulations and registration for this wonderful competition. Go to "Menu", then "For Students", then "Canada Music Week" to find us.

Phone: 204. 371. 2128 /
Email: janeduerksen@gmail.com



Madeline Hildebrand

Solo Piano Recital
March 28, 2021

Tickets available on our website,
McNally Robinson Booksellers or Eventbrite



Zyra Trio

In Concert
April 25, 2021

 womensmusicalclubofwpg.ca

THE 101ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Leanne Hiebert



The 101st Annual General Meeting took place via Zoom Video Communications on September 20th, 2020. That's a lot of 2s, and with this being year 2 of the MRMTA's 2nd century in existence, 2 must certainly be our lucky number!

After a warm welcome and a few words of Zoom housekeeping, outgoing MRMTA President Leanne Hiebert, introduced the 34 members present to Laureen Kells, President of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations. Laureen joined us live from Foam Lake, SK and discussed programs at the national level, including opportunities to help plan the July 2021 national conference, which will take place virtually. The planning committee for this conference includes members from across the country, and Laureen encouraged us to get involved.

An important vote that took place at this year's AGM was the passing of the newly revised MRMTA By-Laws. In particular, please read the section on membership that has been carefully redone. Full members (eligible to use the RMT designation) as well as affiliate members have voting rights and opportunities to volunteer on the MRMTA executive. We encourage everyone to recruit new members.

Honouring our teachers is always a great part of this afternoon, and many of these honoured guests were in attendance. Though we couldn't offer a lunch, they were happy recipients of the book by Dr. Muriel Smith, *A Century of Sound Connections*.

20 years+

Glory St. Germain, Sister Josephine Chudzik, Ann Germani, Mavis Green, Rosemary Klaassen, Leora Loewen, Dianne Norris, Barbara Anhang, Joanne Diplock, Lorilee Glenat, Loren Hiebert, Rita Dyck, Diane Knute, Melody Koop, Deborah Judith, Trudy Voth

30 years

Lara Mason

40 years

Helen La Rue, Marlene Pauls Laucht

Reinstated members Tannis Hofer, Robert Richardson Jr, and Valdine Anderson were happily welcomed back over this past year, and a warm welcome was extended to new members Natalie Dawe, Everett Hopfner, and Justin Odwak. A moment of silence was observed in honour of long-time member Wendy Menzies, who passed away in March.

The AGM reports sent to members in advance of the meeting outlined a very active year, despite many cancellations in the spring. In addition to their written reports, we heard from Ann Germani (Brandon & Westman Branch President), Wes Hamm (Southern Manitoba Branch President), and Lori Jede, (Secretary/Treasurer).



THE 101ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - CONT'D

Lastly, Leanne Hiebert handed over the reins to incoming President Evangeline Keeley. We couldn't gather for a group photo, but Leanne was able to hand over the beautiful honorary painting, throwing it from a safe distance over to Evangeline as you can see by the photo above. The very capable 2020-2021 MRMTA Executive is listed at the beginning of this magazine, and we are always happy to welcome any members out there who may be interested in getting more involved.



the national level with CFMTA. Dianne Norris, after 4 years as Communication Coordinator finished her 2 terms. We are grateful to both Tiffany and Dianne for all the time and energy they have given to this association! Thank you so much to the hardworking volunteers that make this organization run, and to you, our members for encouraging young musicians in Manitoba to keep making music!



After 12 years of dedicated volunteering, Tiffany Wilson said goodbye, but you can bet she will still be very active, planning Serata, and contributing much of her time at



CF Corner

CFMTA Video Resource Library

CFMTA offers many resources to its members. Among these is the Video Resource Library found at <https://www.cfmta.org/en/video-resources/> Over the past 2 years videos on topics such as online teaching, professional development, and composition have been uploaded. To access this library you will need the password - if you don't know it please contact:
Dina Pollock - webmaster@cfmta.org

Musicthon

the virtual edition

over 30 years of
kids helping kids

Supporting inner city
music programs

**Music teachers:
invite your students
to register online**

Multiple ways
to participate!

donate at:

mrmmta.org

main event: online premiere



2:00 PM Sunday, February 7, 2021

performances ♪ pledges ♪ donations

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2021 MUSICTHON: "KIDS HELPING KIDS"

For over 30 years MRMTA has supported inner city music programs through our annual Musicthon "Kids Helping Kids" fundraising drive. Donation pledges collected by students for **Musicthon 2021** will continue to support music programs in lower income areas of Winnipeg. One of these programs, Tiny Tunes daycare music classes, was able to resume in June and has provided a semblance of normalcy and joy for at risk children, especially in the midst of this pandemic.

This year we have adapted the Musicthon format, making it easier than ever to participate! There are THREE performance options to choose from along with a move to online registration and donations. **Musicthon 2021** will culminate in a YouTube video premiere on February 7th at 2pm. Stay tuned and invite family and friends to **donate at mrmta.org**.



REGISTER ONLINE

All participating students are required to complete a registration and consent form located at mrmta.org
Deadline: January 31st, 2021

*Students may log time for their MRMTA community service award.

DONATE ONLINE

Invite family and friends to donate at

mrmta.org

Credit Card
Cheque
E-Transfer



DONATE

2021 MUSICTHON: "KIDS HELPING KIDS" - CONT'D

THREE PERFORMANCE OPTIONS

1. VIDEO SUBMISSION

Teachers or students may submit video performances via Google Drive, iCloud, Dropbox etc. with signed consent.

Send to mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com

Deadline: January 31st, 2021

Please include the following information in email correspondence:

Student's full name

Teacher's name

Music Title and Composer



MRMTA's Youtube channel will premiere these videos:

2pm Sunday, February 7th, 2021

*videos will be visible to the public until February 28, 2021.



2. PRIVATE STUDIO EVENT

Teachers may host a Musicthon event with their own studios until February 7th, 2021.

Feel free to share photos or videos of your event IF your students have indicated consent to share on their registration form.

Please list full names of ALL those included in photos or videos.

Send to Christina at:
mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com

3. STUDENT'S CHOICE

All participating students collect pledges and in return share a musical performance. This option is available for families especially concerned with online privacy or if a private studio event has not been arranged. It is the student's choice how to share their performance.

It may be as simple as playing for Grandparents or their class at school!

Contact Christina Hutton
204-487-3899
mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com
for all submissions and questions

FUNDRAISING CONCERT FEATURING
MRMTA TEACHERS' PERFORMANCES
INSPIRED BY REPERTOIRE PLAYED OR LEARNED
DURING THE PANDEMIC LOCKDOWN!

Serata: An Evening of Musical Delights

ONLINE Pre-Recorded Concert
MAY 2, 2021 at 7pm

Teachers: Don't miss this opportunity to share your personal lockdown story in a few introductory sentences, along with your favourite, inspired musical piece. Encourage your studio of students to sponsor your performance.

Submit your video for a compilation of performances by MRMTA, RMT teachers filmed from your studio, home or any inspiring location! Now being accepted, until April 1, 2021.

**HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR THE ANNUAL
MRMTA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD
& FUTURE MRMTA CONFERENCES.**

**Register now - Chairperson: tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Video Submissions - leanne.hiebert@gmail.com**

ADAPTING TO ONLINE LESSONS: A VIRTUAL TRANSFORMATION

PRESENTED BY DIANA DUMLAYWALLA, DMA

By Nancy Nowosad

A workshop entitled 'Adapting to Online Lessons: A Virtual Transformation' was held on **September 27**, presented by **Diana Dumlaywalla**, DMA, via Zoom from Florida where she teaches at the Florida State University. While some teachers had previous experience with virtual lessons, many others were faced with quickly learning new skills and perhaps purchasing new equipment to transition to online lessons due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Diana provided information on internet connection, programs and devices, as well as pedagogical strategies for keeping both the student and teacher engaged in online teaching.



The internet is wonderful – until the connection is lost during a lesson! Diana's suggestions included ensuring the internet band width is at least 15 MBS to support WiFi connections for tablets, cell phones and laptops; if possible, moving the router closer to the device being used; purchasing a WiFi extender and placing it close to the device; connecting directly to the ethernet if possible rather than using WiFi (this works for desk top computers, and with an adaptor on some laptops); asking others in the household (student and teacher) to avoid using WiFi during the lesson.

Popular formats for lessons include Skype, Facetime, Zoom, and Google Meet, with most families having at least one available to them. Zoom offers the setting 'Turn on Original Sound' to provide a truer sound quality (as long as it has been turned on by both teacher and

student). Its update 5.5.2 also provides the option of enhanced sound for musicians with its 'High Fidelity Music Mode' setting. Diana also suggested Cleanfeed and Rock Out Loud because of their excellent sound quality, as well as the possibility of combining formats (eg) audio on Cleanfeed, visual on Facetime with the microphone off.

Teachers and students alike are using tablets, laptops, desktop computers and cell phones for online lessons, depending on physical space and budget. Suggestions for improving audio and/or visual included a music stand or tablet stand; an external microphone such as Blue Yeti (both student and teacher would need it); open back headphones such as Philips SHP 9500; external speakers; a webcam such as Logitech C920HD; and adding a cell phone over the keyboard to show the hands and music more closely.

Diana had several pedagogical strategies for ensuring the success of online lessons, most importantly having and showing lots of enthusiasm! A wide variety of creative verbal analogies are required (eg) 'play with vowels, no consonants' to avoid notes sticking out mid-phrase. We can still help the students develop a sense of pulse and rhythm, as well as encourage them to go beyond just the accuracy of notes and rhythm to play the music. And of course the student's physical position should still be monitored carefully. Lessons can be recorded for the student to view during the week, and they could also be encouraged to record themselves to send to the teacher.

Diana was enthusiastic in her presentation, and she welcomed the sharing of ideas from the attendees as well. An informative and enjoyable couple of hours on a timely topic!



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MRMTA MASTERCLASS WITH THOMAS SAUER

By Michele Leclerc

On **Sunday, October 18**, MRMTA was hosting a Zoom Masterclass with international American pianist **Thomas Sauer**. This was a great opportunity for our students to work with a pianist who has performed worldwide in famous halls like the Carnegie Hall in New York and the Wigmore Hall in London. Thomas is also a piano teacher, at Vassar College in the state of New York, and it was very obvious that teaching is just another passion for him. As he was supposed to perform in Winnipeg on Saturday night, October 17, and the masterclass (live) was scheduled on the same day, then cancelled due to the pandemic, we managed to reschedule the masterclass the next day, with Thomas from his studio in New York. The students were more than happy to play for him!

Our first student, **Anna-Lucia Shevchenko**, student of **Yaroslava Shevchenko**, played Elegie opus 3 no. 1 by Rachmaninoff. Her comments: *"It has been a wonderful experience, a very exciting masterclass, I learned so much from Thomas and really hope to have more events like this one. He helped me to better understand not only the music but also the composer."*

Our second performer was **Angela Suet Kee Ng**, student of **David Moroz**, and she played the Sonata opus 2 no. 2 in A Major, 1st mvt, by Beethoven. Her impression: *"Mr. Sauer is truly a skilled pianist and teacher. His masterclass was really insightful because he helped me further develop my artistry and virtuosity. I am very grateful for the opportunity to meet and work with him."*

Seanne Buenafe, student of **Jacqueline Ryz**, played the Sonata opus 53 no. 21, (Waldstein Sonata), the Rondo, by Beethoven. Actually, Seanne was supposed to



play for Thomas in a masterclass in Honolulu, during the summer, and, of course, with the border closed, he had to cancel his participation. So, it was a happy moment for Seanne to play for Thomas in Winnipeg! Here are his comments: *"I really enjoyed the masterclass! Mr. Sauer's straightforward approach and his no-nonsense demeanour really helped me in understanding what I could do to improve my playing. The skills I learned in this masterclass will definitely benefit me with not only the piece I played but in the future performances to come."*

Finally, **Anica Warkentine**, student of **Darryl Friesen**, played the Allegro in B flat Major K400 by W. A. Mozart. Anica was the only

student using a separate microphone, and we realized that it improves the quality of sound significantly. So, this will become mandatory in the next zoom masterclasses. Anica had these comments: *"This masterclass was so enjoyable! I was really thankful for the opportunity to play, it was very insightful."*

A big thank you to our 4 students who performed with a great spirit! You can tell just by looking at their smiles on the photos! Thank you to Thomas who was simply amazing, very generous. Thank you to our partner, Virtuosi Concerts, who made this event possible. And thank you to our MRMTA Team who worked all together to bring you a masterclass of this quality!

2020 MRMTA CANADA MUSIC WEEK RECITAL - WINNIPEG

By Melissa Gingrich

COVID-19 may keep us from gathering, but it can't keep us from sharing music with each other. And while we're at it, why not share it farther and wider than usual with the internet?

Manitoba's Canada Music Week Recital went online this year, with students submitting their performances of Canadian compositions and their own compositions to a pre-recorded Video Recital. The online recital went live Sunday November 22nd on YouTube and featured interviews with Manitoba composers including celebrity composers Sid Robinovitch and Matthew Schellenberg and 2020 Student Composition Competition Winners Alexa Pitz and Anna Schwartz. Special mention to Anna whose composition "Prairie Sunset" recently went on to take Second Place in the National Student Composition Competition!

In the composer interviews, we were able to receive some insight on how the act of composing can be both personal expression and exploratory in nature. Each musical voice is unique with a beautiful blend of experience, culture, and personality. The Canadian music scene is rich with diverse stories and unique languages as was evident in the musical performances. As the pandemic and its gathering restrictions roll on, it's been a privilege to give our musicians this online opportunity to share their work and the sharing of modern Canadian music is maybe particularly appropriate in this first ever MRMTA Virtual Recital!



Photos (from top): Anna Schwartz, Anna-Lucia Mena Shevchenko, Delilah Prefontaine, Matthew Schellenberg, Zak Skakum, Sid Robinovitch



2020 MRMTA CANADA MUSIC WEEK RECITAL - BRANDON/ WESTMAN BRANCH

By Eleanor Epp

Brandon/Westman RMT Branch in collaboration with teachers and students of the Brandon Suzuki Talent Education Program hosted its Canada Music Week Zoom Concert on Saturday, November 21st in the afternoon. Three short recitals celebrated Manitoba's 150th Birthday and CMW's 60th Anniversary.

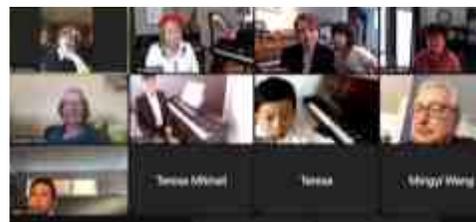


Each recital was hosted/cohosted by two teachers. In total there were 33 student performers. The recitals were very well done technically, showcasing the performances from the students' homes (as well as from a dentist's office and a YouTube video from China!) All were enjoyable and well-prepared.

Thank you to all the students who did such a great job, and to student composers playing their own creations! Thankyou as well to supportive parents attending this first Zoom recital and making it possible for your children to participate.



Also attending and much appreciated were grandparents and friends from out of province including former member **Mary Jo Carrabre** (BC), MRMTA President **Evangeline Keeley** (Winnipeg), and composers (whose works were performed by several of the students): **Dianna Neufeld, Julianne Warkentin, Kenneth Nichols** and **Sid Robinovitch**.



All-in-all, comments resulting from the experience were very positive and "It was FUN!".



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MEET BERNADETTE



Bernadette Geras

This issue, we would like to get to know more about Bernadette Geras! Have you ever visited our MRMTA website (mrmmta.org)? She is the one who designed and made the website work!

Rachel Dueck: Hello, Bernadette. We are so excited to get to know you! As a start, could you tell us your musical journey?

Bernadette Geras: *Hi Rachel. I started piano lessons at the age of four and participated in music festivals and Western Board examinations every year while I was growing up. Travelled 150 kms to Brandon every week for lessons through my teenage years. Received a BMus from the UofM. I collaborate with many singers and instrumentalists for competitions, performances and auditions. For thirteen years now I have been an examiner for the Royal Conservatory. Now, I am adding Keyboard Harmony, Harmony and Analysis to the list of subjects I teach.*

RD: How long have you been a member of MRMTA? Please share a favourite memory from any of MRMTA events

BG: *I have been a member of MRMTA for 32 years. I think my favourite memories are of the Century of Sound Conference last year. I gained so much respect for the people on the MRMTA Executive. They are truly amazing.*

RD: Do you have any teachers who inspired you the most?

BG: *They all inspired me to a certain extent but I*

have to say that Robert Richardson's attention to detail stuck with me the most and has influenced my own teaching style a lot. Alice Enns said the one thing that changed my life. She said "I can help you but you have to listen to me." Amazing how certain words can have such a profound effect on someone.

RD: Could you share your life motto and any stories behind that?

BG: *Never press, physically or mentally. If I feel myself doing that then I know I'm doing something wrong. This applies to most areas of life but comes from the Tankard and Harrison "Pianoforte Technique On an Hour a Day" as part of the instructions on how to play trills.*

RD: Besides playing and teaching the music, what is your favourite thing to do?

BG: *I do need a variety of activities in my life. Maybe my favourite thing is website work but I really enjoy long walks, curling, dancing, travelling and sitting around a fire with friends.*

RD: Could you share your or your family's Christmas tradition?

BG: *My family has the usual Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations. The one tradition that is important for us every year is to share the opiatek wafer. My father always gets a supply from relatives in Poland.*

RD: Thank you so much for your time!



TEACHING DURING A PANDEMIC....

We asked some of our members, how they are dealing with teaching during this pandemic and if they can share their stories and teaching tips. Here are the answers.



Susan MacLagan,

*Flute, Fife and Music theory
Winnipeg*

When COVID-19 forced Winnipeg to close down for the first time in mid-March, I took all my teaching online. It was difficult at first, because I didn't have the best equipment and set-up. To improve my situation, I took an online course about teaching music online which was very helpful. I also read a lot of online articles about online teaching. My set-up now includes the following:

- a 32 inch monitor
- a boom mic stand with an AT 4033 mic
- a ring light which is placed so that it shines on my face. The light is soft so it doesn't bother me.
- a computer with a small screen which is connected to the larger monitor
- a second computer on which I type the student's homework and email it to them after the lesson.
- an interface
- a cell phone
- studio Sony head phones

I use Skype for teaching, but am always ready to switch to other platforms if there are too many problems with Skype (e.g., WeChat, Facetime, Zoom etc.) I share the student's theory homework on the screen so I can point out things to them as I mark it (they email me their work as a pdf prior to the lesson).

I have learned from experience:

- to have a check-list of things I have to do to set-up prior to teaching;
- to set-up at least 15 minutes prior to teaching for the day because there are so many wires to connect;
- to keep any beverage well away from all the wires (I learned this the hard way when a wire pulled my drink onto the floor at the start of a lesson!);
- to give each student a check-list of things to have ready for each Skype lesson;

I'm very comfortable teaching online now and often forget that I'm online!

I hope that the above is helpful.

I have been teaching remote voice lessons since the pandemic began and, like all of us, had to adjust to the new normal of music making. At first, it was a bit frustrating with the lag and the cutting in and out but I have embraced the challenges! Some things that have worked for me in my teaching:

- playing accompaniment like I normally would, but being comfortable with my student being half of a bar or a full bar behind me. This does work, even though it occasionally cuts out.
- working on ear training is now a must! Students don't have the same support for the piano or me

singing at them. They are taking more ownership.

- find accompaniment tracks on YouTube, when possible, and have students play the track and sing along to it—that way I can hear them better.

- sometimes Zoom doesn't work. Try a few different platforms and have a backup just in case your meeting gets glitchy. My back up is usually FaceTime or



Justin Odwak,
*Voice, Choral Conducting
Winnipeg*

TEACHING DURING A PANDEMIC.... - CONT'D

Microsoft Teams.

- I recently bought a cheap 'maono' brand USB mic for my laptop, and my students have noticed a difference in sound quality from my end.
- on Zoom, have your students go into Advanced settings-Audio- and disable "Automatically adjust microphone volume." This gets rid of a lot of the auto decay issues when your students start singing and then you can't hear them!

These are just a few things that have worked for me. I find that my studio is actually quite busy this year and students are craving for opportunity to sing. We must keep our students engaged in singing through this time- it is important for their continued growth, and their mental health.



April Gibson,

*Piano, Piano Pedagogy, Composition
Killarney*

The following are my tips and challenges :

It is more important than ever to stay connected with fellow MRMTA teachers as we continue to teach through the COVID pandemic. I teach at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory at Brandon

University as well as my home studio in Killarney. My travel to Brandon has greatly reduced, so I have saved in mileage costs and not having to drive in poor conditions. The following are a short list of my tips and challenges.

Challenges:

- ~ dealing with parents who resist following COVID government guidelines
- ~ poor internet connection, especially in rural areas
- ~ listening to instruments online that are out of tune
- ~ keeping students motivated
- ~ teaching beginners online when English is a second language
- ~ raising the volume of your voice in order to be heard online

Tips:

- ~students have a pencil and post it pad ready at lessons . The post it is for the students to write weekly goals for the piece and put it on the music so they will see it daily . Having the student mark instructions on the music themselves helps them pay attention
- ~use pupil saver pieces and supplementary repertoire to keep the students motivated
- ~I write a weekly lesson plan for the student during the lesson , take a photo of it and send to the parent. They write the directions in the students practice book . This saves additional time on emails
- ~leave a basket at the outside studio door for music , theory books, and Christmas books for lending
- ~mail repertoire to Brandon students

Constantly encouraging and motivating students is a top priority for all teachers , especially during COVID.

2021 NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS!

by Evangeline Keeley

Plans are moving forward to hold a virtual national conference in early July 2021. The theme is **Connecting Canada: Musical Diversity from Coast to Coast to Coast**. Many events which are traditionally part of CFMTA conferences will still happen. The National Piano Competition is going ahead using an online format. Sessions and other events will also be online. The *Call for Proposals* and the *Call for Research Papers* will soon be available, along with other conference details as they are confirmed. Keep checking for updates at www.cfmta.org

The 2021 Conference promises to be a truly national event with each province and the Yukon Territory contributing to its planning. If you are interested in being the Manitoba representative on this committee, please contact Evangeline Keeley at president@mrmta.org



SOUTHERN MANITOBA BRANCH

- WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Wes Hamm & Loren Hiebert

Samantha Klassen was born and raised in Southern Manitoba. She is a pianist with a Bachelor of Music degree from Canadian Mennonite University. With experience in teaching piano dating back to 2017, she incorporates supplemental learning materials chosen by the student to create a co-operative learning environment.

She has completed her Manitoba Orff Level 1 certification. She was the pianist for the Prairie Singers choir in Morden, MB in 2020. Although quite new to the world of teaching piano as a career, Samantha has already begun to discover what brings joy to

students during their lesson and practice time. While in university, Samantha was given the opportunity to collaborate with musicians which helped with her understanding of balance, technique, communication, both on and off stage.

She hopes to incorporate this awareness in her students' learning as part of their skills development.



Jason Vanwynsberghe grew up on a farm near Crystal City. Jason's family was very supportive of his passion for music, fuelled a great deal by his first teacher, Bill Gray. Mr. Gray demonstrated an incredible commitment to his students, and also represented to Jason the possibility of choosing music as a career.

Jason's experiences at Suzuki Institutes, in Post Road Strings, and at Cadenza Summer Music Week enhanced his commitment. By the time he graduated from high school, Jason was highly motivated. The instructors at Brandon University shaped his attitudes and methods, and his colleagues confirmed the value of music in community.

Immediately after graduation, Jason joined the teaching faculty of the Douglas Kuhl School of Music in South Central Manitoba. Jason started his career because he is passionate about music, but has found that sharing the music with students and their families has nurtured a passion for teaching as well.

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GOLDEN WEST

BRANDON/WESTMAN BRANCH

By Eleanor Epp

Brandon/Westman Branch is working at continuing activities online and experimenting with various technology to accomplish this.

Canada Music Week Recitals were done on Zoom with students performing their pieces at home live on Saturday, November 21st. There were three 45-minute recitals with a host and cohost for each one. Zoom links were provided

so branch members and students could attend. You can read more on page 25.

Our branch has decided that due to Covid restrictions, we will not hold a Festive Recital in December this year.

Hoping everyone is staying safe and enjoying their home space – Season's Greetings!



MEMBERS' ZONE

FROM THE REGISTRAR:

By Gina Wedel

Membership update

MRMTA continues to grow and to encourage growth in membership through various incentives. We have done a membership drive which brought out much interest and gained us four new members with a fifth still in the works.

We are happy to welcome a new member to our association, **Jason Vanwynsberghe**.

Starting in September I took over writing a bi-weekly e-Newsletter to keep members up-to-date and in the loop. Please let me know if your email has changed, or if you are not receiving these Newsletters. You can contact me at: registrar@mrmta.org



COVER PHOTO CONTEST!



Do you like taking photos? Do you have some great photos that you want to share with others?

We're looking for your "best shot" for the cover of our Spring-May 2021 Issue. The theme is "Music & Spring". The selected photo will cover our Take Note Spring -May 2021 Issue.

Images must be a JPG, JPEG or PNG, 300dpi.

Please send your photo before April 1st, 2021 to Rachel: editor@mrmta.org

So, send us your best shots and it could be your debut as a photographer!



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A Letter from the Editor



Hello everyone,

I can't believe this is the last month of 2020. What a year we had and it still continues. Yes. There are a lot of challenges, but we keep moving forward. This issue displays that our musical journey continues and we make things work.

The reviews for the workshop and masterclass are a full of practical information as well as the COVID-Special articles. The articles give us various tips and some equipment suggestions to improve our online teaching. Also, we have exciting upcoming events - Musiathon and Serata!!!

Personally, it is definitely time to put up a Christmas tree, decorate the house and play some carols. Since we cannot gather with family and friends, I am thinking about looking into Zoom Caroling time with them. Maybe it is a great opportunity to build a "new and creative family tradition"!!

I hope you have a wonderful rest of the year with extra cheers and positive minds!!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Rachel

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