

VOLUME 19 - ISSUE 2
WINTER - DECEMBER 2021



Take

mrmmta.org

Note...

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Paper Scholarships
Holtby Scholarships

Events in Review

AGM
Workshop with Karen Gerelus
Canada Music Week®
- Southwestern Manitoba

Afternoon Tea with Take Note
Meet Dianna Neufeld

and much more.....

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****Cover Photo by Rachel Dueck**

"You might be an MRMTA teacher if you....."

The 2021-22 MRMTA year is off to a great start! In September the 102nd Annual General Meeting was held online giving members from across the province easy access to attend without travel time and expense. Karen Gerelus gave an inspiring workshop in October – a great opportunity for professional development. As I write, we are looking forward to an interesting Canada Music Week® with virtual concerts in both Brandon and Winnipeg, and a new event in Winnipeg – an Early Intermediate Masterclass with MRMTA member and composer, Julianne Warkentin.

The opportunity to have Virtuosi Concert artist, Philip Chiu, give a masterclass in-person with 4 students came up unexpectedly for late November! Due to the dates of the CMW events and the Virtuosi masterclass, you'll be reading about them in the Spring issue of Take Note.

To end 2021 there will be a social time – “December Online Coffee and Fun”. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, December 7th and plan to attend!

In the new year, we'll be 'off and running' again with scholarships and competitions, Musicthon and Serata, Community Service Awards for students, and Professional Development Awards for teachers. Read the details right here in YOUR magazine!

The past months have been challenging in so many ways. We can all use a laugh or smile – so with that in mind, here are a few ways to complete the phrase “You might be an MRMTA teacher if you...”

- are making a supper casserole at 10 am
- know there are no new excuses for why practising was not done
- answer a friend by saying “Can you call me back after 8pm when I'm done teaching?”
- have more music books in your house than dishes in your cupboards
- see a mug in a store and try to sight read the music written on it
- realize there are multiple theoretical mistakes in the music on the mug
- look forward to teaching because you love what you do!

Evangeline Keeley
MRMTA President



MRMTA EXECUTIVE 2021/2022

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT

Evangeline Keeley
204.269.7549
president@mrmta.org

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ann Germani
204.728.7993
vicepresident@mrmta.org

PAST PRESIDENT

Leanne Hiebert
204.284.8581
leanne.hiebert@gmail.com

REGISTRAR

Gina Wedel
204.284.8806
registrar@mrmta.org

TREASURER/ SECRETARY

Lori Jede
204.669.7282
treasurer@mrmta.org

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

vacant
communication@mrmta.org

STUDENT PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

Stephen Haiko-Pena
204.996.5069
MRMTAcommunityservice@outlook.com

MEMBERS' PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

Michele Leclerc
204.253.1310
studentmembers@mrmta.org

EVENTS/SOCIAL COORDINATOR

Rachel Dueck
204.962.7153
piano.with.rachel@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE

Laura Liu
lauraliu9499@gmail.com

MEMBER AT LARGE

vacant

BRANDON/WESTMAN BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE

Everett Hopfner
204.763.4498
everett@everetthopfner.com

SOUTHERN MB BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE

Wes Hamm
204.362.1715
wes.hamm@live.com

PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIR

Norinne Danzinger-Dueck
204.801.2399
scholarships@mrmta.org

STUDENTS' GROUP

Michele Leclerc
204.253.1310
studentmembers@mrmta.org

WEBSITE

Bernadette Geras
204.254.2189
bgpianostudio@mtsmail.ca

PAPER SCHOLARSHIPS

Eleanor Lwiwski
204.255.3403
elwiwski@shaw.ca

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION COORDINATOR

Virginia Heinrichs
204.222.5844
dongin@mts.net

YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION (TOUR)

Rachel Dueck
204.962.7153
piano.with.rachel@gmail.com

ARCHIVES

Muriel Smith
204.642.8549(H)
204.781.2307 (C)
muriel.smith58@gmail.com

CFMTA STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION/ CANADA MUSIC WEEK®

Melissa Gingrich
204.218.4907
gingrich.melissa@ymail.com

EDITOR-TAKE NOTE

Rachel Dueck
204.962.7153
editor@mrmta.org

PHONE

Sister Josephine Chudzik
204.284.5501
joschudzik@mts.net

MUSICTHON

Christina Hutton
204.487.3899
mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com

SERATA

Tiffany A. Wilson
204.960.1539
tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com

BRANCH EXECUTIVES

BRANDON/WESTMAN

PRESIDENT

Dianna Neufeld
diannaneufeld22@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Maureen Baird
bairdbam@mymts.net

TREASURER

Lara Mason
mason4@mymts.net

SOUTHERN MANITOBA

PRESIDENT

Wes Hamm
wes.hamm@live.com

SECRETARY

Loren Hiebert

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IMPORTANT DATES 2021 / 2022

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DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
<u>Tuesday, Dec. 7th</u> 9:15am	December Online Coffee and Fun <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation, Craft time and More! link provided in eNews 	Rachel Dueck 204-962-7153 Piano.with.rachel@gmail.com
Monday, Jan. 3 rd	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Artist Competition Applications See website for details 	Virginia Heinrichs 204-222-5844 dongin@mts.net
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U of M 136 Dafoe Road 	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Monday, January 24 th 9:00 am	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Video Submissions 	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 scholarships@mrmta.org
Monday, January 24 th 9:00 am	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Artist Competition Video Submissions 	Virginia Heinrichs 204-222-5844 dongin@mts.net
Friday, January 28 th 12:30 pm	Brandon & Westman Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedagogy Talk 	See mrmta.org for more info
Mon., Jan. 31 st - Feb. 4 th	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online competition 	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 scholarships@mrmta.org
Day and Time - TBA Watch your eNews for details	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Gala Concert <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video Premiere 	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 scholarships@mrmta.org
Feb. 12-13 th (Sat-Sun)	33 rd Annual Musicthon Fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kildonan Place Shopping Centre 1555 Regent Ave. W. 	Christina Hutton 204-487-3899 mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com
Friday, February 25 th 12:30 pm	Brandon & Westman Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedagogy Talk 	See mrmta.org for more info
Tuesday, March 1 st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper Scholarship Applications 	Eleanor Lwiwski 204-255-3403 elwiwski@shaw.ca

IMPORTANT DATES 2021 / 2022 - CONT'D

Friday, March 25 th 12:30 pm	Brandon & Westman Branch • Pedagogy Talk	See mrmta.org for more info
Friday, April 1 st	Deadline for Applications • RMT Professional Development Award • See website for details	Tiffany A. Wilson - Serata Chair 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Friday, April 1 st	Deadline • MRMTA Community Service Awards • See website for details	Stephen Haiko-Pena MRMTAcommunityservice@outlook.com
Mon, April 4 th , 9:15am	Executive Meeting (online)	president@mrmta.org
Saturday, April 9 th	Deadline • Student Composer Competition • See website under "Canada Music Week" for details	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com
Thursday, April 14 th	Deadline for submissions • <i>Take Note Magazine</i> - Spring Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Spring	Possible Virtuosi Master Class • Details TBA	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Friday, April 29 th 12:30 pm	Brandon & Westman Branch • Pedagogy Talk	See mrmta.org for more info
Sunday, May 1 st	Deadline • Holtby Scholarship Applications	Evangeline Keeley 204-269-7549 president@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 1 st , 7pm	SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights • St. Andrew's River Heights United Church, 255 Oak St., Winnipeg	Tiffany A. Wilson 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Saturday, May 14 th	Early Bird Deadline * Membership Renewal	See June 1 st Information
Wednesday, June 1 st	Deadline • MRMTA Membership Renewal	Gina Wedel 204-284-8806 registrar@mrmta.org
Mon, June 6 th , 9:15am	Executive Meeting (online)	president@mrmta.org
Monday, August 15 th	Deadline for submissions • <i>Take Note Magazine</i> - Fall Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Date TBD	103rd 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!



DECEMBER ONLINE COFFEE AND FUN

Tuesday, December 7, 2021
9:30 - 11:00 am

~ Conversation ~ Coffee
~ Craft Time

(Zoom link provided in the next eNewsletter)

Join host Rachel Dueck online for conversation, a simple craft time, and more! Bring a cup of coffee or tea and let's kick off the holiday season with some fun.



Serata

AN EVENING OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS

Sunday May 1 2022
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River Heights United Church
255 Oak St Winnipeg

\$25 single ticket
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More concert details at mrmta.org

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Tiffany Wilson and Elizabeth Rotoff perform Rossini's Catfight, 2016

photo by Krista Anderson



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2022 YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION & TOUR

By Leanne Hiebert

YOUR STUDENT "ON TOUR" AS THE 2022 WESTERN YOUNG ARTIST!

Application deadline: January 3rd, 2022

Do you have a very talented student that is waiting for an opportunity to perform or compete? GOOD NEWS!! The Young Artist 2022 Competition is taking place by video submission this coming January. We are hopeful for a live tour in 2022 and appeal to young artists across the province to pursue this wonderful and longstanding initiative of the CFMTA. The winner of the Manitoba provincial competition goes on to the interprovincial final, held in Saskatoon, SK on Saturday March 5, 2022 (in person if health guidelines permit), and that winner will tour Manitoba and Saskatchewan in September/October 2022. **Application deadline is January 3rd**, and videos are due **January 24th by 9am**.

Check our website for details and more information:

<https://www.mrmta.org/young-artist-series/>

Link to application form:

<https://form.jotform.com/92734260850255>

Check out the amazing list of past Western Tour Young Artist Winners (1942-2020):

<https://www.cfmta.org/archive/western-young-artist/>

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registrar@mrmta.org

Thank you!!

MRMTA MASTERCLASSES WITH FACULTY OF MUSIC AT U OF M

By Michele Leclerc

Sunday, Jan. 23rd, 2022

1:30 pm to 3:30pm

This special annual event is coming back again this year! At the moment of writing these lines (Nov 15) there is a strike at U of M and we don't know how long this could last. If the strike is still in effect on January 23rd, the masterclasses will be postponed to a later date. But let's be optimistic and hope that the masterclasses will take place on that date. As there is also the question of the pandemic to consider, we have 2 plans: in person or on Zoom if necessary. If we manage to have these masterclasses in person, after 2 years, it's going to be like a dream come true!

The registration is currently open and you can still register your students in the following classes:

Piano: master: David Moroz
contact Michele at piano.mleclerc@icloud.com

Voice: masters: Laura Loewen and Mel Braun
contact Linda at lmdepauw@mts.net

Cello: master: Minna Chung
contact Natalie at nat.dawe@gmail.com

Violin: master: Oleg Pokhanovski
contact Tianhao at tianhao_wang@hotmail.com

Flute: masters: Laurel Ridd, Layla Roberts
contact Lori at lori.jede@gmail.com

All classes are for students level 8 and up, except the cello and violin classes for students level 6 and up.

This is a great opportunity to work with professors at a high level of expertise, and the feedback from teachers and students in the past years has always been very positive.

Places are limited, 4 students per class, and each student will spend 30 minutes with the master. These masterclasses are graciously offered to the MRMTA students by the Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba, so there is no fee to register!

Our most sincere thank you to Dr. Ed Jurkowski, Dean of the Faculty of Music, and to all the professors participating in these masterclasses for their generous contribution to our musical community.



2022 PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS COMPETITION

By Norinne Danzinger-Dueck

Submission deadline: Monday, January 24th, 2022 @ 9:00 am

The MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition will take place the week of January 31st-February 4th. Applications were due November 15th, and YouTube links must be emailed to the convenor by **9:00 am, Monday, January 24th, 2022.**

The Gala performance featuring all the scholarship winners will again be a pre-recorded video premiere on MRMTA's YouTube channel. A date for the Gala will be announced later so watch your eNews and social media for that. Teachers and students are encouraged to view the rules and regulations as well as the recording information found on the MRMTA website under the **"For Students"** tab.



HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIPS

**Submission deadline: Sunday, May 1st, 2022
@ 11:59pm.**

Each Spring 2 or 3 vocal and piano scholarships are awarded to honour the memory of Phyllis and Dorothy Holtby. Information, eligibility requirements, criteria, and the application form can be found online. Applications and all supporting material must be received by **Sunday, May 1st, 2022 at 11:59pm.**


Fun Facts about the Holtby sisters

1. Phyllis was a concert pianist and teacher; Dorothy taught at Laura Secord School in Winnipeg.
2. Dorothy's interest in music theatre led her to study at the Banff School of Fine Arts.
3. Phyllis was the MRMTA Winnipeg Branch President from 1952-54, and the MRMTA Provincial President from 1972-74.

**All facts gleaned from A Century of Sound Connections: The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919-2019 by Dr. Muriel Smith, 2019.©*



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2022 PAPER SCHOLARSHIPS

By Eleanor Lwiwski

Submission deadline: March 1st, 2022

The application deadline for paper scholarships is **March 1, 2022**. Paper scholarships are just that, a submission in writing, no performance necessary. There are several scholarships available including the *Marian Nelson Memorial Piano Pedagogy Award*, the *Dorothy Lothar Award*, and the *Judith Ritchie Award* to name a few. Some scholarships are geared for students with financial challenges, others are geared to ability and dedication to pursuit of excellence. Last year, over \$7,750.00 was given out. Check out the website for all the scholarships available to your students.



DONATIONS TO MRMTA SCHOLARSHIPS

MRMTA Scholarships: A Brief History

There is a long and interesting history of scholarships awarded by the MRMTA and the MMTA, its predecessor. In 1924, nearly a century ago, the first scholarship was established by the Manitoba Music Teachers' Association. It was in memory of James W. Matthews, recording secretary from 1919-1923, and was awarded to a Grade 7 violin or piano student. The \$100 scholarship would be equivalent to approximately \$1,500 today! Many awards, too numerous to mention, were added over the following years for levels from Grade 1 to Licentiate Diploma.

Since 1987 The Winnipeg Foundation has administered all MRMTA scholarship funds. Some funds have kept the names of their principal donors, for example the Holtby Scholarships, or the Grace Rich-Bastin awards. The Performance Scholarships, however, come from interest generated by bequests and donations by MRMTA members and supporters.

By giving to the "Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association Fund" at The Winnipeg Foundation, you are helping today's young, aspiring musicians, and those of the future. No donation is too small to help make a difference!

<https://www.mycharitytools.com/gift/wpgfdn/donate?fund=2581>

*Information taken from A Century of Sound Connections: The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919-2019, by Dr. Muriel Smith, ©2019.



33rd annual "Kids Helping Kids"

Musicthon 2022



mrmta.org

Supporting youth
music programs
with United Way
Winnipeg

**Saturday
& Sunday
Feb 12 & 13,
2022**

Kildonan Place
Shopping Centre
1555 Regent Ave West

performances
pledges
donations

Carla Buelow Photography



United Way
Winnipeg



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MUSICTHON

By Christina Hutton

This year MRMTA is hosting its **33rd annual “Kids Helping Kids” Musicthon** fundraiser, helping children access music programs regardless of income or needs. It will take place February 12-13 at Kildonan Place Shopping Centre (*subject to current health orders). **Musicthon 2022** will feature live student performances on a piano provided by St. John’s Music. In addition, the “student choice” will remain an option for those unable to present at the live event, for students who collect pledges and commit to share their performance through alternate means on their own (ex. school, virtually etc.).



This year we are excited to partner with United Way Winnipeg, with donations supporting youth music programs at a variety of their donor-funded agency partners across Winnipeg, including:

- **Teen Stop Jeunesse** mentor youth in guitar, drums, piano and vocals. Youth may also learn music production, audio engineering and recording.
- **Rossbrook House** drop-in program runs several times each week and offers free musical instruction led by experienced, contracted music instructors.
- **Maples Youth Activity Centre and Kildonan Youth Activity Centre** offer a guitar program and lessons, and will soon introduce a ukulele program.
- **Graffiti Art Programming** hosts a recording studio, song writing workshops, and music tutorials.
- **West Broadway Youth Outreach** provides free private piano and guitar lessons and “jam sessions” where kids learn about different instruments through free play.
- **Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba** offers the M.A.D. (Music, Art, and Dance) camp for youth aged 12-17.

Teachers may now sign up online for [performance spots](#) and to [volunteer](#). We are optimistic that public health orders will allow us to host our event in-person, though we ask that you please stay tuned closer to the date as there may be some additional requirements communicated or changes made to the event, including the possibility of moving virtual once again.

Musicthon is about giving back to our community and “Kids Helping Kids”. All MRMTA teachers and their students are invited to participate, no matter the age or level. Check out mrmta.org for specific details on how to register and donate.

*Photos by Carla Buelow Photography



STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

By Stephen Haiko-Pena

Congratulations to the fall recipients of MRMTA Community Service Awards! **Leo Chen**, **Nichola Chen**, and **Yian Zhou** (students of **Xueyan (Laura) Liu**) received bronze level certificates through 10 hours of music-related volunteer work in their community. Here are some of the details of their hard work:

- played piano in a quartet at Golden Door Geriatric Centre
- performed in a small band ensemble for a Chinese New Year event
- tutored younger students in Laura's studio and helped with exam prep

The next deadline for the MRMTA Community Service Awards is **April 1**. Why not head over to our website, print off an application, and start a conversation with your students?



Nichola and Leo Chen proudly hold up their bronze certificates!

Thank you MRMTA!!

- notes from Winnipeg Music Festival scholarship recipients

My name is Ymanuel Legaspi. This was my 3rd guitar festival I've ever been apart of. It was really different this year because of the pandemic however it was still a great experience. I was able to learn about how I could improve my playing as well as how to practice for events like this. I got second place at this year's festival and I am very thankful for the reward I am able to receive this year. Thank you for acknowledging me as a musician and overall this year's festival was really fun.

Hi, my name is Alexis Lee, I am 10 years old and now in Level 7 Piano. I am very happy I received this Scholarship I will use it to continue my piano studies. Sincerely, Alexis Lee



2022 CANADA MUSIC WEEK® STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION

By Melissa Gingrich

Submission Deadline: April 9th, 2022

We have so many wonderfully creative students and gifted and supportive teachers - I'm really looking forward to receiving submissions for our 2022 MRMTA Canada Music Week® Student Composer Competition! We had a really strong show of interest in the 2021 competition, and one of our winners received honourable mention at the National level.

You can see some of our student composers and 2021 competition winners sharing their compositions in the 2021 Canada Music Week® online Student Recital. Check it out on our [MRMTA YouTube channel](#). It's incredible to see how students even from a young age develop the ear and the tools paired with the creativity to make some truly unique musical statements. What a tremendous way to encourage exploration and expression in our new, developing, and pre-professional musicians. I encourage students at every level to develop their creativity in this way.

The submission deadline is April 9, 2022; registration details can be found on the [MRMTA website](#). There are levels of entry for ages 8 through 19 with categories for solo instrument, instrumental ensemble, voice, and electronic music. The award money has increased this year, and as ever, provincial winners may advance to the national competition. It's a wonderful opportunity.

Best wishes on all your creative endeavours!

Contact **Melissa Gingrich** (text) 204-218-4907 / gingrich.melissa@ymail.com

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GOLDEN WEST

THE 102ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Ann Germani

At the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, September 19th, via zoom, special recognition was given to past and present members, including the reading of career highlights from the recipients of the 20 and 30 Year Recognition Certificates. Congratulations went to newly retired members, *Regina Angeleau, Arline Collins, and Glory St. Germain*, and a welcome was given to re-instated members, *Krystena Krahm and Donna Beaulieu*, and new members, *Jason Vanwynsberghe and Nikita Labdon*. A moment of silence was held to remember former member, Brandon & Westman Branch President, and MRMTA Provincial President, *Dr. Kenneth Nichols* who passed away in August.

Executive member and committee chair reports were received, with an update from Canada Music Week and Student Composer Competition Chair *Melissa Gingrich*, who highlighted the events for the year.

Following acceptance of the reports, the Provincial Executive for the 2021-2022 was elected. Elected to a further 2-year term were: *Michele Leclerc*, Members' Programming Coordinator, and *Rachel Dueck*, Events/Social Coordinator. *Stephen Haiko-Pena* was elected as Student Programming Coordinator, and *Laura Liu* as Member-at-Large. Positions remaining vacant are Communications Coordinator and a second Member-at-Large. A thank you went to *Linda De Pauw* and *Viktoriya Tuz*, Members-at-Large, *Laura Liu*, Student Programming Coordinator, and *Eleanor Epp*, Brandon & Westman Branch Representative, as they finished their terms.

The business portion of the AGM was followed by video performances featuring our two national competitors, *Ashley Schneberger*, soprano, and *Angela Ng*, piano. Ashley placed second in the CFMTA July 2021 competition and was also awarded the Canadian Musical Diversity prize. Angela received the Willard Schultz Baroque Music Award. Members were also given a presentation by *Megan Dufurat*, on "The Transformative Power of Music".

2021 Member Recognition at the 102nd AGM

20 Year Members

Elena Levina
Susan Maclagan
Dianna Neufeld
Tuesday Royko
Jacqueline Ryz
Marla Winters

30 Year Members

Rita Dyck
Melody Koop
Nancy Nowosad

Congratulations!





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"YOU CAN'T MOTIVATE STUDENTS"

A LESSON FROM THE SELF-DETERMINATION THEORY RESEARCH

PRESENTED BY KAREN GERELUS

By Elsie Machovec

On Sunday, October 3rd, we had the great pleasure of meeting Karen Gerelus, who is currently conducting research at the University of Calgary on identity and motivation in piano students as part of her PhD studies. The research shows that you can't actually motivate anyone to do anything...however, you can create an environment in which the students motivate themselves. Attending the workshop was Elsie Machovec, an MRMTA member for many years, who wrote the following report for us.



Take a lesson from the Self-Determination Theory Research compiled by **Richard Ryan** and **Edward Deci**, University of Rochester, New York. The discussion is the “what and why” of goal pursuits, human needs and the self-determining of behaviour as it relates to our musical students.

Three basic psychological needs are mentioned. There is **YOU** (competence, environment essential to well-being, etc.), **RELATEDNESS** (fully connected, it matters to you) and **AUTONOMY** (congruent with yourself, self-endorsed).

Then, there is the Spectrum of Motivation:

- A. A motivation (non-regulation, impersonal)
- B. Extrinsic:
 - 1. External: externally, reward, punishment
 - 2. Introjection: somewhat external, ego involvement, self-control
 - 3. Identified: somewhat internal, personal importance, conscious valuing
- C. Intrinsic: internally, interest, enjoyment, satisfaction

This study is fascinating. Karen has presented this workshop at the CFMTA annual conference, and for different provincial associations. We would like to thank her for her work and for taking the time to do this presentation to the teachers and students in Manitoba.



CELEBRATION OF CANADIAN MUSIC FROM SOUTHWESTERN MANITOBA

By Tenley Dyck

Southwestern Manitoba's early nod to Canada Music Week® was the 16th Annual *Composers & Kids* event on Saturday, October 16, 2021, in Boissevain, MB. Despite Covid restrictions, we were able to enjoy another very successful event for southwest piano students.



The students had so much fun with guest composer, **Wes Froese** from Saskatoon, who was enthusiastic and attentive to each participant. Groups were smaller and physically distanced, yet 25 students from beginners to adults were able to perform Wes's compositions for him throughout the day.

It was an exciting time of sharing ideas and love of music. Wes is a great storyteller and provided interesting information and inspiration for the selected pieces. The wonderful musical memories of this day 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), **Dale Whetter**, & **Tenley Dyck** (RMT).



CFMTA CORNER : CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Connecting Canada 2022: Professional Development is opening a call for proposals from presenters whose topics centre on choosing change and embracing new opportunities and technologies for the future. Proposals from non-Canadian applicants or non-RMTA members are welcome.

Details and submission form are here: <https://www.cfmta.org/en/connecting-canada-2022/>



MEET DIANNA



Dianna Neufeld

Please join me in welcoming Dianna Neufeld. She is currently serving as the president of Brandon&Westman branch. Dianna graciously agreed to answer some questions. Let's get to know Dianna!

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

Dianna Neufeld: *Hello Rachel! My musical journey started when I was seven when I took piano lessons with Agatha Warkentin. I played and sang in church, for my private school's chamber choir, and eventually took lessons from Jean Broadfoot who prepared me for an audition at U of M. I was accepted into piano performance in Music and added to my journey study in Education. After teaching for many years in the school system, I eventually turned to teaching private piano/theory. Currently I'm back at University in Brandon as a Graduate student, teaching within the Conservatory and the Brandon Suzuki Talent Education Program.*

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

DN: *I recently received my certificate celebrating 20 years as an RMT! I really value Brandon/Westman Branch's teachers, their willingness to share pedagogy ideas, plan recitals, workshops and master classes for our students.*

RD: Could you share one of your most memorable musical moments such as a memorable concert you've attended or your own performance experience?

DN: *I'm very fortunate to have had many experiences performing solo, chamber, choral – all are special. It's also wonderful to be a part of my students' performances.*

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

DN: *Be brave, try new things and always be kind – don't be afraid to continue to learn and share.*

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


DN: *I enjoy spending time with family and friends.*

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

DN: *My family loves to sing so we always spend time singing at Christmas.*

RD: Thank you so much!

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SOUTHERN MANITOBA BRANCH

By Wes Hamm

At our last meeting, the Southern branch of MRMTA agenda included a discussion regarding masterclass activities. There was considerable interest in renewing a more consistent commitment to provide our students with masterclass activities. We also decided to meet with other regional music organizations to invite cooperation in presenting masterclasses.

The meeting with representatives from four local festivals, Douglas Kuhl School of Music, and Southern Manitoba Concerts was held on Oct. 16. Loren Hiebert and Wes Hamm represented SMRMTA.

Almost all of the organizations represented had facilitated masterclasses in the past. Historically, these events ranged from a traditional masterclass to more of a workshop style. It was reported that, in every case, registration fees did not cover the cost of the event. All who were present agreed that masterclasses contributed to reaching the goals of their organization.

As festival representatives reported on their activities in anticipation of spring festivals, it became evident that the uncertainty was a significant concern. Some festivals had already discussed several plans in the event that a traditional “in-person” festival would not be possible because of restrictions/safety concerns. Masterclass style sessions, in person or online were already being considered. In light of the uncertainty, and workload of festival organizers and volunteers, we agreed that it was not a good time to forge ahead with cooperative projects.

However, we are committed to staying in contact. We will be sharing invitations to our events. We have also planned to meet in June of 2022 to evaluate the events of the year, and to reconsider working together in the future.

BRANDON & WESTMAN BRANCH

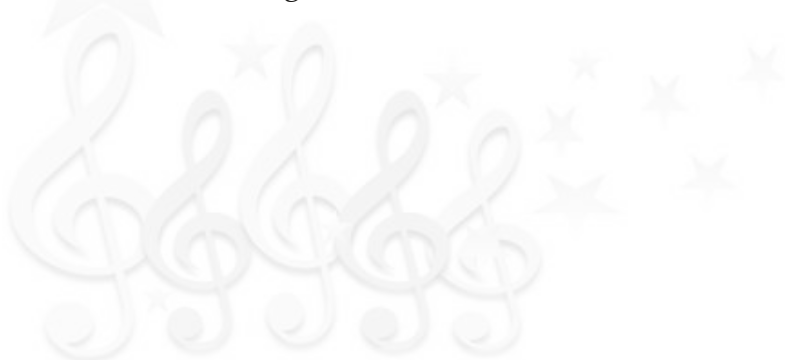
By Everett Hopfner and Dianna Neufeld

The Brandon and Westman Branch of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association continues its work to support music teachers in our community.

Our Branch has enjoyed a series of pedagogy talks the last Friday of each month. In September, as the teaching year was just getting underway, Everett Hopfner led a discussion about nurturing positive habits in music lessons. The next month, Ann Germani gave an interactive presentation on Hallowe'en Tricks and Treats, sparking numerous enthusiastic conversations about how to connect musical activities with the changing seasons. In November, Dianna Neufeld hosted special guest Olivia Adams, author of a recently published piano syllabus featuring 20th- and 21st-century women composers called "Loud and Clear". Our members have enjoyed these regular opportunities to check in with one another, share teaching successes and struggles, and meet other music professionals in our region. Like all of our branch events, these sessions have been open to all local music teachers - members and non-members alike - in order to grow our community and encourage more participation.

At the time of writing, we are also looking forward to our upcoming Canada Music Week® Recital to be held on November 27: this year, like last year, our students will perform on Zoom from their homes. We will take the opportunity to honour the beloved composer Ken Nichols, a longtime member and past president of our Branch who passed away in August. A dedicated teacher, consummate professional, and advocate for underrepresented voices, Ken inspired us with a career dedicated to nurturing his community. Ken wrote beautifully for young musicians, and we are thrilled to have students performing some of his works on the Canada Music Week program.

As we all keep navigating the changing realities of teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic, our members are grateful for the support and encouragement they find in our branch events. We will continue collaborating to create events that are motivating, positive, and inspiring for our students and colleagues.



Professional Development Award 2022

Application due: April 1st, 2022

Two awards will be handed out to qualified applicants for the CFMTA Connecting Canada 2022: Professional Development on July 8 & 9, 2022 "Choosing Change: The Post-Pandemic Music Studio". Details and application forms are on the MRMTA website at <https://www.mrmta.org/mrmta-professional-development-award/>

Please send the application form via email: tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com

Contact PDA Chairperson - ***Tiffany A. Wilson***



From the MRMTA Registrar:

By Gina Wedel

We are excited about the many events that will be happening this year, some online and some in-person! Please read your bi-monthly eNewsletters for all the details on events for students and teachers!

MRMTA continues to be a draw for teachers, offering advertising as well as opportunities for students and teachers. We continue to receive applications for new members and look forward to welcoming them to our group. We are currently processing three new member applications!

Thank you to those of you who renewed your Criminal Records Check/Child Abuse checks. Remember, these are to be renewed every 5 years!

Please send any changes in email or contact information to the Registrar, ***Gina Wedel*** (registrar@mrmta.org), so we can keep you informed!



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A Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone,

For this issue, I would like to wrap up with a nice poem.

The Snow Is Deep on the Ground

by Kenneth Patchen (1943)

The snow is deep on the ground.
Always the light falls
Softly down on the hair of my beloved.

This is a good world.
The war has failed.
God shall not forget us.
Who made the snow waits where love is.
Who made the sky knows of our love.

Only a few go mad.
The sky moves in its whiteness
Like the withered hand of an old king.
God shall not forget us.

The snow is beautiful on the ground.
And always the lights of heaven glow
Softly down on the hair of my beloved.

Kenneth Patchen, "The Snow Is Deep on the Ground" from Collected Poems. Copyright 1943 by Kenneth Patchen. Reprinted with the permission of New Directions Publishing Corporation.

Rachel

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