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**Cover Photo by Rachel Dueck

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The upcoming year will prove to be one of change. Following the last two years of adapted methods of teaching, many hard working members of our organization have decided to pare down their commitments. The MRMTA needs volunteers for several of its positions in order to continue the programs we provide in Winnipeg. Most notably, the Member's Programming Coordinator and the Performance Scholarships Competition Chair positions are currently vacant. Without filling these positions, we may not be able to offer the U of M or Virtuosi Masterclasses as well as the Performance Scholarships Competition. All of these events have been important learning, performance and scholarship opportunities for our students. Please contact us immediately if you can help.

This last half year, as I stepped into the MRMTA presidency a little sooner than expected, it made me ask why do we continue to strive, in any organization, to offer programming in a time when so many are stretched to their limit. Perhaps the answer is because we need to keep the bar high, we need to provide learning and sharing experiences for all levels in a world which is moving more and more toward isolation and artificial sources. Although the MRMTA has a history of providing opportunities for young talented music students and their teachers, it takes work to maintain. We all struggle to volunteer our time to keep the status guo and to adapt to changes which will support new and innovative methods of music learning. The CFMTA National Conference in Edmonton this summer showcased the talents of several young musicians and brought together music teachers from across the country. With a shared desire to provide support for teachers, delegates discussed and voted on programming that the CFMTA hopes to continue for its provincial groups. Please be sure to read the convention report later in this issue by our 2nd delegate, Leanne Hiebert. I would ask all Manitoba branches and their members to seek out and use the resources available both from the CFMTA and the MRMTA. Remember that as a member of the MRMTA, you are also part of the national CFMTA. The CFMTA membership is made up of teachers just like you who have students similar to your own. Both

the provincial and national organizations are here to help you and your students learn and grow. All members are encouraged, whether teaching beginners or those bound for professional careers, to share their talents and their time to develop new programs and to allow the continuance of the programs we have in place. Whether this be provincially or locally, in Winnipeg or rural Manitoba, the MRMTA is here to provide support. Now reflect on what inspires you and allow this force to be shared and to motivate and to set an example for your students. Please reach out to our provincial office or myself directly for assistance and for help with ideas, resources and promotional support for your programs. For teachers in Winnipeg, consider ways in which you can help keep Winnipeg programs alive.

We are fortunate in this part of the world to have changing seasons which allow us to recharge and start fresh. Summer can be a time to revisit our own inspirations so that we can be examples to our students and to other teachers. If we allow it, we can take the opportunity for a new and energized beginning to this year where we strive to keep existing programming alive and new programming vibrant.

Inspiration: Relax and Reflect, Observe and Listen then feel the Internal Pulling Force.

Motivation: Experience and Explore and be moved forward by the External Pushing Force.

Have you taken the time to listen from within? Have you allowed yourself to push the boundaries? Are you brave enough to go beyond your comfort zone? Can we expect others to do the same? How do we as teachers foster inspiration and build motivation?

The MRMTA has the background and financial resources to assist with those opportunities but we can't do it without help from our members.

Have a great new season of music making and take a moment to ask if there is any small (or large) amount of time that you can offer to help out your local or provincial organization.

Maureen Baird
MRMTA President



MRMTA Executive 2023/2024

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Rosemary Klaassen & Rachel Regehr

SECRETARY

Loren Hiebert

TREASURER

Andy Huisman





IMPORTANT DATES 2023/2024

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Monday, Sept. 11 th , 9:30 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Sunday, October 1 st Deadline	MRMTA Community Service Awards	Laura Liu (interim) vicepresident@mrmta.org
Saturday, Oct. 14th	Northern Lights CNCM Composers & Kids Hosted by Brandon and Westman RMT in Boissevain	Tenley Dyck tenley@dyckmusicstudio.ca
Wednesday, Nov. 1st Application Deadline	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition (end of January TBA)	VACANT mrmtascholarships@gmail.com
Mon, Nov. 6 th , 9:30 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Wed., Nov. 15 th Submission Deadline	Take Note Magazine - Winter Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Sunday Nov. 19th	Prov. Canada Music Week® Concert and Workshop 1:30-3pm – Workshop 4:00pm - Recital St. Mark's Lutheran Church 600 Cambridge St., Winnipeg	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com
November TBA	Canada Music Week® Concert and Workshop – Brandon & Westman Branch	Alla Turbanova tselyakov@hotmail.com
Mon., Jan 8 th 2024 Application Deadline	Young Artist Competition	Virginia Heinrichs dongin@mts.net
January 14th PENDING	Simultaneous Masterclasses with U of M Faculty Voice/Piano/Cello/Violin/Flute U of M 136 Dafoe Road	VACANT studentmembers@mrmta.org
Mon Jan 15 th , 9:30am	Executive Meeting (online)	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Sat. Jan. 20 th , 7:30pm	Duet Concert MRMTA Fundraiser Darryl Friesen & Claudette Caron Venue: IBA	Rachel Dueck mrmta.events@gmail.com
End of January Jan. 29 th – Feb. 2 nd	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Venue TBA	VACANT mrmtascholarships@gmail.com
Fri. Feb. 2 nd	Young Artist Competition Venue TBA	Virginia Heinrichs dongin@mts.net
Sun. Feb. 4 th	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Gala Concert Venue TBA	VACANT mrmtascholarships@gmail.com
Saturday, Feb. 10 th Sunday, Feb. 11 th	35 th Annual Musicthon Fundraiser Kildonan Place Mall	Christina Hutton mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com
Friday, March 1st Application Deadline	Paper Scholarships	Linda De Pauw 204-488-6096 Imdepauw@mts.net



IMPORTANT DATES 2023/2024 - CONT'D

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Monday, April 1st Application Deadline	RMT Professional Development Award (See website for details)	Tiffany A. Wilson 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Monday, April 1 st Deadline	MRMTA Community Service Awards	Laura Liu(interim) vicepresident@mrmta.org
Tuesday, April 9th Submission Deadline	Student Composer Competition	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com
Sat. May 11th	Virtuosi Masterclasses Details TBA	VACANT studentmembers@mrmta.org
Monday, April 15 th Submission Deadline	Take Note Magazine - Spring Issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Wednesday, May 1st Application Deadline	Holtby Scholarships	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Sunday, May 5 th , 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
Tuesday, May 14 th Early Bird Deadline	MRMTA Membership Renewal	See June 1st Information
Monday, May 13 th 9:30 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Saturday, June 1st Deadline	MRMTA Membership Renewal	John Himes registrar@mrmta.org
Sunday, June 23 rd , 2:00 pm	105 th Annual General Meeting	Laura Liu vicepresident@mrmta.org
Thurs., August 15 th Submission Deadline	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!

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

Thank you!!

MANITOBA—
ARGUSTERED—
MUSIC—
TEACHERS—
TEACHERS—



2023 CANADA MUSIC WEEK® CELEBRATION

By Melissa Gingrich

Winnipeg Branch celebrates Canada Music Week on Sunday **November 19th** with a **Workshop** at **1:30pm** and a Student **Recital of Canadian Compositions at 4:00pm.** Check the MRMTA website for details and to register for these events!

Canada Music Week[®]
Workshop 2023
Sunday, November 19th, 1:30pm

Canada Music Week®

Student Recital 2023

Sunday, November 19th, 4:00pm

STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

By Laura Liu

W e are excited to have been offering the MRMTA Community Service Awards since 2019. Time flies, and we are proud to celebrate our memories with you. Music has a way of bringing people together, and we believe that the world needs music. Our communities need music teachers to share, inspire, and support. It is also important for our students to participate in community music events, as this helps them improve their performance skills and contribute to their social well-being.

Do not miss out on this opportunity!

Application deadlines: October 1st , 2023 & April 1st, 2024

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

PAPER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITIONS

By Linda De Pauw

A s the new term begins, please keep in mind that there are numerous scholarships available for students of MRMTA teachers. There have been some changes to the requirements for a number of the scholarships, most notably the Edith Motley Vocal Award and the Grace Rich-Bastin Memorial Awards, which will perhaps make them more accessible for your students. Please see the MRMTA website for information on the Paper Scholarships.

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











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"KIDS HELPING KIDS" MUSICTHON 2024

By Christina Hutton & Lori Jede

RMTA's 35th annual "Kids Helping Kids" Musicthon is a music-filled weekend for you and your students, scheduled February 10-11, 2024, at Kildonan Place Shopping Center. Funds raised through this event are once again supporting youth music programs in partnership with United Way Winnipeg.

This year we are making it even easier for teachers to prioritize and plan this performance opportunity for their studios, by bumping up the sign-up timeline. So, come one, come all! It's time to pick out your Musicthon slots! Sign-up now available online at: https://www.bit.ly/Musicthon2024

You may be asking, "Why should my studio participate in Musicthon?" In answer to that great question, Musicthon 2024 is...

- 1. a recital and performance opportunity in a unique informal environment.
- 2. pre-festival performance practice, in preparation for the Winnipeg Music Festival.
- 3. a community building event.
- 4. raising money to support inclusive music programs for Winnipeg youth.
- 5. an opportunity for MRMTA to be accessible and known to the general public.
- 6. a whole lot of FUN!

Contact **Christina Hutton** at mrmta.musicthon@gmail.com or 204-487-3899 if you have any questions.



STAY TUNED:

MRMTA FUNDRAISING PIANO DUET RECITAL

Date: January 20th, 2024

Time: 7:30 PM Location: TBA

Pianists Darryl Friesen and Claudette Caron will perfrom:

- Beethoven—Variations on a Theme by Count Waldstein, WoO 67
- Schubert—Sonata in B-flat major, D 617
- Chaminade—Six Pièces Romantiques, op. 55
- Kapustin—Sinfonietta, op. 49



CFMTA/FCAPM PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS 2023-2024

As a member of MRMTA, you are also a member of CFMTA. Detailed information on programs, competitions and resources is available at **www.CFMTA.org**

Members are encouraged to check out the following:

- Of Note email (monthly), and Canada Music Teacher magazine (3 times a year) which are sent out to all members
- Join the CFMTA as well as the MRMTA Facebook groups
- Attend one of the monthly "Connecting Canada" online professional development chats. Details arrive by email
 on the first of each month.
- · Watch a video in the CFMTA video resource library (for a link, email Dina Pollock at: webmaster@cfmta.org
- Attach the CFMTA logo to your webpage and correspondence. Available from Heather Fyffe at admin@cfmta.org
- · CFMTA National Essay Competition. More information available at essaycompetition@cfmta.org
- · Canada Music Week Poster Competition. More information available at canadamusicweek@cfmta.org
- Call for Compositions for performance during Canada Music Week 2024. This year's theme: the amazing animals of Canada. More information available at canadamusicweek@cfmta.org

"RANDOM ACTS OF MUSIC"

CFMTA/FCAPM is pleased to present the 2023-2024 Branching Out Initiative "Random Acts of Music"

This initiative encourages branches to step out into their communities. The intent is to share music with others by finding inspiration in new and less usual places with new audiences. Events may be live in-person, live-streamed, or pre-recorded. CFMTA/FCAPM will donate \$100 to each branch that hosts an event by March 15, 2024.

Applications are to be submitted online at www.CFMTA.org
For more information contact Heather Fyffe at admin@cfmta.org



2023 RECIPIENT OF THE HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations Victoria!

To the MRMTA Scholarship Committee,



It was an honour to be chosen to receive the Holtby scholarship this year. I was very happy and grateful and it felt very rewarding to be recognized for all of the hard work that my piano teacher, Ms Jacqueline Ryz, and my theory teacher, Ms Bernadette Geras, and I have put into my piano studies for the past 10 years. Your generosity will allow me to further my piano studies.

I have been playing piano since I was 3 years old and my passion and love of playing the piano has only grown as the years have gone by. I have had many opportunities to perform, and compete at the Winnipeg Music Festival, Provincial Music Festival and MRMTA music competition. I have also volunteered my time to play at a couple of senior care homes, and brought so much joy to the residents. Whether it is performing in a competition or at a care home, it is very rewarding for me to be able to share my love of the piano.

Learning the piano has taught me confidence and dedication. Both of these skills have gotten me through the many hours learning new pieces, studying and preparing for exams, competitions and performances as a solo artist and playing collaboratively in a duet or concerto.

I am very proud of myself for what I have accomplished but I wouldn't have accomplished all of these if Jacqueline, Bernadette and my family weren't behind me to support me.

I am still too young to decide where my future piano studies will take me but I will be using this scholarship to help me complete my Level 10 piano and my ARCT in performance studies. I would like to thank the MRMTA again for this scholarship. It will help me greatly in advancing my piano studies and musical knowledge.

Sincerely, Victoria Lee



2022 RECIPIENT'S PROGRESS REPORT

Progress Report: Raymond Ding

With MRMTA's generous Holtby Scholarship, I have continued to make great progress through 2023. Last year I changed my piano teacher to Shirley Elias at the Canadian Mennonite University. Under her instruction, I successfully received the MRMTA advanced performance scholarship and was honored to be selected as the representative of Manitoba to participate in the CFMTA national piano competition early this year. In spring, I was grateful to be selected as the recipient of the Nita Eamer Memorial Scholarship Award (MRMTA) as well as three awards from the Winnipeg Music Festival, with an additional scholarship as the runner up for the Associated Manitoba Arts Festival provincial piano competition. In June, I played the first movement of Rachmaninoff's first piano concerto in f sharp minor in the finals of the Canadian Music Competition. In addition, I had the joy of organizing my first ever solo piano recital and received great support from the MRMTA community as well as others.

After a full year of studies and adventures, the summer arrives as I finish grade 10 in high school. There are lots of things planned, such as my ARCT piano exam in August. As the Recipient of the Aikins Memorial Trophy, I will have the pleasure of working with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in October playing the third movement of Mozart's piano concerto No. 21 in C major under the baton of Maestro Daniel Raiskin. In January 2024, I will be performing alongside Sam Ferguson as concert opening for the Virtuosi Series. There will be more competitions and performance opportunities in 2024, so I will start to investigate them during the summer and prepare for the new year.

I would like to thank MRMTA for their generous and continued support throughout my music studies. It has helped me greatly and I truly appreciate the kindness.

Sincerely, **Raymond Ding**



2023 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION

By Melissa Gingrich

We received 15 entries over 4 instrumental categories with works for piano, flute, and small ensemble. Seven studios were represented and I know a great deal of work went into preparing students to the point of entering the competition. We had pieces about soccer, expressive colours, mighty trees, ancient Rome, and much much more. Very creative work! Big Thanks!

Our adjudicator was Lorna Paterson, a well-known composer of student music with multiple books of music published through Fredrick Harris Music Co. Ltd. She has a keen understanding of what a young musician can produce and offered wonderfully rounded adjudications with detailed praise and constructive suggestions.

2023 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION WINNERS







CATEGORY "A"
CLASS 1
(11 AND UNDER)

WINNER: Joshua Han
"March in C Major"
(Teacher: Ruth Douglas)

CATEGORY "B"
CLASS 1
(15 AND UNDER)

WINNER: Favour Adelani
"March of Mighty Trees"

(Teacher: Jane Petroni)

CATEGORY "C"
CLASS 1 (19 AND UNDER)
& CATEGORY "D"(OPEN)

WINNER: Heidi Reimer
"Betrayal" & "Falling Stars"
(Teacher: Karla Zolinski)



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MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION

2022 MRMTA CMW STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION - CONT'D

Our winners were all entered into the National level competition. Unfortunately none of them made placements there, but we're delighted for the representation. Keep it coming!

I encourage you to make this opportunity available to your young musician. It was a hands-down highlight for many of my own students to create their own piece. A real growing opportunity. 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. **The entry deadline** for next year's competition is **April 9th, 2024.** See the MRMTA website for details.



EVENTS IN REVIEW

- SERATA

SERATA: AN EVENING OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS

By Tiffany A. Wilson

The Serata Fundraising Concert is always a wonderful evening for the MRMTA and this year's event was a great success. Once again the concert was held at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church on the first Sunday of the month, this year on May 7th, 2023. We raised a total of \$1, 545.00! The proceeds continue to support future CFMTA Conferences held by the MRMTA and the Professional Development Award.

Dr. Muriel Smith once again lent her story spinning talents and hosted the event. Stellar live performances were given by our own talented MRMTA teachers to delighted audience members. Our newly appointed MRMTA President, Maureen Baird presented the MRMTA paper scholarship recipients with their awards.

Sponsors were St. John's Music and Classic 107 FM. We also collaborated with the Manitoba Opera Association with an ad swap. The Serata poster, a beautiful advertisement created by the talented Taylor Jede was included in their April program. Many MRMTA volunteers helped with organizing the concert and creating a successful event! Thank you to everyone who was involved. We look forward to next year's event on May 5th, 2024.



Viktoriya Tuz, Tetyana Novytska, Lisa Penner, Leanne Hiebert



FALL - SEPTEMBER 2023

EVENTS IN REVIEW - SERATA

SERATA - CONT'D

SERATA HOST: DR. MURIEL SMITH

EVANGELINE KEELEY AND LEE HOUGHTON STEWART Jamaican Rumba – Arthur Benjamin arr. Joan Trimble

TIFFANY WILSON AND JULIANNE WARKENTIN
I Call to the Forest – Julianne Warkentin

EVANGELINE KEELEY AND LEE HOUGHTON STEWART Juremberg and Dresden Reflet d'Allemagne : Huit Valses, Op.28 – Florent Schmitt

> NAOUM GOMON AND TETYANA NOVYTSKA Mazurka-Caprice – Aurelia Magnani Revised by S. Bosi and M. Mangani

PRESENTATION OF PAPER SCHOLARSHIPS
MRMTA President Maureen Baird and Chair Linda DePauw

DOLORES TJART AND LEE HOUGHTON STEWART Lady MacBeth's Sleep Walking Scene Macbeth – Dr. Paul McIntyre

> JULIANNE WARKENTIN Castle Mountain – Julianne Warkentin

STEPHEN HAIKO-PENA AND DALE ROGALSKY On My Own – Les Miserables – Boubil and Schönberg

SILENT RAFFLE DRAW
Past Presidents Evangeline Keeley and Tiffany A. Wilson

LEANNE HIEBERT, LISA PENNER, TETYANA NOVYTSKA, VIKTORIA TUZ Galop – Marche – Albert Lavignac



Clockwise from top left:

- -Dynamic piano duo, Evangeline Keeley and Lee Houghton Stewart
- -Dr. Muriel Smith presents Serata performers at the fundraiser
- -Julianne Warkentin & Tiffany A. Wilson after debuting Julianne's first voice composition
- -Lee Houghton Stewart collaborates with new transfer member, Dolores Tjart



from the top:

- -Paper Scholarships 2023 recipients!
- -Scholarship presentations with chairperson Lynn Braun and MRMTA President, Maureen Baird.
- -Performer Stephen Hyko-Peña signs in with Serata volunteers.

DONATIONS

FBH Transport – 529 Wellington Gift Certificate (\$100+)

Long & McQuade - Gift Card (\$50)

Julianne's Music Studio – Swarovski Necklace (\$80+)

Music Studio of Tiffany A. Wilson – Thermea Gift Certificate (\$100+)

Leanne Hiebert & Rita Leyden - Variety Basket

The Keeley Family - Let's Have Fun! Kids gams

Dale Rogalsky - Royal Winnipeg Ballet Items

Muriel Smith - Coffee Time Basket

Brandon & WestMan Branch - Variety Baskets

Classic 107 - CD Package

Fort Garry Industries Basket

Sobeys Gift Baskets





THE 104TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By Laura Liu

The Annual General Meeting for this year was held online on June 25, 2023, and was opened by President Maureen Baird, who extended a warm welcome to everyone who attended the meeting. She acknowledged the contributions of Past President Evangeline Keeley and Office Administrator John Himes, who helped to manage the Presidential transition period on February 1 and ensured that everything ran smoothly. During the meeting, President Baird recognized the Southern Branch's newly retired member Wes Ham and welcomed two new members, Shoshanna Goldenburg and Shirley Elias, as well as two RMT transfer members from Ontario, Stephanie Superle and Rachel Coleman. There were no reinstated members this year.

Past President Evangeline Keeley recognized and congratulated several MRMTA members who have been with the association for 30, 40, and 60 years.

Leanne Hiebert introduced an auxiliary member, Dorothy Adrian, an adult student and excellent volunteer for MRMTA.

The meeting observed a moment of silence to remember the loss of Leona Sorenson, who passed away in August 2022, and a member of the Southern Branch, Ben Kehler, who passed away on January 30, 2023.

John Himes took the minutes for the 104th Annual General Meeting. The meeting included annual reports

that outlined the various programs and opportunities presented by the MRMTA. Members who attended the meeting discussed and passed motions.

The 2023-2024 Provincial Executive election confirmed Maureen Baird as President, Evangeline Keeley as Past President, Laura Liu as Vice-President, Rachel Dueck as Events and Social Programming Coordinator, Christina Hutton and Everett Hopfner as Members at Large, Dianna Neufeld as Brandon & Westman Branch Representative and Rosemary Klaassen and Rachel Regehr as Southern Branch Representatives.

Unfortunately, there were no nominations for the following positions: Student Programming Coordinator, Members Programming Coordinator, or Chairperson of the Performance Scholarships Competition Committee.

To conclude the meeting, President Maureen Baird thanked Evangeline Keeley and John Himes for their support throughout the beginning of her tenure, Bernadette Geras, who has agreed to stay on as our Web Master, and Rachel Dueck, who will continue as the editor of the MRMTA Take Note Magazine. Gratitude was extended to everyone who attended the meeting and contributed to the association's success this year.

Finally, we wish all members a healthy and productive year of music-making for 2023-2024.

Congratulations! 2023 MEMBER RECOGNITIONS

30 years
Naoum Gamon
Loren Hiebert
Joanne Diplock

40 years
Claudette Caron
Elsie Fehr
Caron Hare

60 years

Irma Konrad

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2023 CFMTA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

By Leanne Hiebert

irst of all, I would like to thank the membership and executive for the opportunity to be Manitoba's 2nd delegate at the national meetings of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations in Edmonton this past July. I have attended these national meetings as a delegate, as a zoom host facilitator, and a committee member, being present at most of the national meetings since 2017. Currently I co-chair the Grants and Fundraising committee at the national level along with 2 other members from Alberta (ARMTA). We meet regularly over zoom and it was wonderful to see them in person in Edmonton after years of online meetings. Our 1st Manitoba delegate was MRMTA president Maureen Baird, who attended virtually, which is an excellent option for delegates that aren't able to attend in person. Also in attendance were Evangeline Keeley as Conference Resource Person and Laura Liu as Professional Development Chair.

Hear ye, hear ye (even if you read no further, please read and digest the following):

My only regret in regard to volunteering with the MRMTA and CFMTA is that I DIDN'T GET INVOLVED EARLIER!!!! I do wish I had just said "yes" to the members who called and asked me to volunteer 20 years ago because it has been very rewarding meeting and working with teachers from across the country over the last 8 years. So, get involved - it could get you a trip to Montreal in 2025. And if that piques your interest, please talk to Maureen or myself to get more information.

Your provincial and national associations have SO MUCH TO OFFER YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS. Why not try one of the following this year to connect with our national "mother ship"?

• The CFMTA contacts its over 3000 members through Of Note email (monthly), and The Canadian Music Teacher magazine (3 times a year). Order a hard copy of MRMTA and CFMTA's magazines and put them in your studio

which would not only give you a better chance of reading these publications but also give our organizations more publicity;

- Join the CFMTA as well as the MRMTA Facebook group;
- Attend one of the monthly "Connecting Canada" online professional development chats which were very successful last year. Details arrive by email on the first of each month!
- Watch a video in the CFMTA video resource library (Email Dina Pollock webmaster@cfmta.org for a password!)
- www.CFMTA.org Go to programs and competitions as well as member resources!

Important changes to CFMTA included updating our bylaws to name our governing body a "Board of Directors". This wording is standard in Canadian notfor-profit organizations and brings us into alignment with the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. Also watch for news of the hiring of an "Administrative Program Assistant" which will be a paid position to relieve the workload of our dedicated CFMTA volunteers. One more thing to note is that since it is both costly and time consuming to pursue a trademark registration for the French title of Canada Music Week, it was decided (for the sake of balance) that we also phase out the trademark for the English title of CMW.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved either locally or nationally, please feel free to reach out to the emails below. Be assured that your national Board of Directors is working very hard to keep CFMTA alive and well.

We can do great things together! All the best in your 2023-2024 year of teaching!

Maureen Baird 1st delegate

- president@mrmta.org

Leanne Hiebert, 2nd delegate

- leanne.hiebert@gmail.com







AFTERNOON TEA WITH TAKE NOTE - INTERVIEW

MEET OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT



Laura Liu

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

Laura Liu: I spent 20 years as a music educator, mentor, adjudicator, examiner, and senior instructor in China. Since I moved to Canada, I've been teaching piano for nine years and I am actively involved in both MRMTA (since 2015) and the CFMTA. In 2022, I became the Chair of the Professional Development Committee of the CFMTA. Since 2015, I've been a contracted piano instructor at the Division of Preparatory Studies of the University of Manitoba, and an advanced certified piano teacher at The Royal Conservatory of Music since 2017. I believe that successful music education supports students in excelling in music and their personal and social lives.

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

LL: Virginia Heinrichs! a member of MRMTA and the Young Artist Series Coordinator. She attends most of MRMTA events and brings flowers to the presidents to thank them for their excellent work. She is full of love for people, music, colleagues, and the MRMTA! I feel positive energy and simplicity, and a peaceful life from her!

This issue, we would like to get to know more about Laura Liu, our new Vice President.

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

LL: "Study well and make progress every day", a traditional Chinese phrase displayed in front of my classroom above the blackboard in my school. It reminds me to keep learning and growing every day.

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

LL: I love cleaning my house. It helps me relax and appreciate the beauty and peace of life.

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

LL: I would have chosen cooking! Now I teach students after school, so I don't have time to cook and enjoy dinner with my family daily, unfortunately.

RD: Among the places that you have visited, which place did you like the most and why?

LL: The Great Wall of China! It evokes a sense of the long river of history, where time flies and life seems endless.

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

LL: Absolutely! My vision is to prioritize building connections and relationships to benefit our members. It is essential for MRMTA to develop relations with other organizations and communities, and support each other while growing our new business for the Manitoba Music Society. As the new Vice President, I am honoured for this opportunity, and look forward to learning from our members and doing my best to serve our music communities!

RD: Thank you so much!

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PDA RECIPIENT REPORT

- CFMTA CONFERENCE REVIEW

By Lori Jede

I was incredibly honoured to be accepted as the recipient of the Professional Development Award for 2023 and my excitement only grew when I found out that Noa Kageyama was the keynote speaker! His insights regarding performing, practicing and teaching have been at the core of my musical professional development over the past five years. Here are some highlights that I gleaned from Noa and other guest speakers at the conference...

- Before going on stage, inhale slowly through one nostril, then the other
- Interrupt "scary" or miscellaneous thoughts by giving yourself a directive to enhance your performance
- Leading up to a performance, practice performing in 4-bar sections; gradually increasing the length until you are able to perform the entire piece
- Focus less on details as you near your performance date and more on the big picture

- When practicing, record yourself and delegate "future you" to catch the details, so that "present you" can just focus on playing
- Practice what 'might' happen on stage, giving yourself room to be free and improvise the details of how you express your phrases (repetition without repetition).

Thank you to Tiffany Wilson and the members of the MRMTA who help to make Serata a great yearly success to raise funds that support this award!



BRANCH UPDATE

- SOUTHERN MANITOBA BRANCH

By Rosemary Klaassen

Resuming in-person teaching and regular musical activities was a joy and relief for our teachers this past year! Students have renewed enthusiasm to participate in recitals, festivals, and end of year celebrations. Our southern branch is also enjoying getting back together. We have 11 members from Morden, Winkler, Altona, Rosenort, Carman, and St. Adolphe. In June we had a zoom meeting where we elected a new executive. We look forward to meeting in person at the end of August, and continuing from there with monthly zoom meetings. The isolation of the last few years has brought a new awareness of our need for connection and support. We all sought out what we needed during covid, whether that was technological support, creative ideas to keep students practicing, or just to vent to each other about the difficulties of online teaching. Going forward, we can do this as a group, in a regular monthly forum.

Southern branch long time member

Ben Kehler passed away January 30th. He is greatly missed and fondly remembered by us and the community. Ben was a pioneer, the first guitarist to become a member of the MRMTA. He served on our board many years, and also the provincial executive. A refined musician and arranger, his recordings can still be enjoyed. A gentle teacher with a wonderful sense of humour, he also passed on his love of music through his many students in southern

Manitoba. Ben was a great example and mentor to many of us.



MEMBERS' ZONE

Changes to MRMTA Provincial Executive:

There have been a few changes to the Provincial Executive for the 2023-2024 year. Some members have stepped down from their duties or taken other positions, along with members who have come forward. We extend a big "*Thank You!*" for the years they have served the MRMTA:

Ann Germani - Past President

(stepped down in Jan. 30th, 2023)

Michele Leclerc - Member Programming Coorinator/ Students' Group (stepped down in Dec. 2022)

Stephen Haiko-Penna

- Student programming Coordinator

Laura Liu - Member at Large

Everett Hopfner - Brandon/Westman Branch Rep

Norinne Danzinger-Dueck

- Performance Scholarships Chair

Rachel Dueck - Young Artist Tour Coordinator

We extend a hearty welcome to the following members who are taking on a new position:

Laura Liu - Vice-President

Interim Student Program Coordinator

Everett Hopfner - Member at Large

Dianna Neufeld - Brandon/Westman Branch Rep Rosemary Klaassen & Rachel Regehr

- Southern Manitoba Branch Reps

Please note that at the time of writing, the positions of Member Programming Coordinator, Students' Group, Student Programming Coordinator and the Performance Scholarships Chair all remain open.



From the MRMTA Registrar:

By John Himes

Welcome to all new and returning members. I'm pleased to begin my second year as MRMTA's Office Administrator. As Office Administrator I carry out the duties of the office of the registrar, secretary, treasurer, and communications coordinator. I'm grateful for the comradery I've experienced over the past year and look forward to supporting our Executive and chairpersons as they provide opportunities and programming for our members and their students.

Registrar's Update on Membership

As of August 15th, 2023, there are 125 MRMTA members.

113 Full members

6 Retired members

3 Honorary Life members

2 Auxiliary members

1 Student member (enrolment is ongoing)

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to our new full members *Yuri Hooker* and *Michelle Mourre*. We're pleased to also welcome *Dorothy Adrian* as our newest auxiliary member. MRMTA looks forward to working with you this year and for many years to come!

I'm looking forward to another exciting year for our organization.

Never hesitate to contact me at registrar@mrmta.org if you have questions or need any help.



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$oldsymbol{\Lambda}$ L etter from the Editor

Hello everyone,

The summer flew by so quickly, but I hope that we have a few more beautiful weeks before it gets cold! This summer I had a great opportunity to build a musical network and get to know some wonderful musicians and music educators. I hope you all had a great summer with charging up new energy for another teaching year!

This issue, we covered some useful information offered by CFMTA, and the meeting reports from MRMTA AGM and CFMTA AGM. Also, the issue featured the review of Serata event, announcement of CMW composition competition winners, and the update from the

scholarship winner.

Due to the change of some positions, we are still looking for some volunteers who can play the very important roles in the organization. If you know anyone or you are the one, please feel free to contact any of our executive members. We are looking foward to discuss more details and hopefully work together.

I hope this issue presents something that you can look for in the 2023/2024 academic year and give you some ideas for various MRMTA activities for yourself and your students!





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