



VOLUME 15 - ISSUE 2
WINTER 2018



Take Note

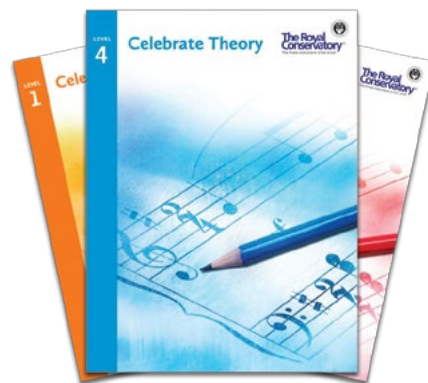
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the President's Message

Happy December everyone!

I'm like a broken record these days....Conference conference conference!

All the best to you as you get some time with family and friends over the holidays! I'll start your holiday reading off with a poem- guess what? It's about the conference! Enjoy this edition of Take Note, being sure to "note" all the early bird deadlines!

Ode to Conference

'Twas months before conference, the clock was a counting,
The team busy planning, excitement was mounting.
Jurors were signed, the keynote in place,
The venue was booked, Fort Garry had space..
For workshops and concerts, competitions, a luncheon,
This hotel was ideal for such a grand function.

The website was crafted, a wonderful "build"
"They will come" I can feel it, the seats will be filled.
To celebrate music, learn, be inspired.
Don't be the one who knows not what transpired!
Braun Pieczonka, just part of this clique,
Which includes Finch and Greer, Vanderkooy, Meek!

So picture yourself next July... ahh it's hot.
Surrounded by such a talented lot!
Teachers from everywhere come to connect,
To glean nuggets of wisdom on which to reflect
We're feeding our souls, am I melodramatic?
No, just about music, a little fanatic!

So if I may be so bold as to say...
Sign up for A century of Sound Connections today!

<https://centuryofsound2019.com/online-registration-tickets/>

All the best to you and yours!

Leanne Hiebert



Annual General Meeting

The 99th Annual General Meeting of the MRMTA was held on Sunday, September 23rd, 2018 in Winnipeg.

Following a hearty lunch at Fort Garry Mennonite Church, President, *Leanne Hiebert*, welcomed CFMTA/FCAPM President, *Tiffany Wilson*, who gave a special address to the members.

Reports were presented from Brandon Westman Branch and Southern Manitoba Branch. An Honorary Life Membership was given to **Irma Konrad**.

Reports of successful projects included:

- Scholarship and Gala
- Young Artist
- Composers Competition
- Canada Music Week®
- Pre Diploma workshops
- Musicthon
- SERATA

This unique concert features MRMTA teachers and has raised over \$3000, for the 2019 Conference. Many thanks to Tiffany Wilson for organizing this.

To conclude the afternoon, the winner of the 2018 Western Area Young Artist Competition, **Albert Chen**, gave a piano recital of Scarlatti, Chopin, Beethoven, and Prokofiev to the delight of the audience.

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of MRMTA, we will be hosting the next Conference in July 3-6, 2019, at the historic Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg. Do come and join us for: "A Century of Sound Connections"

Kerrine Wilson



President Leanne Hiebert
with 20 - 30 - 40 - and 50 year members.
L-R: Carmen Barchet, Michelle Chenier, Bernadette Geras,
Solange Liange, Leanne Hiebert and Barbara Cornish



Irma Konrad (R) is presented with Honorary Life
Membership from Betti Canning (L) and Michele Leclerc (M).



MRMTA 2018-2019 Executive and Committee members



Stuck with us for another 2 years!





MRMTA Executive 2018 - 2019

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IMPORTANT DATES 2018/19

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president@mrmta.org

info@mrmta.org

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Monday, Dec. 10th 9:15am	Cookies, Coffee and Computers! 56 Garnet Bay	Leanne Hiebert president@mrmta.org
Friday, Dec. 14th 9:15am	Conference Meeting: 621 South Dr. (Tiffany's)	conference2019@mrmta.org
Friday, Jan. 11th 9:15am	Conference Meeting: 56 Garnet Bay (Leanne's)	conference2019@mrmta.org
Sunday, Jan. 20th 1:30pm	Simultaneous Masterclasses with U of M Faculty Voice/Piano/Strings U of M	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 prediplomagroup@mrmta.org
Mon, Jan. 21st 9:15am	Executive Meeting: 56 Garnet Bay (Leanne's)	president@mrmta.org
Jan 28-30 (Mon-Wed)	Scholarship Competition Sterling Mennonite Church (1008 Dakota)	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-338-0571 scholarships@mrmta.org
Thursday Jan. 31st 	Last day for EARLY BIRD PRICING for CENTURY OF SOUND CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE Register for a full package and receive \$25 off your MRMTA renewal for the 2019/2020 year if you renew by Feb 14th! Early has never been so great!	centuryofsound2019.com
Friday, Feb. 1st 9:15am	Conference Meeting venue TBA	conference2019@mrmta.org
Sunday Feb. 3rd 7pm	Scholarship Gala Concert Sterling Mennonite Church (1008 Dakota)	As above- Norinne
February 9-10 (Sat-Sun)	29 th Annual Musicthon Fundraiser Grant Park Mall 1120 Grant Ave	Christina Hutton 204.487.3899 pianostudio.christina@gmail.com
February 14th 	EARLY BIRD DEADLINE for Membership Renewal	See March 1 st Information and January 31 st ! BE AN EARLY BIRD
Saturday, Feb. 23rd 7:15pm	Musicians in the Making Winnipeg Concert Hall 555 Main St.	Gina Wedel 204-284-8806 registrar@mrmta.org
March 1st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper Scholarship Applications 	Eleanor Lwiwski 204-255-3403 elwiwski@shaw.ca
March 1st (or Feb 14th for early bird draw eligibility)	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRMTA Membership renewal Be an early bird! 	Gina Wedel 204-284-8806 registrar@mrmta.org
Early March Time TBA	Pre-Diploma Group Masterclass with Janina Fialkowska Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall (U of W)	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 prediplomagroup@mrmta.org
April 9th	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Composer Competition 	Jane Duerksen 204-371-2128 janeduerksen@gmail.com
Mon, April 8th 9:15am	Executive Meeting: 56 Garnet Bay (Leanne's)	president@mrmta.org




IMPORTANT DATES 2018/19

www.mrmta.org

president@mrmta.org

info@mrmta.org

Sunday, April 28 th 2pm	Workshop with Jacqueline Ryz Mock Piano Exams: Elementary to Advanced Levels 104 Southbridge Dr.	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 prediplomagroup@mrmta.org
May 1st	Take Note Magazine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Issue submission deadline 	Dina Pollock editor@mrmta.org
May 1st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holtby Scholarship Application 	Leanne Hiebert 204-284-8581 president@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 5 th 7pm	Fundraiser for 100 th Anniversary/2019 Conference SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights St. Andrew's United Church (255 Oak St.)	Tiffany Wilson 204-488-3325 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
	Annual end of year "Wine-up" Canceled	
WEDNESDAY JULY 3 rd 7pm	A Century of Sound Connections Opening Gala Concert & MRMTA's 100th Anniversary Celebration Fort Garry Hotel, Grand Ballroom	
WEDNESDAY JULY 3 rd 7pm	Book Launch by Dr. Muriel Smith <u>"Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association: A Century of Sound Connections"</u>	
JULY 3-6 2019		A Century of Sound Connections CFMTA/FCAPM National Conference Fort Garry Hotel, 222 Broadway JULY 3-6, 2019
August 1st	Take Note Magazine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall Issue submission deadline 	Dina Pollock editor@mrmta.org

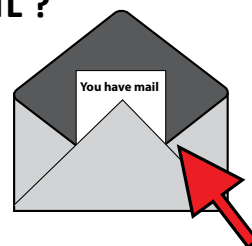


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Thank you!





CFMTA/FCAPM National Conference

July 3-6, 2019 - Winnipeg, MB

Fort Garry Hotel - 222 Broadway



Douglas Finch



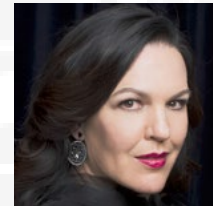
Dr. Christine Vanderkooy



Dr. Scott Meek



John Greer



Adrienne Pieczonka



Russell Braun

Piano Jurors

Vocal Jurors



Keynote Speaker

Michelle Sawatzky-Koop
Olympic Athlete & Musician

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Early bird deadline is January 31st, 2019



A word from your Conference Co-chairs. . .

The count down is on! Each time we visit the conference website the clock is there, front and center! As more and more details fall into place, anticipation builds for next July. We have heard from CFMTA/FCAPM members across the country that they are looking forward to coming to Winnipeg to “A Century of Sound Connections”.

The past month has been all about Session Proposals. Since the deadline submission (November 1st), the Workshops committee has been meeting to select and schedule the sessions. Keep checking the conference website for updates! We will have as many sessions as possible listed online before the Early Bird Registration Deadline of January 31st, 2019.

We are so looking forward to this National Conference, and to celebrating 100 Years of MRMTA!

Annette Hay and Evangeline Keeley

Conference Co-chairs - CenturyOfSound2019.com

MRMTA 2019 National Vocal Competition

Third Juror Confirmed

We are thrilled to announce confirmation of Russell Braun as the third juror for the MRMTA 2019 National Vocal Competition to be held at “A Century of Sound Connections” CFMTA/FCAPM Conference, July 3-6, 2019 in Winnipeg. He joins Adrienne Pieczonka and John Greer to complete our panel of jurors. Although it was previously announced that Phillip Ens would participate, we regret he is now unable to come to the conference due to other unexpected commitments.



Russell Braun is a Canadian lyric baritone renowned for his luminous voice “capable of the most powerful explosions as well as the gentlest covered notes” (*Toronto Star*). His intelligent and thoughtful portrayals of Chou En-lai, Billy Budd, Prince Andrei, Figaro, Papageno, Count Almaviva, Don Giovanni, Pelléas, Eugene Onegin, and The Traveller have captivated audiences at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, l’Opéra de Paris, the State Opera in Vienna, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Los Angeles Opera, La Scala in Milan, and at the Salzburg and Glyndebourne festivals. Braun, who rightfully claims his place on the concert, opera and recital stages of the world, is a Juno award winner and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2016.

Manitoba looks forward to hosting this National Vocal Competition, and encouraging Canada’s talented, emerging young artists.



Opening Night Gala

The Conference Committee is busy planning an exciting opening night Gala Concert. The MRMTA is celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2019 and the Gala will be a big part of our celebrations!

We have confirmed the participation of all six jurors: Russell Braun, Douglas Finch, John Greer, Dr. Scott Meek, Adrienne Pieczonka, and Dr. Christine Vanderkooy. Many of these esteemed musicians have Manitoba roots and we are very happy to welcome them home. Other Manitoba performers, both soloists and ensembles, will be featured at the Gala as well.

This multimedia evening will also include video greetings, historical photos, and narration provided by our archivist, Dr. Muriel Smith. To round out the evening, we are launching Dr. Smith's book documenting our centennial story! Register for a full conference package and your ticket to the Gala is included. Additional tickets for family, friends, students, etc. can be ordered online at: CenturyOfSound2019.com

Be a Double Early Bird – It's a Win-Win!



Evangeline Keeley (L), 2019 Conference Co-chair, accepts Conference registration from Virginia Heinrichs, 1999 Conference Co-chair.

We all know how the days can slip by. Before we know it, another week, month, or even year is gone! The Early Bird registration deadline for "A Century of Sound Connections" is January 31st, 2019. Don't delay! Register now, and get in on the best possible full package price.

But wait – there's more!

If you have registered for the full conference package by January 31, 2019 **AND** you renew your MRMTA membership by **February 14, 2019** (the early bird deadline), you will receive a \$25 rebate on your membership for the 2019-2020 year. It's a Win-Win!

CenturyOfSound2019.com



Michelle Sawatzky-Koop – Keynote Speaker

Anyone registered for a full conference package, for a day package for Saturday, July 6th, and those who have purchased Final Luncheon tickets are welcome to hear our Keynote Speaker Michelle Sawatzky-Koop. She will be sharing her inspirational life story at 12:15 pm immediately preceding the Final Luncheon. Visit the Conference website to read more about Michelle.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Province/State _____

Postal Code/Zip Code _____ Country _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO MRMTA.

MAIL TO: Gina Wedel, Registrar
410 Niagara St.
Winnipeg, MB R3N 0V5

To register online go to:
CenturyofSound2019.com

Would you like to be sent Conference updates by email? Yes No

All Full Conference packages include – Opening Night Gala, Piano and Vocal Competitions, Workshops, Master Classes, Trade Show.

Not Included – CFMTA/FCAPM Lunch (Thursday) and Final Luncheon (Saturday). Tickets must be purchased – see below.

Registration Type: (please circle below)

FULL PACKAGES	CFMTA/MTNA Members	Non Member	Students (ID will be required)
Register before Jan. 31	\$395	\$450	\$150
Register Feb. 1 – Mar. 31	\$450	\$500	\$150
Register after Mar. 31	\$495	\$550	\$160

CFMTA/FCAPM Lunch (Thursday) \$30 ____ x \$30

Final Luncheon with keynote speaker (Saturday) \$50 ____ x \$50

MRMTA Centennial Book \$25 ____ x \$25

Food Allergies – Yes/No If Yes – please detail _____

DAY PACKAGES

Thursday only	\$200	Piano/Vocal competition (semi-finals), Workshops, Trade Show
Friday only	\$225	Piano/Vocal competition (Finals), Masterclasses, Workshops, Trade Show
Saturday only	\$85	Workshops, Trade show

SINGLE TICKETS (includes pass to Tradeshow)

Opening Night Gala	\$35	____ x \$35	Student rate	\$25	____ x \$25
Piano Competition (semi-finals)	\$25	____ x \$25			
Vocal Competition (semi-finals)	\$25	____ x \$25			
Piano Competition (Finals)	\$25	____ x \$25			
Vocal Competition (Finals)	\$25	____ x \$25			
Masterclass (Friday 10am – Vocal)	\$25	____ x \$25			
Masterclass (Friday 1pm – Piano)	\$25	____ x \$25			
TOTAL ENCLOSED _____					

TERMS of SALE – Please initial each box (if not initialed – registration cannot be processed)


Please note that in the event of your cancellation, there will be a non-refundable fee of \$75. No refunds will be issued after May 31st, 2019.



Photographs and Video consent, waiver, indemnity and release for the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations/Fédération Canadienne des Associations Professeurs de musique (CFMTA/FCAPM). CFMTA/FCAPM is granted the right to publish and use any photographs and to exhibit audio or video in which I or my works appear for the purposes of CFMTA/FCAPM archives, marketing, social media, publicity and public relations projects. I guarantee that any material recorded during this event will not be used in any commercial endeavor whatsoever without the written permission of CFMTA/FCAPM and all persons involved in the performances/recording.





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A Century of Sound Connections: The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919 – 2019

Muriel Smith

In the book, *A Century of Sound Connections: The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919–2019*, musicologist Muriel Smith traces the one hundred year history of the MRMTA, investigating the impact of the activities of its members and their pupils on Manitoban and Canadian culture. Chapters can be read either in or out of sequence as each tells a distinct story such as “The Music Option Program” of the 1920s, “Melody Way Scandal” of the 1930s and “Musiktaiz and Pianothon” in the latter part of the twentieth century. The final chapter addresses some current challenges faced by the organization. Smith seeks to encourage dialogue around questions of inclusivity, not only in its membership but also in its role as music educators. While this may be daunting and potentially controversial territory, it offers food for thought and marks the beginning of the second century of the MRMTA. *A Century of Sound Connections: The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919–2019* will be available for purchase at the 2019 CFMTA/FCAPM conference in Winnipeg at the low price of twenty-five dollars.



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Canada Music Week®

Winnipeg - Gwen Allison

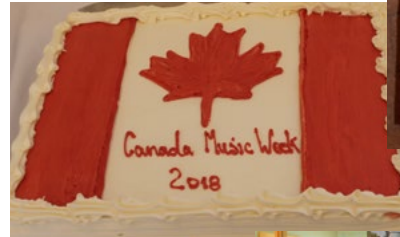
Manitoba's Canada Music Week® (CMW) recital was made special this year by a focus on Manitoba composers. Of 25 performances, 12 were of music by Manitoba composers. An extra layer of interest was added by having 6 Manitoba composers in attendance, 5 of whom spoke about their piece that was to be performed. One performer, Sheen, spoke about and sang a piece she had composed herself. Her piece, *Stronger*, was a winner in the CFMTA/FCAPM Student Composer Competition.

Many students introduced their own pieces, making interesting and insightful comments about the music and the composers. Kevin, who performed *V:Valse Chromatique* by S.C.Eckhardt-Gramatté, said that he pictured a ballet dancer, dancing in the mountains. Anna, who performed *Butterfly-fly* by Rémi Bouchard, said, "A butterfly is a symbol of happiness, so this piece is light and happy." Martina played *Dance* (Juba) by R. Nathaniel Dett. She said she loves to perform this piece to inspire others to learn it, too, since it is such a fun piece to play. Isabella, who performed *Arctic Voices* by Susan Griesdale, had emailed her composer and asked what it is like to be a composer. Isabella told us that Ms Griesdale had answered that she liked a blank piece of paper, full of possibilities, and that she liked hearing how different people interpret her compositions.

Other students were asked about their pieces at the intermission. Anna-Lucia said of Teresa Richert's composition, *Soaring Seagulls*, that she likes imagining the seagulls, and that she had watched some videos of gulls and water, as part of her preparation of this piece. Candace played *Glowing Goldfish* by Julianne Warkentin. Candace said, "The piece starts peacefully. It has an exciting part near the end. At the end it sounds completed."

The student performers all received a pencil and a coupon that they could redeem at our used music book sale sponsored by our Pre-Diploma program. Students had prepared an information page about the composer of their piece. These were posted near the refreshments table, where juice and beautiful Canada cakes were served by MRMTA member Vivian Klosse.

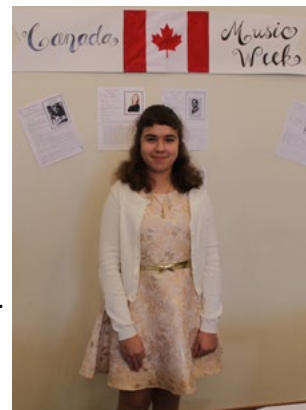
A wonderfully interesting variety of music was performed throughout the recital. It was delightful to hear polished, musical performances by beginners right up to university professors. Congratulations on a job well done, to all of the performers and their families, and to the 13 MRMTA members who helped the students prepare. Thank-you to all the volunteers of this event, particularly the organizer and emcee, MRMTA member Lee Houghton Stewart.



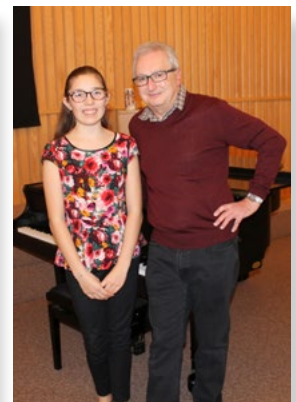
Grayson and Holly Harris



Sheen and Eleanor Lwiwski



Anna-Lucia Mena



Adrienne and Sid Robinovitch



Group photo of all the performers and composers

Canada Music Week®

Southwestern Manitoba - Tenley Dyck

Southwestern Manitoba's nod to Canada Music Week was the 13th Annual *Composers & Kids* event on Saturday, October 13, 2018 - an exciting celebration! It was a privilege to welcome Wes Froese from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to Boissevain, Manitoba. Wes is well-known as a jazz/blues performer and composer. He is especially gifted in working with and encouraging young people. Approximately 36 students (beginners to adults) from Brandon, Deloraine, Goodlands, Killarney, Minto and Boissevain participated in this event, each performing one of the composer's pieces for him. Wes posed for pictures, even took some selfies with the students, signed autographs and answered questions.

Wes's piano compositions for students are published in the *Northern Lights* Canadian Piano series as well as the new Pianozzazz series. For students, parents, grandparents and teachers it was an exciting day of sharing ideas and their love of music with Wes. He even provided some guitar accompaniment for some of the students. The result was a day of wonderful musical memories that will last a lifetime!

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

Participating teachers were:

Dianna Neufeld (RMT)
Jo-Anne Neufeld
Dale Whetter
Mary Jo Carrabré (RMT)
Tenley Dyck (RMT).



9:30 Group



1:15 Group



Friday Group

Canada Music Week®

Brandon/Westman - Eleanor Epp

Our Canada Music Week Recital held at the Lorne Watson Recital Hall in Brandon University was very well attended on November 17th.

Students from Brandon and south western Manitoba participated and performed music written by Canadian Composers. A reception was held for students and their families following the recital.

Acknowledgements were made by president Ann Germani to Alyssa Newitt who received the RCM Gold Medal for Level 4 piano. Alyssa is a student of a Mary Jo Carrabre. Ann also announced that The Teacher of Distinction Award will be presented to April Gibson at the Gold Medal Ceremony on November 25th in Winnipeg.

We are looking forward to a wonderful Festive Recital on Sunday, December 16th at 3:00pm also taking place at the Lorne Watson Recital Hall with a reception to follow.

Have a wonderful Christmas everyone!!



Student Composer Competition 2019

Jane Duerksen

With Christmas around the corner, it's fun to give students a change in the usual pace. A creative assignment would be to ask them to compose a piece/song based on a subject about which they are particularly passionate. Andpresto!

Writing a composition on paper assimilates many aspects of a student's musical abilities - creativity, listening skills, rhythm, notation, and attention to detail in their scores. What better tool than this to heighten learning?

Canada Music Week Student Composer Competition gives students the pleasure of working toward a goal - April 9th, 2019 marks the entry deadline. Prizes are awarded to top entries in each age category.

Get your students started now! The sooner they start, the more polished their composition.

See MRMTA website for details - entry form and rules & regulations.

Questions? Contact Jane Duerksen
janeduerksen@gmail.com or by phone at 204-371-2128.

*Please note, we have re-introduced the Category E - Electronic Music (for adjudication only).





We Say Farewell to Dmitri Hvorostovsky (1962 - 2017)

by Michalis Andronikou

In November 22, 2017, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, the legendary operatic baritone passed away, at the age of 55. Hvorostovsky's passing was one of the unfortunate events of the modern opera world, that led hundreds of thousands of his fans worldwide to grieve. He will be remembered for his roles as Eugene Onegin in the homonymous opera by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893), Valentin in *Faust* by Charles Gounod (1818-1893), Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* by Domenico Donizetti (1797-1848), Rodrigo in *Don Carlo* by Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1891), and many more.

In November 22, 2017, I was in my office at Providence University College, preparing for my classes, when I received an e-mail with the sad news. While reading one of Hvorostovsky's obituaries, I heard baritone David Klassen, instructor of voice at Providence talking to one of his students outside my office. This was a providential and revealing moment, as I felt that I should write a piece about Hvorostovsky. I ran outside of my office and asked David if he would be interested in singing something for Hvorostovsky and he spontaneously agreed, although the piece did not even exist yet. The following day I asked poet Luann Hiebert, who teaches Literature at Providence, if she would write a "farewell" for the great baritone and the rest is history!

The piece was premiered by baritone David Klassen and pianist Tracey Regier Sawatzky at the Spring Recital of Providence University College, on March 31, 2018, and was recorded a few weeks later with the same performers. The video of the performance was uploaded on various social media platforms¹, and received positive comments from around the world.

The score was submitted for publication to the Italian Da Vinci Publishing² and was published in June 2018, to complete a successful journey of a collective work by faculty of Providence University College. However, this was not the end of the cycle. A number of opera singers from all over the world who heard the piece, expressed the interest to record it, radio producers and journalists asked for interviews, fan groups of Hvorostovsky shared

the piece on their websites, the Russian ambassador of Cyprus forwarded the video to Russian cultural institutions and organizations, prestigious music schools e.g. the Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Conservatory, and they shared it with their friends as well.

What is the meaning and the message of this piece, and why does it appeal to so many people from different countries and various cultural backgrounds? The question is not an easy one to answer. One has to bear in mind that Dmitri Hvorostovsky was one of the best opera singers of his generation, and -at the same time- a symbol of the opera per se. In many ways Hvorostovsky became the roles that he performed to such an extent, that he carried them with him in his journey and his personal life. He was seen as a hero, a living legend and a symbol of the opera. For many, he was a living hope that beauty, kindness, and emotion will prevail. He was also a powerful figure in the industry of opera, who had a broad range of repertoire ranging from the classical opera roles to Russian folk songs and crossover repertoire in collaboration with pop artists. Hvorostovsky showed, in his own unique way, that there is only good and bad music and genres do not matter.

With this project we honour a great artist, and send a positive message that reflects a vibrant, creative, and collegial environment of education at Providence. This is a work that connects the emotion with the intellect and the knowledge within a kind gesture of appreciation to a great artist. This was also an important moment for everyone involved in this project to remember the power of our art and the responsibility that goes along with it. In a sense, "We Say Farewell" means we care. We express our feelings and ideas in a clear and transparent way, using our creativity to inspire as we were inspired. Hopefully, this work will reach the right ears and the right hearts.

The music material is shaped around a "signal motive" that is heard at the very beginning of the piece and returns before the refrain (ex.1). The "signal motive" consists of a harmonious and consonant beginning (an arpeggio of a minor seventh chord) that gradually becomes more dissonant to give a characteristic dissonant ending of denial.

¹ "We Say Farewell," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H-qL2EUFb4g>, (accessed June 12, 2018).

² <http://davinci-edition.com/product/dv-11123/> (accessed July 9, 2018).



(ex.1)



The harmony of the piece introduces an inner “sighing theme” that follows and accompanies the main melody of the piece from the beginning to the end. The middle note (ex.2) or the higher voice of the harmony (ex.3) move stepwise up and then down or just down, to give this mourning effect to the piece.

(ex.2)



(ex.3)

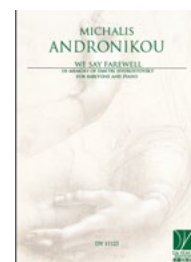


Although the tonal centre of the introduction is C (and one would argue that the piece is in C minor) there is a quick and abrupt modulation in A minor on bar 7. This abrupt and distant modulation is not the only one in the piece; there is one from A minor to C minor on bar 19, one from C minor to E minor on bar 49, and one from E minor to C minor on bar 62. These abrupt modulations based on a relation of a third, symbolize the dramatic and unexpected ending of Hovorostovsky’s career and life.

The form of the piece is cyclic as the “signal motive” will reluctantly return to the idea of the farewell as presented in the refrain. The rhythm of the piece is very static and dramatic with rare changes, just to emphasize the mournful and heavy atmosphere of the lament-like piece. This allows the melody to underline the words of the poem, allowing the performer to express its dramatic nature. “Vissi d’arte”³ is the message of the work in honour of the legendary Dmitri Hovorostovsky, who lived to sing and will yet inspire generations upon generations of musicians and music lovers, all over the world.



L-R David Klassen, Michalis Andronikou, Tracey Regier Sawatzky



Michalis Andronikou is a composer and associate professor of composition and theory at Providence University, in Manitoba. He holds a PhD in composition from the University of Calgary.

Michalis is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre, a member of the Canadian League of Composers, a member of the Greek Composers Union and a member of the Center of Cypriot Composers.

3 “Vissi d’arte” (trans.: I lived for art) is an aria from the second act of the opera “Tosca,” by Giacomo Puccini.



Pre-Diploma Group

Tried, Tested and True Methods to Teach Piano Students

Workshop with Eleanore McLeod

The Pre-Diploma Group hosted a workshop on October 21st, presenting MRMTA member Eleanore McLeod. She has taught piano for many years, and is an experienced teacher of piano pedagogy. We invited her to share her expertise in this specific field, with our student-members. Eleanore founded "The Music Teacher Training Institute" in 2012, and obviously she is passionate about transmitting



her experience to the next generation of piano teachers.

As CFMTA/FCAPM is launching a new project this year of making videos of workshops available all across the country by presenting them online, we asked Eleanore if she would like to be our first teacher to be "on the screen" from Manitoba. And she said yes!! Her feedback, after the

experience, is that she was very happy for the opportunity of a broader exposure across Canada, reaching more future teachers. Despite the difficult physical aspects in the process, like being limited in her movement (to stay in the focus of the camera), she found it very interesting and fully supports this project, hoping to see many other teachers sharing their knowledge this way in future.

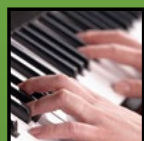
Thank you so much Eleanore for your generous contribution to this special workshop, and thank you to Paul McLeod, your husband, for his technical support. Thank you to Tiffany Wilson who directed the videotaping, and to Eleanor Lwiwski who provided her house for the event. Finally, a big thank you to all participants who agreed to be in the video.

Michele Leclerc
President Pre-Diploma Group of MRMTA



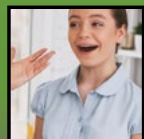
M.R.M.T.A.
Pre-Diploma Group

Three Workshops Piano - Voice - Strings

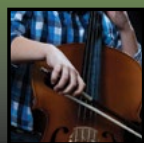


Clinicians:
Judy Kehler Siebert
David Moroz
Mel Braun

Laura Loewen
Monica Huisman
Minna Chung



Sunday, January 20th, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Desautel Faculty of Music
University of Manitoba



Audience Admission:
MRMTA members, \$10
Non-members, \$15

Three workshops will run simultaneously

For more information, contact:
mrmta.org
prediplomagroup@mrmta.org



M.R.M.T.A.
Pre-Diploma Group

Virtuosi
CONCERTS

MASTERCLASS with

Janina Fialkowska



Photo Credit: Julien Faugère

TBA - first week of March 2019
Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall,
University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Ave.

Admission:
MRMTA Members \$15.00
Non-Members \$25.00
Tickets available online and at the door

Contact:
mrmta.org
prediplomagroup@mrmta.org

Janina Fialkowska in concert
Monday, March 4th at 7:30 PM,
Virtuosi Concerts
204-786-9000



TAKE YOUR TEACHING TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

Laying the foundation for your students' lifelong love of music starts with you – it's a huge responsibility. That's why we offer 10 week, online **Piano Teacher Courses** to help you refine your teaching and gain valuable knowledge from leading teachers across North America who have decades of experience.

The next available course runs from March 27 to June 4, 2019.

Spaces are limited. Avoid disappointment and enroll by March 13, 2019.



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Your partner in lifelong learning.

2019 Music Scholarship Series - All Instruments

Sterling Mennonite Fellowship - 1008 Dakota St.

We are gearing for another wonderful week of music from many disciplines in the New Year. The scholarships series competition will begin Monday, January 28th beginning with Advanced Piano. Tuesday, January 29th we will begin the morning with our Instrumental classes and continue with the Vocal classes that afternoon. Wednesday, January 30th we will continue with our Junior, Intermediate and Senior Piano classes. The week will conclude with the Gala to showcase all our winners on Sunday, February 3rd at 7:00 p.m. All will take place at Sterling Mennonite Fellowship, 1008 Dakota Street. For more information, please see the MRMTA website where the schedule is posted. You can also read the schedule right here in Take Note.

The scholarship committee consists of: Norinne Danzinger-Dueck, Margot Harding, and Laurel Howard.

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

Piano: Jacqueline Ryz, Lori Jede, Jane Petroni, Caron Whitlaw Hiebert, Viktoriya Tuz, Claudette Caron, Yaroslava Shevchenko, Leanne Regehr Lee, Lee Houghton Stewart, David Moroz, Alexander Tselyakov, Darryl Friesen, Stephen Haiko-Pena

Vocal: Muriel Smith, Tiffany Wilson, Tracy Dahl, Monica Huisman

Instrumental: Laurel Howard, Andrea Bell, Karin Ekhardt, Wes Hamm, Lori Jede



- ◆ Piano
- ◆ Voice
- ◆ Instrumental

2019 MRMTA SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION



JAN 28-30
\$3 ENTRY



WINNERS' GALA CONCERT and presentation of Manitoba's vocal and piano NATIONAL COMPETITORS

7PM*SUNDAY FEB 3*2019*\$5

STERLING MENNONITE CHURCH
1008 DAKOTA ST.



For more information go to www.mrmmta.org

2019 Music Scholarship Series - All Instruments

Sterling Mennonite Fellowship - 1008 Dakota St.



Monday, January 28th, 2019

Advanced PIANO

9:30 a.m. group

- Albert Chen
- Callum Goulet-Kilgour

11:00 a.m. group

- Shantelle Mayo
- Sabina Rzazde

1:30 p.m. group

- Fan-En Chiang
- Anica Warkentine

3:00 p.m. group

- Benjamin Funk
- Alan Nguyen

Tuesday, January 29th, 2019

Junior Instrumental

9:30 a.m. group

- Vivian Zhao
- Bella-Sophia Rogers
- Olivia Groening
- Polina Bogomol
- Matthew Lee
- Matthew Tufescu

Intermediate Instrumental

10:15 a.m. group

- Qichang Shen
- Oban Sritnathan
- Rachel Graham
- Mason Dueck
- Sophie Reimer Epp

Senior Instrumental

11:15 a.m. group

- Olivia Wurch
- Paolo Camus
- James Brennan
- Joel Ulrich

Junior and intermediate voice

1:00 p.m. group

- Magdalena Stiglmayr – *Junior*
- Rowan Shwaluk – *Intermediate*

Senior Voice

1:30 p.m. group

- Anton Sokalski
- Rose Saunders
- Selene Sharpe
- Ally Loyns

Advanced Voice

2:45 p.m. group

- Christina Thanisch-Smith
- Elena Howard-Scott

Wednesday, January 30th, 2019

Junior Piano

9:30 a.m. group

- Mabel Harrington
- Asia Morash
- Lily Tian
- William Pang
- Wen Tao Xu

10:15 a.m. group

- Alfred Nguyen
- Jackson Gumprich
- Vienna Chang Lu
- Jialin Li
- Victoria Lee

Intermediate Piano

11:00 a.m. group

- Raymond Ding
- Qien Yang
- Anna Martens
- Emma Yang
- Jiyoo Noh
- Anna Lucia Meua Shevchenko

Senior Piano

1:00 p.m. group

- Melissa Guo
- Kyla Goulet-Kilgour
- Dexter Furber
- Michaela Guo
- Seanne Jacob Buenafe

2:15 p.m. group

- Lauren McIlroy
- Angela Lu
- Evelyne Hluszok
- Sara Janke
- Lucy MacDonald

3:15 p.m. group

- Tirian Plett
- Alexander Nguyen
- Alice Nie
- Jazlyn Rohatensky
- Kendra Palles





MRMTA is OUT and ABOUT!

At WSO's Musicians in the Making November 16, 2018:

Our first Musicians in the Making program was held at the Centennial Concert Hall with ten students, representing seven teachers, performing various pieces in different styles and levels. We all attended the "Swing is the Thing" concert after our performance! A great opportunity for our students and for MRMTA! Looking forward to the next opportunity in February!



A happy young pianist after her performance



Musician in the making



The scene before the WSO concert

At Tempo: Manitoba Music Conference October 26, 2018

Leanne Hiebert and Annette Hay spent the day at this conference held by the Manitoba Music Educators' Association (MMEA). It was a great chance to hand out MRMTA business cards, meet music teachers in the school system and encourage them to spread the word about private music teachers in their areas. Member Heidi Peters spoke at this one-day conference on what she has learned during her career and as a member of the world Performing Arts Medicine Association.



Annette Leanne and Vivian Klose at the MRMTA booth



Leanne with Karen Tole Henderson, past president of MMEA



L-R Mavis Green, Leanne Hiebert, Heidi Peters, Annette Hay

MRMTA is OUT and ABOUT!

At the RCM's Celebration of Excellence and Gold Medal Ceremony
Sunday November 25, 2018:

We were happy to congratulate Loren Hiebert and April Gibson on their Teachers of Distinction awards from the RCM presented at the Art Gallery in Winnipeg. They both gave inspiring speeches that can be read below.



Tiffany Wilson CFMTA/FCPAM president and MRMTA Past President hosted the RCM ceremony of excellence

April Gibson

It is a special honour to be recognised as a “Teacher of Distinction” today. I am grateful to the Royal Conservatory of Music for providing Canada with an exam curriculum and academic programs for over one hundred years.

My students have been inspired by the high calibre of music and mixture of styles in the RCM Repertoire Series. As a teacher of many students, these books provide a core resource in my studio.

For over 35 years, I have registered countless students for RCM exams in Alberta, British Columbia and now Manitoba. Preparing for an exam is a challenging goal that gives a tremendous sense of accomplishment when completed. It is a marvellous opportunity for team effort between the teacher and the student. There is purpose and momentum to the lessons, as development of all musical skills are achieved.

In my experience, the most rewarding lessons are carefully planned and always looking forward to the next challenge and goal. Teachers should provide many creative illustrations and exercises to demonstrate a point. Students should be encouraged to think critically as well as to play from the heart. Humour and kindness should be always present. Time should be spent with the teacher simply to make music; to play a duet, improvise and to possibly inspire a new composition. After all, our students will be the Canadian Composers in the future.

Our collective goal as examiners, teachers, students and parents is to foster life-long learning and enjoyment of music. We work together to inspire students to expand

their music making experiences from year to year. How wonderful it is to be teaching adult students who are in their 60's and beyond and many of them are taking exams!

Unlike many other professions, a music teacher doesn't necessarily have retirement on their radar. My mother in law is 86 and still busy teaching and playing as an organist in BC. My grandmother was in a jazz band in her 90's and played piano for devotions the day she passed away at the age of 101!

Congratulations to all students receiving medals today and a special thankyou to Dad's and Mom's for investing in an instrument and lessons for your children.

Thank you



L-R Loren Hiebert (Altona), Elaine Rusk from the RCM, April Gibson (Killarney), Tiffany Wilson



MRMTA is OUT and ABOUT!

At the RCM's Celebration of Excellence and Gold Medal Ceremony - cont.

Loren Hiebert

We just might have one of the coolest jobs in the world. People actually pay us to be in a room and push black and white buttons. Oh, AND they pay us to show their kids how to push black and white buttons. Well okay, there's a bit more to it than that.

So here's what we do - we play. Yes, we work sometimes too, but the ultimate goal is to PLAY. What do we play? Well, of course we learn to play music, but what does that mean? Why do we call it playing an instrument? Why don't we "work" the piano?

Because music is intended to bring play into our lives. We learn some music, and then we play it. But also, we play WITH it. We play with time – learning about spacing, cadencing, breathing, rubato. We play with interpretation: mood, tempo, colour. We improvise – playing around with inventing new tunes, playing with re-harmonization and new beats when playing familiar tunes. Sometimes we play with language and concepts as we learn to connect to music more deeply.

Yes, we play - AND we connect. We connect with composers and their context in place and time. We connect with the piece of music as we prepare it, and with the audience as we perform it. As teachers we connect with students as we work together to form partnerships of mutual trust and respect.

So, getting paid to play and make fun connections. It's musical Lego!

I'm so grateful to the Royal Conservatory of Music for creating this award. It acknowledges the work of so many music teachers across the country. Grateful also for the conservatories in this country that provide guidance and structure in the work we do as private teachers. What a valuable resource!

We feel the support of our home communities, province and country in valuing the arts. I can't imagine a better environment to nurture my efforts as a young, inexperienced teacher about forty years ago.

First in Altona/Gretna, then later in Winkler and Morden and beyond, the southern Manitoba region has been a wonderful place to develop as a teacher.

I'm so thankful for the wonderful teachers I had: Glenn Loewen, Don Henry, Jenny Regehr and Joan Passey for all their patient encouragement.

I've had the privilege of teaching around 800 students these past forty years or so. I'm thankful for each one. Some have been STRONG learning experiences, but every single one welcome. Two of those students are here today, and I'd like to thank Clarissa Unger and Anna Schwartz for nominating me for this award, AND for being here today!

Thanks to my wife, Lori, and my kids for being here, and always supporting me in this career. And finally, thanks to all of you for being here, and supporting musical education in your home and in the community.



MRMTA'S 3RD ANNUAL
COOKIES COFFEE & COMPUTERS
MONDAY DECEMBER 10th

**56 GARNET BAY
WINNIPEG**

9:15-11AM

RSVP: president@mrmta.org by Dec 7th

Computer help will be available to update your picture and biography on our website

REDUCED TICKET PRICES FOR YOUTH & STUDENTS IN 2018/19!



FIGARO! FIGARO! FIGARO!

It's one laugh after another in this crazy tale of close shaves, disguises, and hilarious antics as Figaro the barber schemes to ensure the Count and Rosina have a happy ending.

IT'S NO WONDER THIS COMEDIC GEM STILL TOPS THE CHARTS!

SUNG IN ITALIAN WITH PROJECTED ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

CHANGES TO ATTENDING ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENT NIGHT AT THE OPERA

Thursday, **April 4**, 2019

Post-secondary students can now purchase **Student Night at the Opera** tickets directly for just **\$13 each!** (*Student ID required*)

TEACHERS

Please advise your students of the new **reduced** ticket prices for youth and students effective with the 2018/19 Season.

YOUTH 17 & UNDER Just **\$19** for tickets to any performance, in any section.
(*Proof of age required*)

STUDENTS 18 - 25 50% off the adult single ticket price for any performance, any section.
(*Proof of age required*)

204-942-7470 | smiller@mbopera.ca



204-944-8824 | mbopera.ca



Branching Out 2018

Music Making a Difference

With so much need and want in our world these days, it is especially important for our students to feel empowered to be game changers. The *Music Making A Difference* Branching Out initiative will encourage music students across the country to raise money by playing concerts to benefit a local need. Some recital targets could be:

- Your Community's Food Bank
- SPCA
- Refugee sponsorship organizations
- Hospice programs
- A particular project such as providing socks for the homeless.
- A local environmental issue

With this public outreach, local students, branches and provincial organizations can truly make a difference in their community. An engaging option would be to pair the donation recipient with the concert theme, i.e. a fundraiser for the SPCA could

be a concert of animal-themed music; refugee fundraiser could feature music written by refugees or from parts of the world where there are many refugees.

CFMTA/FCAPM will donate \$100 to each branch that hosts an event.

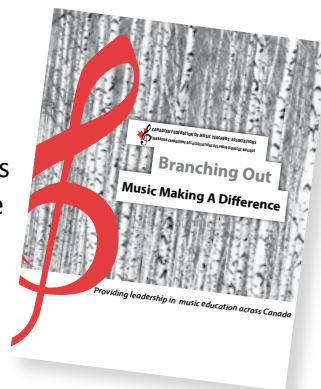
Deadline March 15, 2019

Applications submitted online - www.cfmta.org

Information needed for the application:

- Branch name
- Branch contact person - with email and phone
- Make cheque payable to
- Mailing address for cheque
- Short description of event
- Photo

For more information: Anita Perry admin@cfmta.org



MCO SCHOOL MATINEE





**SCOTT YOO
SUSAN HOEPPNER
EMMANUEL CEYSSON**
1:00 pm, 5 December 2018
Westminster Church

Conductor Scott Yoo leads flutist Susan Hoepfner and harpist Emmanuel Ceysson in music by Mozart & Debussy, and more!



manitoba chamber orchestra
204-783-7377
info@themco.ca

MCO SCHOOL MATINEE



**THE MCO:
NEW CONCERTO
PROJECT SHOWCASE**
1:00 pm, 19 March 2019
Westminster Church

Symphonies by Mozart and Haydn, and new concertos by Vivian Fung and Kevin Lau.



manitoba chamber orchestra
204-783-7377
info@themco.ca

MCO SCHOOL MATINEE



**JAN LISIECKI:
"A MOZART OF
OUR TIMES"**
1:00 pm, 24 April 2019
Westminster Church

The Canadian piano superstar will perform Maurice Ravel's G major piano concerto.



manitoba chamber orchestra
204-783-7377
info@themco.ca

29th Annual MUSICTHON "KIDS HELPING KIDS"

MRMTA's Musicthon is fast approaching! It will again be held at Grant Park Shopping Centre (1120 Grant Avenue). MRMTA plans to use the funds raised towards the same programming as last year: two inner-city music programs (**Little Miracles Music and Play Program** and **Tinytunes**) as well as a small portion toward a special artistic award that will be presented at the upcoming 2019 Winnipeg Convention.

As teachers communicate this wonderful "Kids Helping Kids" fundraising opportunity to their studios we hope the following information will be helpful.

From **Little Miracles Music and Play Program**:

"St. John's Presbyterian Church is located in the north end community of Winnipeg. Our neighbourhood consists of a great diversity of people; a high percentage of aboriginal families, low-income families, disadvantaged children. The purpose of the Little Miracles Music and Play Program is to provide the community surrounding St. John's with an accessible FREE music and play program for babies, pre-schoolers and their caregivers. The music program is unique for this community. Similar programs are offered in more affluent areas of Winnipeg, but are financially restrictive for the families in St. John's community."

From **Margot Harding Music (Tinytunes)**:

Margot Harding provides music to 9 inner-city daycares and shares,
"Having taught this program for 20 years, I have seen firsthand the many benefits it has had, and am prepared to do whatever is within my means to keep music in the inner-city and elsewhere. I see the children's enthusiasm and joy every day, and truly believe, especially with music being cut from school curriculums, that it plays an important role in enriching their lives in every way. Music should be for everyone, not just those that can afford it."

MRMTA Emerging Artists Award:

MRMTA is dedicating a portion of this Musicthon fundraiser towards one of the prizes being awarded to a promising vocalist emerging from the national vocal competition, taking place July 2019. If you would like to attend the conference, or any of its competitions, concerts or events, you will find more information on our website!



MUSICTHON 2019 KIDS HELPING KIDS

Saturday , February 9th &

Sunday, February 10th

at Grant Park Shopping Centre

Sign up online:

Performance Spots <http://signup.com/go/ngavcmq>

Volunteer <http://signup.com/go/VdUfKQH>

For further information contact

Eleanore McLeod - eleanore.mcleod@gmail.com

Christina Hutton - pianostudio.christina@gmail.com

For more information about Musicthon contact:

Eleanore at eleanore.mcleod@gmail.com
or 204-222-7283

Christina at pianostudio.christina@gmail.com
or 204-487-3899



CFMTA Western Area Young Artist Tour 2018

Muriel Smith - Western Area Young Artist Tour Convenor

Pianist Albert Chen won the Western Area Young Artist Competition in the spring of 2018. A six-concert tour was organized with Chen performing three concerts in Manitoba—Gimli (September 15th), Winnipeg (September 23rd) and Killarney (September 26th)—followed by three in Saskatchewan—Regina (September 28th), Swift Current (September 29th) and Saskatoon (September 30th). A seventh concert had been planned for Rosetown, Saskatchewan. Unfortunately, the logistics of a concert tour in two provinces and lasting for few weeks became too difficult. This is an area of concern that should be addressed by CFMTA/FCAPM prior to the 2020 tour.

As an excellent ambassador for the CFMTA/FCAPM Young Artist program, pianist Albert Chen is first-rate young pianist, who is also personable and well spoken. He took time to speak to young audience members at the concerts, answering their questions and encouraging them to continue to study music. His concert program was as follows:

Young Artist Tour 2018 - Albert Chen

As an emerging pianist growing up in today's system of classical music, competitions for me are the norm while concerts are rare and few in between. I often look back on my year realizing that every single performance I have done were for competitions. Therefore, there has always been a certain sense of restriction when I perform. The Western Young Artist Concert Tour has been an eye-opening experience for me and has changed the way I view music. It made me realize that the ultimate reward to performing is the act of sharing your music with other people along with the freedom to express whatever you wish. I experienced this as I made my way across Manitoba and Saskatchewan with my parents, performing and meeting many wonderful people while sharing the simple gift of music along the way.

The tour began in Gimli at the beautiful home of Muriel Smith. I would like to thank her for all the work she has done organizing the entire tour. She gave my parents and I a warm welcome to her home with a very nice "performance venue", equipped with great acoustics and

Keyboard Sonata in F minor K 69, L382
Domenico Scarlatti (1685–1757)

Polonaise in F sharp minor, op. 44
Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849)

Piano Sonata no. 21, op. 53 "Waldstein"
Ludwig Van Beethoven (1770–1827)

Vivace from Piano Sonata no. 8, op. 84
Sergei Prokofiev (1891–1953)

All concerts were well attended with the two rural Manitoba concerts in Gimli and Killarney bringing in the largest receipts. It is highly probable that in these communities, an artist of this caliber is not often heard, however, it is an indication that more rural communities should be supporting the Young Artist tour. With encouragement from the MRMTA and the SRMTA, it may be possible to convince one or more smaller communities to engage with the 2020 CFMTA/FCAPM Young Artist Tour.

a stunning view of the river on one side and the golden sunset with the silhouette of birds flying overtop on the other. The first performance of my tour went really well, the piano had a great action and a really powerful resonance that seemed to amplify the 8th Prokofiev Sonata to a whole new level.

I was really thankful for all the wonderful teachers and students who came to the concert. Everyone I met were very enthusiastic about music and it is nice to know that communities like this exist within Manitoba, where a small group of people have so much passion and dedication for music.

Next up was Winnipeg. I performed for the MRMTA's annual AGM meeting with a nice piano that seemed to produce the perfect soft tone quality, most suitable for

The poster is for the 2018 Western Young Artist Concert Tour, presented by the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA) and the Saskatchewan Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (FCAPM). It features a portrait of pianist Albert Chen. The tour schedule is as follows:

Location	Date	Time	Contact
Gimli, Manitoba	Saturday, September 15 th	7:30 pm	Contact: Muriel Smith - Email: muriel.smith@gmail.com Phone: 431-335-2899
Winnipeg, Manitoba	Sunday, September 23 rd	3:00 pm	Contact: Annette Hay - Email: annethehay@gmail.com Phone: 431-335-2899
Killarney, Manitoba	Wednesday, September 26 th	6:30 pm	Contact: April Gilman - Email: aprilgilman@gmail.com Phone: 204-523-4037
Regina, Saskatchewan	Friday, September 28 th	TBA	Contact: Sandra Kerr - Email: sandrakerr@gmail.com Phone: 306-564-9547
Swift Current, Saskatchewan	Saturday, September 29 th	7:00 pm	Contact: Marilyn King - Email: cmking@csk.net Home: 306-733-3500 - Mobile: 306-741-2057
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	Sunday, September 30 th	7:00 pm	Contact: Kathleen Soltes - Email: kathleen.soltes@usask.ca Phone: 306-374-4262
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan	Thursday, October 4 th	7:00 pm	Contact: Marilyn Lehen - Email: mlylehen@shaw.ca Phone: 306-763-7382
Rosetown, Saskatchewan	Friday, October 5 th	7:00 pm	Contact: Claire Sebald - Email: csebold@rosetown.net Home: 306-862-3301 - Mobile: 306-851-8102

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Scarlatti. Since the church was in close proximity to the university, I was glad to see a few friends who came to the concert. I would like to thank Annette Hay for organizing this concert and all the piano teachers in Winnipeg who contribute so much to the vibrant classical music community that we have in this city.

The main length of the tour came the following week with the first concert being in Killarney Manitoba, a little less than two hours away southwest from Winnipeg. It was my first time visiting Killarney and I did not know what to expect. Little did I know that I would meet some of the kindest and most generous people I have ever met. My parents and I were first greeted by Marla Winters and her mother, who generously took us to the local diner for a “pre-concert” meal. Afterwards, we went over to the church and I had some time to acquaint myself with the piano. It was a very spacious and beautiful church, with wonderful acoustics and atmosphere. As the concert time approached, I went backstage as they started to let the audience in. At first, I was not sure if it was because there was another event going on at the church, because I heard a lot of people in the main hallway. As I walked on stage, I was welcomed with a warm crowd and was overwhelmed by the turnout of this concert, with much thanks to Marla Winters and April Gibson who organized this section of the tour. All of a sudden, I felt this new source of energy as I sat in front of the piano with an audience of over 100 people. I absorbed this energy and turned it into a fantastic performance. I was overwhelmed by the amount of support I received as I talked to many wonderful music teachers and students at the reception following the concert. It was a really nice feeling to know that people appreciate what you do and really enjoy it. After the reception, my parents and I were warmly invited over to April Gibson and her husband’s home for the night. We would like to give a huge thank you to them for being such kind, welcoming, and generous hosts. They made us feel right at home and my parents and I are really appreciative for their generosity and hospitality.

Regina was our next destination. The drive to Saskatchewan was peaceful and tranquil, with the narrow road surrounded by a vast expanse of prairie, hay stacks, cows, horses, and the open blue sky. It was my first time

visiting Saskatchewan as a destination. As we arrived in Regina, I was amazed by the simple beauty of the city. It was surrounded with nature and the weather was slightly warmer than what it was in Winnipeg at the time, which felt great. I did not have a concert that day, so my parents and I took some time to explore the city. We took a walk around Wascana Lake, which had a stunning view with the colours of autumn vibrating throughout the park. We also took a visit downtown and was surprised by how clean and well-managed it was. Overall, it was a great day to unwind and get ready for the next segment of the tour. The next day, I was interviewed by French CBC on TV, which was an amazing experience for me. I would like to thank Marilyn King for setting up this great opportunity, which allowed the tour and organization to gain some publicity. The concert in the evening took place at the home of Karen Frandsen, who had a wonderful self-built studio with very nice acoustics. I would like to thank Karen for letting us use her studio and Sandra Kerr for organizing the concert in Regina. The piano had great power in its bass that seems to fill the entire studio with a wonderful wash of sound. It was nice to meet all the music teachers and students who came to this house concert.

After Regina, we made our way to Swift Current. As we arrived, the first snow flakes of the season began to drift down just as we made it to our hotel. The concert took place in a very beautiful church with a gorgeous Yamaha grand. I could feel the quality of this instrument right from the very first note, as it seemed to respond to every subtle adjustment and could produce both the most beautiful pianissimos and the grandest fortes. I was very glad to see many young piano students who were encouraged by their teachers to come to this concert. My performance went smoothly, with the piano producing every colour I wanted. Afterwards, the organizer got all the kids up to the front to give them Smarties, which I thought was a great way to inspire them; a live performance with some chocolate afterwards. Again, I would like to thank Marilyn King for organizing this concert and the interview in Regina. I could really tell that this community cherishes music education for their youth, which is really important in today’s society.

The last concert took place in Saskatoon. It was a very beautiful city and our hotel was right beside the river



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with a great view. I could feel that the tour has taken its toll as I was extremely tired as we arrived. The concert was at 3 pm in the afternoon and I remembered thinking to myself that playing the Prokofiev was going to be like climbing Mount Everest after running a marathon. Luckily, this church had an amazing Yamaha concert grand, which really inspired me during my performance. I could feel its soft touch producing an angelic tone quality and its raw power in all registers of the keyboard, allowing me to express the tranquility of Scarlatti, lyricism of Chopin, grandeur of the Waldstein, and untamed character of the Prokofiev. I would like to thank Kathleen Solose for organizing this concert in Saskatoon. It was a fantastic way to end the tour and I felt a sense of relief mixed with a touch of sadness as I realized that the tour was officially over and I would have to go back to biochemistry class at 8:30 am the next morning. I have gotten to enjoy performing so much on this tour that I did not want it to end.

Overall, it has been an incredible experience for me. Opportunities like this are extremely valuable for young musicians like me and I am very thankful to have been able to go on this concert tour. I could not have imagined that this tour would turn out to be one of the main musical highlights of my career thus far and have such a huge impact on me. My parents and I had a great time and could not have asked for a better way to spend the precious little time we have together. I would like to thank everyone who was part of this tour for showing such hospitality, generosity,

kindness, and warmth. I really cherish the experiences and memories I made on this tour and look forward to continuing my musical journey in the future.

Albert Chen






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Hello from the Editor

Hello Everyone,

I am looking forward to coming to *A Century of Sound Connections* next summer - the venue looks amazing - all that history. Enjoy this edition, I am impressed with all your projects and opportunities you give your students.

Thanks,

Dina



