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We are perfectly happy to co-operate, but we don't want quotations to appear out of context.

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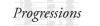
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## My President's Message



 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Mimi } Ho \\ \text{president@bcrmta.bc.ca} \end{array}$ 

They say, there is always light at the end of the tunnel; and sure enough, after much waiting and with eagerness, our society is taking big strides towards fully reopening this spring. It is indeed thrilling, once again, to make plans for travelling; to catch up with friends and families; and just to return to living life "as we once knew it". For music teachers, this means that remote teaching is no longer the only plausible way to conduct our business; rather, this becomes an additional resource to continue teaching those who could not see us physically for any reason. This also means more opportunities for in-person recitals, festivals, and examinations; lots to look forward to for our busy teaching careers!

The much anticipated in-person April 2022 Provincial Council Meeting was once again moved back online, as there was a mixed response from our Council members regarding their comfort levels around meeting physically. This does not stop us from moving forward in our operations – lots of issues were discussed, and new initiatives were proposed in this 5-hour meeting.

First, we welcome our new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Jammy Smith as the newest member to join our Executive Board. Jammy has been a Vancouver/Burnaby Branch President, a provincial delegate for eight years, and a co-chair of the 2016 BC Provincial Conference "Music: Where We Belong". We have no doubt that her enthusiasm and experience will take BCRMTA forward. We also welcome new Committee Chairs - Arne Sahlén for the position of Canada Music Week® Coordinator, and Nita Pelletier ratified as the new Board of Examiners Chair. The position of the Archivist and the Young Artist Coordinator remains vacant – please do not hesitate to contact me if you are interested in taking on these roles!

We also bid farewell to our outgoing Past President **Joanne Lougheed** – her Presidency tenure spanning 13 years was officially completed; a toast and a gift from the Executives were presented to her to celebrate this honourable achievement. A hearty thank-you, Joanne, for being an amazing leader to BCRMTA; our best wishes to you for your full retirement!

A big thank-you also to **Mary McKinney** for your service as the Board of Examiners Chair; and **Sonia Hauser**, for your years of service as the Canada Music Week® Committee Chair and Young Artist Coordinator. To all Committee chairs and members who were re-elected or ratified in this election – my appreciation to you for your excellent work so-far, and your continued contribution to our organization is much valued.

From our April 2022 Council meeting, two new projects, a Student Teachers Auxiliary Roundtable and a Branch Presidents' Online Roundtable, are being proposed and planned. The goals for these projects, respectively, are to better connect Student Teacher Auxiliary members with the possibility of building a self-sustainable community amongst themselves, and to connect Branch Presidents in a more informal setting to share resources across Branches. We are very eager to see what opportunities and possibilities that these projects will bring.

Our SoundVision 2022 Conference (September 16-17, 2022), taking place at Tigh-Na-Mara Resort in Parksville, BC, is fast approaching! This event is open to both RMTs and non-RMTs. Featuring amazing clinicians Edwin Gnandt, Heather Walker, Rena Sharon, David Duke and Shamma Sabir, the event will surely be a highlight for our professional development. And what better way to treat ourselves than to take advantage of an amazing opportunity to relax and connect in-person with our fellow colleagues before we start our busy teaching school years?!

Registration deadline is June 1, 2022, with the rate being fixed at \$275 for RMT's and \$300 for non RMT's. For those of you who cannot travel for whatever reason, the virtual option is available for only \$89 (RMT) and \$99(non RMT) – a very reasonable price to access all sessions with our clinicians and the BC Piano Competition – access is available for 30 days thereafter! For more details online registration, please visit https://soundvision2022.square.site/. Register early to avoid regrets and hope to see you all there!

Progressions

Spring 2022

## Hello from the

## Editor & Webmaster



Dina Pollock editor@bcrmta.bc.ca webmaster@bcrmta.bc.ca

#### Presidents Message - cont.

For those of you who are looking for professional development opportunities during the summer, our virtual National Conference "Connecting Canada 2022: Professional Development" taking place July 8 – 9, 2022, is an excellent opportunity. For only \$39, access to the jam-packed sessions will be available for 30 days. For more information including online registration and the agenda, please visit www.cfmta.org/en/connecting-canada-2022/.

With the upcoming action-packed conferences, and exciting new initiatives being planned within the organization, the wait "to see the light of the end of the tunnel" has been well worthwhile. I look forward to meeting you (and the opportunity for real hugs) soon! §

Hi everyone,

It seems like all I have done for the last two years is react and change how I have done things historically - maybe things will slow down a bit and we will find our 'new' normal. I am really looking forward to the conference and the BC Piano Competition in September - hope to see you there, and if you cannot make it - join us online.

So to work...

#### Website:

Members, please look over your listing on the website to make sure it is correct. If you want to make any changes, please send them to the registrar Joyce Janzen registrar@bcrmta.bc.ca.

Branches, please look over your branch listing and let me know if you would like to make any changes - meeting dates, venues, and your executive (if you want them listed).

#### Magazine:

Enjoy this issue of Progressions. Reading about the events, the branches have such creativity. Exploring all the new possiblities for our students.

Have a great summer - stay safe and healthy.

Thanks

Dina

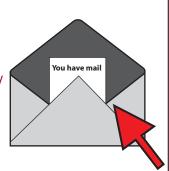




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## Branch Reports 2021



#### Abbotsford

That roller coaster ride we started in 2020, continued through 2021 and we are still holding on.

We lost one of our members, Beth Nickel, way too suddenly and completely unexpectedly. As Festival Chair, she added so much to our branch with her willingness to help when and wherever it was needed. She is missed by all.

In January we had a Zoom meeting to discuss our plans for the festival. We completely reworked it to have video submissions with the adjudications done by Zoom classes, using breakout rooms for each adujuciator. The program included all the video links, so all students could watch and hear all the submissions in their class.

February was difficult - we had a workshop planned and the presenter was Beth's sister-in-law. With Beth's passing on February 2 - it was cancelled. We did have a meeting to finalize the festival and how to register.

March we had a workshop presented by Joyce Janzen on the online Study Guide for RCM Theory level 8.

April and May meetings were all about the festival. We had 141 solo entries, 1 concert class and 5 ensembles. Our adjudicators were:

- Bernard Duerksen senior/intermedate piano
- Alana Lopez strings
- Elizabeth McKee junior/primary piano
- Dr. David Squires composition

Adjudication was done over two days in Zoom breakout rooms. The honours concert was pre-recorded with videos of notable performances and the committee announcing the award winners. Not the 'traditional' concert, but it worked quite well.

June was a wrap-up meeting by Zoom.

In September we were luck to have a face to face meeting in a park on a beautiful sunny day. It was so good just to see everyone. We started planning the year out, looking forward to Canada Music Week®, and our Festival.

Our October meeting was a workshop with Jarred Dunn, who shared his ideas and expertise on the topics of interpreting scores and encouraging imagination. The last portion of our workshop was dedicated to discussion of three pieces from the Romantic era:

- Schubert Sentimental Waltz Op. 50 #13
- Mendelssohn Andante Sostenuto Op. 72 #2
- Chopin Nocturne Op. 37 #1

Thank you BCRMTA Heritage Fund for making the workshop possible.

Our Canada Music Week® recital and award presentation was held on November 26<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. The Concert ended with a slideshow of all the award winners with their medals.

We invited Susan Schleppe to give us the highlights for the BCRMTA provincial conference and piano competition in December.

This is my last report as President. It has been a joy to serve in this position, but now, it is time to step down and turn it over to someone new. Thank you.

Dina Pollock



Shelia Hardy
member of BCRMTA (Vancouver/Burnaby) since 1991





Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and their friends at this difficult time



## Branch Reports 2021 - cont.

#### Chilliwack

Chilliwack branch like so many other groups, conducted their monthly meetings by zoom. Our only in-person meeting in September was at a local park where we could safely distance.

Our spring recital and Canada Music Week® recitals were held on Zoom. As more of us are teaching students outside our immediate area, even in other provinces and countries, having zoom recitals made it possible for any student to participate regardless of where they live.

We enjoyed several workshops on-line including Joyce Janzen surveying the RCM on-line theory exams. Pianist Jarred Dunn presented a workshop on Chopin Etudes and we also had a Q & A session with a RCM rep regarding aspects of on-line courses, exams, and business practices.

After some discussion, our festival was moved to on-line rather than in-person for the safety of all participants and organizers. We look forward to better days ahead with more in-person interactions pending current health guidelines.

Nita Pelletier

### Coquitlam / Maple Ridge

The Coquitlam/Maple Ridge branch of 65 members greeted the new year with abundant new skills using virtual resources for lessons, workshops and meetings. We expanded on this during 2021 to include our festival and Canada Music Week® recital. Meetings were held in January, March, May, September and November.

January saw us pivot our goals for the MusicShare individual student recital led fundraiser, organized by Lorna Yeates. We expanded beyond our initial offer to financially support instrument rental for students in need. After learning that the Coquitlam District (43) Middle schools had not been allowed to run band programmes since the start of the pandemic, we opened up the qualifiers for funds to include anything that would assist teachers with their very adjusted programmes. This included items such as sound equipment as well as Orff class instruments. \$1700.00 was forwarded using funds collected during the previous 2 years. In 2021, \$870.00 was raised, again for District 43, and the funds are currently being assessed and distributed.

### Coquitlam / Maple Ridge - cont.

In addition to our website for public access to our branch teachers, Ingrid Fast has set up a Facebook page for our members only to pose questions and share ideas. This quickly became active.

Elections were held in March. New to positions are Meijane Quong as Vice President and Lorna Yeates as President. Marian Van Hove will continue as Treasurer. We do not have the Secretary position filled so Greg Hartley, who is now Past President, will act as Secretary.

Our branch festival, the North Fraser Music Festival, was held virtually in April. This included two adjudicators who viewed recorded performances and provided written or written and video adjudication. The video adjudication was a terrific addition to the written as it felt personal and contained visual demonstration. The Festival Committee worked very hard to manage the needed changes in communication and handling of videos, etc. A virtual honour concert of adjudicator selected performers was viewed at the end of festival week.

Workshops included January: Pedalling in Chopin and Debussy led by Jarred Dunn and in November, Arne Sahlén reviewed the value and content of Canadian composers, very timely for the Canada Music Week® recital. Viewing Johnathan Devey's performance video as our provincial Young Artist winner became our workshop for May.

On November 21, the Canada Music Week® recital, organized by Ingrid Fast and Karen Wood, went from a virtual recital of recorded performances in 2020 to a virtual but live recital using zoom. The live component, while affected slightly by some technical issues, was a huge boost to the feel of real performance. Also included was a recorded interview with Canadian composer Rebekah Maxner who spoke about her composing process. The branch also received \$250.00 from CFMTA for innovative use of technology for the recital.

This active branch embodies what is essential to good music pedagogy - a genuine caring for students and value for ongoing professional development. It is my privilege to work with them all.

Lorna Yeates

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### East Kootenay

Our past year was spent in inactive status. East Kootenay branch faces unique problems due to small group size in our spread-out and mountainous region, always challenged as we are with travel distance — especially worrisome in winter extremes of weather. As senior members retire (3 in past 2 years), young teachers seem less likely to 'jump in' and use our supportive resources for their professional development or student opportunities.

The 'SEEN guest' at every table, Covid-19, has laid on more obstacles. How can we not let Covid drag us down further, and perhaps turn adversity into advantage?

We have begun a test-run period of region-wide advocacy. Spring 2022 will be taken up with varied promotions; exploring RMT and non-RMT teacher interest; encouraging professional development toward degrees, diplomas etc.; and some trial events and meetings. Then we will see what active interest and participation may follow by Fall 2022, when (e.g.) a 1-hour meeting requires just one hour, not 4 or more driving there and back.

From Sparwood west to Creston, southof-Cranbrook north to Golden, this region covers 27,500 square km (10,650 sq mi) and 300+-km driving distances. Internet linking can offer teachers and students alike several varieties of access to learning, peer support and sense of community (e.g. multi-town student online concerts). And who knows what marvels the next decades will bring?

Arne Sahlén

#### Kelowna

Kelowna BCRMTA, like each of you, have been dealing with the ever-changing health restrictions. Each teacher has kept going either with online lessons, in person lessons or a combination of the two. Creative recitals of family groups, online recitals or outside events kept performances happening on a studio level.

We are currently without a president so there has been no activity this year as a group and I hope we can remedy that soon!

Marla Mesenbrink

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Guided Summer Session: June 8 - August 17, 2022 Registration Deadline: June 1, 2022

## Branch Reports 2021 - cont.



#### Mid - Island

Although we have missed the camaraderie of getting together in-person, most branch activities continued in virtual form during 2021.

- The Joan Gosselin Music Writing Celebration started off the year with eleven students entered. Christine Donkin received their compositions and sent each student an encouraging critique.
- We enjoyed Spring performance opportunities with the Mid-Island Performing Arts Festival running virtually in late February- early March and a year-end Zoom recital in May. The highlight of the Spring was the virtual Young Artist Concert with Johnathan Devey on April 18.
- In March we had a workshop with Conservatory Canada's
  Derek Oger to explore and learn about on-line exams and
  how to help prepare students for the on-line experience.
- We gave six bursaries three to senior students and three to juniors - plus supported the MIPAF bursary program with a donation to the piano/vocal/strings categories.
- In August we had our one in-person event a coffee gathering in the sun at Bowen Park. It was good to relax, visit socially and catch up with each other.
- In September we were sad to receive Dolores Antonsen's resignation as a member and as our President. We wish her well as she pursues other interests in her retirement

- and thank her for her work in our branch and in the initial planning for the Sound Vision 2020 conference.
- We also want to thank other recent retirees Marjorie
   Munroe for her work on the scholarship committee and Pat
   Miller for taking care of our Book Awards program.
- The final event of the year was the Canada Music Week®
   Zoom recital on November 21st. It was lovely to hear performances of Canadian music from the past 130 years.

Our most important activity of 2021, however, was the planning and decision-making regarding an event yet to come this September 16 & 17 - the **SoundVision2022 Conference**. Originally planned to occur in 2020 it is now restructured to be a hybrid event. You have the choice of coming to the beautiful Tigh- Na-Mara Resort, or you can access all the sessions and piano competition by registering for the on-line version. Tigh-Na-Mara is located on a forested property at Parksville's Rathtrevor Beach - my personal favorite beach on the eastside of Vancouver Island. It is also home to the Grotto Spa - ranked number two in all of Canada. So come, meet with colleagues and friends, be inspired and refreshed, enjoy a feast for the senses including delicious food and amazing music. And all for 2020 prices or less!! Check out the list of clinicians and sessions elsewhere in this magazine. We hope to see you there.

Miriam Duckworth



Canada Music Week<sup>®</sup> November 20 - 26, 2022







## Branch Reports 2021 - cont.

#### Mission

Branch meetings and activities were mostly online in 2021. And without a doubt, this platform will definitely be a viable option for future events when needed.

In April we had the pleasure of experiencing an informative Composer Workshop with Dr. Stephen Chatman, who brought fresh ideas and approaches to help guide young students on their creative journey of composing.

For our Canada Music Week® Project we developed an 'Activity Chart' to reflect the various music sounds and styles from across our country ... from throat singing of Inuit children ... to Celtic music ... to home grown local composers ... luthiers ... youth orchestras et cetera. Initially the Chart or Board is set up so as to allow each teacher the opportunity to further tailor any of the activities to best suit her own Studio, if desired. Then once the Chart is emailed, the student simply clicks onto the link provided with each Activity.

The only in person event was our Annual June Luncheon at the beautiful Mission Heritage Park which overlooks the Fraser River and Valley. The onsite Blackberry Kitchen provides awesome take-out lunch and meal options. So with lunch in one hand, lawn chair in the other, we selected a quiet place all the while keeping a safe distance apart and enjoyed the great company, beautiful scenery, wonderful food and of course some 'shop talk'.

Laura Webster

### Prince George

Prince George Branch has very little to report for 2021. No in person events for students were held. Teachers met several times via Zoom. In June, Lori Elder presented on preparing students for the sight reading portion of RCM online exams. In November, Maria Mikic shared thoughts on several pedagogy books.

Louise Phillips

#### North Island

We started the Teaching Year with high hopes that we could meet face to face for our monthly meetings as well as our Branch activities. Unfortunately, the Pandemic dictated that our meetings occurred via Zoom.

In September, the programme for our meeting consisted of re-connecting with Colleagues we had not seen in some time! We also celebrated Cindy Taylor who was awarded the *Hugheen Ferguson Distinguished Teacher of the Year* which was presented to her at the CFMTA/FCAPM Conference last summer.

In October, we enjoyed a video presentation by Dr. Dale Wheeler titled 'Do You Hear What I Hear?' This was courtesy of the CFMTA/FCAPM video library. November saw us hosting a Video Canada Music Week® Concert for our members. The students enjoyed this form of relatively stress-free performance! Also, in this month (Amy Webster, one of our local teachers) presented a programme titled 'Behaviour is Communication'. This was well received even though we would have preferred an in-person programme.

Unfortunately, despite hoping for a face to face celebration of the December Season, we met via the medium of Zoom. Alissa Fisette (one of our Branch members) showed us video clips featuring the background stories of several of our cherished Christmas Carols. Some of this information came as quite a surprise to most of us! In keeping with the Spirit of the Season, we shared cherished traditions which usually marked our family gatherings!

For the January meeting, we had our 'Recovery Room', where we discuss issues which arise in the course of our Professional activities. This months' Programme will feature 'Note Reading' presented by Alissa Fisette. We set the deadline for submission of student compositions to the end of June. We hope to produce a small publication titled 'Music in the Time of Covid'.

Sonia Hauser

#### Nelson

No report submitted



## THE VANCOUVER CHOPIN SOCIETY - 2022-2023 SEASON A 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



CHARLES-RICHARD HAMELIN September 25, 2022 at 3 pm Vancouver Playhouse



VADYM KHOLODENKO November 8, 2022 at 7:30 pm Vancouver Playhouse



ZLATA CHOCHIEVA November 20, 2022 at 3 pm Vancouver Playhouse



DANG THAI SON March 12, 2023 at 3 pm Vancouver Playhouse



TOMASZ RITTER April 16, 2023 at 3 pm Vancouver Playhouse



KYOHEI SORITA May 21, 2023 at 3 pm Vancouver Playhouse

#### We are celebrating our silver anniversary!

We are very pleased and proud of our stellar array of artists who will be playing for you this coming season, from Canada's own **Charles Richard-Hamelin** and **Dang Thai Son** to the return of the remarkable **Zlata Chochieva**, as well as the Vancouver debuts of **Vadym Kholodenko, Tomasz Ritter** and **Kyohei Sorita**.

At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Vancouver Chopin Society will be officially celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Vancouver Playhouse with a gala performance by **Tomasz Ritter**, winner of the first ever Chopin Competition on Period Instruments in Warsaw (2018). This young musician, who created such a stir at the competition with jury members as well as the audience, will make his Vancouver debut on an 1819 Conrad Graf piano, courtesy of Early Music Vancouver, built by master instrument builder Paul McNulty. **All ticket holders are invited for the reception after the concert**.

In connection with Ritter's recital, we have invited distinguished musicologist **Benjamin Vogel**, who will share with us his extensive knowledge on period pianos in a lecture entitled: "Chopin's Piano - Once and Today". The lecture is exclusively for ticket holders to Tomasz Ritter's concert.

As part of our anniversary celebration, we will be also having a very special fundraising event in conjunction with the unveiling of a specially commissioned bust of Chopin, to be installed in the lobby space of the Vancouver Academy of Music on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022. More details on the website.

The Vancouver Chopin Society is one of the few musical organizations in the city to offer a **25% discount to seniors, students and B.C.R.M.T.A. members** for subscriptions and 20% discount for single tickets. **The price for youth (grades 1 through 12) is again an incredible \$15 per ticket.** 

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## Branch Reports 2021 - cont.



#### North Shore

Despite the ongoing difficulties with COVID 19, the North Shore Branch has been bravely marching on with a number of projects! Some of our usual activities have had to be scaled back while other events have moved online or taken a different form.

Throughout the year, all branch meetings were conducted online but there were still several opportunities to get together in person. Our Walking group, once restrictions allowed, has been meeting regularly on Monday mornings. Also, in early 2021 we started organizing online Socials, and in the fall we moved these to outdoor gatherings. A planned Christmas luncheon was cancelled due to concerns over Omicron.

Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary team has been busily conducting interviews and collecting tidbits, (photos, programs, memorabilia), to be published later this year as our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Digital Scrapbook. As part of this process, a small group of teachers met on a sunny day in June to go through our Archives, taking boxes and loose binders outside, sorting and organizing these so we could establish a smooth historical timeline of events for our digital scrapbook.

During the spring, our branch sent a letter to the RCM about their online theory courses negatively impacting the income of our Theory Specialists and all our theory teachers. A vice-president of the RCM sent us a reassuring letter in return and --whether or not it was a result of our correspondence -- they did make some changes in how they promote their theory classes.

The Awards Recital, a recital held every November to honour those students and their teachers who have excelled in conservatory examinations, was held online for the second year. Students submitted pre-recorded videos of their performances and then were presented with their awards at the "live" online event.

During the fall of 2020 and into the beginning of 2021, a group of teachers met regularly with the intention of establishing a special Mini Festival for the spring of '21. When that was not possible due to COVID restrictions, we continued to plan the same event for the spring of '22. Enter OMICRON! We had to put the project on hold again, but we very much hope to produce the long-delayed 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary North Shore Music festival in March of '23.

Looking ahead to 2022, plans are in place to resume post-General Meeting workshops in 2022. We are presently planning a series of workshops on teaching students with a range of disabilities, as well as having a representative of a local 1<sup>st</sup> Nation come to speak on music and reconciliation.

Marcia Meyer

#### South Fraser

Greetings from the South Fraser Branch. Another year of restrictions and safety concerns has forced us to continue to limit our activities, but we are slowly making a comeback and are looking forward to many exciting events and opportunities in the future. After all our meetings being on Zoom, our Branch had an outdoor gathering in the park for our June meeting. This brought a sense of community and hope to those in attendance.

In June we put together an online recital for any students that wanted to participate. This event was posted to YouTube in 4 separate recitals with more than 2 hours of beautiful playing by our collective students.

In September we had our first in person general meeting at our usual location. There was a large attendance and it was a wonderful morning of socializing. It was decided that the South Fraser Festival would return in 2022 with a few changes. We are delighted to report that this in person event will take place in May and preparations are well under way. Directly after the meeting we had Jazz Musician Ron Koyanagi do a workshop for us on teaching Jazz techniques. Very inspiring!

In early November we held a masterclass for Senior students with clinician Elizabeth Bergmann. This was the first in person event we were able to offer our students in a collaborative manner and it was received enthusiastically by all.

We look forward to many more events in the New Year and are excited about the revival and renewal of our Branch as hopefully covid restrictions wane. Best of luck and warm wishes to all.

Alison d'Entremont

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Progressions

Spring 2022



## Branch Reports 2021 - cont.

#### Richmond

The Richmond Branch entered it's 52<sup>nd</sup> year, continuing to await the opportunity to come together and celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So, we are patiently waiting and still being careful and kind with each other during these continuing pandemic times.

Our extensive recital performance program has been modified to create four Virtual performance opportunities for our teachers and students. Once again, we were able to include a special Canada Music Week® presentation. We are proud of the accomplishments of our teachers to learn and embrace this new technology that allows us to continue making music in our world.

Our Scholarships are awarded annually to celebrate our teachers' successes and support the musical journeys of their students. We were able to award a Post-Secondary Scholarship supporting a graduating student moving on to major in music and entering their first year at a university or conservatory. We also awarded service scholarship to deserving students. In addition, we award highest mark medals for the January, April, June, and summer sessions.

We continue to offer the best in professional development. This year, we offered our members such diverse topics as:

- Dr. Ross Salvosa: *Muscle Memory and Photographic Memory*
- Victoria Warfield: Performance Anxiety Creating Musicians without Fear
- Sean Bickerton & Jordan Nobles: highlighting the history and work of the Canadian Music Centre
- Christopher Norton: Teaching contemporary styles
- Bob Kohl & associates from Long & McQuade Vancouver: introducing new and exciting print editions that have been recently released or featured seasonal publications.

In June and December, we held round-table discussions to give our teachers an opportunity to voice problems and bring questions arising from their everyday experiences and then worked hard to get answers and solutions back to them.

Communication is vital to any organization. We update links to important resources on our website regularly and distribute monthly Branch Messages with up-to-date information. Check out and follow us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/bcrmta.richmond/) where we post photos and stories of our current activities. Be sure to Like & Share to help connect us to your community.

We continue to be mindful of keeping a healthy work/life balance as we teach. This summer we continued our drop-in walking group and explored the diverse waterfronts of our island city. As a group, we want to be inclusive and social. Teaching music can be an isolating experience and this organization works hard to create opportunities to meet, chat, and share ideas and experiences. Twice a year we invite everyone to come together for a "Meet & Greet" reception in addition to our summer and winter Luncheons.

Victoria Warfield

#### Sunshine Coast

We began 2021 with the election of a new executive:

- Katherine Hume President
- David Poon Vice President
- Patricia Greenfield Past-President and Secretary
- Heidi Kurz Treasurer
- Carl Montgomery Provincial Council Delegate

At the end of February, we were grateful to host a webinar on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with a particular focus on music education. Our presenters were Shane Raman, Vancouver, BC; Jacqueline Coston and Michelle Rofrano from Brooklyn, NY, USA. They spoke about their personal experiences as music students, professionals and educators as well as their current projects with Cor Flammae, Strings of the African Diaspora and Protestra. We invited our professional peers from the community and a student. A panel discussion followed their presentations



#### Sunshine Coast - cont.

with questions from the audience. Our feedback from branch members and guests has been excellent and we feel this webinar was a first step of a deeper inquiry into this timely and important topic. Thank you to the organizers: Serena Eades & Katherine Hume. We are grateful to BCRMTA for providing the Heritage Fund Grant, and Professional Development Grant; and CFMTA for the Branching Out Grant.

On Labour Day weekend, branch members hosted a book sale at Sunnycrest Mall. We were so happy to receive so much support from community members who donated fiction, scores, CDs and more for our sale. Several teachers performed live music and it provided us with a much needed opportunity to engage directly with our community. The sale generated \$500 towards our scholarships for students at the Sunshine Coast Festival of the Performing Arts and our annual High Mark Award for student achievement in music exams. The branch increased our commitment to student scholarships in 2021 and created new awards with new titles reflecting our current interests in Composition, Performer's Choice and Multi-Disciplinary categories.

Our annual Canada Music Week® recital took place in November, after being cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. The recital was held on Zoom and we welcomed 8 solo performers on piano and violin and one ensemble, The Incredibows, who played a traditional Métis fiddle tune, Louis Riel Reel. Piano student Daniel Claudepierre performed his own original composition, Selma Park Blues. Canadian composers Linda Niamath, Anne Crosby Gaudet, Boris Berlin, Jerry Holland, G. Stobbe & J.J. Guy were also featured. It was our great pleasure to announce the Sunshine Coast Branch BCRMTA High Mark Award winner, Daniel Fan, student of Carl Montgomery, in recognition of his achievement in RCM Level 8 Piano this year.

The Sunshine Coast Branch membership has continued to grow during the pandemic and we are reminded of the value of the organization in the present day and are looking forward to continuing to pursue new opportunities, both digitally and inperson.

Katherine Hume

### South Okanagan

In February, members from Vernon, Kelowna, Osoyoos and Penticton were treated to a fascinating ZOOM lecture on Music and Brain Development by Vancouver's Andrea Unrau. Using the funds from CFMTA's Branching Out "Sharing with our Professional Peers" this amazing educational lecture kept us motivated during the winter months.

The South Okanagan Branch Student Spring Recital in late May of 2021 was virtually compiled along with our 2021 CFMTA National 1<sup>st</sup> place winner, pianist Johnathan Devey. Bringing such an esteemed performance was certainly encouraging for our students and family members. Once again, our capable Secretary Jacki Kliever worked her YouTube magic in making this accessible for all and Ernst Schneider's programing and photographic skills put forth a paper program for the few that were needed.

We were pleased to be able to go back to a LIVE Recital for our Canada Music Week® and Scholarship Recital at the end of November. Following all protocols with over 70 people in attendance, we gave out over \$1800 in scholarships. These award recipients are given a letter that requires them to thank the branch. Having now received many letters of thanks, we can hear from these students in their own words how much they appreciate these funds going towards their musical education.

We deeply appreciate our BCRMTA Heritage Fund Grant in continuing to provide support to our members as well as the CFMTA Branching Out fund.

Carmen Leier

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## Branch Reports 2021 - cont.

## Trail/Castlegar

Greetings from the Trail/Castlegar Branch!

For our small group of teachers, it was another year of successfully navigating our way through this pandemic. While we thought we might be through this by now, we have become quite adept at adapting.

We didn't host any recitals this year as a group. However, we all did our own online performances of our students through Zoom recitals, live streaming and sending video performances through email.

A few of us are still teaching strictly online and have mastered the art of holding lessons through Zoom, while a couple of us are teaching in person but with strict Covid protocols. Our hats are off to our students who have, also, challenged themselves to adapt to these changes.

The scholarships that we usually present at our Canada Music Week® Recital are displayed on our branch Facebook page with pictures of the students who received them.

Our branch continues to hold meetings through Zoom but we look forward to the day when we can meet in person again. We did meet, however, for a year end picnic dinner in June at Castlegar's Millennium Park.

We move into 2022 with hope and remembering that "music washes away the dust of everyday life" We wish our fellow music teachers all the best!

Dawna Kavanagh

### Vancouver/Burnaby

The Vancouver/Burnaby Branch has continued to provide programs and events for our members, making the year a busy time for our Executive. From January to December 2021, there were online workshops on a variety of topics including: Exam Exploration series with RCM, CC, TCM, ABRSM, and LCM; Let's Get Acquainted with new members; Applying Alexander Technique Principles to Teaching Music in Times of Physical Distancing with Gabriella Brandes; Eye of the Storm with Terence Dawson; Tempo Indications and How They Relate Between Eras and Composers with Irene Setiawan; Vision and Caring for Our Eyes with Dr. Vivian Yeung; and Music, Hearing Conservation and Hearing Aid with Mohsein Jafari.

At the same time, we were able to keep our students engaged through several offerings. There were Student Recitals in May and December (with two sessions each), although, the Celebration of Excellence Recital was postponed and the next one will be held in March 2022. These gatherings are still online but are well attended with 25-35 students per session. Students were also able to participate in two festivals, the Canada Music Week® (CMW) Festival and the Student Perfomers' Guild (SPG) Festival. The CMW Festival in November was a single day event with Michelle Mares as adjudicator. It was small enough to allow for video submissions to be shared in real time followed by live interaction between the adjudicator and the performers. The SPG Festival returned in a virtual format in February after a four-year hiatus. The adjudicators were

Allen Reiser of Calgary, Christopher Wong of Vancouver, and Nicolas Rada of North Vancouver. Over 220 students submitted videos and received written adjudications. Both festivals provided certificates to all students and scholarships to top placements as well as gift cards generously donated by Tom Lee Ltd.

Over the last year, the Branch has added to our marketing efforts on multiple fronts. The latest addition is the Videos and Brochures page on the website where the new video series "A Brief **Guide to Studying Music for Young** Students and Their Parents" has been posted (a Mandarin translation is coming soon) along with "Discover the Who, What, Where and How of the BCRMTA" (from a presentation to the UBC Pedagogy Class). The updated Branch brochures can be viewed or downloaded from this page, and we hope to have hard copies available at local venues/ community centres etc. once pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Finally, with the election of a new slate in January 2022, the Executive formally added two positions to the roster — a Social Media Coordinator and a Marketing Coordinator. We look forward to increasing the professional profile of our association through their efforts.

Our first in-person event in two years will be held to mark our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary - it was postponed from 2020 but better late than never! Vancouver/Burnaby BCRMTA Centennial: Celebrating Our Past and Inspiring Our Future will be held on May 15 and a small

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#### Vernon

committee is busy planning. We'll keep everyone posted with more details on **Our History** page.

Lastly, it is with sadness that we note the passing of two prominent members: Winfried Rompf in November 2021 and Sheila Hardy in January 2022. Both obituaries can be viewed on our In Memoriam page, and Win's eulogy has been posted on the Memory Project page.

Barbara Siemens

The Registered Music Teachers' Association of Vernon is pleased to share the many occasions that our branch facilitated for students and music teachers this past year in Vernon! This spring our branch hosted the Vernon RMT Piano Festival online via Zoom February 26th – March 7th, with Dr. Dale Wheeler as our adjudicator for this year! This festival would not have been possible without the generous contribution of our volunteer festival committee, especially Julie Wyse, who invigilated all the Zoom meetings for students to receive feedback. We concluded with an online Festival Gala Concert for the piano award winners on March 7th, 2021. I would like to thank our branch delegate Katherine Bartel for her attendance at the AGM April 18th 2021 meeting and the Semi-annual AGM September 26th 2021 meeting online on behalf of our branch!

In November we celebrated the Canada Music Week® 2021 online recital for the second year in a row! We received 26 student submissions featuring their delightful performances! While some students performed their own original compositions, others were inspired to perform works by a selection of Canadian composers. The virtual celebration was a success and was shared with students and teachers who participated!

In lieu of celebrating our teachers' and students' hard work and dedication this year, I want to thank all the students, teachers, parents, adjudicators, donors and sponsors who made these events possible. I look forward to more ways that music can be shared and appreciated in our community safely during this unprecedented time!

**Emerald Holt** 



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For more information, please contact: **Marilyn Unrau, MYCC**Regional Coordinator - Western Canada

1.800.561.1MYC m.unrau@myc.com

## Branch Reports 2021 - cont.



#### Victoria

The 91st year of the Victoria Branch of the BCRMTA continued with the virtual protocol established in the preceding year. All meetings and concerts were held virtually. Five executive and 5 general meetings were held. Guest speakers at the general meetings were; Jocelyn Abbott (residing in England) who was interviewed by Robert Holliston. Jocelyn shared her experiences starting with studies in Victoria with Dr. Robin Wood followed by studies and career in England.

Our next general meeting speaker was Tom Green (residing in Ontario) who spoke on 'the right fit' for our students re: repertoire. Our Canada Music Week® speaker was Victoria branch member Jan Randall who shared his experiences, influences, and talked about his mentors particularly Violet Archer@U. of Alberta. His topic was "Finding your creative freedom in composition".

Six virtual concerts were held under concert chair Ina Dykstra with technical assistance by Susan Kadatz . The concerts were in 2 parts: YouTube performances and live zoom performances. Programs were emailed to performers for them to print off.

At two meetings we listened to virtual performances by two of our award winners: Rafael Edora (student of Linda Low ) who won our Helen Gibson award for 2020 and Johnathan Devey (piano student of May Ling Kwok) winner of our Mary Adamson piano competition award and who went on to represent the province in the CFMTA piano competition winning first place plus most promising performance award.

The major branch event of the year was the CMW celebration held in November 2021.

Member Jan Randall adjudicated the Branch Murray Adaskin Composition Competition.

Entries were heard in the CMW concert.

The Branch continues presenting awards for the following:

- The Helen Gibson award to a student working on the RCM Associate degree presented to Natalya Wautier (student of Linda Low)
- 2. The Madeleine Till Open Performance award presented to Jamie Phillips Freedman (student of Dr. Yoomi Kim)

- 3. The Madeleine Till student teacher award presented to Malia Brodie
- 4. RCM awards to top mark in levels 5 to 10
- GV Performing Arts Festival donation of \$1100 towards awards in various classes in memory of past member Elise Le Gresley
- 6. Dr. Robin Wood and Winifred Scott Wood. Memorial Award in the GVPAF won by Johnathan Devey
- 7. Summer Study burseries in memory of Mackenzie Barry
- 8. Hilda King Theory Awards. Top marks in RCM Harmony 9, Harmony and Counterpoint 10 and History 9 & 10

The Branch monthly pedagogy sessions continue virtually. This is an opportunity for members to share teaching ideas and experiences. Weekly emails to members are sent out reminding members of events. The Branch Facebook continues promoting Branch news. Quarterly newsletters are emailed to members. The Branch congratulates two members who received their 25 year pins, Linda Gould and Lisa Guthrie.

Our honoured Associate Retired Members (25) receive Branch news and are welcome to attend our events. Sadly two members: Member Monica Tse and Associate Member Joan Hansen passed away this year. Their life stories and photos have been added to the Branch Memoriam Collection by the Branch Archivist. Our Student Aux. continues with five members.

Regardless of being a virtual year the Branch has been able to continue with our usual events. We look forward however, to the day when we can once again have 'in person' activities.

Wendy Maggiora - Victoria

Thank you to all the branches that submitted reports - Dina



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## Meet our new...

**2**<sup>nd</sup> **Vice President**Jammy Smith



Jammy Smith has been a BCRMTA member since 2001. During these past 21 years as a member of the Vancouver/Burnaby branch, she has been a very active member in many areas within the organization.

In 2004, Jammy was the program coordinator, responsible for contacting and booking presenters for all branch workshops. She then became the webmaster in 2005 - a role which she stayed in until 2018 - where she was responsible for setting up and maintaining the branch's website.

Between 2005 and 2010, Jammy held numerous other positions within the Vancouver/Burnaby branch: corresponding secretary (2006-2009), membership chair (2007-2010), co-chair for the Student Performers' Guild (SPG) Festival (2005-2010) and the SPG Festival webmaster (2007-2009)

In 2011, Jammy became the co-president for the Vancouver/Burnaby branch and remained in this position for three years. Shortly after leaving her presidency, she took on the chair position in 2013 and oversaw the organization of the 2016 Provincial Conference, *Music: Where We Belong,* which took place successfully in Vancouver.

Aside from being heavily involved at the local level, Jammy was also involved at the provincial level as a branch delegate between 2011 and 2017.

CMW Co-ordinator Arne Sahlén



Arne Sahlén served in this capacity for twelve years in the late 1900s- early 2000s. For a similar time length he was also a Voting Member of the Canadian Music Centre, BC Region (now named Creative Hub). He developed the project to move the late Dr. Murray Adaskin's Heintzman grand piano to the Creative Hub, where it is now the centrepiece of the Murray Adaskin Salon. He also co-directed Composers' Day and the Jean Coulthard Composing Competition at Victoria Piano Summer School from 1989 to 2008. He knew. interviewed, and wrote about Dr. Adaskin, Dr. Coulthard, and Dr. Archer as well as many other Canadian composers, and contributed a chapter to a book now in development about Dr. Adaskin.

Arne has adjudicated composition in dozens of festivals as well as for the Alberta Piano Teachers' Association. He worked with various colleagues to develop guidelines for composing adjudicators, in part advocating acceptance of whatever style is submitted.

## Board of Examiners Nita Pelletier



Nita Pelletier (ARCT, B.Mus.) has performed as solo and collaborative pianist throughout BC including accompanying competitors at Performing Arts BC festivals. An experienced conductor and chorister, Nita has been involved in many choir concerts and musical theater productions. Nita has presented seminars on music to high school students, college students and music teachers' groups. The Royal Conservatory's "Music for All" conference in Vancouver in 2018 saw Nita giving a talk on music theory. An RCM certified teacher, Nita teaches Piano, Keyboard Harmony, Theory, History, and Analysis. Specializing in Keyboard Harmony, Nita has written student workbooks edited by Joyce Janzen. The Chilliwack Arts Council awarded Nita the Heart of the Arts Award in 2003 "in recognition of your outstanding leadership and inspiration to others in the advancement of our community's artistic life."



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## Musical Community Service Awards



**DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE:** An activity which is a gift or service, of benefit to the community at large, above and beyond personal benefit

**PURPOSE:** To encourage students to take their music out into the community.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students of any age or level of music study, studying with a BC Registered Music Teacher or STA member.

#### BENEFITS TO THE STUDENT AND THE COMMUNITY:

- 1. To give students recognition for sharing their music and encouraging a practical use for their musical education.
- 2. To take students out of the private music studio and their home and into the musical community.
- 3. To give students a greater awareness of how their music can be used throughout their lives.
- 4. To give a student an additional musical goal to strive for.

#### **VOLUNTEERING CRITERIA:**

- Since recitals put on by one's own teacher are deemed to be part of musical education they are not considered community service.
- 2. Performances open to the public should be for the primary audience of the public rather than for the benefit of the performer, teacher or branch.
- When assisting or playing at a concert or church service, the entire duration of the concert or service can be counted.
- 4. If one hour or more of travel time is involved to get to an event, the travel time may be included
- 5. Rehearsal time for the community service concert/event as well as performance time can be counted.
- NO tangible recompense including school credit, payment or gift card - can be received for the volunteer activity.

#### **VOLUNTEERING SUGGESTIONS:**

Musical volunteering ideas might include:

- 1. Playing music at care homes, hospitals, or to shut-ins.
- 2. Taking a senior citizen to a concert.
- 3. Helping with musical programs in churches.
- 4. Helping with extracurricular music programs at schools.
- 5. Assisting a music therapist.
- 6. As an unpaid piano accompanist for singers, instrumentalists or dancers.
- 7. Helping with various tasks at a music festival or exam venue.
- 8. Assisting at concerts with creating or distributing programs, staging, lighting, setting out chairs etc.
- 9. Playing as a guest performance at an event sponsored by someone other than their own teacher.



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## Registrar's Report

#### Foyce Fanzen

Registration for the 2022-2023 year began January 1, 2022 and concluded February 15. Late registration commenced February 16<sup>th</sup> and is ongoing throughout the year. 97% of renewals took place online. (Approximately 25 members renewed with cheques.) The online renewal process allows for updates of information directly from the member, simplifies the division of branch and provincial fees, allows for referencing any questions regarding data or payment, cuts down on errors, and eliminates the need to send cheques to the provincial treasurer as well as to branch treasurers.

The change of deadline from March 1 to February 15<sup>th</sup> went smoothly. Registration numbers were on track with previous years – just two weeks earlier – complete with the seemingly inevitable last minute crunch. February 01 saw 49% of renewals complete. The two week window to finalize numbers was invaluable and allowed for coordination between the registrar

and the treasurer as well as for timely communication with our insurance provider. Having said that, the regular work of the registrar continues during renewal season as well — reinstatements, 6 new applications, interprovincial transfers and various snags associated with renewal so that early renewal in January allows for a saner and more even work flow.

Twice a month I send our webmaster updates for our provincial website. Together, we attempt to have the most up to date information possible posted. As delegates, please ask your members to check their information online every few months and to inform the registrar of any errors or corrections.

Application for new RMT members and STA members continues to be completely online in a streamlined process.



## SUMMER INTENSIVE PROGRAMS 2022

BAROQUE CABARET CHORAL GUITAR PIANO STRINGS THEORY WINDS & BRASS





### **JUNE 27 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2022**

Immerse yourself in music this summer! Choose from in-person and online programs for beginners to advanced students, and emerging young professionals. Led by renowned VCM faculty and international guests, these intensive programs offer a variety of learning opportunities in group class, ensemble, and individual settings.

See website for registration deadlines.

BAROQUE | July 16 - 23 CABARET | August 8 - 13 CHORAL | August 15 - 20 GUITAR | August 9 - 13 PIANO | July 25 - August 5

#### STRINGS:

Intermediate & Senior | June 27 - July 8
Junior (Ages 5 - 12) | June 27 - July 15
Re-Boot Camp | August 29 - September 2

THEORY | July 4 - August 4
WINDS & BRASS | August 22 - 26

REGISTER TODAY! 250.386.5311 VCM.BC.CA/SUMMER-INTENSIVE-PROGRAMS

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## Registrar's Report - cont.



#### The branch tallies as of April 18, 2022 are:

Branch	Members	Up/down last year	
Abbotsford	18	up	
Chilliwack	24	down	
Coquitlam/Maple Ridge	61	down	
East Kootenay	4	same	
Kelowna	17	up	
Mid Island	31	same	
Mission	3	same	
Nelson	1	down	
North Island	18	down	
North Shore	59	down	
Prince George	9	same	
Richmond	85	same	
South Fraser	85	up	
South Okanagan	13	up	
Sunshine Coast	13	up	
Trail/Castlegar	5	same	
Vancouver/Burnaby	177	down	
Vernon	25	down	
Victoria	105	same	
Provincial Members	22	down	
STA Members	24	up	

799

#### Branches with STA members are:

- Abbotsford (1)
- Chilliwack (2)

Total

- Coquitlam/Maple Ridge (2)
- Mission (1)
- North Island (5)
- South Fraser (4)
- South Okanagan (1)
- Vancouver Burnaby (5)
- Victoria (3)

This year we have the pleasure of recognizing 21 members who will receive their 25 year pin: (These members joined in 1997.)

- Debra Nagy Abbotsford
- Joanne Lougheed Coquitlam/Maple Ridge
- Claudia Kargl Kelowna
- Susan Morrison, Sharon Sinclair, Nancy Warkentin
   Mid Island
- Irena Koprivica Richmond
- Lea Tsui South Fraser
- Carl Montgomery **Sunshine Coas**t
- Cheryl Carruthers, Ljiljana Jorgacevic, Hilda Lee, Dr. Michael Trew, Anne Wilson Unger – Vancouver/Burnaby
- Carol Schlosar, Kenneth Stromberg, Charity Van Gameren
   Vernon
- Anna Cal, Evelyne Deschenes Godbold, Cecilia Griffin, Douglas Hensley – Victoria

Each of these members will be sent their pin by mail. Congratulations to each one!

We have 264 members who have 25 or more years of membership.

Every year BCRMTA gives a Pedagogy Award to the student in each of 3 conservatories – BC Conservatory of Music, Conservatory Canada, Royal Conservatory of Music – who achieves the highest aggregate mark in the Associate Teachers' Diploma. The award consists of a \$125 scholarship and a one year free membership in BCRMTA. Once again only the RCM responded. Our Pedagogy Award Winner is Lydia Yang, a BCRMTA member from South Fraser Branch (see page 26).

Musical Community Service Awards are issued twice a year. The deadline for spring certificates is May 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Janzen - BCRMTA Registrar



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## BCRMTA Pedagogy Award

## Lydia Yang

Every year BCRMTA gives a Pedagogy Award to the student in each of three conservatories:

- BC Conservatory of Music
- Conservatory Canada
- Royal Conservatory of Music

who achieves the highest aggregate mark in the Associate Teachers' Diploma. The award consists of a \$125 scholarship and a one year free membership in BCRMTA.

This year the Royal Conservatory of Music was the only conservatory who responded. Our Pedagogy Award Winner is Lydia Yang, a current member of BCRMTA South Fraser Branch.

Lydia Yang is a pianist and teacher based in the Clayton area in Surrey. She graduated from UBC with a Bachelors of Music. Her persistent passion and love for music motivated her to continue her studies, extending her specialties into piano performance and piano pedagogy, where she has earned the ARCT Piano Performers Diploma (2019) and ARCT Piano Pedagogy Diploma (2022) from the Royal Conservatory of Music of Canada. Her most recent musical accomplishment was being selected as the recipient of the BCRMTA Pedagogy Award for the highest aggregate mark in her pedagogy examination with the Royal Conservatory Music of Canada.

Lydia was born and grew up in Seoul, South Korea, where her love and study of the piano began at age 7. She immigrated to Canada with her family while attending secondary school, where she soon began her teaching career while also continuing her piano studies at the Langley Community School of Music under the instruction of famous pianist and composer, Leslie Janos. She entered UBC after receiving an entrance scholarship two years after first arriving in Canada. At UBC, Lydia received her piano and pedagogy training from the well known and respected educators Miranda Wong, Robert Rogers, David McCoy, and Alice Enn.

Having taught piano and music theory for approximately 20 years, Lydia enjoys working with students of all ages and levels. She is highly specialized in conservatory exam, university audition, and piano competition preparations.

Lydia strongly believes in the importance of continuous learning and works to cultivate within her the virtues of a successful and



professional musician. She regularly attends major pedagogical seminars and conferences to enrich her musical knowledge. She also studies under Dr. Libby Yu biweekly to further her professional development as a pianist. As proof of her undying passion, effort, and commitment, her students routinely win awards and scholarships in piano competitions, as well as earn high marks on their conservatory examinations. Many of her students attend highly ranked universities in both the United States and Canada.

For each piece a student learns, Lydia shares and communicates her love of music by exploring and explaining the musical history of both the piece and the composer. She offers well-organized and professional instruction to her students so they may achieve at the highest possible level. Lydia strives to stimulate, nurture, and guide her students into discovering their passion and potential.

Lydia is a member of the Canadian Federation of Music Teacher's Association and the British Columbia Registered Music Teachers' Association (South Fraser Branch) where she currently serves as a secretary. She is also a certified RCM advanced teacher for the disciplines of both piano and harmony/history since 2017. In recent years, Lydia has taken a special interest in coaching young teachers to help them become more qualified and professional musicians. In her spare time, she loves to walk with her dog, take care of her indoor plants, and find books and videos relating to specific topics regarding pedagogical issues.



Progressions 26 Spring 2022



The Mid-Island Branch of the BC Registered Music Teachers Association would love to welcome you to the long-awaited Sound Vision conference on Vancouver Island

September 16 - 17, 2022

Rescheduled - Retooled HYBRID Conference

Registration Deadline-June 1, 2022

https://soundvision2022.square.site











Official Musical Instrument Supplier - Tom Lee Music - Yamaha

## **FRIDAY**

September 16, 2022

	Main Foyer	Walbran
12:00 p.m.	Registration	
1:00 p.m.		Piano Semi-Finals
3:00 p.m.		Edwin Gnandt
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Meet & Greet	
	Open Bar	
8:00 p.m.		EDWIN GNANDT
		Keynote Address
	Moriarty	Walbran

## **SATURDAY**

September 17, 2022

		Keynote Address	
	Moriarty	Walbran	
8:00 a.m.		Breakfast	
9:00 a.m.	Heather Walker  Alexander Technique		
10:00 a.m.		Edwin Gnandt	
11:30 a.m.	Rena Sharon		
12:30 p.m.		Lunch	
1:30 p.m.		David Duke	
2:30 p.m.	Shamma Sabir	Women Composers	
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.		Round Table with Edwin Gnandt, David Duke, Rena Sharon and Shamma Sabir	
6:00 p.m.	Banquet Dinner		
8:00 p.m.		BC Piano Competition	
		Finals	



Registration Deadline - June 1, 2022



## EDWIN GNANDT Keynote/Adjudicator

With a career extending over 30 years, Mr. Gnandt has enjoyed a varied collaborative life in music. Performances have taken him to all our major Canadian cities, across the USA in New York, San Diego, Los Angeles, and abroad in St. Petersbug, Russia and Edinburgh, Scotland. International conferences include Hawaii, Barcelona, Spain, and Venice, Italy. Mr. Gnandt's students have gone on to graduate studies at prestigious institutions such as Julliard School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Eastman School of Music, Westminster Choir College, McGill University, University of Toronto, and the University of Ottawa.



**DAVID DUKE** 

David Duke will discuss the significant contributions of women composers throughout musical development.

David Duke was born in Vancouver and studied musicology at UBC, the Univeristy of North Carolina, and the University of Victoria. He studied composition privately with Jean Coulthard and, at the Banff Centre, Violet Archer. His concert music has been performed by Jon Kimura Parker, Desmond Hoebig, and Stephen Isserlis, and by ensembles such as the Toledo Symphony, the Vancouver Cantata Singers, and the Circle Singers of Washington, D.C,. (who recorded his madrgials Lion, Tygers, and Bears). His Canticle for Strings was recently put on CD by the Vancouver Symphony. He has been composer in residence for the BC Boys' Choir, the Langley Community Music School, and Studea Musica. He has written and broadcast extensively about Canadian music and composers, most recently a biography of Jean Coulthard with co-author William Bruneau. He was head of the School of Music at Vancouver Community College until early 2004. Mr. Duke will be presenting a session on women composers and how to introduce their music into our teaching studios.



**SHAMMA SABIR** 

Shamma Sabir will enlighten us on the psychology of this complex art in which we are engaged.

Shamma Sabir has been a passionate ambassador of Canadian fiddle music from the time she heard her first notes. From the stage at the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championships to the springy dance floors of Saskatchewan, Shamma has played and taught her way through much of the Canadian landscape. A devoted teacher, Shamma earned a Masters degree in Clinical Psychology using original research to further her understanding of the dance between music training and brain development. Shamma brings research about learning and the brain, years of experience as a teacher and her love of the power of curiosity and play to her sessions at Sound Vision.

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**RENA SHARON** 

Rena Sharon will bring insights into the extensive values of collaborative music-making.

Rena Sharon, pianist, has been called "one of the finest musicians of her generation" and a "national treasure." Among Canada's foremost chamber musicians, her performance spectrum also comprises solo recitals and concerti. Currently the Professor of Collaborative Piano Studies at the University of British Columbia, she is a recipient of the Dean of Arts Award for teaching, research, and community outreach. Ms. Sharon is well-known to CBC radio audiences, and has recorded for Marquis, Finlandia, Atma, Brava, Summit, Sono, CBC-500, and Boston Records.



**HEATHER WALKER** 

Heather Walker will bring awareness to the role of Alexander Technique in our musical lives.

Two of Heather Walker's passions in life are the Alexander Technique and music. She has been playing French horn since the age of ten. It's a personal and artistic challenge for her, and a great deal of fun. However, at one point the years of intense music studies led to some very challenging problems; repetitive strain injuries, tension problems, and overuse. After trying every conceivable form of treatment, she discovered the Alexander Technique, a method that taught her to "unlearn" her habits of inefficient movement and thought.

## Make your plans to attend SoundVision 2022 In Person or Online

If travel is a concern for you, be sure to take advantage of the option to attend virtually.

All sessions will be live streamed and available for viewing for 30 days.

Opportunities to connect with other online attendees will be available via our Zoom SoundVision Cafe.

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### Pricing in effect until June 1, 2022

#### **PRICES**

#### **In-Person Prices:**

Full Conference Package:

(Includes BC Piano Competition Semi-finals and finals, Keynote, all sessions on Saturday, Saturday Breakfast/ Lunch, Banquet Dinner)

RMT Members	\$275
Non RMT	\$300
Students	\$150

#### **Individual Tickets:**

•	BC Piano comp finals	\$30
•	BC piano comp semi-finals	\$30

• BC piano comp package (semi-finals and finals)

		\$50
•	Banquet and Piano Finals	\$100
•	Banquet Dinner	\$75
•	Day Pass	\$250
•	Friday Keynote	\$75
•	Breakfast plus 2 sessions	\$75
•	Lunch plus 2 sessions	\$75
•	Single session	\$30
•	Single session student rate	\$20

#### Virtual On-line (Live and recorded):

(Access to Live and recording of - BC Piano Competition Semi-finals and finals, Keynote, all sessions)

RMT Members	\$89
Non RMT	\$99
Students	\$59

#### Advertise in the Conference program:

•	Business card ad	\$50
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Program size is 8.5 x 11 PDF file preferred Deadline: July 31, 2022

For more information contact: Susan Schleppe schleppesmusicstudio@shaw.ca



To register -

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Spring 2022



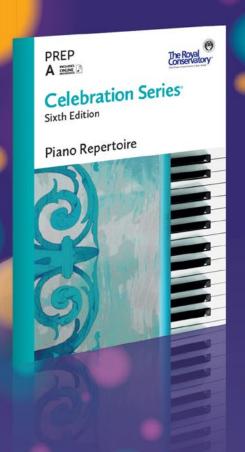


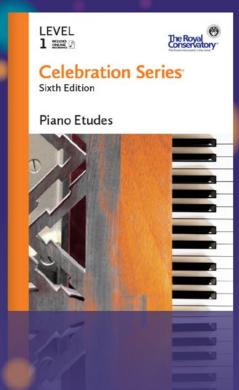
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## Ask Lori: Teaching Tips for Everyday Lessons

by Lori Elder



Q. My students are nervous about returning to live performance after a break during the pandemic. How can I help them with this?

**A.** I know what you mean, and my students have told me the same thing. They say they are more nervous than they used to be and feel kind of rusty overall. We've all had a break from being on stage, and we're coming back on different timelines. Some teachers I talk to have had live recitals already and others haven't done this yet. We all have to find what feels comfortable for our students and ourselves.

First, pick a piece that the student enjoys and feels comfortable with. Then make sure it is prepared very thoroughly. Go over all aspects of the piece including the fingering, articulation, rhythms, dynamics, 16<sup>th</sup> note passages, tempo etc. Really grind it in!

Next, have them play it at home for their family and friends to build up fluency and security, and to find any weak areas that don't hold up. Here are more suggestions:

#### Start small

To get my students back into playing live I started with small groups. I had 5-8 students per recital, with just family and friends as the audience. Students found this less intimidating than a full recital hall, and this went over very well. You could also try having a casual event first, such as a group of just students at the studio. Do some performing, play some music games, and have some snacks and visit.

#### Memory

My students found this to be one of the main issues. How do you know if your piece will hold up under pressure when you haven't performed in so long? Be sure the piece is confident, fluent, and secure at home, and in the lessons. Here are some memory practice tips:

- Divide the piece into sections and do 5 times RH/ 5 times LH/ 5 times together
- These sections can become your starting spots that you jump to if a memory lapse occurs. Try to skip ahead, not back!
- Keep going! Play one hand, jump ahead, or make something up!
- Be sure the left hand is secure.
- Do cold performances at home walk up to the piano and play.
- Make a recording or video.

#### **Nervousness**

- Focus on your breathing, and take slow, complete breaths.
- Try to relax your muscles hands, arms, shoulders, neck, legs.
- Try to be in the moment and focus on the music.
- · Listen to your playing.

#### **Stage Presence**

- Walk confidently up to the piano, and practice this in the lessons.
- If you plan to announce your piece, practice this as well.
   This usually includes your name, the title of the piece, and the composer.
- Adjust the bench for a comfortable height and distance from the piano.
- Try the pedals if you will be using them.
- Set your tempo. Hear the opening bars in your head.
- Practice with the clothes and shoes you plan to wear.
- · Practice bowing.

#### Positive attitude

Recently, at each lesson, one of my students would say "I'm so excited to be performing again!" And sure enough, her first performance was joyful and exuberant. Thinking positive really works!

#### Congratulate and encourage your students

It is a big step forward to be playing in public again, so give your students lots of praise and positive reinforcement to build up their confidence. Even if things didn't go 100 per cent as planned, they still did it! And honestly, that's what matters most. It is wonderful to share live music together again, so let's celebrate that.

Lori Elder is well-known as a pianist, teacher,
adjudicator and workshop presenter. She holds
a Masters Degree in Piano Performance,
a Bachelor of Music and an ARCT. Lori has
performed in many regions of Canada and
the United States, and she teaches senior
piano and pedagogy in Prince George, BC.

*Spring 2022* 

Email your questions to lorielder@shaw.ca



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### Review of **New** Publications





**Celeste-tina Hernandez**Chilliwack
Piano, Theory



**Joyce Janzen** Abbotsford Piano, Theory



Jean Ritter Abbotsford Piano, Theory

## JOURNEY THROUGH THE CLASSICS DUETS Various Hal Leonard HL00264510

Journey Through the Classics Duets is part of Journey Through the Classics Series - a carefully thought out, well planned student and teacher resource. In addition to this duet book, it has 4 books of solo pieces ranging from Elementary to Intermediate, a complete volume and a Romantic Collection. This specific book - a 176 page volume of duets - features 58 original pieces for one piano, four hands by composers such as Brahms, Czerny, Gurlitt, Lully, Schubert, Tchaikovsky and many more. The book contains four sections with pieces arranged in progressive order. Each section – Elementary, Late Elementary, Early Intermediate and Intermediate – has a separate table of contents, page of ensemble goals, reference chart and repertoire. The Elementary ensemble goals are listed in the areas of reading, technical skills and artistic skills. Late Elementary adds listening skills as well. The reference chart for each section lists page number, title, composer, style, key and challenge elements so that many features can be seen at a glance. Fingering and musical suggestions are included and care has been taken to avoid awkward page turns. The two Elementary levels are presented in a side-by-side format while the two Intermediate levels feature 'stacked' scoring to help performers follow their partner's parts as they play. The book lies flat as it is coil bound with the title on the spine; printing is large, clear and well laid out on cream colored paper. Every detail is meticulous – this has been done with such care and attention! With

a beautiful Monet reproduction on the cover, it would make a lovely

gift. What a wonderful asset for both student and teacher!

Joyce Janzen

## Thank you to Celeste-tina, Jean and Joyce for these insightful reviews





### Review of **New** Publications

#### A MUSIC TEACHER'S GRATITUDE JOURNAL by Krista Hart Alfred Publishing 49400

At this unique time in history, this book lands on my desk to review! As we continue to attempt to navigate the pandemic and find a comfortable way for teaching that will not only be best for our students, but also ourselves, we could all benefit from reduced stress and increased joy. This journal is designed to help us experience thankfulness and joy as we reflect on our teaching. The upheaval of the last few years has definitely required us to rethink the way we teach. Journaling is something we've probably all done in one area or another of our lives.....so why not in our teaching?

All music teachers are deserving of self-care and creative space. As we reflect on a day in our music teaching, it is loaded with experiences....some amazing and others unfortunate. How do we maintain our passion for teaching and stay inspired? We all know expressing gratitude has many proven benefits. This journal provides a guided process of self-reflection to focus on the positive aspects of being a teacher, musician, and human being. The flexible format allows for entries regardless of schedule or frequency.

Each set of exercises includes a quote, a habit tracker, as well as five writing prompts designed to lead you to express gratitude, reflect on your teaching and ignite a joy in music making. After every four weeks there are instructions for the year-long guided composition project called *Song of Gratitude*. The step-by-step instructions can also be the basis for a songwriting project for your students!

There are 36 sections with five prompts in each to assist you in your completion. If the prompts don't fit you, change them with words that might apply better.

A MUSIC TEACHERS

CYCLUMA

JOURNAL

Grandware

Grandwar

As with any other journaling, this requires time to be able to focus. Entries should be kept positive and creative....perhaps write a poem, melody, or create a drawing. Of course, discipline is required.

I particularly appreciate the inspiring quotes.

I am not a teacher, but an awakener.
- Robert Frost

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.

- William Arthur Ward

If you're looking for a tangible way to stay mindful, stay inspired, and increase confidence in your teaching, why not seek out this journal and find yourself on a journey of joy and gratitude!

Jean Ritter



If you are interested in doing book reviews send me an email....

editor@bcrmta.bc.ca

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### Review of **New** Publications

## THE CLASSICAL PIANO SHEET MUSIC SERIES Intermediate Romantic Era Favorites Hal Leonard HL00338302

What a great collection of forty-seven pieces from fourteen Romantic era composers!

The music is attractively organized into this coil bound book facilitating ease of playing. Ten works of Tchaikovsky are featured as well as thirteen of Robert Schumann. As I played through this book I discovered two pieces that weren't familiar to me. As Canadian piano teachers, most of us are accustomed to the exam processes available to us with the music divided into levels in the syllabi. Keeping that in mind, this collection includes music from Levels 4 through 9. I like the fact that all the works of each composer are organized as sets eliminating the need to hunt throughout the book. The music is well spaced and presented clearly and cleanly.

The book features dances: a gavotte, waltzes, and a mazurka. There are character pieces by Grieg, Burgmuller, R. Schumann and Tchaikovsky. Of course there is music by Brahms, Chopin, Schubert and Mendelssohn as well!

This is a fabulous studio resource for the times we find ourselves needing extra copies of music for festivals and exams or as a 'loaner' for extra sight reading music!

Jean Ritter



#### **CLASSIC DUETS**

9 Timeless Favorites for One Piano, Four Hands arranged by Philip Keveren
Hal Leonard HL00362562



I have a deep love for teaching and playing duets!

Some of the duets in this book have titles inviting a second musician: A Bicycle Built for Two, Chopsticks, Heart and Soul, Tea for Two, and Two for the Road. As we have come to enjoy the arranging skills of Mr. Keveren, this music is no exception! He moves the melody around allowing both performers to experience it. A Bicycle Built for Two is arranged into a delightful carefree waltz. The light waltz accompaniment supports the lyrical melody beautifully. Both parts are written solely for the upper or lower registers. Chopsticks is playful and energetic and fairly sparkles! Do-Re-Mi is in a cute arrangement with a light accompaniment part and includes a key change. Silly Love Songs features some syncopation and sixteenth notes. Heart and Soul is a happy little work in swing that will require the student pays close attention to the arrangement! Lean on Me uses chords or thirds, fourths, and fifths. The octaves are only broken. Again, both parts have moments bringing out the melody. Scarborough Fair/Canticle is warm and lyrical. Part of the Primo has both hands playing the same notes an octave apart. Tea for Two is written in swing and includes triplets in the secondo. The book concludes with Two for the Road. The primo part has sections of notes doubled an octave apart while the secondo features many broken chord passages.

This book could easily be played by the early - mid intermediate student. The secondo is a little more challenging than the primo so the stronger student would be able to play that with greater ease. A great book to delight you and your students!

Collaborating at the keyboard is a welcome diversion from the solitary musical expression we and our students experience! Bring on the duets!!

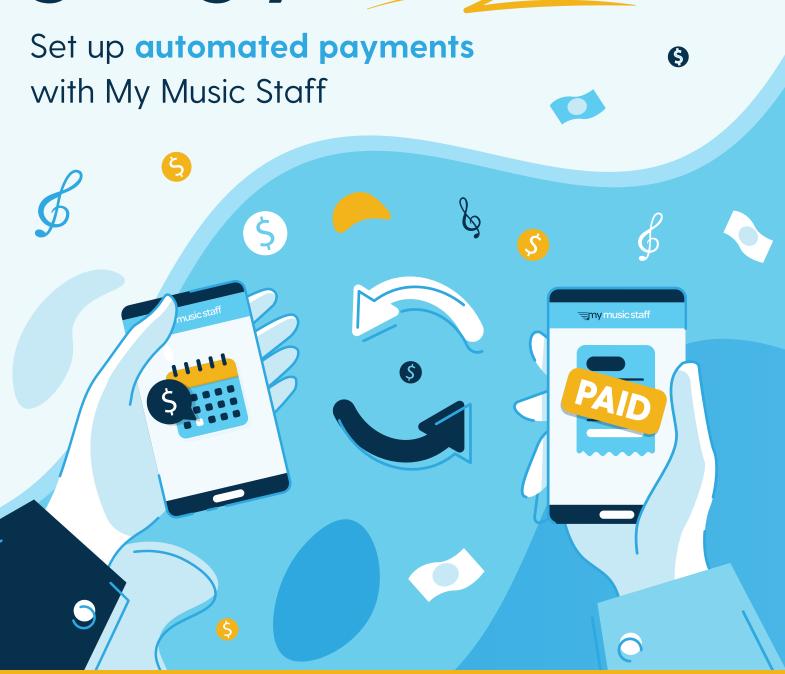
Jean Ritter



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# Late payments giving you treble?



## Nkoda App Available on the Apple and Google Store

"Nkoda is a sheet music subscription service that can be accessed via app on your phone, tablet, or desktop giving you direct and unlimited access to the publishers' catalogues". So begins my quest to discover and explore a music reading app for the very first time. One might argue that as a non-app user, I'm the least qualified to review this product, but I would disagree. It's about time that I, and many other music teachers of a certain age, tried out an app of this type. As a typical piano teacher who has been teaching for many decades, my stacks of music books and sheet music are about to overtake every bookshelf, nook and cranny of my studio. Don't modern musicians use their iPad these days instead of paper-based music? I wanted to find out if nkoda, a UK-based company, could convert me.

To begin, it's important to understand that you must download two apps: the *nkoda* music reader and the *nkoda* music library. Both can be easily downloaded from the app store. On my iPad, the two icons appeared side by side, and I quickly realized that it was crucial to memorize the fact that the music reader icon is grey with a simple black design on it, and the library icon is black with the same simple design but in green. I really wish that there was a more distinguishing feature on each icon, such as a big "L" for library and "R" for reader, as I continually clicked on the wrong one.

The library has thousands of music books, scores, sheet music, etc. representing more than 100 publishers such as Boosey & Hawkes, Faber Music, Chester Music, and more. The collection is staggering and impressive! You can search for music in various ways. Use the "Find" option to locate a score. Use "Explore" if you want to browse the catalogue. For me, this was the most useful option, as you can search by title or "artist", a word that stood out for this classically trained teacher who is more used to the word "composer". This is in no way a criticism, just an observation.

Categories of music include Orchestral Music, Harmony and Counterpoint, Evolution of the Orchestra, Opera, Chamber Music, etc. I found music for piano, guitar, alto sax, organ, cello, choral, flute, xylophone, duets, various ensemble music collections, and more. I was curious to see if there might be any current pop music, so I searched for Havana by Camilla Cabello. It wasn't there, but I did find a few songs by Michael Jackson, Ed Sheeran, Justin Bieber, and Michael Bublé. I found Scott Joplin and some other ragtime and jazz composers as well.



The very first item that appeared on my homepage was J.S. Bach *Keyboard Works Well-Tempered Clavier* I. Simply click "Save to my library" or "Add to playlist", and you can then access the music via the reader. From the reader you can view sheet music from your library. You can also upload your own music from your device.

The Bach collection only took about a minute to load, which is excellent considering the size of this volume. My iPad is seven years old; perhaps the process would be even faster on a newer device. Once loaded, this score, and every other score that I accessed, was clear and legible.

You can control the view on your screen (e.g. landscape vs. portrait, full width, etc.). It is also possible to control the margins on your music, change how fast the pages turn, and more using the "Settings" tab. I experimented with different "views", and for my eyesight, even with my glasses on, I needed full width landscape. However, with this view I could only see two to three lines of music at a time, depending on the score. This was frustrating, but if you have a Bluetooth foot pedal, you can sync it for hands-free page turning.

I am used to being able to swipe when reading books on my iPad, but tapping works better with *nkoda*. Tap on the left side of the music and it flips back to the previous page. Tap on the right side and it goes forward.

Brainstorming a list of possible uses for this app for private music teachers, I came up with the following: If you want to compare your own existing sheet music to the same music in other editions, this app would be useful. If you want to thoroughly browse and play through music before selecting music that you intend to buy from your local music store or online service, *nkoda* would facilitate this. If you, unlike me, have a bluetooth foot pedal and don't require regular sheet music on your music stand, I recommend *nkoda*. You can't print music from the *nkoda* app. However, you can actually make notes on the digital music when in "annotation mode" in the app, a fact that amazes me.

There is a seven-day free trial for those who don't want to commit to the subscription fee of \$9.99/month or \$99.99/year. Give it a try and see if *nkoda* is for you!

Celeste-tina Hernandez



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