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Relax, Rejuvenate, Restart!

Dear MRMTA members and friends,

Relax! What comes to mind with that word? Likely it is different for each one of us. One thing I'm quite sure of is that we all need time to relax in life. Maybe you use the word de-stress – also a good practice! Letting go of the everyday hustle and bustle of life, i.e. relaxing, can be helpful in rejuvenating us as individuals, as teachers, as a family member. I hope you were able to relax over the summer.

Have you had time to *rejuvenate*? There were just over 20 Manitobans who registered and attended the CFMTA National Virtual Conference "Connecting Canada". This issue contains reviews and reflections on 3 different conference sessions written by MRMTA members. Through inspiring presentations, enjoyable live music, eye-opening masterclasses, and taking in the amazing Measha Brueggergosman as keynote speaker there were many opportunities for rejuvenation!

Are you ready to **restart**? I do hope so because the 2021-22 MRMTA Calendar is full of planned events which will be online at the beginning of the year, however, we anticipate more in-person events later on. There are professional development opportunities through workshops and masterclasses. The August "Let's Chat!" online discussion time brought teachers together from across the province as colleagues and friends. There are annual events such as the Canada Music Week Concert and Musicthon, as well as masterclasses where students can learn and broaden their horizons.

Come to events. Encourage your students to participate where possible and work toward a Community Service Award by giving back to others. Make this year the one where you get involved in your association – the MRMTA!

Evangeline Keeley
MRMTA President



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To Be Elected

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To Be Elected

MEMBER AT LARGE

To Be Elected

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"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much" -Helen Keller





IMPORTANT DATES 2021/2022

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Sunday, September 19 th , 1:30pm	Told MRMTA Annual General Meeting (online) Featuring performances by MRMTA's award winning National Competitors "The Transformative Power of Music" – presented by Megan Dufrat, B.Mus, M.M.	Ann Germani vicepresident@mrmta.org
Mon, Sept. 27th, 9:15am	Executive Meeting (online)	president@mrmta.org
Friday, October 1st	Deadline MRMTA Community Service Awards	Stephen Haiko-Pena MRMTAcommunityservice@outlook.com
Sunday, Oct. 3 rd , 2-3:30pm	Online Workshop – You Can't Motivate Students • Presented by Karen Gerelus, Calgary	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Monday, November 1st	Deadline for Applications MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition • See January 31st	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 scholarships@mrmta.org
Mon, Nov. 8th, 9:15am	Executive Meeting (online)	president@mrmta.org
Monday, November 15 th	Deadline for submissions Take Note Magazine - Winter Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Sunday, November 21st, 2pm	Canada Music Week Concert • Pre-recorded YouTube Premiere	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com
Saturday, November 27 th , 2 - 3:30 pm	Canada Music Week Masterclass with Julianne Warkentin, composer • St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Cambridge St., Winnipeg	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com
Monday, Dec. 6 th , 9:15am	Cookies, Coffee and Computers! Let us help you update your info on the website!	RSVP to: Rachel Dueck 204-962-7153 Piano.with.rachel@gmail.com
Mon, Jan. 17 th 9:15am	Executive Meeting	president@mrmta.org
Sunday, January 23 rd , 1:30 pm	Simultaneous Masterclasses with U of M Faculty Voice/Piano/Cello/Violin/Flute U of M 136 Dafoe Road	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Mon., Jan. 31 st - Feb. 4 th	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Dates and Venue to be Confirmed	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 scholarships@mrmta.org
Sunday, Feb. 6 th , 7 pm	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Gala Concert • Venue to be Confirmed	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 scholarships@mrmta.org
Feb. 12-13 th (Sat-Sun)	33rd Annual Musicthon Fundraiser • Kildonan Place Mall • 1555 Regent Ave. W.	Christina Hutton 204-487-3899 mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com
Tuesday, March 1st	Paper Scholarship Applications	Eleanor Lwiwski 204-255-3403 elwiwski@shaw.ca

IMPORTANT DATES 2021/2022 - CONT'D

Friday, April 1st	Deadline for Applications RMT Professional Development Award See website for details	Tiffany A. Wilson - Serata Chair 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Friday, April 1st	Deadline MRMTA Community Service Awards	Stephen Haiko-Pena MRMTAcommunityservice@outlook.com
Mon, April 4th, 9:15am	Executive Meeting (online)	president@mrmta.org
Saturday, April 9th	Deadline • Student Composer Competition	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com
Thursday, April 14th	Deadline for submissions • Take Note Magazine - Spring Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Spring	Possible Virtuosi Master Class • Details TBA	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 1 st	Deadline Holtby Scholarship Applications	Evangeline Keeley 204-269-7549 president@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 1st, 7pm	SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights • Venue to be decided	Tiffany A. Wilson 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Saturday, May 14th	Early Bird Deadline *Membership Renewal	See June 1st Information
Wednesday, June 1st	Deadline • MRMTA Membership Renewal	Gina Wedel 204-284-8806 registrar@mrmta.org
Mon, June 6th, 9:15am	Executive Meeting (online)	president@mrmta.org
Monday, August 15 th	Deadline for submissions • Take Note Magazine - Fall Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Date TBD	103 rd AGM and Luncheon	vicepresident@mrmta.org

Have a great year everyone!

Be sure to read your email newsletters, and check the website in case of any changes to this calendar!

Have you Moved? Changing Emails?

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Thank you!!



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THE 102ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Sunday, September 19th, 2021

1:30pm - AGM Business and Member Recognition

2:30pm - Performances by MRMTA's award winning National CFMTA Competitors
Angela Ng, piano & Ashley Schneberger, soprano

- The Transformative Power of Music*
presented by Megan Dufrat, B.Mus., M.M.

A link to attend this online meeting (at no cost) will be sent in members' email newsletters. For more details, please contact **Ann Germani** at vicepresident@mrmta.org

*Megan's presentation, The Transformative Power of Music, will address how private music teachers – no matter the instrument, level, or demographic they teach – can apply principles of global responsibility and diversity to their own teaching practice.

Megan Dufrat is a freelance pianist and teacher based in Winnipeg. She has recently completed her Master of Music in Collaborative Piano at the Desautels Faculty of Music with Dr. Laura Loewen and Dr. Judy Kehler-Siebert.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

A number of positions are up for election this year. Nominations can come directly from the membership with the nominee's consent, and must be made in writing, or from the floor at the AGM on September 19th. Please note: nominees must be Full Members in good standing.

Positions to be elected or renewed for a two-year term are:

Events/Social Coordinator Student Programming Coordinator

2 Members at Large Members Programming Coordinator

The position of **Communication Coordinator** is vacant and would be elected for a one-year term.

All positions listed can serve an additional 2-year term in office. The duties and responsibilities of each position are described in the **MRMTA By-Laws**.

If you have any questions regarding these positions contact: **Evangeline Keeley**, MRMTA President: president@mrmta.org



2021/2022 WORKSHOPS & MASTER CLASSES

By Michele Leclerc

Online Workshop: "You Can't Motivate Students" with Karen Gerelus Sunday, October 3rd, 2021 2:00pm - 3:30pm

As teachers and students we all experienced challenges in keeping our motivation high during the last year, fighting to keep things as normal as possible despite COVID. Now that we are gradually getting out of the storm, facing a "new normal", how are we going to stay in high spirits for our studies and teaching this coming year? Here's a preview from our clinician:

"There are so many presentations, blog posts, podcasts, and books on how to motivate students to practice a musical instrument. The research shows that you can't actually motivate anyone to do anything... however, we can create an environment in which people motivate themselves. Using a framework of Self-Determination Theory, a psychological theory of motivation developed by Richard Ryan & Edward Deci, we can learn how to develop intrinsic motivation in students (and ourselves!) which leads to long-term wellbeing and deeper learning."

~ Karen Gerelus

This is the perfect topic to begin a new year of studies and teaching. Although her experience is based on piano students, her research applies to any student, in any discipline. If you have specific questions for Karen, please send them to Michele Leclerc, before Sept 18th, at studentmembers@mrmta.org and Karen will be pleased to answer you at the workshop.

Karen Gerelus has an ARCT in Piano Pedagogy (Royal Conservatory of Music), and a Licentiate diploma in Piano Performance from Trinity College of London. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the U of Calgary where her research focuses on identity and motivation in piano students.

Canada Music Week[®]
Master Class
with Julianne Warkentin,
Canadian Composer from Winnipeg

Saturday, Nov. 27th, 2021, 2:00pm- 3:30pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Cambridge Street

This exciting new event is happening in cooperation with Canada Music Week and is a master class opportunity for younger students! See details on page 13.

Master Classes at U of M Featuring professors of the Desautels Faculty of Music

Sunday, Jan. 23rd, 2022 1:30pm - 4:30pm

Yes, it's back! Our famous "5 simultaneous master classes" will be hosted in January for advanced students in piano, voice and flute (level 8 and up), and for intermediate and advanced students in violin and cello (level 6 and up). Watch your mid-October enewsletter for registration. As the classes fill up quickly, we suggest that you register as soon as you see the registration announcement. At this moment, we really hope for an in-person event at the U of M, but again, it could be an online format if necessary.

Virtuosi Piano Master class with an international pianist from the Virtuosi Concerts

We are working in partnership with Virtuosi Concerts, and have approached a pianist that you are going to love, but as it's not confirmed yet, we can't reveal any name at the moment. Keep your fingers crossed, and watch your enewsletter for an announcement. Hopefully, in the spring, we will be able to present this master class in person at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, U of W. The student members of MRMTA will receive an invitation when the master class is confirmed.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICTHON

By Christina Hutton



Looking to the year ahead... Would you like to find a way to foster a sense of community spirit in your music studio this year? Are you and your students passionate about music and desire to help children access music programming regardless of income or needs? Are you looking for unique performance opportunities for your students? Musicthon "Kids Helping Kids" fundraiser is all this and more, scheduled for February 12-13, 2022 at

Kildonan Place Shopping Centre (if restrictions allow). This date creeps up on all of us fast after Christmas holidays, so be sure to mark it on your calendars and stay tuned for further information in upcoming E-Newsletters and Take Note.

If you have questions, contact *Christina Hutton* at mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com.



*Photos by Carla Buelow Photography

STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

By Stephen Haiko-Pena

The MRMTA Community Service Awards is a three-tier certificate program designed to encourage students to use music as a means to serve the wider community - to think beyond competitions, studio recitals, and exams. Completion of this program can be beneficial to include on resumes and scholarship applications.

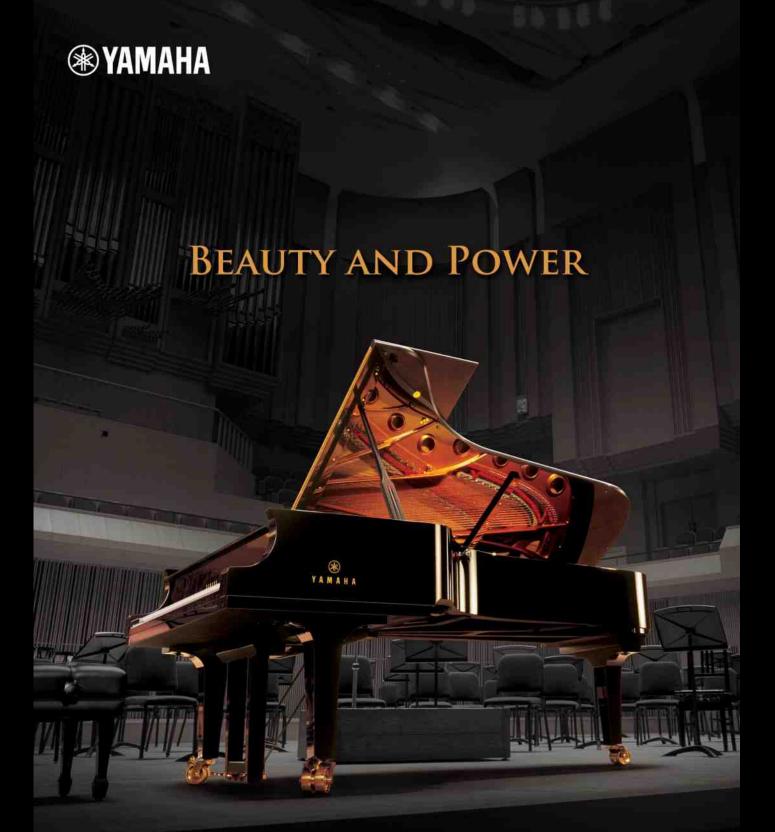
Students at any level of study with an MRMTA member are eligible. Some examples of participation are: volunteering at a music festival, performing at a care home, and assisting with recital organization and set up. Other creative suggestions are welcome!

Application deadlines:

October 1st & April 1st

Full details and application form can be found at https://www.mrmta.org/mrmta-community-service-awards/

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2021 CANADA MUSIC WEEK® EVENTS

We have two events planned this year! Students may participate in our online Canada Music Week Recital OR register for a Masterclass with composer Julianne Warkentin. We ask that students do not register for both events to give everyone more equal opportunity.

Canada Music Week® Recital 2021 Sunday, November 21st, 2:00pm on YouTube

Playing it safe again this year, we encourage students of all levels to submit video recordings of compositions by Canadian Composers to be assembled into a YouTube recital. Solos or safe collaborations are welcome, and it would be wonderful to have students share a few words about the composer, collection, or interpretation of the piece. Limit 2 students per studio, please.

- -Submission form/Media Release form is found at www.mrmta.org Canada Music Week®.
- -Submission deadline: **Sunday**, **November 14th**
- -Contact Melissa Gingrich (text) 204-218-4907 / gingrich.melissa@ymail.com

Master class with Canadian Composer Julianne Warkentin Saturday, November 27th, 2:00-3:30pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church

MRMTA's own Julianne Warkentin has written a wealth of student appropriate compositions for piano. A list of Julianne's publications can be found on the MRMTA Canada Music Week® page. This "in-person" Master class opportunity is uniquely geared towards younger students approximately Levels 1-5 and will be a wonderful opportunity to learn and explore with this creative and engaging clinician. Because of COVID spacing, the first 5 registrations will be accepted, and seating is limited. Livestream tickets may also be purchased.

- -Registration form/Media Release form is found at www.mrmta.org Canada Music Week®.
- -Registration deadline: **Sunday, November 14th**
- -Registration fee: \$15 per student. Includes admission for the performer and one adult.
- -Admission: \$15 to the live event (limited seating) OR etransfer \$15 to Lori Jede treasurer@mrmta.org for a ticket to the private livestream event.
- Location: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 600 Cambridge Street
- Contact **Melissa Gingrich** (text) 204-218-4907 / gingrich.melissa@ymail.com

ALGUSTONIO MUSIC TLACHERS

PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS COMPETITION

By Norinne Danzinger-Dueck

At the time of writing this note regarding the Performance Scholarships Competition in 2022, there are quite a few unknowns due to the Manitoba Health Regulations. For now, please note:

MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition

Jan. 31st - Feb. 4th, 2022

The Gala Concert

Feb. 6th, 2022 (Tentative)

It is unknown if this will be in person or an online format as was in 2021. More details to follow in September. Application forms will be available after September 1st once it is known how the competition will occur.

DONATIONS TO MRMTA SCHOLARSHIPS

All MRMTA Scholarship funds are held by The Winnipeg
Foundation and generate scholarships each year for deserving students. The

Edith Motley Vocal Award honours Miss Motley's lifelong MRMTA

membership and significant contributions as a vocal teacher and choir director in

Winnipeg. Grace Rich-Bastin, piano teacher, is remembered through two awards
bearing her name. Together with Nina Dempsey she co-convened the first scholarship
competition in 1948.

Donations to these, or any other MRMTA Scholarship Funds, can be made through The Winnipeg Foundation at any time. Contact MRMTA Treasurer, Lori Jede, for more information.

"Great Things are done by a series of small things brought together."

- Vincent Van Gogh



FROM WINNIPEG MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Participating in the feetind this year has nearl a great deal, probably more than in Thank you! previous years. As for mest-My name is Sydney regle, it is been a difficult Clarke + I am fler year, so being able to share recipient of the Reg these Trophy + Manitolan Registered music with my peers was Music Teacher's Association of the highlight for me. Thank you for helping give me + so many oftens the opportunity Scholarship for the 2021 to puform when we need it nost is Winnipeg Kusic Festival.

Dear Donors,

Thank you so much for your contributions to the Winnipea Music Festival. Your contribution is greatly appreciated because it provided me a place to grow as a musician.

I am Angela Nq. a 16 ylo pianist 8 violinist, and I play music because It makes me feel amazing and I strongly believe in sharing the joy and rich history of music with others. Receiving this award means a lot to be because I have worked so hard this year. Thanks for making this difficult year a year to remember! From: Angela:)

Dear MRMTA,

Thank you for your ongoing music support of the Winnipeg music yesteral with your generous donation of scholarships!

all the best!

Janne Mercier E.D. Hi my name is allbree warg. I am 7 years old. I'm so glad i will heceive a scholarship for Playing piano.

I started Playing Piano when I was four.

I like music, Plano, Singsing, dancing and math, Thanks for all your supports

from: Aubree

Dear music Festival donors.

Thank you very much For choosing

Me to receive a music

Festival scholarship, your

generosity is greatly appreciated.

my name is Noah Kravetsky. I am 10

years old and started learning piono when I

I was S. I play on my great grandmass

old piano. Performing in the Winninger

music Festival allows me to showcase

my hard work.

Sincerely Noah Kravetsky.

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See selected excerpts: jacquelineryz.ca/Melnykscalebook.pdf

2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations Grace and Jaden!

To the MRMTA Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to the MRMTA for naming me a recipient of the Holtby Scholarship for 2021. I feel very honoured and grateful to receive this award which stands to recognize talented young musicians in need of financial support to achieve their most promising musical studies and aspirations. This award will reduce university costs as I start my Bachelor's Degree in Music at the University of Manitoba this fall. It will also provide significant financial aid next summer when I plan to travel to Italy to participate in the Cremona International Music Academy's summer program! Your generous award will allow me to excel in my studies but furthermore, will allow me to take part in wonderful opportunities that will enrich my musical journey and my experiences as a young musician.

I have been studying piano with my teacher Jane Petroni for the past ten years. Jane has bestowed on me a lifelong love and appreciation for music as well as core values that extend beyond my music studies and performances. Jane has always found performance opportunities for me to increase my confidence and self-esteem. I participate in the Winnipeg Music Festival every year, often placing in the top three performances of my classes and I compete in the MRMTA scholarship competition where I have won in the Junior and Senior piano categories. I have also completed several RCM exams with Jane, the most recent being my level 10 exam for which I received the RCM provincial gold medal. Last summer, I was personally invited and automatically accepted by RCM examiner and concert pianist Derek Chiu to participate in the Cremona International Music Academy's auditioned summer program. This March, I was also invited and accepted by Stephane Sylvestre of Western

University to participate in the Orford Music Academy's

intensive piano session. I received incredible insight from Mr. Chiu and Professor Sylvestre and I can see how I have already grown from these wonderful experiences. However, these opportunities and awards go well beyond their reflection of me as a pianist. They truly demonstrate Jane's



encouragement, passion, and devotion to her students. It goes without saying that I would not be the musician or person I am today without her.

I am currently working towards my ARCT Diploma in Piano Performance with the RCM; I will be taking the exam this summer. I also study music theory and history with Jane Nicolas, and I will take the ARCT History exam this summer as well. I am preparing for my university studies at the University of Manitoba starting this fall where I was accepted with a scholarship. I was also accepted at the University of British Columbia but I have decided to continue my music studies here. I eventually plan to pursue a career in performance, travelling and exploring the wonderful repertoire that is out there!

Thank you again to the MRMTA for your generosity and support! Your scholarship motivates me to work towards my musical aspirations and excites me for my future.

Sincerely, Grace Lu



THE PHYLLIS AND DOROTHY HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIPS

2021 RECIPIENTS OF THE HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIPS - CONT'D

To MRMTA Scholarship Committe and Evangeline Keeley,



I would like to extend my gratitude for being named one of this year's recipients of the MRMTA Holtby Scholarships. This scholarship will help me to continue my music studies in the upcoming year while I continue my schooling at Dalhousie University.

This past year I was able to complete the level 10 practical and History examinations with the Royal Conservatory of Music. In the upcoming

fall I plan to complete the level 10

certificate by completing the Harmony and Counterpoint examination. While studying sciences at Dalhousie, I plan on continuing my music studies by taking various theory and history courses.

piano students. Though I love to play, teaching piano this year was a privilege I hope to regain later in life. I hope that the music courses at Dalhousie, as well as aspiring to complete the ARCT in pedagogy will prepare me for continuing to teach in the future.

Alongside teaching and school, I came to realize this fall that we (music students) would be unable to perform for the nearing holiday season. With my teacher Leanne Hiebert, I would typically perform in her parents' care home around Christmas time, however the current covid restrictions prevented any visitors from entering these personal care homes. To

continue this holiday music, I

reached out to the youth
music community and was
able to compile a number
of 20 minute youtube
concerts which were
then shared with a few
care homes throughout
the city, and played for
the staff and residents.

"The 2021 Holtby scholarship will help me to continue my music studies, so that I can help share music in the communities around me..."

Throughout the 2020/2021
academic year I completed my
senior year at Kelvin High School and graduated in
June from the International Baccalaureate Diploma
program. While going to school and continuing my
piano studies, I also took on two youth piano
students. As we entered into the orange restrictions
in October, lessons took place via zoom, creating a
unique challenge in teaching these eager beginner

The 2021 Holtby scholarship will help me to continue my music studies, so that I can help share music in the communities around me. Thank you to all those on the scholarship committee, as well as the MRMTA president Evangeline Keeley for selecting me as one of this year's recipients.

Jaden Tanner



2020 RECIPIENTS' PROGRESS

Progress Report: Kendra Palles

would like to thank the MRMTA for awarding me a 2020 Holtby Scholarship! I am so grateful for your support and encouragement!

This year has been filled with challenges and opportunities.

With the wonderful guidance of my teacher, Jane Petroni, I have learned a variety of advanced repertoire. Despite the disadvantages of virtual lessons, Covid restrictions offered a few unexpected and welcomed opportunities to learn through virtual Masterclasses. I was lucky to audition and was chosen to work with the amazing Derek Chiu and the wonderful Daniel Tselyakov. Their insights and encouragement have helped me push beyond my comfort zone and grow as an artist.

After being awarded the 2020 Beryl Ferguson Memorial Trophy at the Winnipeg Music Festival, I decided to enter the recital and own choice classes this year in Level 10 to gain feedback and a different perspective. I also participated in the CFMTA E-Festival and the Manitoba Provincial Music and Arts Festival. This Spring I was thrilled to receive the Dorothy Lother Scholarship from the MRMTA. Thank you for your continued support and generosity toward aspiring artists.

I have also been very busy preparing and completing Level 10 exams through the Royal Conservatory of Music. I completed my History exam (August 2020), my Harmony and Counterpoint exam (May 2021), and am currently preparing for my practical exam (scheduled for the end of June). During my free time, I have found ways to reach out to people isolated due to the Covid pandemic. One of the ways I have tried to help people feel less alone, is by recording and sharing videos of my piano repertoire with Seniors' residences.

I would once again like to thank the MRMTA for their generosity. You have inspired me to continue working hard to reach my goals and beyond!

Sincerely, Kendra Palles

Progress Report: Evan Chan

hile the COVID-19 pandemic presents challenges for musical activities to flourish, this time continues to be a "reflection of self through music". With gracious support from the Holtby Scholarship (2020), the academic year has further engaged my interdisciplinary musical interests.



[1] Early Music – Piano studies with Dr. David Moroz - We explored the baroque idiom through an in-depth study of Bach's Italian Concerto, BWV 971. As a harpsichordist in the Collegium Musicum, I am currently dissecting Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5, BWV 1050.

[2] Wind Music – Classical trombone studies with



THE PHYLLIS AND DOROTHY HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIPS

2019 RECIPIENTS' PROGRESS - CONT'D

Steven Dyer - We discussed many orchestral excerpts in the repertory and examined select movements from Bach's Cello Suites. I interviewed composers Peter Meechan and Steven Verhelst, for a research paper Hopeful Brass Ensemble Music submitted for academic purposes, and the SOCAN Foundation/MusCan writings on Canadian music (2021).

[3] Musical Research – Research assistant of Dr. James Maiello (Undergraduate Research Awards -2020, 2021) - I received once-in-a-lifetime training in paleographical and early music research methods and am currently assisting in preparing the first critical edition of a set of liturgical sequences from Pistoia, Italy.

The MRMTA has greatly contributed to my studies (Bachelor of Music (Music History) University of Manitoba). Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the following for supporting my musical journey: Jane Petroni, Ruth Douglas, Dr. David Moroz, Dr. Darryl Friesen, Dr. James Maiello, Steven Dyer, the late Sister Dr. Joan Miller, and Howard Mar. I wish all members a safe year and hope we can all connect through music soon!

Sincerely, Evan Chan

Progress Report: Kathleen Murphy

hank you again for selecting me as a recipient of the 2020 Dorothy Holtby Vocal Scholarship! I am deeply honoured by your recognition and support.

As an artist during the Covid-19 pandemic, I'm fortunate to have



Thank you again to the MRMTA for your support!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Murphy



2021 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION

By Jane Duerksen

Nineteen entries were received for the 2021 CMW Student Composer Competition. Numbers almost doubled this year from last.

Dr. Gordon Fitzell, Grammy-winning and Junonominated Composer, Publisher of Journal Articles, Artistic Director of Groundswell and University of Manitoba Music Professor, adjudicated. His written remarks were deemed encouraging and useful in guiding students' future activities as musicians and composers.

Winning compositions were once again sent for competition at the national level (CFMTA). One of our provincial winners was singled out in her category at the national CFMTA competition. *Mila Pitz* (*student of Leanne Hiebert*) received Honourable

Mention in Category "Preparatory" Class 1. A big congratulations to Mila and Leanne.

It also gives me great pleasure to announce the new incoming CMW Student Composer Competition Provincial Coordinator, *Melissa Gingrich*. Melissa will bring fresh energy and ideas to this position.

Phone: 204-218-4907. Email: gingrich.melissa@ymail.com

The deadline for the receipt of submissions to the CMW Student Composer Competition is **APRIL 9, 2022**. Please see the mrmta.org website for regulations and entry forms.

The following students were winners with the 2021 Competition. Again, keep your eyes open at the November Winnipeg Canada Music Week® Concert for their performances. Congratulations to all entrants and their teachers who supported the competition.

2021 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION WINNERS

CATEGORY "PREPARATORY" CLASS 1

WINNER: Mila Pitz PRIZE: \$50.00

Entry: Dandelion Puffballs (piano solo)

Teacher: Leanne Hiebert

HONOURABLE MENTION: Sydney Richens

Entry: Fellowship (piano solo) Teacher: Melissa Gingrich

CATEGORY "A" CLASS 1

WINNER: Thalia Zacharias PRIZE: \$50.00 Entry: Serenade of the Gondolier (piano solo)

Teacher: Lori Jede

HONOURABLE MENTION: Alexa Pitz Entry: The Cat on Catnip (piano solo)

Teacher: Leanne Hiebert

CATEGORY "A" CLASS 2

WINNER: **Sarah Khalimov** PRIZE: \$50.00 Entry: The Fish Swims at Dawn (voice and piano)

Teacher: Melissa Gingrich

CATEGORY "B" CLASS 1

WINNER: Zoe Redekop PRIZE: \$75.00

Entry: The Cheetah (piano solo)

Teacher: Everett Hopfner

HONOURABLE MENTION: Tessa Nachtigall

Entry: Inspire (piano solo) Teacher: Lori Jede

CATEGORY "B" CLASS 2

HONOURABLE MENTION: Thatcher Coombs

Entry: Covid Blues (piano solo) Teacher: Leanne Hiebert

CATEGORY "C"

WINNER: Tairan He PRIZE: \$100.00

Entry: Autumn (piano solo) Teacher: Everett Hopfner

HONOURABLE MENTION: Ella Gurr Entry: A Waltz in the Storm (piano solo)

Teacher: Lara Mason

CATEGORY "D"

WINNER: Sierra Brooks PRIZE: \$200.00

Entry: Summer Nostalgia (piano solo)

Teacher: Lori Jede

& Naces



THE SOUNDTRACK TO YOUR LIFE





2021 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION WINNERS

Category "Preparatory" Class 1 Dandelion Puffballs (Piano Solo) by Mila Pitz

I am 8 years old and I am in grade 3 at St. John's Ravenscourt School in Winnipeg. I started playing piano when I was 6 years old and my piano teacher is Leanne Hiebert. I love dandelion puffballs because one of my favorite things to do in the summer is blow and make wishes on dandelion puffballs!



Category "A" Class 1

Serenade of the Gondolier (Piano Solo) by Thalia Zacharias



Thalia Lauren Zacharias is an 11-year-old, Grade 5 homeschool student from East St. Paul, Manitoba. She loves animals and music

and her hobbies include reading, playing music, doing dance, gymnastics and aerial silks, horseback-riding, travelling, and much more! Serenade of the Gondolier is Thalia's first official composition and she looks forward to the day when she can travel to see the Venice waterways and enjoy them in person! Thalia hopes to write many more pieces now that she has experienced the joy of composing.

Category "A" Class 2

The Fish Swims at Dawn (voice & piano) by Sarah Khalimov

My name is Sarah Khalimov. I am 9 years and ¾ old and in grade 4. I have 6 people in my family including my parents, 3 older siblings and myself. I love all of my family members very much. My favourite book series is Harry Potter. I just finished reading the 5th book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix". I love to play basketball with my friends at school, particularly boys against girls so we can show the boys how tough we are. I am very competitive. My guilty pleasure is TV and chocolates, love them but always have to watch my limits! Recently, I asked my parents for a pet, and I got a fish. I named it Albus Dumbledore after the headmaster at Hogwarts. I love Albus very much, he was my inspiration to write my very first piano piece.





2021 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION WINNERS - CONT'D

Category "B" Class 1

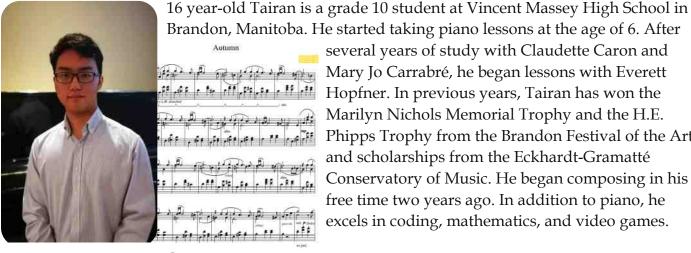
The Cheetah (Piano Solo) by Zoe Redekop



Zoe Redekop, a grade 7 French immersion student from Brandon, MB, has been playing the piano since kindergarten. She finds passion in many different performing arts. Sketching, composing, dancing, choreographing, singing - usually off key - and of course, playing piano are all included in her favourite pastimes. As well, Zoe participates in many sports, but especially enjoys volleyball. In her free time, Zoe likes to hang out with her awesome family and favourite cat, Scribbles.



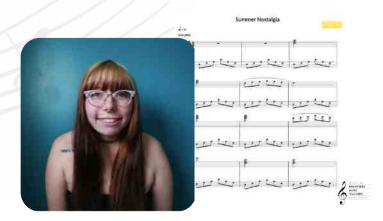
Category "C" Autumn (Piano Solo) by Tairan He



several years of study with Claudette Caron and Mary Jo Carrabré, he began lessons with Everett Hopfner. In previous years, Tairan has won the Marilyn Nichols Memorial Trophy and the H.E. Phipps Trophy from the Brandon Festival of the Arts and scholarships from the Eckhardt-Gramatté Conservatory of Music. He began composing in his free time two years ago. In addition to piano, he excels in coding, mathematics, and video games.

Category "D" Summer Nostalgia (Piano Solo) by Sierra Brooks

I'm Sierra. I'm 22 years old and have been playing the piano for five years. I'm a singer/songwriter who loves to produce music and perform at open mic nights.



MEET OUR NEW VICE-PRESIDENT



Ann Germani

Please join me in welcoming Ann Germani, our new Vice-President. In the past, Ann served as president of Brandon/Western Manitoba Branch, and now she will be serving the provincial organization. Ann graciously agreed to answer some questions. Let's get to know Ann!

Rachel Dueck: Welcome, Ann. We are so excited to get to know you and work with you! How do you feel about the new position?

Ann Germani: I'm delighted to becoming better acquainted with my colleagues, and being part of a committed and enthusiastic executive. It is particularly encouraging to see what teachers are doing in their studios, and to be part of a network that will continue to support teachers in keeping their practice and their communities musically strong.

RD: Tell us a little about yourself and your musical journey so far.

AG: As an educator, I have helped establish music education programs in schools, conservatories, colleges and independent studios across Canada. Prior to coming to Brandon for a Masters degree, I taught and studied in various parts of Atlantic Canada. I have a B.Mus degree from UPEI, and ATCL and LTCL Diplomas in Piano; advanced studies include scholarship to the Banff Centre for Fine Arts. I discovered and developed my passion for playing the harp while living in Iqaluit, Nunavut and presently operate a private music studio in Brandon primarily playing and teaching harp and piano.

RD: Do you have any teacher or mentor who inspired you the most?

AG: Richard Turner, Principal Harpist with the WSO

* Photo by Frazer Photographic Art

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

AG: Sailing!

RD: Where would the be the first place you would like to go, after the Pandemic is done and you are free to travel anywhere in the world?

AG: Port Hood - a tiny fishing village on the west coast of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. - To walk the long sandy beach, watch the boats and night sky, bike the trails, and play a little harp on a rainy day.

RD: Could you share your life motto or favourite saying, and any stories behind that?

AG: "No is never an acceptable answer" - there is nothing you can't do or find out about. Introducing new music to students is like taking them on a musical treasure hunt, and since the whole world has gone on-line, the map is even bigger.

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

AG: Last year I received a 20 year Recognition Certificate - so at least that long! Working with David McIntrye when The Brandon & Westman Branch commissioned him to write several compositions for various ensembles, and inviting him to host CMW recitals and workshops.

RD: Thank you so much!





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HEAR YE! HEAR YE! DETAILS FROM THE DELEGATES

 A Report from the 2021 CFMTA Annual Executive Meeting (July 5-6, 2021)

A Collaborative Report by Ann Germani and Evangeline Keeley

very year the MRMTA sends two delegates to the Annual Executive Meeting (AEM) of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA). **Evangeline Keeley**, First Delegate, attended the 2020 meeting so was somewhat accustomed to the business and procedures. **Ann Germani**, Second Delegate, was new to it all and saw firsthand the wonderful collegiality amongst the other associations' delegates. It was especially exciting to welcome Susan Shantora, President of the NorthWest Territories RMTA - the Federation's newest member and learn what is happening in the north!

Impressions as a First Time Attendee - Ann

As a new delegate to the proceedings, it was very informative to learn more about CFMTA initiatives that are available to members, and just how many there are. It was evident that social media is increasingly important to widen and increase communication in our communities about who we are and what we do. The meetings ran very smoothly online, and delegates noted the efficacy, though look forward to a future chance of meeting in person.

Meeting Highlights - Evangeline

- Delegates will meet online in February and July with eVotes between as necessary. In non-conference years, the July meeting will be held virtually to reduce expenses.
- The high school and undergraduate levels of the Essay Competition are open again. Donations for the awards are welcome; contact essaycompetition@cfmta.org
- This year's "Branching Out" theme is Celebrating Musical Multiculturalism and Diversity in our Communities. Do you have ideas for the MRMTA Executive? Details are here: https://www.cfmta.org/en/branching-out/
- You are encouraged to apply for a CFMTA <u>Professional Achievement</u> <u>Certificate</u>. Requirements are under the "Programs and Competitions" tab at <u>cfmta.org</u>

MRMTA members are automatically CFMTA members. These programs and initiatives are a benefit available to you! Look into the many opportunities today!



REVIEW: CONNECTING CANADA

- Musical Diversity from Coast to Coast

Loud & Clear: Piano Music by BIPOC Women Composers

Presenter: Olivia Adams

Reviewed by Dianna Neufeld

CFMTA online was a fantastic resource for teachers. Olivia Adams presented repertoire by female BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) composers and suggested how to add it into our piano studio curricula.

Olivia collected statistics on Canadian Conservatory piano repertoire curricula and revealed how few women composers are included - - and even fewer BIPOC women composers. More research revealed that 16% of private piano teachers prioritize teaching music by BIPOC composers and 57.3% teachers agree to a problem, but only a small amount are addressing it. 70.2% feel they don't have access to more resources to address this issue.

However, Olivia Adams is making a difference by providing a solution to adding more BIPOC and women composer representation within our studios. She gathered composers, compositions and compiled a graded syllabus of 20th and 21st century composers called *Loud and Clear: Graded Piano Music by Women Composers* which will be released in Canada Fall of 2021 through Debra Wanless Music Publishing. Her presentation clearly revealed all grade level requirements and the compositions which can be used from pre-level to Associate/ ARCT by BIPOC female composers.

Individual Piano Technique: Physical Diversity and Challenges in Piano Students

Presenter: Julia Tchernik

Reviewed by Joanne Diplock

Julia Tchernik holds a Masters Degree in Piano Pedagogy & Performance (University of St. Petersburg) as well as an MA focused on healthy piano technique & the prevention of injury (York University). I chose to review her video as it presented a wealth of solutions to challenges with piano technique that may arise across a spectrum of students.

Some of the challenges addressed were small hands, tension, superficial tone, joint hyper mobility,



CFMTA/FCAPM Conference Review

REVIEW: CONNECTING CANADA - CONT'D

ADHD, impatience and visual impairments. The most interesting thing about this session, in general, was the tone of open-mindedness, creativity and compassion with which challenges were addressed and that technical solutions should be approached on an individual basis with musical goals in mind. Allowing a student's auditory sphere to guide their physical sphere, for example, in Prokofiev's *The Rain and the Rainbow* may guide a student's movements to serve the imagery of the piece rather than a nonmusical goal such as holding a specified hand position.

In the portion of the video addressing solutions to small hands, Tchernik advised that a child's hand is still developing, with bones not yet closed. Requiring them to play, especially loudly, in a locked position may be impossible and lead to strain. For further reading in this area, she recommended the book *Adaptive Strategies for Small-Handed Pianists* by Lora Deahl and Brenda Wristen.

Exploring Creative Perspectives

Presenter: Dinuk Wijeratne

Reviewed by Ann Germani

The past pandemic year, with all its global and societal concerns, has created real shockwaves, forcing us to look closely at how diversity - or the lack thereof - affects our music industry, and how through creative thought, we might be encouraged to build a stronger and richer cultural world.

Having fresh, creative and innovative ideas depends and thrives on the following three criteria:

- 1. Attention: When one finds a perspective on which to focus.
- 2. Escape: To "escape" that original perspective by looking at things in a larger and varied way to enter a child-like "play state" that is curious of other perspectives, and open to spontaneous exploration.
- 3. Movement: To find innovative solutions to one's work and create a fresh new scenario!

Dinuk challenges us to place music in a much wider perspective, and to see music "through many different lenses" - looking at music from different points of view and examining different music traditions and cultures. The more we engage and "listen more deeply", the more our music, and our teaching might reflect and celebrate the diversity in our communities, as well as in our own private studios.



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DR. KENNETH NICHOLS: REMEMBERING A MODERN DAY RENAISSANCE MAN

by Leanne Hiebert

His classic smirk

1988 WSO performance



Dr.Ken Nichols

was my teacher when I was at Brandon University in the 80s

and he was like one of those coaches who teaches so much more than the sport. He didn't articulate this philosophy but he lived it by getting to know me and my family, sharing his love for Alberta by taking us hiking and horseback riding, and having us over to his cool composing hut in the woods where he was an artist in residence at the Banff Centre. He

was generous to a fault, often had

students over to his house, and even paid Claudette Caron to play the orchestral part of my concerto. He was too busy composing to learn it, and never really loved my choice of concerto, although his opinion of Shostakovich as a composer did improve throughout the process. The last time I met with him was in 2019 when Manitoba hosted the National Conference. He came to the Gala concert and I was

so glad to see him there. We had a wonderful visit afterward with Jim Stewart and Lee Houghton-Stewart, reminiscing about BU days. It was a wonderful evening.

Some other favourite memories include going to the performance of his opera Hilda Blake, attending the concert where his commissioned Symphonic Celebration (1988) was performed in honour of the 40th anniversary of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, watching him

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, watching him dance in the Nutcracker (yes!), and him diving into Brahms' Ballade Op. 118, No. 3 at a faculty

recital with his wonderful big sound. It was an honor to know you Dr. Kenny; you were an encouraging and wise mentor.

I would encourage you to explore the music of Dr. Kenneth Nichols and to read the many memorial comments in his honour on Facebook. He was a dedicated MRMTA member and volunteer, having served as Provincial President from

1997-99 and Brandon & Westman Branch President 1967-69 and 1984-85.



MOSTREO MASS

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Dr. Nichols with Leanne

at her BU grad

Insurance information for MRMTA teachers...

By Lori Jede

- 1) MRMTA teachers who are insured have now received their insurance certificates by mail or email. This certificate from Marsh Canada Limited covers the period of May 28, 2021 to May 28, 2022. A new certificate will be sent out next spring that bridges the gap from May 29, 2022- June 30, 2022. In subsequent years, one certificate will be issued annually to cover the period of July 1 June 30. The purpose of the bridging package is to provide full insurance coverage during MRMTA's fiscal year.
- 2) Please note that insured MRMTA teachers are covered for teaching and recitals anywhere as long as there is no formal long-term lease agreement and if attendance at recitals is by relatives and friends of students. Some venues that members may use/rent may want proof of liability insurance and in some cases, may want to be named as an additional insured party. If this is the case, please contact **Bob Shaver** at Bob.Shaver@marsh.com and provide the name and address of the venue where the event is being held.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding MRMTA members' insurance. This benefit is provided through the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA).

Lori Jede

treasurer@mrmta.org



MRMTA Membership: How You Benefit

Annual membership in the MRMTA provides teachers with professional development through workshops, studio insurance, performance opportunities and more!

In addition, your students benefit from professional qualified instruction, opportunities to perform in Musicthon, scholarship competitions and master classes, and a safe place to learn

The collegiality and friendship of like-minded teachers is another positive aspect of membership and is best experienced when YOU are involved!



Contact **Evangeline** at president@mrmta.org

if you would like more brochures or business cards.

MRMTA Brochures & Business Cards

There are still brochures (pictured at left) and business cards available to members at a nominal cost.

The brochures in particular are a great resource to have on hand for potential students or student parents. The valuable information included gives parents a good overview of the value of RMT instruction.

These are also useful in member recruitment. Do you know someone who is teaching and not an MRMTA member? Give them a brochure, have a conversation, and invite them to join!

From the MRMTA Registrar:

By Gina Wedel

This year the Membership Renewal date changed to June 1st to better align with our fiscal year and insurance deadline. This date will be the same for the foreseeable future.

Information, including updates or changes to events, is being sent out bi-monthly through our MailChimp account to all members. Please be sure to check your junk mail if you have not been receiving these newsletters or send your new email address to registrar@mrmta.org to ensure you get the information.

Congratulations to *Glory St. Germain* on her retirement from teaching. We wish her all the best as she continues in business.

Congratulations as well to new member, Voice Teacher *Nikita Labdon*. Welcome to the MRMTA!

We currently have 132 Full Members, 2 Auxiliary Members and 7 Student Members. We would like to extend our condolences to family and friends of **Dr. Kenneth Nichols**, MRMTA Honorary Life member who passed away August 6, 2021. Kenneth was an MRMTA member for over 50 years.

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A Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone,

I can't believe it is already Fall! I hope everyone had a good and restful summer. I am so glad that I was able to get together with family and some friends at least a couple of weeks in August.

Although COVID related restrictions made our lifestyle greatly changed, the positive side is that we had so many virtual opportunities to access great conferences, workshops and master classes wherever you are (even whenever – through recorded sessions), without travelling around. The virtual opportunities will somewhat continue this year as well, along with some in-person events. So, I strongly encourage you to check them out. Your participation will make the events successful and give your students a lot of benefits in various ways.

This issue, we also covered three presentations from the CFMTA conference. What great topics they covered during the conference! As we live our life in a multicultural environment and we teach students from different backgrounds and situations, the conference reviews provide us something that we can look into more and help to develop our teaching tools.

As we prepare another year for teaching, it is always good to be aware of the information related to our membership, including our insurance and benefits.

I hope that this fall issue offers much useful information that you can use for your teaching this year.

All the best for another musical year!

Rachel

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