

VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 2
WINTER - DECEMBER 2022



Take

mrmta.org

Note...

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*Meet Vice-President Maureen Baird
and more.....*

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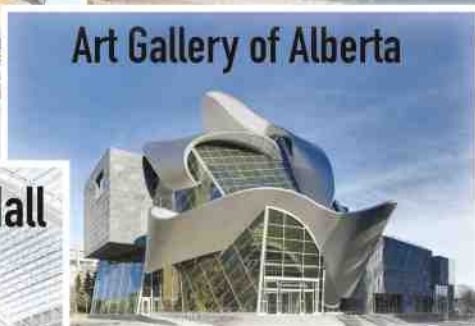
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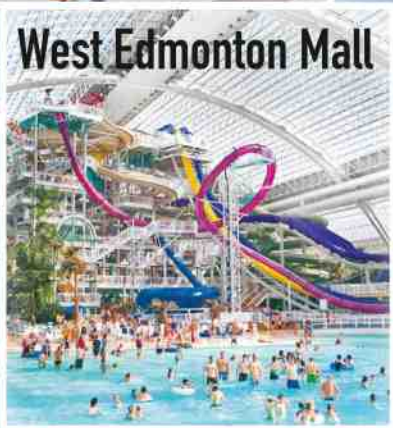
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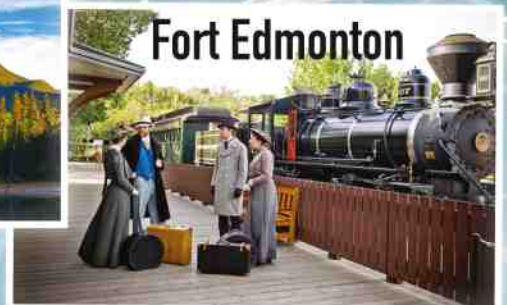
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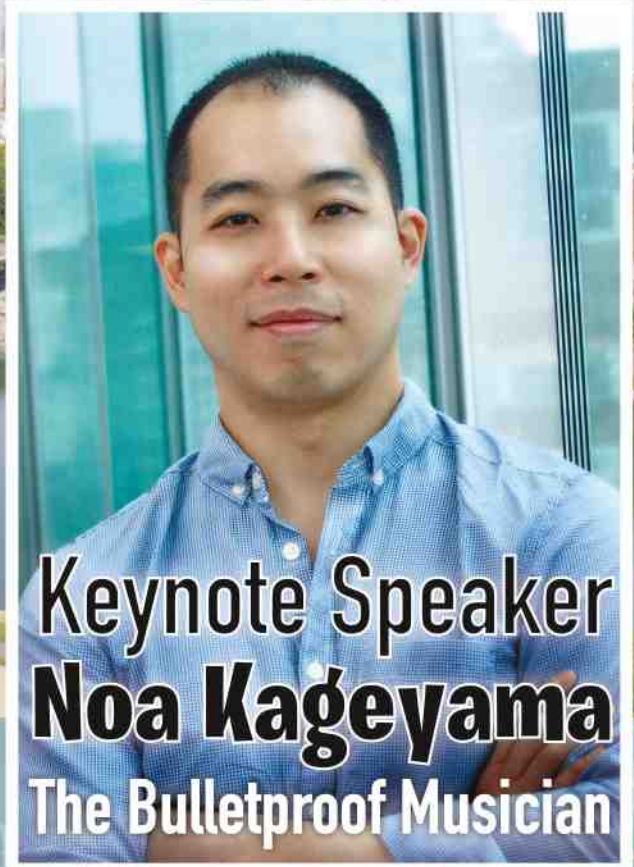
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The Bulletproof Musician



"MRMTA: Embracing the Best of Two Worlds!"

This fall, as studios were re-opened for the academic year, I had the opportunity to talk with many teachers across the province about their plans for the year, and how MRMTA can help support those ambitions. Some have re-established studio policies while others are implementing new ones; some continue to maintain their practise as before, while others are choosing change. Never before has networking been so valuable in terms of setting policy, promoting the importance of music making and teaching, choosing resources, programs and events, and just "being with other teachers." With excitement, we can look forward to building more participation in our programs, by offering events that will be in person, online, or as a hybrid model.

With a great kickstart to the year, we have had a few events that have brought teachers together!

- Teachers and students have enjoyed a first "live in person" Young Artist Concert
- Teachers from across the province enjoyed a professional development workshop with Dr. Darryl Friesen - with members attending in person and more attending by live stream Zoom

As I write this, Canada Music Week Celebrations are being planned for in person and online events. A new initiative, as per the request from the Spring member survey to have more events at this level, is an Intermediate Piano Masterclass with Julianne Warkentin.

In the New Year, we will have Scholarships and Competitions, Musicthon, Community Service Awards, Professional Development Awards and Serata.

Keep tuned for more by keeping in touch through this magazine, regular e-newsletters and by checking the MRMTA website.

THANK YOU to all who volunteer to help make MRMTA programs possible. I hope to see you at one of these events this winter - either in person or on screen!

Ann Germani
MRMTA President





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SOUTHERN MB

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To be elected

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Loren Hiebert

TREASURER

Andy Huisman





IMPORTANT DATES 2022/2023

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Mon, Jan. 16 th 10:00 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Ann Germani president@mrmta.org
Sunday, January 22 nd 1:30 pm – 4:30 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
Friday, January 27 th 12.00pm	Brandon & Westman Branch • Pedagogy Talk	Everett Hopfner everett@everetthopfner.com
Mon., January. 30 th to Fri., February. 3 rd	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition • Sterling Mennonite Fellowship • 1008 Dakota Street, Winnipeg	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 mrmtascholarships@gmail.com
Sunday, February. 5 th 7:30 pm	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Gala Concert • Sterling Mennonite Fellowship • 1008 Dakota Street, Winnipeg	Norinne Danzinger-Dueck 204-801-2399 mrmtascholarships@gmail.com
Saturday, March 4 th and Sunday, March 5 th	34 th Annual Musichthon Fundraiser • Kildonan Place Shopping Centre • 1555 Regent Ave. W. Winnipeg	Joanne Diplock mrmtamusichthon@gmail.com
Friday, February 24 th 12.00pm	Brandon & Westman Branch • Pedagogy Talk	Everett Hopfner everett@everetthopfner.com
Saturday, February 25 th	Virtuosi Violin / Cello Masterclass Details TBA	Michele LeClerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org
Wednesday, March 1 st Application Deadline	Paper Scholarships	Linda De Pauw 204-488-6096 lmdepauw@mts.net
Friday, March 24 th 12.00pm	Brandon & Westman Branch • Pedagogy Talk	Everett Hopfner everett@everetthopfner.com
Saturday, April 1 st Application Deadline	RMT Professional Development Award (See website for details)	Tiffany A. Wilson - Serata Chair 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Saturday, April 1 st Deadline	MRMTA Community Service Awards	Stephen Haiko-Pena MRMTAcommunityservice@outlook.com
Monday, April 3 rd 10:00 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Ann Germani president@mrmta.org
Sunday, April 9 th Submission Deadline	Student Composer Competition	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com
Saturday, April 15 th Deadline for Submissions	Take Note Magazine - Spring Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Friday, April 28 th 12.00pm	Brandon & Westman Branch • Pedagogy Talk	Everett Hopfner everett@everetthopfner.com
Sunday, April 30 th	Virtuosi Piano Masterclass with Maxim Lando • Details TBA	Michele Leclerc 204-253-1310 studentmembers@mrmta.org

IMPORTANT DATES 2022/2023 - CONT'D

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Monday, May 1 st	Deadline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holtby Scholarship Applications 	Ann Germani president@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 7 th , 7pm	SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Andrew's River Heights United Church 	Tiffany A. Wilson 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Sunday, May 14 th Early Bird Deadline	MRMTA Membership Renewal	See June 1 st Information
Monday, May 15 th 10:00 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Ann Germani president@mrmta.org
Friday, May 26 th 12.00pm	Brandon & Westman Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedagogy Talk 	Everett Hopfner everett@everetthopfner.com
Thursday, June 1 st Deadline	MRMTA Membership Renewal	John Himes registrar@mrmta.org
Friday, June 23 rd 12.00pm	Brandon & Westman Branch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pedagogy Talk 	Everett Hopfner everett@everetthopfner.com
Sunday, June 25 th , 2:00 pm	104th Annual General Meeting	Maureen Baird vicepresident@mrmta.org
Tuesday, August 15 th Deadline for Submissions	Deadline for submissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take Note Magazine - Fall Issue 	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org

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



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Thank you!!



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2023 PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS COMPETITION

Competitions: January 30th - February 3rd, 2023
Gala Concert: Sunday, February 5th, 2023 at 7:30pm.
Location: Sterling Mennonite Fellowship, 1008 Dakota Street



The competition schedule is currently being created and will be available to view on the website after December 1st, 2022.

We are still looking for a Performance Scholarship Chair for 2024. If you are interested, want to discuss the position and would like to shadow this year, please contact:

Norinne at mrmtascholarships@gmail.com



HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIPS

Submission deadline:
Monday, May 1st, 2023 @ 11:59pm.

Do you have a student worthy of a Holtby Scholarship?

The Dorothy and Phyllis Holtby Scholarships are available for advanced piano and/or voice students, working on the completion of the practical and theoretical requirements for their Level 10 or Diploma (Associate or Licentiate) of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, or equivalent. The fund was established to provide scholarships to talented pupils in most need of financial assistance.

Please refer to the website for more information, eligibility requirements, criteria and an application form.

PAPER SCHOLARSHIPS

By Linda De Pauw

Submission deadline:
March 1st, 2023 @ 11:59pm.

MRMTA is fortunate to be able to offer numerous, generous scholarships for students. Why not look into the awards available to see if any might be suitable for your students?

All the information is on the MRMTA website under "For Students". Applications for Paper Scholarships are not due until March 1st, 2023 but it is a good idea to have a look at the requirements well in advance because some applications require reference letters and other testimonials that may take time to compile.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Linda De Pauw at lmdepauw@mts.net

MRMTA MASTERCLASSES

By Michele Leclerc

U of M Masterclasses - January 22nd, 2023

At the moment four classes are confirmed. You can still register your student, level 9 and up (violin class level 6 and up). Don't miss this wonderful opportunity! It's free, it's fun, and it's a great learning experience with professors with a high level of expertise.

Piano with David Moroz

contact Michele at piano.mleclerc@icloud.com

Voice with Mel Braun & Laura Loewen

contact Linda at lmdepauw@mts.net

Violin with Oleg Pokhanovski

contact Tianhao at tianhao_wang@hotmail.com

Flute with Laurel Ridd & Layla Roberts

contact Lori at lori.jede@gmail.com

Virtuosi Violin and Cello Masterclass, February 25th, 2023

In partnership with Virtuosi Concerts, our violin and cello students have an amazing opportunity to work with Canadian artists *Elissa Lee* (violin) and *Trey Lee* (cello) from ENSEMBLE MADE IN CANADA. As the ensemble will present a concert in Winnipeg this February, with Virtuosi Concerts, they are very happy to do a masterclass for MRMTA Saturday morning February 25th. Students from Level 5 and up are accepted. To register, please contact *Michele* at studentmembers@mrmta.org

Virtuosi Piano Masterclass, April 30th, 2023

Yes! A second Virtuosi masterclass, this time for pianists, with the International American pianist Maxim Lando. This class is offered to our students members Group, and the class is full already. It is certainly a very good experience for any student in piano to attend the masterclass and watch Maxim at work with our students!

MRMTA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

By Stephen Haiko-Pena

Submission deadline: April 1st, 2023

Now that we are seeing more in-person live performances, perhaps it is time to think about adding the MRMTA Community Service Awards to your studio programs?

Why not head over to our website, print off an application, and start a conversation with your students?

There were no recipients this Fall, but there is lots of time to prepare for the April 1st deadline.

A couple of reminders:

- MRMTA teachers are the contact point for awards; they should verify and submit completed applications.
- to encourage long-term commitment to community service, the three levels must be awarded in succession. Volunteer hours for silver or gold only count moving forward from date on previous certificate.



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.





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MUSICTHON

By Joanne Diplock

How exciting to announce that our **34th annual Musicthon event** will be held live this year! After sheltering through the pandemic, it is sure to be a celebration of music and song where we and our students can share our musical gifts and benefit those in need.

This year our Musicthon will be held in **Kildonan Place Mall, 1555 Regent Avenue West** on **Saturday, March 4th, 2023** from **10:00 AM to 6:00 PM** and **Sunday, March 5th 2023** from **11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

United Way Winnipeg is very happy to partner with us again this year. Funds collected from our Musicthon event will benefit UWW music programs for youth in need. More details will be provided as the event draws nearer. Please consider encouraging your students to participate in this purposeful and positive event.



Performance times for your students may be reserved at: <https://bit.ly/Musicthon2023>

Please also consider volunteering during the event. Committing to a 2 hour shift will fulfill your MRMTA volunteer credit and your efforts are important and appreciated. Teachers can sign up to volunteer at <https://bit.ly/Musicthon2023-volunteer>

On a personal note, coming to the position of Musicthon Chairperson feels like a full circle moment for me. When the Musicthon began in 1988 I was approached by Marjorie Lebrun to consider teaching the inner-city early childhood music classes that would be its beneficiary. Due to other obligations, I was unable to help in this way, but many years later began my Little Miracles Music and Play free North End community program that did receive some funding from our Musicthon. I have witnessed the opportunities that these programs provide firsthand, and am enthusiastic and grateful to carry on in a new role on this wonderful journey.



*Photos by Carla Buelow Photography

SERATA: AN EVENING OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS

By Tiffany A. Wilson

Sunday, May 7th, 2023 at 7pm
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak St. Winnipeg MB

Serata - An Evening of Musical Delights has become an annual fundraising event for the MRMTA. We raise money for the Professional Development Award and future national CFMTA conferences to be held in Manitoba. It is a highly anticipated event by many members and a highlight of the MRMTA's schedule.

Teachers from every discipline in our association volunteer to perform for the delighted audience of colleagues and students alike. Musical works include collaborations and two-piano duets and quartets that thrill and exhilarate the audience! A raffle with great prizes adds to the fun and the final Wine & Cheese reception is a wonderful after-party to meet the performers and chat with friends and colleagues.

The Group/Studio Passes are intended to help young musicians attend to this event and see their teachers perform or for families to support their performing parents. A real deal!

Join us this year with sponsors Classic 107FM and St. John's Music. Dr. Muriel Smith, our host this year, will spin a tale and weave the musical selections into an evening of historical antics and musical delights.

CONTACT: *Tiffany A. Wilson* at
tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com

Tickets

Adult \$30 Student \$15
Family/Studio Pass \$70
(max 5, including 2 adults)



MRMTA Performers & Volunteers
Serata 2022



Joanne Diplock & Lynn Sharples
Serata 2022

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

There are many ways to earn your volunteer cheque!
Now's the time to put your best talent forward and sign up
for any of the following:

- perform • stage manage • take tickets • hand out programmes • serve wine • sell raffle tickets • package up raffle prizes • set-up or clean-up for the reception.



CANADA MUSIC WEEK® IN SOUTHWESTERN MANITOBA

By Tenley Dyck

Southwestern Manitoba's nod to Canada Music Week was the 17th Annual Composers & Kids event on Saturday, October 15, 2022, in Boissevain, MB. It was a celebratory day of sharing ideas and love of music.

The students had a great time with guest composer, Lynette Sawatsky from Saskatoon, who was enthusiastic and attentive to each participant. More than 35 students, representing 8 communities, participated throughout the day where they each performed one of Lynette's compositions for her. Lynette provided interesting information and

inspiration for the selected pieces as well as engaging participants in some ensemble playing and other fun activities. The wonderful musical memories of this day will last a lifetime!

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

Participating teachers were *Tenley Dyck* (RMT), *Danielle Guina*, *Dianna Neufeld* (RMT), & *Dale Whetter*.



CELEBRATION IN WINNIPEG

By Melissa Gingrich

As I prepare this article for later consumption, it is one week away from **Canada Music Week** and the energy for our Winnipeg center events is high! We have a smorgasbord of student performances of Canadian Compositions lined up for our **CMW Student Recital** Sunday November 20th, and an intimate **Masterclass** opportunity for intermediate pianists with clinician and respected Canadian composer *Julianne Warkentin* on Saturday November 26th. It's exciting to have students, families, and music lovers from the wider community gathering in person for the first time in a few years for this event. What a great opportunity for musical discovery, networking, celebration, and cake with red and white icing! Thanks to performers, families, and of course teachers for their support of these events.

One of our performers at the Canada Music Week Student recital is *Caeli Palmer*, winner of the Category C 19 and under **Student Composer Competition** this last spring. Caeli spoke about her inspiration and the process of composing and was recently interviewed on

Classic107FM for her accomplishments. What an opportunity for a young musician! I encourage all teachers to stimulate the creativity in their students of any age this winter. We had a wonderful show of interest in this competition in 2021 with nineteen submissions over four categories, but there is room for more participation in every category. As a reminder, submissions can be for solo instrument, combination of instruments, or solo voice (accompanied or unaccompanied). The age categories are 8 and under, 11 and under, 15 and under, 19 and under, and Open. Registration fees are \$20-40 and prize money ranges from \$50-\$250 with the opportunity to advance to National Level competition.



Again, I encourage teachers of every discipline to consider the Student Composer Competition. Rules and Regulations can be found on our www.mrmta.org website under "For Students". **Registration deadline for the competition is April 9th, 2023.**





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BOISSEVAIN: MUSIC TEACHER ASSOCIATION BIG PART OF INSTRUCTION IN AREA

Condensed from an article by *Paul Rayner, the Boissevain Recorder*

On Thursday, September 22, Jerry Hu of Saskatoon performed an evening of classical piano in the Whitewater Mennonite Church as a part of the Western 2022 Young Artist Concert Tour sponsored and organized by the Brandon & Westman Registered Music Teachers' Association.

Dianna Neufeld, Branch president stated. "The Concert went very well - Jerry Hu of Saskatoon, played major works by Marjan Mozetich, Franz Liszt and Frederic Chopin." She said about 80 people attended the show, including young student musicians who were inspired by Hu's performance. Neufeld said the concert series comes from the winner of the Young Artist Series, organized by the Canadian Federation of Registered Music Teachers Association. An audition is held, the winner is chosen by a panel of jurors and then awarded the opportunity to perform in the winner's tour across Western Canada. "The Brandon & Westman RMTA has hosted this concert series for many years."

The Brandon & Westman RMTA has a long history. It began as the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association Brandon Branch through the efforts of Dr. W.L Wright of Brandon College and local music teachers in 1936. Recitals by visiting artists were sponsored between 1936 and 1944, and after that they began supporting



the Young Artist Series and the Canadian Music Week Series. The name was changed to Brandon & Westman Registered Music Teachers' Association in 2010 to be inclusive of others outside the Wheat City.

At this time, there are 15 members of the organization, reaching from Alexander to Boissevain, Brandon, Melita and Reston. As Neufeld explained, to be members, teachers must hold a degree or diploma from a recognized university or conservatory, or meet the necessary qualifications laid out by the Manitoba RMTA. This ensures the best quality instruction in an association whose members teach privately. "We are music teachers of all disciplines, not just piano. We organize regular meetings, concerts, recitals and workshops for teachers and students at both the local and National levels because of the association with the Canadian Association."

"Since the lifting of Covid restrictions, we are back planning live and on-line events for the year including a concert/workshop in November for Canada Music Week." As Neufeld stated when asked what is the role of the Brandon and Westman Branch? "To bring quality music education inclusively to all students."



YOUNG ARTIST WESTERN TOUR WINNIPEG REVIEW

By Evangeline Keeley

A very small but appreciative group gathered on Friday, September 23rd, 2022 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in River Heights to hear Jerry Hu, Western Young Artist. The demanding repertoire was presented skillfully and it was obvious that Jerry enjoyed performing for us. At times his eyes were closed, and his head tilted back; he was clearly 'into the music'! I especially appreciated that Jerry addressed the audience and gave his own program notes. These notes included personal reflections on the music as well as historical and technical information.

Since I have never taught, or even played, any of the repertoire Jerry presented, it is difficult for me to comment on individual works. I will say though, that my overall impression coming away from the concert was, "Here is a gifted young man who is passionate about music and loves to perform!"



CFMTA Corner

CFMTA/FCAPM 2023 CONFERENCE July 5 - 8, 2023 Edmonton, Alberta

The 2023 CFMTA-FCAPM Conference Committee is delighted to plan a hybrid conference, one where we can join in person with our old friends from across the country, meet new ones, and serve the needs of those who prefer not to travel. Just like the CFMTA conference in 2021 and Connecting Canada: 2022 Professional Development sessions, we will be using the Whova app, but now for both in person and virtual attendees. We are excited to have Noa Kageyama, The Bulletproof Musician, join us as Keynote speaker, session presenter, and strings masterclass adjudicator. The piano and voice competitions are once again in person, but we made the difficult decision to make the competitions not available for virtual attendees. For in person registration, the process has been simplified by an all inclusive fee. All sessions, competitions, lunches and speakers, receptions, and concerts are included. We have booked the Chateau Lacombe Hotel, overlooking Edmonton's river valley, as the main conference space; and MacEwan University, conveniently located across the street, as the second space. We look forward to seeing you in Edmonton!

PERFORMANCE PREPARATION: STRATEGIES FOR CONSISTENCY AND CONFIDENCE

PRESENTED BY DR. DARRYL FRIESEN

By Christina Hutton

Dr. Darryl Friesen's presentation in this hybrid (online/in person) workshop focused on how to cultivate performance preparedness, consistency, and confidence in our students. He outlined five specific ways we can direct student's practice so that preparedness and practice are organically interwoven from the start.

1. We should avoid practicing with mindless repetitions or in "auto-pilot" as it often ultimately permeates performance and is neither intentional nor self-evaluative.
2. Practice with different types of memory in mind. Are students using less reliable types of memory like natural/intuitive or physical/muscle memory? Instead, it is best to guide students to develop analytical memory (seek to understand the music), rhythmic or phrasing memory (as the music "gets into our body"), and visual memory of the score and the keyboard.
3. Practicing isolated sections must be balanced with intentional non-stop run-throughs.
4. Help the students understand the difference between perfectionism and focus, remembering that our goals for performance and practice should be the same. Perfectionism often forsakes artistry to avoid mistakes, whereas focus is about concentrating and comprehending the music so we may execute and communicate well. Franz Liszt stated, "Think ten times and play once."
5. Treat mistakes with intention and seek to understand if they stem from lack of practicing, lack of understanding or lack of focus.

Dr. Friesen also shared many practical ways we can prepare our students for performance:

- Record yourself, then listen and review analytically and critically with objectivity, just as they do in the sports psychology field.
- Hear with new ears (throw things upside down with intentional changes to the music).
- Add complexity.
- Avoid over-practicing.
- Test student's focus (example: noises, staring at student, eyes closed, metronome etc.).
- Listen and watch recordings of different ensembles, structures, mediums, styles, performers.
- Coach on stage deportment, etiquette etc.
- Practice performing. Example: for family, at senior centers, live broadcast etc.



Tiffany A. Wilson & Dr. Friesen
Workshop 2022

This workshop presentation inspired us and gave all those in attendance something to immediately implement into our teaching, day-to-day practice, and performance! Dr. Friesen, thank you for sharing your expertise with us so generously, eloquently and enthusiastically.

A close-up photograph of a violin, showing its body, f-hole, and strings. The violin is positioned diagonally across the frame. In the top left corner, there are green pine branches with red berries and red Christmas ornaments. The background is dark and textured.

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GOLDEN WEST

2022 RCM TEACHER OF DISTINCTION AWARD

Barbara Cornish



What a delightful to receive an email from Dr. Janet Lipinski (RCM) saying I had been selected for recognition as a "Teacher of Distinction." Many of the dreams I had as a youngster have been fulfilled. One of the most exciting days of my life was when at the age of 10 my parents decided there was money for piano lessons! After that first year of lessons, I competed at Level 5 piano in a local festival. When I was 12, I competed at Level 6, and served as one of the pianists at our small local church. That year, a new family in the community requested I teach piano to their 3 daughters. The next year I had a few more requests. Thirty-five cents a lesson! During high school, I was invited to use the school facilities to teach lessons after school. And thus it began. I knew what I wanted in life! After a few more festival experiences, I knew I wanted to be an adjudicator!

The RCM has been part of my experience as a young student and as a teacher. I want to express appreciation for making 2022 Celebration Series, Sixth Edition piano books available to teachers for free. Thank you for sharing the "Music Lights the Way" concert. The current level-by-level guide webinars are interesting and beneficial.

For many years I had the privilege of teaching in two post secondary colleges. Presently I teach Piano, Piano Pedagogy and Harmony in my home. It is exciting when students receive medals or win competitions. I am also proud of the student who will never win a medal, but who continues to strive towards excellence and accomplishes goals. It is always a joy to hear from former students who are now teaching and/or making wonderful contributions in their respective communities.

I want to acknowledge a few exceptional teachers who played a significant role in my development as a student and teacher. Thank you to Mrs. Gertrude Greaves who pushed me in Harmony lessons when I did my assignments "by ear". I remember her saying, "Barbara, one day you are going to teach this. You need to understand – not only hear it in your head!" Thank you to Walter Thiessen, Dr. Lyell Gustin, and Thomas Manshardt for excellent guidance and teaching.

Thank you to my parents, my husband David and family, and to many students who have enriched my life!





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MEET OUR VICE-PRESIDENT

Maureen Baird

This issue, we would like to get to know more about Maureen Baird, our Vice-President. Currently, Maureen resides in Melita and teaches piano and woodwinds in both Melita and Brandon in the South West Manitoba Region



Rachel Dueck: Welcome, Maureen. We are so excited to get to know you and work with you! As a start, could you tell us your musical journey?

Maureen Baird: *Originally from Swan River, I began my university studies as an instrumental, piano and choral major at Dickinson State University in North Dakota. After teaching band for two years I continued my studies at the University of Northern Colorado where I received my M.Mus. Ed. I was subsequently employed as a band teacher in the Tuxedo/Charleswood area of Winnipeg and then in Melita MB until I retired in June of 2022. While raising 3 children, I established a studio and continue to teach piano and instrumental students, examine for RCM and have now added a part day at the Eckhardt Gramatte Conservatory in Brandon.*

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

MB: *As a rural music teacher, I have had the privilege to teach in many musical areas: piano, voice, school band, jazz band, choir and elementary music. I have been inspired by talented teachers throughout Manitoba who work hard to provide the best opportunities they can make available to their local students and their families.*

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

MB: *The NIKE motto always rings true for me- "Just Do It." Everything is worth a try if you work hard and are willing to learn from your mistakes. Continue to move forward and take every opportunity that comes your way.*

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

MB: *I love to spend time with my family doing the things we all love to do; downhill skiing, swimming and boating.*

RD: If you didn't choose your career in music, what career would you have chosen and why?

MB: *I have always been interested in animals and their well-being, particularly marine animals. My second career choice would have been to become a marine biologist.*

RD: What is your family tradition for Christmas?

MB: *I have played the music for our local United Church ever since our children were small so traditionally our Christmas has involved my playing at the Christmas Eve Service with the family in attendance then a quiet evening together. Christmas Day has become a day of food, gift giving, relaxation and games with my family.*

RD: Could you share your vision for MRMTA, as a vice president?

MB: *I would like to help the MRMTA create more connections between experienced teachers, students who are pursuing music teaching careers and music teachers, both rural and urban who have young students and are looking for professional development or ways to enhance the experiences they can provide for their studio. It would also be great to see more instrumental teachers involved in the MRMTA so that individualized instruction and performance opportunities for young instrumentalists is more widely available to the many talented students who are unaware of their own potential.*

RD: Thank you so much!



M.R.M.T.A. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This award will be given to a deserving teacher who wishes to attend the CFMTA National Conference. It is intended to encourage our RMT's to further their continuing education as professional music teachers. Applicants will be actively involved with MRMTA programmes and involve their students in several annual events both provincially and nationally to qualify. This should ideally be their first time attending the national conference

Amount and Deadlines

Each year, the MRMTA will grant one award amounting to the cost of the registration fee to the conference. The value of this award is around \$500 and will be paid directly to the conference registrar. It is meant to assist the recipient in their participation at the national conference.

Annual Deadline: April 1.

Qualifications

1. Serve on the executive committee or on a provincial branch committee or volunteer at 2 or more events in one year.
2. Participate personally or enroll students in at least one provincial programme in the past year, such as: Canada Music Week concert, perform at Serata: An Evening of Musical Delights, attend the Annual General Meeting, Musicthon, etc.
3. Participate personally or enroll students in at least one national programme, in the past year such as the CFMTA E-Festival, Composition Competition, national competitions or serve on a CFMTA committee.

Application Guidelines and How to Apply

In order to be eligible for this award, the applicant must be a full member of the MRMTA. Applications must be sent to the Chairperson of the Serata Committee and include a 300/500-word essay explaining why they should attend the conference and the benefits of this opportunity for their teaching career. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate a willingness to replicate their learning in the home studio or in a workshop setting.

Every application must include:

1. Full name and position on executive or committee (if applicable)
2. Home address, email and phone number
3. Essay of 300 – 500 words
4. Information to support qualifications 1 and 2 (which will include a minimum of 4 programs in which you or your students participated if you are not serving on a committee.)

Selection Process

Each application will be reviewed by a committee which will then announce the award winner at Serata: An Evening of Musical Delights. This fundraising concert happens annually on the first Sunday evening of May. Applicants must be present to receive the award to avoid forfeiting the prize. In the case of non-attendance, the award will be given to the runner-up. In the event of no applications, or no recipients, the prize will remain in the fundraising account for the following year's selection process.

Reporting

Acceptance of the MRMTA Professional Development Award requires the applicant to attend the next CFMTA Conference. Recipients are later required to submit a brief summative report (no more than 200/400 words) detailing the professional development classes, workshops etc. attended and how they intend to implement what they've learned in the home studio. This may be featured in our Take Note magazine.

Email application to: tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Tiffany A. Wilson, Chairperson: Serata: An Evening of Musical Delights

mrmta.org

BRANDON & WESTMAN BRANCH

By Everett Hopfner

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

We enjoyed hosting pianist Jerry Hu in the Young Artist Series on September 22 at the Whitewater Mennonite Church in Boissevain, Manitoba. We had a terrific turnout from the community, with over 80 in attendance. The audience included dozens of young music students who were thrilled and inspired to hear such a dynamic performer.

Our Branch continues to organize a series of pedagogy talks during the last Friday of each month. 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.

We are also looking forward to our upcoming Canada Music Week Recital to be held on November 25th. This year, we look forward to an in person and live streamed event after two years of fully-online recitals. We are pleased to welcome pianist, song-writer and composer Theresa Thordarson to lead workshops on creative music making with local students.

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.



*" The merry family gatherings -
The old, the very young;
The strangely lovely way they
Harmonize in carols sung. . . "*

- Helen Lowrie Marshall

MRMTA REGISTRAR REPORT

By John Himes

Registrar's Update on Membership

As of November 15th, 2022, there are 145 MRMTA members.

126 Full members

8 Retired members

4 Honorary Life members

2 Auxiliary members

5 Student members

In Memoriam

The MRMTA Executive recently learned of the August 2022 passing of retired member **Leona Sorensen**, who joined our association in 1959. Leona had been living in British Columbia for a number of years and subscribed to Take Note to keep up with MRMTA events. Joining MRMTA in 1959, Leona remained a member for 63 years!

Our condolences to Leona's family and friends.

eNews

Please check your emails for MRMTA's biweekly eNews, which is our regular communique with members.

In Closing

My first several months with MRMTA have been exciting. I've learned much about serving the membership, and musical community at large, in an administrative role. Members, please continue to let me know how I can assist you.

The MRMTA Mission Statement

"We are a municipal organization that provides leadership in music education across Manitoba. We promote and support high standards of education among our members."

"Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association (MRMTA) is an organization committed to ensuring the highest calibre of music education possible and to promote high standards of music in each community."

"To be a member of the Association, one must hold a degree or diploma from a recognized university or conservatory or meet the necessary qualifications set down by the MRMTA, thus ensuring a high level of training and a commitment to professionalism."

"The Registered Music Teachers' Association is a Canada-wide federation of private music teachers encompassing ten provinces and the Yukon Territory, with over 3,200 members. A Registered Music Teacher is a member of the provincial association, which is affiliated with the national association (Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Association, CFMTA)."

Teacher and Studio Policy

- MRMTA members are independent teachers and studio owners. They set their own policies in order to provide high quality music education, ensure personal safety, and follow public health guidelines and recommendations.
- The Association understands the many unique challenges facing its members during the course of the pandemic.
- MRMTA members are strongly encouraged to stay informed about local and regional allowances when establishing protocols and appropriate business procedures for their studio.



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A Letter from the Editor

Merry Christmas & Happy New year!

This September and October, the Young Artist Western tour finally happened in person. How exciting! This issue covered the reviews of the concerts in Boissevain and Winnipeg. Also, many MRMTA events accommodated both online and in person participants, such as the past workshop with Dr. Friesen and the celebrations of Canada Music Week®.

There will be much more to come in 2023 - Masterclasses, Musicthon, Serata and the CFMTA Conference! For those wonderful events, we surely need your involvement, MRMTA members!!!

Hopefully, this issue provides some valuable information to help you plan a more fruitful 2023 ahead.

Musically yours,

Rachel

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