

VOLUME 20 - ISSUE 3  
SPRING - MAY 2023



# Take

# Note...

[mrmta.org](http://mrmta.org)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### Announcements

- MRMTA National Competitors
- Scholarship Winners

### Events in Review

- Masterclasses  
with Faculty of Music at U of M
- Musicthon

### Afternoon Tea with Take Note

- Meet Allison Phipps -MacNeish

and more.....

MANITOBA REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



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



# Teachers Never Stop Learning

Our flexible RCM Piano Teacher Courses will fit into your schedule and prepare you for teaching elementary, intermediate, and advanced piano students.

Thousands of teachers worldwide have chosen The RCM for their professional development, and now our most popular course features the acclaimed *Celebration Series®*, Sixth Edition content.

## Why take an RCM Piano Teacher Course?

1. Create or expand your portfolio
2. Learn techniques for teaching students at all levels
3. Invigorate your lesson plans with new approaches
4. Connect with like-minded teachers around the world
5. Learn from master teachers

**Summer Session 2023:** June 7 – August 16, 2023

**Registration Deadline:** May 31, 2023

**Register Today!** [rcmusic.com/PianoTeacherCourses](https://rcmusic.com/PianoTeacherCourses)





## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

*Take Note* is the official journal of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association, and is published three times a year.

Next Issue: **Fall - September 2023**

Submission Deadlines:

**Advertisement - August 1, 2023**

**Articles - August 15, 2023**

### Advertising rates:

Back Cover \$ 90.00

~~Inside Cover \$ 90.00~~ Sold until further notice

Full Page \$ 72.00

Two Thirds Page \$ 54.00

Half Page \$ 42.00

Third Page \$ 30.00

Quarter Page \$ 24.00

Business Card \$ 18.00

### Circulation: 200

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

For more info, please visit [mrmta.org](http://mrmta.org) or send all advertising inquiries to the editor: [editor@mrmta.org](mailto:editor@mrmta.org)



Any material included with this magazine does not necessarily have the endorsement or approval of the Provincial Executive. It is included as a courtesy to our members. Not one word of this magazine may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

For a print copy of the magazine:

Please indicate your subscription on the membership renewal form;

Or contact Registrar ([registrar@mrmta.org](mailto:registrar@mrmta.org)) or Editor ([editor@mrmta.org](mailto:editor@mrmta.org)) to order the subscription.

- Fee: \$24/year (3 issues); \$8/single issue

**\*\*Cover Photo by Carla Buelow Photography**

## Contents

### 5 President's Message

### 7 MRMTA Event Calendar 2022/2023

### 9 MRMTA Executive 2022/2023

### 10 Announcements

Call for Nominations

The 104th AGM

CFMTA National Competition

MRMTA Representatives

Scholarship Award Winners

Paper Scholarships

Performance Scholarships

### 13 Update

2023 Student Composer Competition

### 15 Events in Review

MRMTA Masterclasses with Faculty of Music at U of M  
Musicthon 2023

### 20 Afternoon Tea with Take Note

Allison Phipps-MacNeish

### 21 Members' Zone

Ben Kehler Tribute

From the Registrar

### 22 Our Advertisers

A Letter from the Editor

► IN PERSON & ONLINE *Hybrid Event*

# National Conference July 5-7, Edmonton, AB



## Gala Concert & Reception

An exciting evening filled with:

- African Drumming
- Indigenous Dancers
- Nepalese Music
- Vocal Minority Choir
- German & Latin Dance
- French-Canadian Dance
- Piano, Voice & Violin



**7pm Wednesday, July 5**

## Strings Masterclass

Challenges in the  
Practice Room & On Stage

## Workshop

Optimizing Focus for  
Peak Performance

**Noa  
Kageyama**  
The Bulletproof  
Musician



## Keynote Lunch

From Anxious to Excited: A 3-Part Technique to  
Facilitate More Positive Performance Experiences

**Hybrid  
Events**  
30 day access  
on Whova

**Albertiad  
All Lunches  
All Receptions  
Piano Competition  
Voice Competition  
All Hybrid Events**

**In-Person  
Events**

# Register Today

**cfmta2023.ca**

*Register early to save!*

**Gala Concert  
24 Sessions  
4 Workshops  
Keynote Speaker  
Piano Masterclass  
Voice Masterclass  
Strings Masterclass  
CFMTA Info Meeting**

*Everyone welcome! Bring instruments!*



## National Competitions

Watch competitors from  
across Canada compete  
for thousands of dollars  
in prize money.

**Piano**

**Voice**







**H**as Spring actually arrived? We hope that this Spring will continue to move us through post pandemic into a new normal and that the sight of Canada Geese truly signals the end of snow. It has been a struggle for everyone but I am encouraged to say that music

teachers have weathered the storm of online lessons and alternate modes of instruction and have come out the other end. Although we transitioned into traditional teaching and performance one year ago, we lost a chunk of time which has no doubt set back skill levels for many students and enthusiasm to participate for many families. This fall and winter have been proof of the resilience of all types of Manitoba music teachers who are doggedly bringing back programs we thought we may have lost. Student participation continues to grow as we see rising interest in traditional spring programming sponsored by the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association.

There have been many changes for MRMTA since Christmas as our president Ann Germani, who took over the position last fall, had to step down due to personal reasons. As vice-president, I was automatically transitioned into the chair position. Ann's enthusiasm and forward thinking started a trajectory which I hope to be able to continue. The organization thanks Ann for her many hours of service, wishes her family the best and looks forward to seeing her back as an active member in the near future.

This year has certainly taken a turn for me as I retired from public school music (band and general music) last spring to further build on and work with my private piano and instrumental students in SW Manitoba. I began the fall of 2022 hoping to learn the organizational ropes and to assist the MRMTA executive navigate ways to support Manitoba's private music teachers in all areas: piano, voice, strings and winds. I have been

excited to meet many young teachers and experienced teachers with enthusiasm and progressive thinking who will be able to bring the support of the MRMTA to all areas of Manitoba. In the short time of my direct involvement I see the varied ways that we can bring increased performance opportunity, financial support, shared teaching ideas and mentoring to both teachers and students. Our mission now is to find ways to best utilize the skills of our membership and to make these accessible to teachers and students throughout the province.

We look forward this summer to the Canadian Federation of Music Teacher's Assoc. National Conference in Edmonton, July 5 - 7 and are excited to have two young students from Manitoba take part in the National Performance Competition. We wish the best to Sonia Campbell – vocal (teacher - Tracy Dahl) and Raymond Ding – piano (teacher – Shirley Elias). With several MRMTA delegates able to attend the conference, we aim to bring back both ideas and enthusiasm to our membership. One great advantage the pandemic has provided is a link – if you can't make it to Edmonton you can still participate in much of the conference online. Visit <https://cfmta2023.ca/register/> for more details.

Thanks are extended to committee and event chairs as well as volunteers for all the work required to ensure continued MRMTA programming this year. A personal thank you to Evangeline Keeley (past president) and John Himes (office administrator) for their many hours of work and support as together we navigated the changes this spring.

We have a lot to look forward to as we do shape our new normal. Things may not be the same but change can be good. Stay positive, take part and let the MRMTA support you and your students. Hope to see you all on June 25th at our AGM.

**Maureen Baird**  
President, MRMTA





Define your space  
Make your music

[BrandonU.ca/Music](https://brandonu.ca/music)







# IMPORTANT DATES 2022/2023

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Sunday, May 7 <sup>th</sup> , 7pm	<b>SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>St. Andrew's River Heights United Church</li> </ul>	Tiffany A. Wilson 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Sunday, May 14 <sup>th</sup> Early Bird Deadline	MRMTA <b>Membership Renewal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw for Thermea Gift Card</li> </ul>	John Himes registrar@mrmta.org
Monday, May 15 <sup>th</sup> 10:00 am	<b>Executive Meeting</b> (online)	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Thursday, June 1 <sup>st</sup> Deadline	MRMTA <b>Membership Renewal</b>	John Himes registrar@mrmta.org
Sunday, June 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>104<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b></li> </ul>	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Tuesday, August 15 <sup>th</sup> Deadline for Submissions	Deadline for submissions <b>Take Note Magazine</b> - 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!

**mrmta**  
MANITOBA  
REGISTERED  
MUSIC  
TEACHERS'  
ASSOCIATION

*Serata*  
AN EVENING OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7PM**

St. Andrew's  
River Heights United Church  
255 Oak St. Winnipeg, MB

Join our annual National Conference  
Fundraiser and enjoy MRMTA Teachers  
performing an evening of musical  
selections hosted by Muriel Smith.

Concert details at [mrmta.org](http://mrmta.org)

WINNIPEG'S CLASSIC 107

**St. John's Music**  
We believe in music!



*“We have been purchasing Yamaha pianos for over twenty years.  
The tone, touch, and consistency of Yamaha pianos have made  
them the first choice of The Royal Conservatory.”*

Dr. Peter Simon  
President, The Royal Conservatory

**CX** SERIES

SILENT *Piano*™







# MRMTA EXECUTIVE 2022/2023

## PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

### PRESIDENT

Maureen Baird  
president@mrmta.org

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Vacant  
vicepresident@mrmta.org

### PAST PRESIDENT

Evangeline Keeley  
egkeeley@gmail.com

### OFFICE

#### ADMINISTRATOR

John Himes  
registrar@mrmta.org  
treasurer@mrmta.org

### STUDENT

#### PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

Stephen Haiko-Pena  
MRMTAcommunityservice  
@outlook.com

### MEMBER

#### PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR

Vacant  
studentmembers@mrmta.org

#### EVENTS/SOCIAL COORDINATOR

Rachel Dueck  
MRMTAevents@gmail.com

### MEMBER AT LARGE

Laura Liu  
lauraliu9499@gmail.com

### MEMBER AT LARGE

Christian Hutton  
pianostudio.christina@gmail.com

#### BRANDON/WESTMAN BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE

Everett Hopfner  
everett@everetthopfner.com

#### SOUTHERN MB BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE (INTERIM)

Rosemary Klaassen

#### PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIR

Norinne Danzinger-Dueck  
scholarships@mrmta.org

#### STUDENTS GROUP

Vacant  
studentmembers@mrmta.org

#### WEBSITE

Bernadette Geras  
bgpianostudio@mtsmail.ca

#### PAPER SCHOLARSHIPS

Linda De Pauw  
elwiwski@shaw.ca

#### YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION COORDINATOR

Virginia Heinrichs  
dongin@mts.net

#### YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION (TOUR)

Rachel Dueck  
piano.with.rachel@gmail.com

#### ARCHIVES

Muriel Smith  
muriel.smith58@gmail.com

#### CFMTA STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION/ CANADA MUSIC WEEK®

Melissa Gingrich  
gingrich.melissa@ymail.com

#### EDITOR-TAKE NOTE

Rachel Dueck  
editor@mrmta.org

#### PHONE

Sister Josephine Chudzik  
joschudzik@mts.net

#### MUSICTHON

Christina Hutton  
mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com

#### SERATA

Tiffany A. Wilson  
tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com

## BRANCH EXECUTIVES

### BRANDON/WESTMAN

#### PRESIDENT

Dianna Neufeld  
diannaneufeld22@gmail.com

#### VICE-PRESIDENT

Everett Hopfner  
everett@everetthopfner.com

#### SECRETARY

Maureen Baird  
bairdbam@mymts.net

#### TREASURER

Lara Mason  
mason4@mymts.net

### SOUTHERN MANITOBA

#### PRESIDENT (INTERIM)

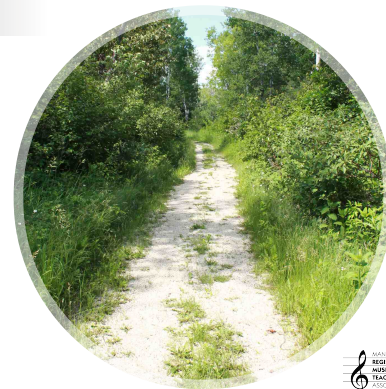
Rosemary Klaassen

#### SECRETARY

Loren Hiebert

#### TREASURER

Andy Huisman



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

If you enjoy Full Membership in the MRMTA, perhaps you are ready for a more active role. A number of positions are available through which members can serve this fine association! If someone contacts you, please consider how you may further contribute to the MRMTA.

Or, feel free to contact Maureen directly.

The following positions are to be elected at the MRMTA's 104th Annual General Meeting which will be held online, Sunday, June 25th, beginning at 2:00pm. All are 2 year positions.

### - Vice President

This position will be voted on at the AGM, with the expectation that the elected member will move into the position of President (two years), then Past President (two years).

- Members Programming Coordinator
- Student Programming Coordinator
- Events Social Coordinator
- Member at Large
- Member at Large

Nominations for any of these positions can come directly from the membership and must be made in writing (or from the floor at the AGM on June 25th) with the nominee's consent. Please note: nominees must be Full MRMTA members.

The duties and responsibilities of each position are described in the MRMTA By-Laws found on our website.

\*\*\*\* The Chair of the Performance Scholarship Competition is also vacant. This is an appointed position, not elected. Any suggestions for this position would be welcome.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding any positions please contact:

Maureen Baird, MRMTA President: [president@mrmta.org](mailto:president@mrmta.org)



## Have you Moved? Changing Emails?

To ensure your *Take Note Magazine* is delivered, please update your **email address & mailing address** with our **Provincial Registrar**.

[registrar@mrmta.org](mailto:registrar@mrmta.org)

Thank you!!



## THE 104TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association Annual General Meeting

Sunday June 25th, 2pm

Online & Possible in-person meeting for Winnipeg members  
Link and reminder to be sent to all members prior to the meeting

## CFMTA NATIONAL COMPETITION COMPETITORS!

### - MANITOBA REPRESENTATIVES

By Evangeline Keeley

Every two years the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA) holds a conference. Part of the schedule is dedicated to a national competition. Each province, the Yukon and Northwest Territories may send a competitor as members of the Federation. Edmonton, Alberta is the location for the July 6th and 7th competitions – one for pianists, and one for vocalists. MRMTA is sending Sonia Campbell and Raymond Ding to compete.

**Sonia Campbell** is a vocalist studying with Tracy Dahl and Monica Huisman. She has previously studied with Miriam Khalil and John Tessier. When asked what she was most looking forward to in July, Sonia responded, "I am excited to share music that I am passionate about, including one piece by Manitoba born composer, Jocelyn Morlock. I am also looking forward to connecting with and enjoying the performances of fellow musicians from across Canada!"



Pianist **Raymond Ding** is currently studying with Shirley Elias. His previous teacher was Jane Petroni. "I am looking forward to this new and exciting adventure", Raymond says about competing in Edmonton. He continues, "It is my honour to represent Manitoba this year and I can assure you that I will do my absolute best to represent it well. This would be such a great opportunity for me to learn from other pianists and adjudicators. I can't wait until July; it's going to be awesome!"



Plan now to attend the conference in Edmonton (July 5 – 7) and support Manitoba's competitors.  
Good luck Sonia and Raymond!



## CONGRATULATIONS, 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!!!

### MRMTA PAPER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

By Linda De Pauw

The Paper Scholarship Committee was very impressed by the level of accomplishment and the notable achievements of all the applicants. It is a great privilege to be able to recognise these hard working students with the awards available to MRMTA through the generosity of the donors. Congratulations to all students and their teachers.

#### JUDITH RITCHIE MEMORIAL MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

*Juliana West* (Valdine Anderson)

#### HARRY ROWLIN STRING AWARD

*Xiaomo Xu* (Annette Hay)

#### MADELEINE GAUVIN STRING SCHOLARSHIP

*Lynnea Unger* (Andrea Bell)

#### GRACE RICH-BASTIN KEYBOARD AWARD

*Raymond Ding* (Shirley Elias)

#### NITA EAMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Marek Song* (Jacqueline Ryz)

*Eric Wang* (Jane Petroni)

#### DOROTHY LOTHER SCHOLARSHIP

*Anica Warkentine* (Darryl Friesen)

#### MARIAN NELSON MEMORIAL PIANO PEDAGOGY AWARD

*Evelyne Hluszok* (Caron Hare)



## MRMTA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

By Norinne Danzinger-Dueck

Scholarships were in person at Sterling Mennonite Fellowship January 30th through to February 4th. The following were the adjudicators for this event: *Leanne Regehr Lee* - Advanced piano, *Michelle Mourre* - Junior, Intermediate, Senior Piano, *Andrea Lett* - Vocal, and *Oleg Prokanhovski* - Instrumental. We were privileged to have many talented performers in the various levels making adjudicating and choosing a winner difficult. The winners of each category are as follows:

#### Vocal

Junior: *Amélie Tétrault* (Elizabeth Rotoff)

Runner up: *Abigail Ferencz* (Tiffany Wilson)

Intermediate: *Charlton Turcotte* (Tiffany Wilson)

Runner up: *Amélie Tétrault* (Tiffany Wilson)

Senior: *Alice Jasmine Wallacer* (Valdine Anderson)

Advanced: *Sonia Campbell* (Tracy Dahl)

Runner up: *Isabel Friesen* (Valdine Anderson)





## MRMTA PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS - CONT'D

## Piano

Junior: **Rena Wu** (Darryl Friesen)

Runner up: **Favour Adeline** (Jane Petroni)

Intermediate: **Joshua Han** (Jane Petroni)

Runner up: **Lenna Wang** (Darryl Friesen)

Senior: **Marek Song** (Jacqueline Ryz)

Runner up: **Yifei Sun** (Jane Petroni)

Advanced: **Raymond Ding** (Shirley Elias)

## Instrumental

Junior: **Rockford Grant** (Andrea Bell)

Runner up: **Sigrid Tolton** (Laurel Howard)

Intermediate: **Jenny Xu** (Annette Hay)

Runner up: **Clara Pauls** (Laurel Howard)

**Raymond Ding** and **Sonia Campbell** will represent Manitoba in the National Competitions in Edmonton.

Thank you to the following volunteers for their time during the scholarship: **Tracey Sawatzky, Andrea Bell, Laurel Howard, Margot Harding, Darryl Friesen, Stephen Haiko-Pena, Evangeline Keeley, Tetyana Rodinova, Caron Hare, Leanne Lee, and Jane Petroni.** This is my last year as Performance Scholarship Convenor. It has been a good experience, many learning curves (especially throwing Covid

into the mix for two years) but after 7 or so years, I feel it's time to move on and have someone else share their expertise. The MRMTA is still looking for a convenor for next year so if you're interested, please contact me at [mrmtascholarships@gmail.com](mailto:mrmtascholarships@gmail.com) and we can discuss the role. Thank you to all the volunteers, especially to Margot and Laurel and the executive for their help and guidance.



## UPDATE - THE STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION

By Melissa Gingrich

We have another wonderful showing of student compositions submitted to our provincial level of the Student Composer Competition. With 15 entries in the 11 and under, 15 and under, 19 and under and Open categories, there are works for piano, flute, and small ensemble! A huge amount of work goes into preparing these pieces and notating them. I want to congratulate each student on a job well done and thank each teacher for the great

deal of support that goes into this. I think it's a marvelous learning tool and a huge display of support to these young musicians. But as you know, this is a competition, and the scores are now in the hands of our 2023 adjudicator Lorna Paterson.

Lorna is a well-known composer of music for student musicians and has multiple books of music published through Frederick Harris Music Co. Ltd. Her pieces belong to the curricula of multiple music conservatory syllabi.



She is an active teacher, clinician, and examiner with even more publications under way. She has a keen understanding of what a young musician can produce and will undoubtedly draw more out of the contestants with encouraging adjudications. Learn more at [www.lornapaterson.com](http://www.lornapaterson.com). Students will be receiving their adjudications by email in late May and winners and honourable mentions for each category will be posted to our website shortly thereafter. Best of luck to our young composers who will advance to the National Level in June.





myc  
music for young children

makes teaching **FUN** for me!

**Music for Young Children®** is the only child-centered music-learning system that integrates keyboard, creative movement, rhythm, and singing, ear training, sight reading, music theory and composition. MYC is ideal for teachers who meet specific piano-performance and music-theory qualifications, and are energetic, enthusiastic and passionate about music.

**Teaching opportunities available!**

Contact our International Head Office

[Olivia@myc.com](mailto:Olivia@myc.com)  
1-800-561-1myc

Follow us on:



myc.com 

## MRMTA MASTERCLASSES WITH FACULTY OF MUSIC AT U OF MANITOBA

### Piano Masterclass with Dr. Moroz

*By Christina Hutton*



It was wonderful to meet in person for our annual U of M Masterclass. Dr. David Moroz, along with each of the talented hard-working students, provided us all with an extraordinary learning opportunity, for which we were very grateful.

Petr Malyshev (student of Tetyana Novytska) opened our afternoon of music with an expressive performance of Chopin's "Nocturne in E-flat Major op. 9 no. 2". Dr. Moroz taught and demonstrated how to evoke the multidimensional sound of Chopin's works, working with Petr to shape and preserve the bass line and allow it to develop its own identity which in turn helped anchor the middle voices and melody. A quote by Chopin, "The pedal is the soul of the piano," served as reminder to take extra care with discreet pedalling.

We were graced by performances of two pieces by Canadian composer David McIntyre. Evelyne Hluszok (student of Caron Hare) embarked on a big challenge by performing "Bobcats and Butterflies," a piece originally composed for a piano competition, and, according to Dr. Moroz, intended for "pianistic athletes." He emphasized the need to refer to other performances for inspiration, follow all markings as indicated by the composer and to play in many

different settings in the lead up to a major performance.

The second David McIntyre piece "A Wild Innocence" was enthusiastically performed by Raymond Ding (student of Shirley Elias). Dr. Moroz followed up Raymond's performance with many insights to consider, including how hesitation or "breathing" may sometimes impede forward momentum, practical tips on using the sostenuto pedal, and also the importance of finding focus and showing the audience "the most important things, not everything," which in turn provides a more comprehensible performance.

Anna-Lucia Shevchenko's (student of Yaroslava Shevchenko) passionate grandiose performance of Ernesto Lecuona's "Malaguena" brought to the forefront the importance of pacing the speed and volume, with instruction from Dr. Moroz on ways to build and save the "wildness" for the very end of the piece as is typical of Spanish music.

We left inspired and challenged, with new ideas for tackling practice, performance and also teaching. Thank you Dr. Moroz and students!

### Vocal Masterclass with Prof. Braun and Dr. Loewen

*By Linda De Pauw*



*Wilson*, head of voice for many years at the Randolph Academy of Performing Arts in Toronto.

The vocal masterclass was facilitated by U of M faculty members Dr. Laura Loewen and Professor Mel Braun. They were joined by their colleague, *Mark*



A close-up photograph of a violin and several pink peonies. The violin is positioned diagonally across the frame, with its body and f-hole visible. The peonies are in full bloom, with many layers of pink petals. The background is a wooden surface.

WINNIPEG'S  
**CLASSIC 107**

THE SOUNDTRACK TO  
**YOUR LIFE**

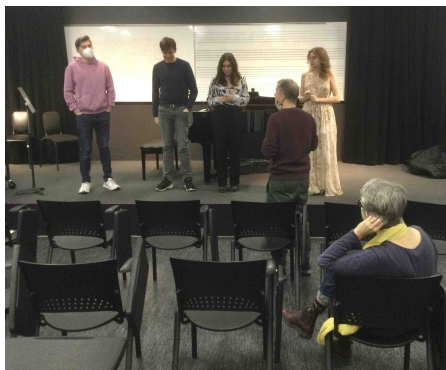
**GOLDEN WEST**

## **MRMTA MASTERCLASSES**

### **WITH FACULTY OF MUSIC AT U OF MANITOBA - CONT'D**

There were four participants and the class began with the singers performing their selections. The repertoire encompassed music from the baroque through Musical Theatre and included songs in French and German. The students were then invited to the stage where Prof. Braun worked with them on breathing techniques and on finding more space in their vowels.

Together Laura, Mel and Mark helped students examine text in more detail and showed how this helped with the intention of the phrase and enabled them to give more meaning and depth to the interpretation.



One teacher who attended the Masterclass had the following comments:

*"Over the past years I've found it a very valuable event for three reasons:*

*-a performance opportunity for my higher level students*

*-a chance for them to network and meet U of M profs (especially for potential Desautels students)*

*-an opportunity for my own professional development as I watch Mel, Laura, and Mark work with young singers.*

*It has become a highlight in my teaching year."*

### **Flute Masterclass with Ms. Roberts and Ms. Ridd**

*By Lori Jede*

The audience in the flute masterclass was treated to four beautiful flute performances by Vanessa, Phil, Amy and Holly. The teaching that followed from Layla and Laurel was brilliant as always! They focused on tips such as sending continuous wind throughout fast finger passages; finger movement is about accuracy, not speed; crescendos can be thought of as increased intensity rather than bigger sound; we should strive to be overly dramatic and discover various characters within each piece. Another focus was on releasing tension in our bodies by stacking our vertebrae and positioning our head to rest on top of an aligned spine.

We learned so much that we have been integrating into our practice habits and look forward to next year's event!

### **Violin Masterclass with Prof. Pokhanovski**

*By Tianhao Wang*

I recently had the privilege of hosting a masterclass led by an exceptional teacher and performer, Dr. Oleg Pokhanovski. The masterclass was attended by a number of intermediate to advanced students, and everyone was able to come away with valuable insights towards their performances. Dr. Pokhanovski was able to understand each individual student's challenges, thereby tailoring his advice and feedback in order to create the best personalized approach towards improvement. Overall, the masterclass was a great success, and we are grateful for the opportunity to host such an amazing and accomplished instructor.



# Make Progress Every Day



RCM Online *Ear Training & Sight Reading* supports piano students during lessons and at home as they develop their musicianship skills. This resource provides an interactive approach that includes:

- ✓ Twelve\* engaging levels of study, from preparatory to advanced
- ✓ More than 1,000 rhythm-reading and sight-playing excerpts accompanied by audio recordings
- ✓ A self-assessment option to track progress
- ✓ Effective examination preparation

Subscribe today!

[rcmusic.com/EarTraining-SightReading](https://rcmusic.com/EarTraining-SightReading)

\* Levels Prep A & B and Levels 9 & 10 will launch in Summer 2023



## 2023 MUSICTHON: "KIDS HELPING KIDS"

By Christina Hutton

Kildonan Place Shopping Center was humming with positive energy as we gathered for the much-anticipated LIVE Musicthon event after two years virtual. The music kept going for most of the weekend March 4 - 5, with a wonderful variety of instruments, levels and ages represented by the 140 participating students. It was encouraging to see such interest from the public as student and teacher piano, violin, fiddle, flute and vocal performances drew their attention.

Thanks to many generous donations we raised a total of \$8,774.70, supporting a variety of music programs facilitated by United Way Winnipeg donor-funded agency partners across Winnipeg, such as: Rossbrook House, Maples Youth Activity Centre, Kildonan Youth Activity Center, Mood Disorders M.A.D. Camp (Music, Art and Drama), Graffiti Art Programming and West Broadway Youth Outreach. Since 1990 MRMTA has raised \$239,482.10 for children's music programs in Manitoba.

We thank Kildonan Place Shopping Center for providing us with such a lovely venue, St. John's Music for a beautiful grand piano, Long & McQuade for quality sound equipment and Classic 107 for support and promotion of Musicthon 2023. Thank you to all -140 students, 10 teachers, 6 volunteers, parents, friends, families and even passersby - who stepped up and made this event a great success!

Mark your calendars for next year's event: February 10-11, 2024. It will again be at Kildonan Place Shopping Center and partnering with United Way Winnipeg. Performance spot sign-up link will be available early September through E-news and Take Note, as we know this event fast approaches after the school winter holidays! This gives teachers ample time to prepare for and announce their February "Musicthon Recitals", invite festival students to have an extra pre-festival performance opportunity, or finally throw out information and invitations to any students in your studio who may want to participate in this unique give-back music event. Feel free to email me (Christina Hutton) at [mrmta.musicthon@gmail.com](mailto:mrmta.musicthon@gmail.com) if you have any further questions.



# Allison Phipps - MacNeish



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

**Allison Phipps-MacNeish:** *At 7 years old, I started my musical journey singing in the Assiniboine Youth Choir. Then came private piano and voice lessons at age 9 then I ventured to violin lessons as well as classical guitar. I was accepted into both piano and voice at the Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba, and I pursued vocal studies as singing truly brings me the most joy. I've since gone on to sing with a variety of professional Winnipeg groups including; Canzona, Camerata Nova, The Winnipeg Philharmonic, and The Winnipeg Singers. I now spend my days teaching private music lessons in music theory, guitar, piano, voice, and ukulele at my home studio, AMusicStudio for 8 years now, with a studio of roughly 55 students.*

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

**APM:** *It is difficult to pick just one as I've had the pleasure of working with so many talented musicians over the years. I think my first voice teacher, Joylynn Deeley, inspired me most not only as a young singer and student, but a teacher as well. I remember growing up in the Winnipeg Music Festival as a kid and noticed that not many teachers came to support their students. Joy was always in the audience at every class I ever competed in cheering me on. It is something that has stuck with me to this day. I always try to make it to my students' performances as their biggest fan and supporter, because I know how much it will mean to them in the future.*

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

**APM:** *My favourite life motto or saying would have to*

*be, "everything happens for a reason". One of my biggest supporters, my husband, has this phrase tattooed on his arm. As an over thinker and person who struggles with anxiety, this has become a calming phrase and staple in our household.*

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

**APM:** *One of the highlights of my time at the Desautels Faculty of Music was receiving a personal email from Mr. Desautels. He had come to watch our final Italian Diction Concert of which I was performing a complex piece by Verdi. Mr. Desautels reached out to me afterwards in an email with such kind and encouraging words about my voice and performance. This really motivated me moving forward and I will always remember it as one of my most outstanding performances.*

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

**APM:** *I can honestly say I can't see myself doing any career that doesn't involve music! If I had to, I'd probably just have chosen an office job as I love the organizational aspect.*

**RD:** What are your plans for this summer?

**APM:** *My husband and I are expecting our first child, a baby girl, this upcoming September 2023. I expect our summer to be full of excitement with baby planning, nursery decorating, a baby shower, and welcoming our little bundle of joy to the world!*

**RD:** Congratulations! Thank you so much!



## A TRIBUTE: BEN KEHLER

By Wes Hamm



Long time MRMTA member, **Ben Kehler**, passed away January 30, 2023. A farm boy from Altona, Ben became obsessed with the guitar at age ten, when a school teacher demonstrated techniques that went beyond the typical strumming style of the day. He hoed beets to earn the \$12 needed to buy a guitar from Simpson Sears.

Ben started out playing in country bands. As his interest grew, he studied music at the Banff School of Fine Arts, and at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto. Ben ultimately completed his ARCT, which included a pedagogy component. Ben Kehler was a pioneer, the first guitarist to become a member of the MRMTA. Ben's list of accomplishments are many: he recorded several albums; arranged and wrote music; served as treasurer of the Southern Branch of the MRMTA, and on the board of the Provincial Body. However, as one listens to the tributes of his students, it is clear that his most treasured legacy is alive in the hundreds of students who remember the gentle approach and wonderful sense of humour that accompanied Ben's love for music. Ben will be deeply missed by his family, his students, and the wider community of southern Manitoba.

More info at <https://www.pembinavalleyonline.com/articles/the-pembina-valley-says-good-bye-to-musical-legend---ben-kehl-er> & at <https://www.pembinavalleyonline.com/articles/long-time-guitar-teacher-recognized-with-tribute-evening>



## FROM THE REGISTRAR

By John Himes

### Registrar's Update on Membership

MRMTA will close its 2022-2023 year with 150 members.

131 Full members  
8 Retired members  
3 Honorary Life members  
2 Auxiliary members  
6 Student members

### Welcome

MRMTA welcomed several new members during the year: *Stephanie Superle, Rachel Colman, Shirley Elias,* and *Shoshana Goldenberg*. We look forward to your unique contributions to our community. Welcome!

### 2023-2024 Membership

Deadline for MRMTA membership renewal for the 2023-2024 year is **Thursday, June 1st**. The early-bird registration deadline is **Sunday, May 14th**. Those who register for renewal before Sunday, May 14th will be entered in a draw for a gift certificate to Thermea (to cover two Thermal Experiences). For membership fees please refer to our website at <https://www.mrmta.org/membership/>.

### In Memoriam

MRMTA is sad to learn of the passing of former member **Ben Kehler**. Ben was a guitar teacher for more than forty years in Southern Manitoba. He passed on January 30, 2023. Our condolences go out to Ben's family and friends.

I've enjoyed my first year with MRMTA and look forward to supporting the organization's members and their students in providing educational experiences next year (and perhaps many more). Members can always reach me at [registrar@mrmta.org](mailto:registrar@mrmta.org). See you at the AGM!





# Please support Our Advertisers

Brandon University .....	6
Canada Mennonite University .....	24
CFMTA/FCAPM Conference .....	4
Long & McQuade .....	23
Music For Young Children .....	14
The Royal Conservatory .....	2/ 18
Winnipeg's Classic 107 .....	16
Yamaha Canada .....	8



## A Letter from the Editor

*Hello everyone,*

*I cannot believe it is already May, and another academic year has gone. It is time to renew our membership! Don't forget – the due date is June 1st.*

*Congratulations to all scholarship winners! Since November, MRMTA has been busy to organize many opportunities. To provide quality events, we need YOU!*

*Please consider joining the executives. Many positions are vacant at the moment and this will be a great opportunity to be involved, and work with fellow teachers. This summer, we have the CFMTA conference in Edmonton. If you are interested in any professional development, this will be what you are looking for. The event is a hybrid event, so it gives an option to attend virtually or in-person. Personally, this summer, I am planning to attend several workshops, training sessions and a conference, along with on-going study. Exciting!*

*Wish you all a great summer!*

*Musically yours,* **Rachel**

# Where the Music Begins

SALES · RENTALS · REPAIRS · LESSONS

SERVING CANADA SINCE 1956 WITH 80 LOCATIONS NATIONALLY  
ONE OF THE LARGEST PRINT MUSIC DEPARTMENTS IN NORTH AMERICA  
THOUSANDS OF PRINT MUSIC TITLES TO SHOP ON OUR WEBSITE



1845 Pembina Highway  
204.284.8992

661 Wall Street  
204.783.6045

1074 Henderson Highway  
204.515.1116



**Long & McQuade**

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS 

l o n g - m c q u a d e . c o m





# Small University Big Opportunities

## CMU School of Music

Bachelor of Music | Bachelor of Arts (Music) | Bachelor of Music Therapy

[cmu.ca/music](https://cmu.ca/music)



CANADIAN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY