



VOLUME 10 - ISSUE 3
SPRING - MAY 2014



Take Note . . .

MANITOBA REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

SUMMER SUMMIT 2014: Inspired Teaching with Technology

Join experts from across North America for an inspiring two-day summit:

- Explore how smart phones, tablets, laptop computers, and technology-equipped pianos can be used to support innovative teaching and learning
- Discover the magic of multimedia concert performance
- Delve into the exciting world of video lessons and long-distance teaching
- Learn how using social media and websites can boost your studio profile

Sessions include:

- The Virtual Studio: Transcending the Boundaries of Time and Space
- Everyday Technology for Every Lesson
- To Infinity and Beyond! Imaginative Uses for Your Mobile Device
- Technology for Teaching Improvisation

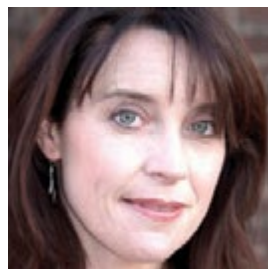
Presenters and keynote speakers:



George Litterst



Mario Ajero



Shana Kirk



Janet Lopinski



Stella Branzburg Sick

July 12 & 13, 2014

The Royal Conservatory
273 Bloor Street West
Toronto, ON

Register now at
rcmusic.ca/tpd

Before June 1:
Teachers \$295 | Students \$150

After June 1:
Teachers \$345 | Students \$195

Contents

- 4 President's Message
- 5 Hello from the Editor
- 5 Our New Secretary - Mary Hawn
- 6 Important Dates for 2014
- 7 To the Editor
- 8 Celebration of Life - Judith Signy Ritchie
- 10 Musicthon 2014
- 12 MRMTA Scholarship Series 2014
- 14 Brandon & Westman Report
- 15 Take Great Courses - Online - for FREE
- 16 Featured Teacher: Helga Anderson
- 18 Winnifred Sim's Autobiography Now Available
- 22 The Power of Practice
- 24 Young Pianist Lands Juno - Welcoming Gig
- 25 Please support our Advertisers

PRESIDENT

Tiffany Wilson
204.488.3325
tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com

REGISTRAR / TREASURER

Alanna Courtney
204.339.6768
Cell: 204.479.9597
excutedirector@mrmta.org

EDITOR

Dina Pollock
32908 Bevan Ave
Abbotsford, BC V2S 1T3
604.614.3298
Fax: 604.859.9855
editor@mrmta.org

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Next Issue: **FALL 2014**
Copy Deadline: **AUGUST 1, 2014**

Advertising rates:

Back Cover	\$ 60.00
Inside Cover	\$ 60.00
Full Page	\$ 50.00
Two Thirds Page	\$ 40.00
Half Page	\$ 23.00
Third Page	\$ 20.00
Quarter Page	\$ 15.00
Business Card	\$ 10.00

Circulation: 240

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions. Send all advertising inquiries and material to the editor:
editor@mrmta.org

Visit **rcmusic.ca/tpd**
for more information



the President's Message

Well, spring is finally here and the excitement of finishing the teaching year is almost too much to handle. The Executive and I would like to invite everyone to the MRMTA

Year End Wine-Up!

No error there.....but coffee and tea will also be served, if you prefer. Please come and celebrate a successful year on Sunday, June 29, 3:00 – 5:00 pm at my home in River Heights, address in the directory or email me!

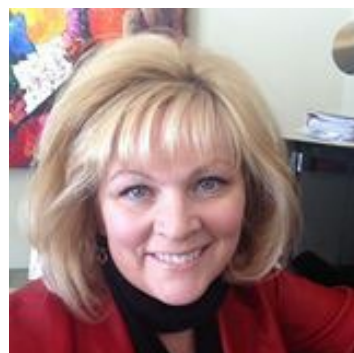
So what do we have to celebrate? Well, first and foremost, a very successful Musicthon at the Forks in February. Students had a great time playing and singing, parents were impressed with the location and teachers were quick to fill stage time with improvisation and a conveniently found duet book! Volunteers had ear to ear grins resulting from top notch musical performances. Most impressive were the performances that were amplified throughout Forks for all shoppers, attracting a lot of attention to our advertising booth. We also raised over \$3,000. Congratulations to Gina Wedel, who not only organized the event, but also won the big teachers prize! She is the proud owner of 2 free flights anywhere in North America for having involved the most student performers. Thank you to Verna Wiebe and this generous incentive to involve our students in such a worthy cause.

Next year will be even bigger and better for the 25th Annual Musicthon. Remember to sign your students up since it's just before the Wpg Music Festival and great performance practice.

In April, the Scholarship Competition and Gala Concert were all held in one week. Lauren Reeds did a wonderful job of organizing the event and the volunteers were fabulous. I was lucky to host the Gala and remain most impressed with the extremely talented students who made our MRMTA teachers proud.

I keep mentioning the volunteers since I know how hard it is these days with our busy schedules teaching and parenting and other commitments, to give up our precious time. We appreciate everyone who has come out this year to help. Unfortunately it wasn't quite enough as the executive ended up doing most of it, most of the time. Hopefully things will run smoother with members signing up with their re-registration for duties at next year's events. A special thank you to the Executive for all of their hard work this year, planning and organizing all of our events!

Mostly, I'd like to wish a fond and loving farewell to Judith Ritchie who recently left us. She was a dear friend and well loved by everyone with whom I have spoken. She is sadly missed by all of us in the MRMTA.



Good-bye dearest, sweet Judy. I fondly remember sitting with you at the cinema, crying our eyes out as we enjoyed the Metropolitan Opera's live HD performances! Your musical legacy will continue with the Judith Ritchie Memorial Music Scholarship. I'd like to invite our members to pass on the word about the sale of Judy's music on May 25, 2014. She personally organized this event before her passing as it was very important that her music be purchased by those she wanted to have it. The sale will be held at 621 South Drive. Pre-sale to Judith's students from 10 – 12, then from 12 – 4pm, the sale is open to all MRMTA teachers, students and the public. We would like to sell everything so please plan to come.

Sincerely,

*Tiffany A. Wilson – President
MRMTA*

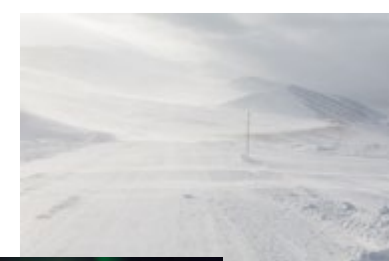


HELLO FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Everyone,

Spring is here and the final push for exams and recitals - hard to believe another great teaching year is coming to a close. What a great career we have - to spend time with our students, these amazing kids (or at least most of them are kids) to see them grow from the five year old walking into the studio for the first time, very scared and not sure what to expect, to these amazing young adults. It brings tears to my eyes each and every recital, what a gift the parents have given to us - time. Time with their kids. True, we nag, we push, we cry, we teach and we build lifelong friendships.

So here it is - another issue of Take Note - I hope you enjoy it! Lots of great information and updates.



What I would like to see in the future issues of Take Note, is more personal stories, experiences, how to deal with different issues . . .

What would you like to see in future issues . . .

What would you like me to include - this is your magazine and anything I can do to make it the best it can be for you is my goal.

Help me with that !

I thought I would add a couple of photos from my trip this Spring Break. My husband and I drove up to the Arctic - I know, most people go south for a break - I go north. Beautiful country we live in.

Take care

Dina



OUR NEW SECRETARY - MARY HAWN

It is with great enthusiasm that the MRMTA Executive would like to welcome Mary Hawn to the executive in the role of Secretary.

Mary will be taking over this position from Alanna Courtney, who will continue in the very demanding tasks of Treasurer and Registrar. We are very pleased to have such a highly qualified

member join us. Mary has already proven to be a valuable asset to our organization and we are thrilled to have such an innovative, charismatic and charming addition to our dedicated executive. Mary, a very warm welcome to you from all of us on the executive!

*Tiffany A. Wilson - President
MRMTA*



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2014 - 2015

MAY 25, 2014

JUDITH RITCHIE MUSIC SALE

- (All proceeds will go directly towards the Judith Richie Memorial Music Scholarship)
 - 10:00 - 12 noon by invitation only for Judith's Students
 - 12 noon - 4:00 for MRMTA members, their students and the general public
- 621 South Drive
CALL - Tiffany Wilson for more details
204.488.3325 or 204.960.1539

MAY 25, 2014

PRE-DIPLOMA WORKSHOP

CLINICIAN - Sydney McInnis
LOCATION - Eleanor Lwiwski - 86 Shoreview Bay
FEE - \$5 for MRMTA members / \$10 for non-members
All are welcome!

JUNE 29, 2014

JUNE WINE-UP FOR ALL MRMTA MEMBERS AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS

HOST - Tiffany Wilson and the MRMTA Executive
LOCATION -
392 Campbell Street
TIME - 3 pm - 5pm

AUGUST 1, 2014

Deadline for Take Note Fall issue

SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

LOCATION - St. Charles Country Club, 100 Country Club Blvd, Winnipeg, MB TIME - TBA
(please note the change from June to September, according to the MRMTA and CFMTA by-laws)

NOVEMBER 4, 2014

WORKSHOP

TOPIC - Bringing Yoga into the Studio
CLINICIAN - Mary Hawn
DATE - November 4, 2014 - 10:00 am
LOCATION - 8 Miami Place (Ft. Richmond)
FEE - \$5 for MRMTA members / \$10 for non-members

NOVEMBER 17 - 22, 2014

Canada Music Week®

DECEMBER 1, 2014

Deadline for Take Note Winter issue

FEBRUARY 6 - 8, 2015

MUSICTHON - mark your calendars



Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music

**Shaping Canada's
Vast Musical Landscape**

1-866-889-8807



www.cncm.ca

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Members,

*Please send me any
feedback, ideas or*

*As they say - we are all
in this together*

Thanks

Dina

Thank you for Take Note, volume 10 of the Winter December 2013 issue which included the article "How to learn any Fugue in 5 easy steps" by Dr. Christopher Foley.

Five easy steps in learning a Fugue? I was trapped. Of course, I wanted to know the 5 easy steps. As I read on, they are not easy at all. Dr. Foley described the "frustration", "sheer complexity", "a sizable mountain to climb for young pianists". May I add for older and senior pianists as well?

"It is important to have a clear order of battle when learning one of the BEASTS..." and that is only the introduction to his article. My thought was, "How can a BEAST be learned in 5 easy steps!?"

My past and current "BEAST" is Prelude and Fugue VIII. I have "crawled away from the piano", at least three times through two decades. In my 70's, I feel that I am living on borrowed time. I have not one minute to waste and I am beginning to re-tackle the "Beast". As Dr. Foley suggested, I played through the entire fugue at first sitting, but it took more than an hour to write in some fingerings.

Luckily, my teacher introduced me to the Edwin Hughes Edition, in which he did the splendid work of dividing the parts between the hands with logical fingerings. I also stumbled upon a manuscript in which all 3 parts were written in 3 staves. Previously, I used coloured pencils to delineate the voices.

Yes, Fugue VIII has the greatest variations of the subject. ... "a big nightmare for me". With 3 voices there are redundant entries. Sometimes the subject in stretto is not completely developed. Then the subject is syncopated, in dotted rhythm "à la française" (making fun of Lully). It is inverted, augmented and there is an inverted fioritura (flourishes, flowerings; in singing known as coloratura). The first stretto reminds me of "Confusion Corner" in Winnipeg at rush hour, but Bach knew exactly what he did. Thank God for the episodes. He knew we needed a break in between. As always, Bach has the most exquisite cadences. E^b minor to D[#] minor are rare keys in any repertoire. Prelude and Fugue VIII gives me a chance to be intimate with these keys and above all Bach's genius.

Thank you Dr. Foley. I will practise, practise, practise till I tame the BEAST. "Inshallah", God willing. I was bequeathed a set of 48 Preludes & Fugues by a friend, played by our pride and joy, Angela Hewitt. The 48 Preludes & Fugues are a demonstration of Bach's unsurpassed genius.

Isn't it amazing that one brain could listen and decipher 3, 4, 5 voices or more in stretto. We hear in Glenn Gould's performances that he hummed along as he played. He could sing only one melody at a time, but his brain heard the other parts. Awe-inspiring to know that we have that capacity as well!

Submitted by Solange Liang

Solange Liang has been a member of MRMTA for over 30 years and upon retiring from her Studio Teaching was given Honorary Membership a few years back. Although "living on borrowed time" she says she is alive and doing well, keeping up her practising and researching. She says that when she visits Toronto next, she would love to have a lesson with Dr. Foley, "money being no object" or even just a handshake would suffice.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

JUDITH SIGNY RITCHIE

B.Mus., A.M.M., L.M.M.

(nee Scheske)

March 11, 1948 - March 7, 2014

"Her laughter is silent -- but her music goes on!"

On Friday, March 7 Judy took her last breath after a 13 year gallant battle with breast cancer. Deeply missing her laughter and her kindness, her beauty and her song, are her beloved husband of 44 years, the Rev. Harold (Harry) W. Ritchie, her children, Matthew (Alison), Dr. Valdine Ritchie Mishkin (Jonathan) and Erik, and her sister, Pamela (whom Judy and Harry raised from age 7) and her beloved grandchildren, Emerson and Alexander (Xander) Mishkin and Toran and Willa Ritchie. She is also survived by her step- mother Joan Scheske, brothers, Glenn (Debbie) and Greg Scheske, her in-laws Grant and Judy Ritchie, Delle and Ralph Wood, and many other family members. She is predeceased by her parents, Vala and Ad Scheske, aunts and uncles, Agnes and Rudy Scheske, Helga and Ken Porter, and Siga Sigmar.

She was well-known in the Winnipeg music community as a joyful and loving teacher of piano, voice and theory, and of Music for Young Children, Kindermusic and Music Pups. She was a sought-after adjudicator for music festivals in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. Her beautiful lyric coloratura soprano voice was valued for her solo work, and her involvement in many church choirs. She was fiercely proud of the accomplishments of her children, her grandchildren, and the hundreds of students she taught through the years. Teaching was her joy and her life -- she taught her last lesson less than a month before she passed away.

Judy was the consummate host, thoroughly enjoying the many family gatherings in our home and at our cottage. Her constant smile endeared her to everyone she met. She lived life to the fullest. She was a wonderful wife, mother, Amma and sister. Judy wanted the family to especially thank Deanne Berger and Tiffany Wilson for their help.

The family would like to thank Dr. C. Ogaranko, Dr. Ian Maxwell, and the staff of the Buhler Cancer Centre for their wonderful care. Also the staff of Grace Hospital for their care in her final days. A celebration of Judith's life was held at 2 PM Wednesday, April 2, 2014 at Sturgeon Creek United Church, 207 Thompson Dr.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Judith Ritchie Memorial Music Scholarship c/o The Winnipeg Foundation at:

<https://wpgfdn.tng-secure.com/?moduleId=donations>



THE CELEBRATION OF JUDY'S LIFE

Gathering - Pictures of Judy's Life

(Will be shown twice as people gather)

(Music background: Recordings of Valdine on cello

Exultate Jubilate K165, *Thanks for the Music* by Abba)

Words of Welcome - The Rev. Deborah Murray

Choir - *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J.S. Bach

Former music students and colleagues directed by Vic Hooper

Poem - *On Death* by Kahlil Gibran

Read by the Rev. John Friesen

Hymn - 262. *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

(Requested by Judy)

Scripture readings - read by the Rev. Tim Crouch.

Psalms 100: 1 - 5

Psalms 47: 1 - 9

Psalms 92: 1-5

Mark 10:13-16

Reflections on Judy's life - The Rev. Pat Wotton

Hymn 644 - *I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry*

(Requested by Judy)

Meditation and Prayers - The Rev. Deborah Murray

Hymn 341 - *Fairest Lord Jesus (Beautiful Saviour)*

(Requested by Judy)

Poem - *I Touch the Limb of an Apple Tree*

by Harry Ritchie read by the Rev. Tim Crouch

Announcements - Words of the Committal and Blessing

Recessional Hymn 232 - *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

*"We planted the apple tree the year we bought our home
- a gift from Harry's parents.*

It has bloomed and produced much fruit for 28 years.

In the spring its perfume would drift into the music studio.

In return it received the gift of the sound of countless music lessons.

In the fall many parents left with a bag of apples."



I Touch the Limb of an Apple Tree

I touch the limb of an apple tree.
It claims the spiritual part of me.
It roots my being to the earth,
And reminds me of my primal worth.

I too am a creature, says the tree.
And bear the same responsibility;
To live in harmony with all that lives
And respect what the apple tree gives.

Perfume and beauty it gives in its bloom,
And nectar for the honeycomb.
It gives shade from the sun for us to rest,
And its branches give Robins a place to nest.

Its fruit, in due season, it gives to us all,
And in tasting the apple we remember our call.
We too must be fruitful in our spiritual role,
And give nurture and care to everyone's soul.

- Harry Ritchie June 2010



MUSICTHON 2014

Gina Wedel - Musicthon Coordinator - MRMTA Events/Social Coordinator

2014 Musicthon Results are in!

MRMTA's 24th Musicthon was held at The Forks Market. It was a great venue to showcase the MRMTA with thousands of people walking through and enjoying the music. A total of \$6354.30 was raised for Variety's Children programs. There were 18 teachers involved and 134 students.

A huge thank you to:

- Shirley Rayner for organizing volunteers
- the teachers that volunteered
- Annette Hay for finding sponsors and prizes
- Forks market for the great venue.

To our sponsors:

- St. John's Music for providing the piano
- Flying Eagle Transport for providing brochures
- The Women's Musical Club, The Keg and Long and McQuade for providing gift cards and tickets for the students who brought in the most money in pledges.

Feedback on this year's musicthon has been positive, especially regarding the venue. The hope is that next year, for our 25th, we can make it an even bigger event.

The dates have already been set for February 6-8th, 2015...

Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

Congratulations to the following students and teachers for bringing in the most money for Variety!

• Eric Peterson	\$290	(Miriam Duckworth - teacher)
• Rachel Wojcik	\$270	(Elsie Machovec - teacher)
• Eric Ogarank	\$192	(Leanne Hiebert, teacher)
• Tristan Barnet	\$191	(Rita Bergen, teacher)
• Felleon Villedo	\$185	(Miriam Duckworth, teacher)
• Brian Nider	\$150	(Rita Bergen, teacher)
• Matthew Carlson	\$150	(Rita Bergen, teacher)
• Kathy Plett	\$120	(Eleanore McLeod, teacher)

Teachers can pick up the prizes from 410 Niagara St. (or send your students). Please call 204-284-8806 to set up a time.

Congratulations again on a very successful Musicthon!



Virginia Heinrich introducing her student



Annette Hay accompanying her violin student



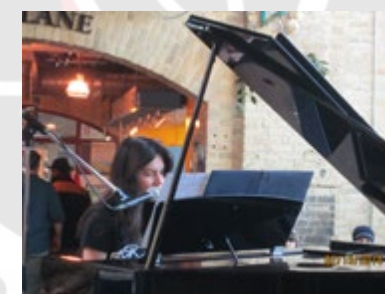
Victoria Lee Wing



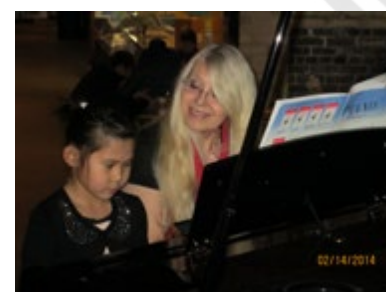
Elsie Machovic
(Improvising on a theme)



Gina Wedel - Eleanore Mcleod



Chantel Wallack



Glory St. Germain duetting with her student



Carson Milberg

I look forward to the next one!

MRMTA SCHOLARSHIP SERIES 2014

Laureen Reeds - Student Programming Coordinator MRMTA

Congratulations to the winners, competitors, and their wonderful teachers of the 2014 scholarship competition series held March 31 to April 3. The Executive would like to thank the volunteers who helped make this event a success.

They are:

- Convenors: Louisa Ryz, Laurel Howard, David Clark
- Repertoire Rules: Jacqueline Ryz, Donna Fletcher, Laurel Howard
- Scholarship Applications: Nadia Orlov
- Venue: Peter Fyne
- Paper Scholarships: Eleanor Lwiwski

Many thanks to our wonderful adjudicators:

- Jane Duerksen - Piano
- Kelly Robinson - Vocal
- Desiree Abbey - Instrumental.



Scholarship winners, performers and teachers who were present at the Gala Concert and Awards Presentation.

The Gala Scholarship concert was held Sunday April 6, 2014 at Westworth United Church. The concert comprised of performances of the winners in each category. The evening was wonderfully entertaining, highlighting our Manitoba talent. Our President, Tiffany Wilson, was on hand to give out the scholarships.

THE COMPETITION RESULTS ARE:

JUNIOR		GRACE RICH-BASTIN MEMORIAL AWARD	
Vocal	Sarah Luby	Christina Hutton (<i>Piano</i>)	
Piano	Julian Liu		
INTERMEDIATE		MADELEINE GAUVIN SCHOLARSHIPS	
Instrumental	Liana Fonseca	Maria Guenther (<i>Cello</i>)	
Vocal	Elliot Lazar		
Piano	Amy Kong	NITA EAMER MEMORIAL	
SENIOR		Justin Lin (<i>Piano</i>)	
Instrumental	Guadalupe Santos	EDITH MOTLEY VOCAL AWARD	
Vocal	Katherine Mayba	Kathryn Patrick (<i>Voice</i>)	
Piano	Naomi Tran		
ADVANCED		HARRY REGINALD ROWLIN MEMORIAL	
Instrumental	Sara Wang	STRINGS AWARD	
Vocal	Jessica Kos-Whicher	Guadalupe Santos (<i>Violin</i>)	
Piano	Ryan Wang		



Tiffany Wilson & Laureen Reeds

The MRMTA Scholarship Competition Series continues to provide a wonderful opportunity to students and their teachers. Well done Manitoba!

Motivate your students by encouraging them to...

Share the Sound !

And join a vibrant community of music educators for exciting workshops at the

The Music Teacher Training Institute

This unique approach offers:

- Exciting workshops with other piano students
- A wide range of topics designed to inspire and engage aspiring piano teachers
- “hands-on” activities, new teaching techniques
- Preparation for teacher certification

Don't miss Seminar I Piano Pedagogy!

DATE: Saturday, August 23, 2014
TIME: 9:30 am to 3:30 pm
PLACE: Room D176 - Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg
COST: \$149.95 includes tuition, books, lunch and coffee breaks
- payable on seminar day by cash, cheque, debit , Visa or Mastercard
Fees paid for seminars may qualify for the T2202A Tuition Tax Credit

For more info and to register, contact

Instructor: Eleanore McLeod

Call: 204-222-7283 or
204-881-7015

e-mail: musicteachertraining@gmail.com
eleanore.mcleod@gmail.com



BRANDON & WESTMAN

The following report is a summary of the activities of the Brandon & Westman Branch of the MRMTA during the 2013-2014 teaching year.



The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday September 19th 2013, with most members, families and guests, in attendance. The meeting was followed by a dinner and guest speaker, Colette Simonot-Maiello, a Musicologist at The School of Music, Brandon University. Collette gave an interesting and informative presentation, which everybody enjoyed.

The Canada Music Week Recital was celebrated at The School of Music, Brandon University, on Saturday November 23rd, 2013. Lara Mason delivered a eulogy to Gerrie Kroeker, who passed away earlier in the year. As an addendum to this report, there is a tribute to Gerrie. Students performed works by Canadian composers, as well, RM teacher and violinist Rob Richardson Junior, performed a composition by Dr. Ken Nichols, accompanied with a short talk by the composer. A party, celebrating Canada Music Week, gave opportunity to visit and share stories with students and teachers, which was enjoyed by all, following the recital.

On December 21st 2013, a “Festive Recital” was held at The School of Music, Brandon University. Most teachers chose “seasonally-inspired” music that was performed individually and in ensembles. A well attended recital was followed by a Christmas Party.

A Spring Recital and Social is being planned for June, at the home of Lara Mason in Souris. Every teacher in the Brandon & Westman Branch of the Registered Music Teachers’ Association will be encouraged to participate. More information and an invitation will be sent to teachers, shortly.

The AGM has been set for the fall. It will be held on Sunday, September 7th at The Music Studio. The meeting will welcome in a new executive, followed by a catered dinner and a presentation by an invited guest.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Germani
President, The Brandon & Westman Registered Music Teachers’ Association

This year, The Brandon and Westman Registered Music Teachers’ Association celebrated and honoured the life of longtime member, Gerrie Kroeker, who sadly, passed away early in 2013. The following tribute is by Lara Mason, a good friend and colleague of Gerrie’s: *“Gerrie was a student here at Brandon University when we first met. She was here to complete her Bachelor of Music Degree. Gerrie was always smiling, helpful and friendly to everyone. She had a very curious mind and was always eagerly learning to do new things.”*

After graduating with her Bachelor of Music degree, Gerrie joined the Brandon Branch of The Registered Music Teachers’ Association. It was through this group that she renewed acquaintances with five other registered teachers living in Melita, Souris, Margaret, Boissevain and Deloraine. At Gerrie’s invitation, the five of us began to travel to Gerrie’s home in Deloraine for monthly meetings on Friday mornings where we would discuss music in the Westman area, explore new materials, drink coffee and laugh a lot. Gerrie’s husband, Ben, would tease the group, that “not much work was getting done!”. Known as “The Music Teachers of Southwest Manitoba”, this group went on to plan recitals in Deloraine and Boissevain, Composer & Kids events through the Canadian National Conservatory of Music, and Fall Tune-Up Piano Teacher workshops in Souris. It was a fun and productive time that came to an end as each of the teachers took on new roles and made it impossible to find a common meeting time.

As a result, Gerrie became more involved with The Brandon Branch of the RMTA. Eventually, she became president of The Brandon Branch. Gerrie was an organized, hardworking, classy leader. She had great strength and courage to speak out when she felt strongly about an issue. She suggested that the name of The Brandon Branch be changed to better reflect the area that its members came from, and so we became, “The Brandon & Westman Registered Music Teachers’ Association”. A new logo was designed by artist Stephen Groves at this time.

Gerrie encouraged the idea of holding our events not only in Brandon, but in surrounding areas as well. A lovely, well-attended recital was held in Deloraine one May and an informative summer teachers’

workshop was held in Souris as a result of her suggestion.

Gerrie was a busy examiner for the Royal Conservatory of Music and regular festival adjudicator. She always had many students enrolled in her studio and kept them hopping with all sorts of contests, concerts, prizes and workshops. She bribed students with food, as good teachers do, and went above and beyond the ordinary to keep things fun and interesting for them.

She was active in every aspect of her community in Deloraine, helping with her church, the Chamber of Commerce, musicals, the restoration of the Prairie Skills Centre, and I’m sure, many other things we don’t even know about.

Gerrie loved teaching young people and when she retired to Kitchener,

Ontario to be near her son, we were not surprised to hear that she had picked up a few students and was heading out to examine for the Royal Conservatory shortly after. She and Ben enjoyed many concerts together in the city, as well.

Gerrie was a mentor to her students and other teachers. Her retirement and then sudden passing has left a huge hole in the musical life of Southwestern Manitoba. We miss seeing her students perform, and her joy in their progress. We miss her energy and never-ending ideas. We miss working alongside her in the kitchen as she prepared the food used as a bribe to get our students to perform!

Rest in Peace, Gerrie. Your spirit and hard work here was appreciated and you will not be forgotten.



TAKE GREAT COURSES - ONLINE - FOR FREE

<https://www.coursera.org/courses?orderby=upcoming&cats=music>

Members - this looks like a great resource - check it out

- Jazz improvisation
(started April 28 - 5 weeks long)
- Introduction to guitar
(started April 28 - 6 weeks long)
- Song writing
(started April 28 - 6 weeks long)
- Introduction to music production
(started April 28 - 6 weeks long)
- History of rock, part 1
(started May 9 - 7 weeks long)
- Fundamentals of music theory
(July - 5 weeks long)
- The music of the Beatles
(starting July 6 - 6 weeks long)
- Introduction to digital sound design
(starting July 21 - 6 weeks long)

The following courses are already done. Might offer it again in the future:

- Exploring Beethoven’s Piano Sonatas

Future courses:

- Fundamentals of audio and music engineering: Part 1 musical sound and electronics
- Introduction to programming for musicians and digital artists
- From the repertoire: western music history through performance
- Fundamentals of rehearsing music ensembles
- Write like Mozart: An introduction to Classical music composition
- History of rock, part 2
- Introduction to classical music
- Survey to music technology
- Listening to world music



FEATURED TEACHER: HELGA ANDERSON

Emotion vs. Accuracy

by Angelica Castellaneta



“Oh, let’s see how this goes today!” are the familiar words of Helga Anderson, a member of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers Association for 60 years. Many of Anderson’s students began their lessons with her cheery voice and positive attitude regardless of the time they had practiced before the lesson. Helga often encouraged her students by telling them perfection is not everything and that she would rather they play with emotion than with accuracy.

Having earned her A.R.C.T. (Associate of Royal Conservatory of Toronto) in voice and piano, her A.M.M and having a Bachelor of Education, Helga Anderson is a renowned music teacher who currently teaches five students; and continues to inspire both young and old with her years of experience. She directed many choirs throughout her career, including the Winnipeg Boys Choir which evolved into the Bass Clef Chorus (with some of the members forming the Easy “T’s”), the Better Half Singers, and the Joie de Vivre.

Helga brought her senior choir to Iceland to explore her roots while enjoying the culture. Being of Icelandic descent, she encouraged the choir to explore the folk music of many generations past. The senior choir not only toured Iceland twice under the care of Anderson, but they were also invited to Israel to sing in Bethlehem during Christmas, alongside the Israeli Symphony. There they performed “Sacred Music from Jerusalem.”

When asked what her expectations for students are, Helga replied, “to acquire a good foundation by training, participation in festivals and examinations and community involvement.” Anderson, nearing the end of her career, hopes she has shared her passion for music, and says that she has accomplished teaching people to not only appreciate music, but to love it as well.

Helga Anderson refuses to admit she had any struggles while teaching, saying, “I had very, very, good instructors... when I went to teacher’s college, they showed us how to work with teachers and pupils, and I’ve always had a good relationship with my students.”

A good relationship seems an understatement since Helga shared her story about teaching grade nine boys during the last class of the day. Everyday Anderson would bring in a 45 vinyl record to win over the students and coax them into participation from 3:00 to 3:30. After class, the boys would gather around the record player and listen to a popular song, and eventually one of those boys would speak the words that Helga Anderson vividly remembers to this day. He would turn to her and say: “you’re not so square.”



Hear the Difference

Canadian Mennonite University
School of Music degree programs:

- » **Bachelor of Music**
- » **Bachelor of Arts (Music)**
- » **Bachelor of Music Therapy**

CMU | **SCHOOL OF MUSIC**

WINNIFRED SIM'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY NOW AVAILABLE!



Winnifred Sim's Autobiography "A Candid Coda: Reflections on the Life and Music of Winnifred Sim" is now available at McNally Robinson Booksellers (Winnipeg) or through Internet order at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.ca/dp/0889771110) or Friesen Press. The book has 28 chapters (divided into three sections) and over 200 photos.

Winnifred never auditioned for a job and yet she became a nationally recognized organist, accompanist, adjudicator and teacher. In 1997 she was awarded Honourary Life Membership in the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association. Winnifred enjoyed a 44-year professional career as a piano and organ soloist and accompanist on CBC radio and television. Referred to as a "trailblazer" by the Winnipeg Free Press, she is also a published composer of choral anthems and chaired the committee that founded the National Youth Choir. She was the Musical Director of CBC Television's hit show, "Hymn Sing", which was broadcast weekly for 30 years.

Winnifred persevered through the challenges of being successful in fields dominated by men, at a time when being a working mother of four was not a popular choice. Now approaching the age of 84, she is able to look back on the joys and struggles of the music industry and the enrichment that comes from family, faith, and a love of music. "A Candid Coda" not only glimpses her personal life, but also behind the scenes of one of the longest running shows in Canadian television history. Winnifred is a recipient of the YM-YWCA "Woman of Distinction" award and is listed in the Encyclopedia of Music in Canada and the International Who's Who in Music. All proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Winnipeg Music Festival.

CBC organ recital 1972



At age 3



The book cover



For Sale

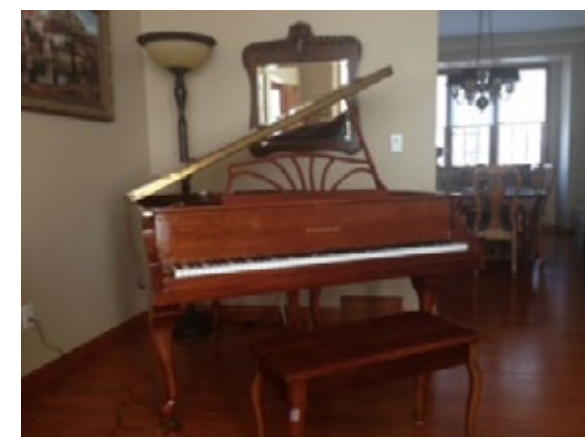
Baldwin Mahogany Grand Piano Queen Anne Style 4'10"

Regularly tuned and built in humidifier

\$5,250.00 or Best Offer



Lovely Touch and Tone



Call Laury 204-298-4727

Email: esb.john@mac.com



Pathways to...

Collaboration - Performance - Wellness
July 8 - 11, 2015 CFMTA/FCAPM Vancouver BC

CFMTA/FCAPM CONFERENCE SESSION PROPOSALS

PROPOSALS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL BETWEEN MAY 1 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2014
BY MIDNIGHT PACIFIC TIME

Submission of proposals to the conference committee: proposals@cfmtavancouver2015.com

ONLY WORD OR PDF SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED

- Conference sessions are available in 45 or 60 minute lengths, and are to include introductory and closing remarks plus Q & A.
- Membership in CFMTA/FCAPM is not a requirement to submit a proposal or present a session.
- Presentations should reflect the themes of Performance, Collaboration and Wellness as closely as possible without being commercial in nature.
- Opportunities for commercial presentations are available through the Trade Show link at www.cfmtavancouver2015.com
- Selected presenters may present only for 'no charge'. Presenters that plan to attend any other part of the conference will be required to pay fees commensurate with their level of participation.
- Proposal title and equipment needs should not be part of the 250-word proposal or 35-word description.
- Resumés / Biographies should include presentation experience if possible.

Please include the following information in your submission:

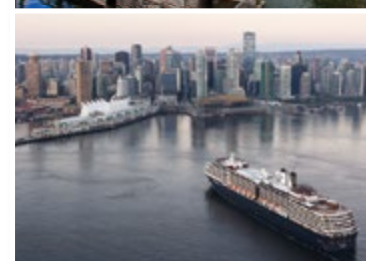
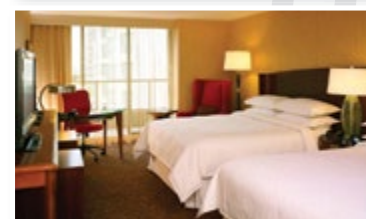
- Contact mailing address and e-mail.
- 250-word proposal (full description of the proposal).
- 35-word session description (description that will appear in the program book).
- One-page resume for each presenter as well as a 35-word biography.
- Color photograph of each presenter.
- Total time length of your workshop (45 or 60 minutes).
- List of audio/visual equipment needed.

If you have any questions about the conference proposal process contact us at
proposals@cfmtavancouver2015.com

CFMTA/FCAPM Vancouver 2015



Pathways to . . . Collaboration - Performance - Wellness



July 8 - 11, 2015

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel

7551 Westminster Hwy

Richmond, BC

604 - 273 - 7878

- Piano Competition • Workshops • Trade Show
- Meals and Gala Banquet

Rooms starting at \$ 149

☼ Mention CFMTA/FCAPM Conference 2015 to get reduced rate

☼ Registration rates will be the same for members of CFMTA/FACPM and MTNA

A walk through a park to our other venue. . .

Gateway Theatre

6500 Gilbert Road - Richmond, BC

Venue for our Opening Event

Come early - Stay longer

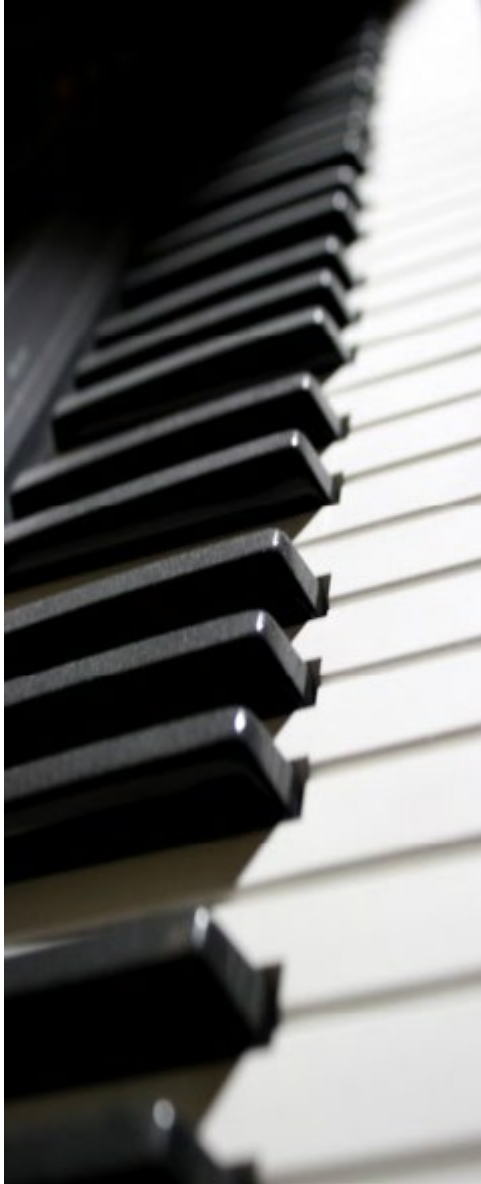
Take some time to explore our great city

Stanley Park - Granville Market - Grouse Mountain

and so much more. . .

THE POWER OF PRACTICE

by Wendy Dyck - reprinted with permission



There is something magical about the piano—maybe it's the beautiful curves of a baby grand, the complexity of sound it can produce, or the wonder of fingers moving with speed and accuracy across the keyboard. And while it's certainly not portable and can cost a small fortune to move or maintain, the romance continues. Parents spend hundreds of dollars on lessons, hoping that their son or daughter will make the dream come alive, but the results are mixed. Every year I watch bright, music-loving, musically-gifted children slouch their way through the year making minimal progress despite my best efforts during our lesson time and I am humbly reminded that I am not central to their success—you are.

Success at the piano exists in direct relation to practice at home, and with children, parents play the most obvious role in making sure this happens. Very few children are self-directed enough to pursue music on their own, but many more who love music also need the full support of a parent to practice. How?

You will notice waves of interest in practicing—surf them! These are critical times for students because the intensity they bring to practicing can help them make significant leaps in their technical expertise, reading ability and playing strength, which feeds back into their desire to practice. Make

sure your child has music that she enjoys playing, buy a new book or download some fun sheet music. Join them at the piano and play a duet, even if it's only Heart and Soul. Get out a guitar or a drum and play with them. Arrange a mini-concert for friends, take a picture of them at the piano and frame it. Record them playing and send it to family—make a CD!

But don't be surprised when the interest wanes. Seemingly low interest times are the plateaus where students are consolidating new skills, playing music that they really love and don't want to give up, or just taking the space they need in a life that is full of other interests. Another wave will come. Watch and be ready!

At our house, practicing is linked to other activities—no screen time until practicing has been done. One child loves to practice first thing in the morning so he's "done" and can use all of his after school time to play. The other child prefers playing in the evening when he's more likely to have an audience. Is your child a morning person? Does she prefer a quiet household when practicing?

Be consistent. If you have a routine, tag practicing on to another task. Leave flexibility for weekends and accept that a day away from the piano can be helpful. One day, that is—more than one day away from playing can make the return an uphill slog

as students struggle to recall skills that were only recently acquired. And any time at the instrument is good time, messing around is better than not being there at all and sometimes it's all you can ask.

It's great when the piano is centrally located. It's easier to monitor what's going on during the practice session and to offer lots of praise for a good performance. Resist the urge to correct—unless you've established a successful way of doing this with your child, it can be counter-productive. Practicing can be the time when your child is taking ownership of acquiring a skill, so leave the corrections to the teacher. The proviso here is that if there is a wrong note that is making the music sound terrible, an intervention can make everyone feel better.

Accompany your child. If your piano is situated in a basement or side room, consider taking a book or some work and sitting in the room while your child practices. For many children, one of the hardest things about practicing is being alone.

And if the piano is in the same room as a stereo, computer or television—not a preferred situation—make sure there is a policy with regard to how these different media interact. What gets priority? Will there be resentment on the part of other family members when the practicing commences?

Rewards for practicing should be intrinsic—playing piano better is the best reward for time spent at the instrument. But sometimes an exterior motivator can be helpful. Knowing someone else is listening can be a strong motivator for some children ("I really like that song you play in a minor key. Can you play that one for me?"), as can praise ("That is the best I've ever heard you play that!"). Children can be encouraged to develop their own external rewards as part of taking ownership for learning their music, maybe taking time for a snack midway through practicing when they've finally mastered a difficult bit, or as a reward for using correct fingering in a scale.

And although parents are key to success for young musicians, the goal must always be to move children towards ownership. Playing piano is their skill and at some point, they must make the commitment. This doesn't happen in one day, it's a process whereby parents need to be constantly assessing how much they need to intervene, when they can back off and see what happens. It's a function of maturity, of skill, of interest and lots of things we don't see. Be patient, but encourage those moments when a child takes on something difficult without being told, or practices longer than is required. Remember that music-making is a joyful experience and part of that joy springs from knowing that you've worked hard and the beauty you have to share is your own.

Wendy Dyck has taught piano for almost 20 years and has a music studio that includes students ranging in age from seven to 87. She believes that making music is empowering and dreams of learning to play the accordion.



YOUNG PIANIST LANDS JUNO - WELCOMING GIG

by Jen Zoratti jen.zoratti@freepress.mb.ca

Republished with permission from the March 26, 2014, edition of the Winnipeg Free Press.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/entertainment/music/young-pianist-lands-juno-welcoming-gig-252393831.html>



Raymond Guerard with his proud teacher, Jacqueline Ryz.
(TREVOR HAGAN/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS)



Twelve-year-old pianist, Raymond Guerard, will be performing for Juno artists as they arrive at the airport before this weekend's big event.
(TREVOR HAGAN/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS)

Remember the name Raymond Guerard. You may well see it on a marquee one day.

The 12-year-old solo pianist was chosen to play as part of the We Speak Music performance series at the airport, which will see Guerard welcome Juno attendees to Winnipeg on March 27 and 28, along with the St. John Brebeuf Boys Choir, Richer School Chamber Choir (grades 3-8), Bruce Middle School Concert Choir, Garden City Groove Vocal Jazz, Garden City Chamber Choir, Lakewood School Elementary Choir (grades 3-5), Churchill High School Junior Singers (grades 7-9), Sargent Park Grade 9 Choir, Sistema Winnipeg and the Dirty Catfish Brass Band. The event is free and open to the public.

Guerard, who is in Grade 7 in school and Grade 6 piano, is one of the only performers who will perform both days. "I'm pretty excited about it. When I found out, I almost jumped out of my seat," he says during an interview at the home of his piano teacher, Jacqueline Ryz.

Guerard will be performing a mixed repertoire he helped curate with Ryz, who has been his piano instructor since 2010. There's a strong focus on Canadian composers: he'll be performing works by modern composers such as Martha Hill Duncan, Violet Archer and Nancy Telfer, along with the famous Lullaby of Birdland by British jazz pianist George Shearing and a piece by West Side Story composer Leonard Bernstein. (He'll also do some Chopin and Kuhlau for good measure.)

Ryz, herself an established performer with a master's in piano performance from McGill, sees a lot of promise in her young student.

"Raymond is one of those innate musicians. Things come quite naturally to him. He has a highly developed sense of rhythm. He has very good musical instincts," she says.

As a senior examiner for Royal Conservatory Examinations, she knows talent when she sees it. So when an email from the 2014 Juno Awards Host Committee landed in her inbox seeking performers, she immediately thought of Raymond.

"He's such an extroverted kid that I thought he'd be perfect," she says. "I'm what you'd call an opportunity seeker. When this came up, I thought, 'Grab it.'"

Thanks to his high performance marks at the Winnipeg Music Festival earlier this month and stellar exam scores in school, Ryz believes Guerard has a bright future no matter where his studies take him.

For Raymond's part, he's at home behind the keyboard. He's already establishing a style, favouring Romantic-era character pieces, preferably with an allegro tempo: fast, quick and bright.

"It's just fun," he says of playing piano. "I love the moods of the pieces."

For now, he plans to see where his lessons take him. He's practising 45 minutes to an hour a day, and is excited about future opportunities.

Ryz has been teaching piano for more than 30 years. Students like Raymond make it a joy.

"When you get three or four students in a row who haven't practised carefully, it's not a good day," she says with a laugh. "Then you get someone as enthusiastic as Raymond, and the musical dialogue can be really rewarding."



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Canadian Mennonite University / School of Music.....	17
www.cmu.ca/music	
Laury - Piano for Sale.....	19
esb.john@mac.com	
The Music Teacher Training Institute.....	13
musicteachertraining@gmail.com	
Northern Lights Canadian National Conservatory of Music	6
www.cncm.ca	
Royal Conservatory of Music - Summer Summit 2014.....	2
www.rcmusic.ca/tpd	
Royal Conservatory of Music	24
www.rcmusic.ca/LearnMore	

A large background image of Jeremiah Brown, an Olympic rower, wearing a red cap and sunglasses, with a Canadian Olympic team patch on his shirt.

Be An **ATHLETE.**

"Both music and sports provided limitless long-term development possibility. We all find ourselves gravitating toward some core interests in life... I think there's so much intrinsic, meaningful experience in really focusing on what you enjoy doing."

JEREMIAH BROWN

Olympic Rower
2012 Silver Medal Winner
Royal Conservatory alumnus

A portrait of Annabel Lyon, a woman with dark curly hair.

Be An
AUTHOR.
ANNABEL LYON

A portrait of Dr. Vincent Lam, a man with glasses and a black jacket.

Be A
DOCTOR.
DR. VINCENT LAM

A portrait of Piya Chattopadhyay, a woman with dark hair wearing a red top.

Be A
JOURNALIST.
PIYA CHATTOPADHYAY

Private music instruction plays a vital role in the development of students, giving them the skills required for success in school and the workplace, as well as their personal and social lives. Visit our website for new resources to help you prepare your students for success.

Learn **more**
than an instrument.
rcmusic.ca/LearnMore


**The Royal
Conservatory**®
The finest instrument is the mind.