

VOLUME 21 - ISSUE 2
WINTER - DECEMBER 2023



Take Note...

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Meet Marla Winters

and more.....

MANITOBA REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



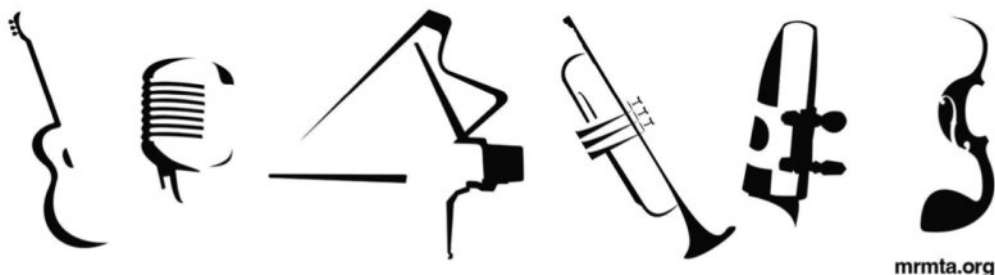
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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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

Next Issue: **Spring - May 2024**

Submission Deadlines:

Advertisements - April 1, 2024

Articles - April 15, 2024

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 mrmmta.org or send all advertising inquiries to the editor: editor@mrmmta.org



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SUBSCRIPTIONS

For a print copy of the magazine:

Please indicate your subscription on the membership renewal form;

Or contact Registrar (registrar@mrmmta.org) or Editor (editor@mrmmta.org) to order the subscription.

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

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****Cover Photo by Rachel Dueck**

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Deck the Hall ... as Winter and the Festive Season approaches.

Tis the Season ... to share and enjoy.

Don we now ... a positive and uplifting spirit.

Troll ... sing out and play your song with abandonment

The new year is coming fast with no time to waste. Opportunities continue to present themselves as the MRMTA executive and members work hard to keep the ball rolling. I am excited to say that the call for assistance in maintaining programming for 2023/24 has been heard and several individuals in all areas of the province have stepped up to help out. The year started out with the annual Northern Lights CNM *Composers and Kids* in Boissevain, organized and supported by the Brandon and Westman Registered Music Teachers. By the time you see this message the Canada Music Week Celebrations in both Winnipeg and Brandon/Westman will also have taken place. The Southern Branch have re-grouped and members are working together to support each other and plan some shared events in the new year. There was no Winnipeg workshop this fall as the executive is busy finding ways to recruit and create incentives for increased student membership and activities.

Although it is true that we have returned to our Pre-Covid interactions, we have also been able to find some alternate ways to operate. The use of Zoom has meant members from throughout the province can now take on jobs and attend meetings which distance and time would not previously allow. I am one of those members. I have been able to meet many of you on-line, but hope to attend as many in-person events as possible so that if I haven't already, I will soon see you face to face. It's been great to correspond and consult with our Committee Chairs, some new and some returning, as they work on the continued opportunities that MRMTA provides. 2024 is set to include the Performance Scholarship Competition, Young Artist Competition, Holtby and other Scholarships, CMW Student Composer Competition, an exciting Fundraiser/duet concert featuring Claudette Caron and Darryl Friesen, Community Service and Professional Development Awards, Serata fundraising Gala, Musicthon for Winnipeg students as well as branch events in the Brandon/Westman area and Southern Manitoba. Check the MRMTA website as well as the schedule in this magazine and continue to watch for our regular e-news.

I would encourage all teachers to create an exciting year for your students by supporting MRMTA programs and by incorporating this year's CFMTA Branching Out initiative "Random Acts of Music" within your own community. Share music with others by finding new audiences in new and less usual places through unique and innovative presentations. Check the CFMTA website for ideas.

THANK YOU to all the volunteers who plan or help at events and to the executive for their continued work and support.

Fast away ... as time flies by.

Hail the new year ... and remember, change can be good.

Sing we joyous all together.

Heedless of the wind and weather!!

Maureen Baird
MRMTA President

Serata

AN EVENING OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS

Sunday May 5th, 2024 at 7pm
St. Andrew's River Heights United Church
255 Oak St. Winnipeg, MB



**Join our annual
National Conference
Fundraising Concert.**
Enjoy host
Dr. Muriel Smith
along with our
MRMTA Teachers
performing!

DETAILS AT MRMTA.ORG



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Sask Rep to organize

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CANADA MUSIC WEEK®

& STUDENT COMPOSER

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Loren Hiebert

TREASURER

Andy Huisman





IMPORTANT DATES 2023/2024

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Sun., Jan. 14 th 2024 2:00-4:00pm	Simultaneous Masterclasses with U of M Faculty Voice/Piano/Cello/Violin/Flute U of M 136 Dafoe Road	Everett Hopfner mrmta.events@gmail.com
Mon., Jan. 15 th Application Deadline	Young Artist Competition Application	Virginia Heinrichs dongin@mts.net
Mon., Jan. 15 th 9:30am	Executive Meeting (online)	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Sat., Jan. 20 th 7:30pm	Duet Concert MRMTA Fundraiser Claudette Caron & Darryl Friesen Venue: Desautels Faculty of Music, U of M Room T-266, 150 Dafoe Rd	Rachel Dueck mrmta.events@gmail.com
Jan 29 th - Feb. 2 nd	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Venue: Sterling Mennonite Fellowship Church 1008 Dakota St. Winnipeg	Bennet Charter mrmtascholarships@gmail.com
Sun., Feb. 4 th 7:30pm	MRMTA Performance Scholarships Competition Gala Concert Venue: Sterling Mennonite Fellowship Church 1008 Dakota St. Winnipeg	VACANT mrmtascholarships@gmail.com
Sat., Feb. 10 th Sun., Feb. 11 th	35 th Annual Musicthon Fundraiser Kildonan Place Mall	Christina Hutton mrmtamusicthon@gmail.com
Fri., Mar. 1 st Application Deadline	Paper Scholarships	Linda De Pauw 204-488-6096 lmdepauw@mts.net
Fri., Mar. 22 nd	Young Artist Competition Venue: TBA	Virginia Heinrichs dongin@mts.net
Mon., Apr. 1 st Application Deadline	RMT Professional Development Award (See website for details)	Tiffany A. Wilson - Serata Chair 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Mon., Apr. 1 st Application Deadline	MRMTA Community Service Awards	Laura Liu(interim) vicepresident@mrmta.org
Tues., Apr. 9 th Submission Deadline	Student Composer Competition	Melissa Gingrich 204-218-4907 gingrich.melissa@ymail.com

IMPORTANT DATES 2023/2024 - CONT'D

Mon., Apr. 15 th Submission Deadline	<i>Take Note</i> Magazine – Spring issue	Rachel Dueck editor@mrmta.org
Wed., May 1 st Applications Deadline	Holtby Scholarship Applications	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Sun., May 5 th , 7:00 pm	SERATA: An Evening of Musical Delights Venue: St. Andrew's River Heights United Church 255 Oak St., Winnipeg	Tiffany A. Wilson 204-960-1539 tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com
Sat., May 11 th Pending	Virtuosi Masterclasses Details TBA	VACANT studentmembers@mrmta.org
Mon., May 13 th 9:30 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Maureen Baird president@mrmta.org
Tues., May 14 th Early Bird Deadline	MRMTA Membership Renewal - Early Bird	John Himes registrar@mrmta.org
Sat, Jun. 1 st Deadline	MRMTA Membership Renewal	John Himes registrar@mrmta.org
Sun., Jun. 23 rd 2:00 pm	105 th Annual General Meeting	Laura Liu vicepresident@mrmta.org
Thu., Aug. 15 th Submission Deadline	<i>Take Note</i> 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!!



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2024 PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIPS COMPETITION

Competitions: January 29th - February 3rd, 2024

Gala Concert: Sunday, February 4th, 2024 at 7:30pm.

Location: Sterling Mennonite Fellowship, 1008 Dakota Street



Preparations are well underway for the MRMTA Performance Scholarship Competition! We have received a very exciting number of entries across all disciplines. More information, such as the detailed schedule, will be posted on the competition website (<https://mrmta.org/scholarships/#competition>) after December 1st, 2023. Any inquiries can be made to the committee chair **Bennet Charter** at mrmtascholarships@gmail.com

HISTORY OF THE PERFORMANCE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

The Music Scholarship Series was inaugurated in 1948 through the Winnipeg Branch of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association. For over seventy years the competition has provided performance opportunities for developing musicians, constructive adjudication from esteemed music professionals, and financial awards.

In 2011, administration of the competition became the responsibility of the Provincial Executive. This change compelled the MRMTA to review the value of the Scholarship Series. The priorities included raising the profile of the competition, making it inclusive, accessible and fiscally viable. The restructured Scholarship Series allows for the addition of new competitions in the future.

Currently, the repertoire requirements for the most advanced piano competitors mirror those set by Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA) for the biennial National Competition. This is offered in odd-numbered years in the same location as their convention. All advanced students competing in this Scholarship Series should be aiming to compete at the National Competition. It is an opportunity to travel to a new destination, to grow a professional network, to perform for an international audience, to be adjudicated by some of Canada's most influential musicians, and to compete for additional financial awards. For information on the CFMTA National Competitions go to their website www.cfmta.org and click on the link under Programs and Competitions.



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YOUNG ARTIST COMPETITION 2024

By Evangeline Keeley

Application deadline: Jan. 15th, 2024

Young Artist Competition: Fri. March 22nd, 2024

Venue and Time to be announced

The Young Artist Competition and Tour is held every two years and 2024 is the year! This is a program of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA) of which MRMTA is a member.

The Young Artist program began in 1941 when prominent Saskatoon teacher Lyell Gustin arranged an exchange between his studio and that of Winnipeg teacher Myrtle Ruttan Patterson. One promising young musician from each studio was provided with a unique performance tour experience to the opposite province.

The following year Gustin approached the CFMTA and the program was launched to include all four western Canadian provinces. Eventually competitions and tours were held in other regions as well, expanding the

original concept into a national one. Readers might recognize these names of previous Western Young Artists who are current MRMTA members: Valdine Anderson, Margot Sim, Shirley Elias, and Claudette Caron.

Do you have an advanced student who is eager to see what a performance life could be like? Check the eligibility terms for applicants on the MRMTA website at:

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

Contacts: Virginia Heinrichs, dongin@mts.net
Evangeline Keeley, egkeeley@gmail.com

Information for this article from cfmta.org

PAPER SCHOLARSHIPS

By Linda De Pauw

Submission deadline:

March 1st, 2024 @ 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.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Linda De Pauw at lmdepauw@mts.net

HOLTBY SCHOLARSHIPS

Submission deadline:

Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 @ 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 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.



MRMTA & U of M

MASTERCLASSES

JANUARY 14th 2024
2:00PM-4:00PM



David Moroz
PIANO



Layla Roberts
FLUTE



Oleg Pokhanovski
VIOLIN



Mel Braun
VOICE



Laura Loewen
VOICE

ADMISSION \$20
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STUDENTS FREE
PAY AT DOOR or e-transfer:
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U OF MANITOBA FACULTY MASTERCLASSES

By Everett Hopfner

Masterclasses with the Desautels Faculty of Music January 14th, 2024 @ 2:00 - 4:00

MRMTA is pleased to partner with the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba for a series of masterclasses to be held January 14, 2024 from 2-4 pm. We are most grateful to **Prof. Mel Braun** and **Dean Edward Jurkowski** for their administrative and logistical support of this event.

The clinicians

- Mel Braun & Laura Loewen - voice
- Layla Roberts - winds
- David Moroz - piano
- Oleg Pokhanovski - strings

Each masterclass will have a maximum of four student participants. MRMTA members can recommend students by submitting their name and repertoire to MRMTAevents@gmail.com. The deadline to register is **December 15, 2023**; performance slots will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Teachers may submit a maximum of one student per class, though additional students from the same studio may be invited later if space permits.

These masterclasses are open to the public: tickets are \$20 (\$10 for MRMTA members), and students are welcome to attend for free. Payment can be made at the door or in advance by e-transferring treasurer@mrmta.org

We look forward to a fabulous afternoon of music-making!



MRMTA PIANO DUET FUNDRAISER RECITAL

By Claudette Caron

Date & Time: Jan. 20th, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

Location: Room T-266, Desautels Faculty of Music

MRMTA members **Claudette Caron** and **Darryl Friesen** will be sharing the keyboard January 20th, 2024, for an exhilarating evening of piano duets. The duo will bring their combined experience in ensemble performance to this beloved genre of chamber music, and the program is one that promises to appeal to a wide audience.

Works to be performed include the Beethoven

Variations on a Theme by Count Waldstein, WoO 67, a perennial favorite with duettists, the charming Pièces romantiques, op.55 by Cécile Chaminade, and Sinfonietta, op. 49 by Ukrainian composer Nikolai Kapustin.

No piano – four hands program would be complete without Schubert, and the glorious Sonata in B- flat major, D 617, will be a joy to perform and to share!

The recital is a fundraising event for the MRMTA.



MRMTA PRESENTS

Piano Duet

FUNDRAISER RECITAL



Featuring:

CLAUDETTE CARON & DARRYL FRIESEN

PERFORMING:

Piano music for four hands
by Beethoven, Schubert,
Chaminade and Kapustin!

JANUARY 20, 2024

7:30pm

Desautels Faculty of Music
Taché Arts Complex
150 Dafoe Road W
ROOM T-266

ADMISSION:

Suggested donation of \$25
at the door or e-transfer to
treasurer@mrmta.org

MRMTA COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

By Laura Liu

Submission deadline: April 1st, 2023

The MRMTA Community Service Awards proudly present a unique three-tier certificate program. This initiative inspires students to use their musical talents to benefit the community. It encourages participants to look beyond the usual scope of competitions, studio recitals, and examinations and to engage in meaningful community service through music.

Who Can Apply?

Students of all ages and levels currently studying with a member of the MRMTA.

How to Apply?

Please visit our website to learn more about the program details and access the application form

Why Participate?

Completing this program enriches personal and musical growth and adds significant value to your resume, potentially enhancing your scholarship applications and future educational opportunities.



CFMTA CORNER

Stay updated and involved in these exciting opportunities by the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA/FCAPM). For more details, which contain current and past years' issues, please visit www.CFMTA.org or the CFMTA/FCAPM App and join in celebrating and promoting music education across Canada!

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"

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

Mark Your Calendar!

- Call for Compositions
 - Submission Deadline: **March 1, 2024**
- Branching Out
 - Online Submission Deadline: **March 31, 2024** for any event held up to March 15, 2024
- National Essay Competition
 - Submission Deadline: **May 1, 2024**
- Memorial Pedagogy Award
 - Application Deadline: **May 1, 2024**
- CFMTA Student Composer Competition
 - Entry Deadline: **June 1, 2024**



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MRMTA'S "KIDS HELPING KIDS" MUSICTHON 2024

Supporting Youth Music Programs with United Way Winnipeg

By Christina Hutton

Can you recall a moment when you noticed a student visibly struck by the wonder and joy of creating music? Have you seen glum faces turn to smiles and laughter by the end of a music lesson? Has the glow of blossoming confidence and pride after a performance warmed your heart? What an amazing job we have as music educators, building pathways toward success in learning through music!

We certainly have a precious and privileged connection with each of our students, their families, caregivers and other supports that surround them. However, not every young person in Winnipeg or our province has this same extra-curricular opportunity, to tap into music making and learning alongside

a caring adult mentor. MRMTA has been determined to be part of the solution to this. Since 1990 our organization has hosted its annual "Kids Helping Kids" Musicthon, working alongside charitable organizations and raising \$239,482.10 to date in support of youth music programs.

Your studio is invited to participate in this year's event! For many teachers this is an opportunity for an early spring recital for the entire studio or even pre-festival performance practice. Students often choose to participate year after year because they get to share some music they love and help out a special cause. This event is not limited by level, age or ability. It is simply a way for us to all come together, give back

to our community, and support youth music programs.

"Kids Helping Kids" Musicthon 2024 will be held at Kildonan Place Shopping Centre the weekend of **February 10-11, 2024**, in partnership with United Way Winnipeg and their donor-funded agencies, which provide access to free music programming for youth across the city of Winnipeg. We have a grand piano and quality sound equipment lined up for the weekend, thanks to St. John's Music and Long & McQuade. And the mall will be bustling with a built-in audience ready to enjoy a weekend of music. Now all we need are the VIP's - our musicians, so sign up today! We hope to see you in February!

"KIDS HELPING KIDS" MUSICTHON 2024 links and information

- **PERFORMANCE SPOT SIGN-UP**

is available for teachers at <https://bit.ly/Musicthon2024>

- **TEACHER VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP**

at <https://bit.ly/Musicthon24-Volunteer>
We need your help to make sure this event runs smoothly!

- **STUDENT REGISTRATION**

is now open at <https://bit.ly/Musicthon24-StudentRegistration>.

- **DONATE TODAY**

at <https://unitedwaywinnipeg.akaraisin.com/ui/musicthon2024>

- **MUSICTHON EVENT PAGE** - Direct

your students, families and donors to the main hub of information at <https://mrmta.org/musicthon-event-page/>, where they will also find the above links for student registration and donations.

- **FURTHER QUESTIONS?**

Contact Christina at mrmta.musicthon@gmail.com or 204-487-3899.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We are delighted to welcome school groups and homeschooling families to our matinees at a special rate of **\$10.00 per person!**

Contact us or register online at themco.ca/education/afternoon-matinees

MCO matinees are 1-hour in length, followed by a Q&A with special guests! Doors open at 12.30pm. There will be no intermission for matinees.

The events take place at Crescent Arts Centre (Crescent Fort Rouge United Church) 525 Wardlaw Avenue, Winnipeg MB.

WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2024

1.00pm–2.00pm, followed by a Q&A!
Jeri Lynne Johnson, conductor
Janeba Kanneh-Mason, piano
with the MCO!

WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2024

1.00pm–2.00pm, followed by a Q&A!
Anne Manson, conductor
Sarah McElravy, viola
with the MCO!

Visit our website for more information about repertoire, composers, and artists!



PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS SUBSIDIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR TRANSPORTING YOUR STUDENTS TO OUR CONCERTS. PLEASE CONTACT THE MCO AT 204-783-7377 FOR DETAILS.

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Anne Manson & the MCO, Matthias McIntire, Jeri-Lynne Johnson, Janeba Kanneh-Mason & Sarah McElravy.

AFTERNOONS WITH THE MCO!

THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE ATTENDING A LIVE CONCERT to inspire, motivate, and excite us! We're delighted to introduce the **MCO's 2023-24 Season Matinees** that are important highlights of the MCO's Education and Community Engagement Programming! We welcome school groups to experience the incredible sounds of the orchestra joined by inspirational Canadian and international guests. We can't wait to see you at the concerts and together explore unique ways of making, creating, connecting and responding to music.

1 1.00pm, WEDNESDAY, 10 APRIL 2024

Hear works by the beloved composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, including his Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major, featuring the celebrated 19-year-old British pianist **Janeba Kanneh-Mason** along with guest conductor **Jeri Lynne Johnson**. Prepare to be inspired!

2 1.00pm, WEDNESDAY, 29 MAY 2024

We're in for a treat for our last matinee of the year! The viola will be in the spotlight with Canada's **Sarah McElravy** as soloist along with **MCO Music Director Anne Manson**. You'll hear the viola like you've never heard it before!

LEARNING RESOURCES, WORKSHOPS AND MORE!

A variety of learning resources will be available to help prepare students and teachers for the concert-going experience and serve as a springboard for further exploration! The general-use resources connect to the **Manitoba Music Curriculum** and provide flexibility for teachers, parents, caregivers, students, and other users.

Your classroom may also be eligible for a complimentary in-school workshop.

Limited availability—sign up early to take advantage of this opportunity!

Not sure if our matinees are the right fit for your students? Would you like to chat about some of the curricular connections and what to expect at an MCO matinee?

CONTACT SUZU ENNS
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
senns@themco.ca / 204-783-7377, ext. 106

MCO's OUTREACH PROGRAM is funded by Canada Council for the Arts, Manitoba Arts Council, Winnipeg Arts Council, Government of Manitoba, The Winnipeg Foundation, Access Credit Union, Assiniboine Credit Union, Lloyd Carr-Harris Foundation, Manitoba School Boards Association, Mauro Family Foundation Inc., Winnipeg School Division, Music Performance Trust Fund, Red River Co-op, Richardson Foundation, Rita Menzies Endowment Fund for Arts Education, SOCAN Foundation, & TD. Distinguished Education & Outreach sponsor: The B.A. Goodman, M.E.M. Goodman and DorothyJean Goodman Foundation.



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CANADA MUSIC WEEK® IN SOUTHWESTERN MANITOBA

By Tenley Dyck

Celebration of Canadian Music Southwestern Manitoba's nod to Canada Music Week was the 18th Annual CNCM *Composers & Kids* event on Saturday, October 14, in Boissevain. Participants had a great time with guest composer Janet Gieck from Saskatchewan, who was enthusiastic and attentive to each participant. Thirty piano students, representing 7 communities, participated throughout the day where they each performed one of Janet's compositions for her. Janet provided interesting information and inspiration for each piece as well as engaging participants in some duet playing, composing, and other fun activities. It was a celebratory day of sharing

ideas and love of music. 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), Dianna Neufeld (RMT), Maureen Baird (RMT), Azaria Neuschwander, Raven McKenzie & Dale Whetter.



CELEBRATION IN WINNIPEG

By Melissa Gingrich

Across Canada, cities and towns are celebrating our cultural heritage this week. It's a remarkable and passionate effort. The Winnipeg region celebrated Canada Music Week on Sunday November 19th with a student recital of exclusively Canadian compositions. Twenty two students ranging from elementary through late intermediate level performed music for solo piano and voice. The students gave introductions to their selections explaining about the lives of the composers and the compositional aspects they've observed. It was wonderful to hear the students speak so well and coupled with their polished performances made for a marvelous show.

Honourable Mention at the national competition, Heidi Reimer (teacher Karla Zolinski) performed *Betrayal* for which she too received Honourable Mention nationally. Everyone enjoyed hearing about their process of inspiration as composers.

The students enjoyed Canada music trivia and improvisational related activities before and after the concert, and there was red and white cake and refreshments for all in addition to a used sheet music fundraiser sale. It was a festive event with great spirit.



Heidi Reimer

Four of the performers were student composers, two of which were winners of the 2023 provincial Student Composer Competition.

Joshua Han (teacher Ruth Douglas) spoke about his piano piece *March in C Major* which received



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CFMTA 2023 STUDENT COMPOSER COMPETITION

By Melissa Gingrich

In June, we forwarded our winning provincial competitors on to the national level of competition and are delighted to announce that some received accolades!

Category A 11 & under Class 1 **Joshua Han** "March in C Major" **awarded Honourable Mention**

Category B 15 & under Class 1 **Favour Adelani** "The March of the Mighty Trees" **awarded Honourable Mention**

Category C 19 & under **Heidi Reimer** "Betrayal" **awarded Honourable Mention**

Category D Open **Heidi Reimer** "Falling Stars" **awarded Second Place**

Like at the provincial level, hundreds of dollars in prize money was awarded. The competition was adjudicated by composer **Dr. John Burge**. I encourage teachers of every discipline to invite their students of every age into participating in the student composer competition. It's a rewarding journey. It's a great time to start working on submissions for the 2024 competition. Entry deadline is April 9th with regulations found online at

www.mrmta.org



MRMTA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

By Tiffany A. Wilson

About the award

This award will be given to a deserving teacher who wishes to attend the CFMTA National Conference.

Amount

Around \$500 (directly paid to the Conference Registrar as a part of the registration fee for the Conference)

Application Deadline: April 1st.

Qualification

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.

How to Apply

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 (explaining the intention to attend the conference and the benefits of this opportunity)

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.

Submission to **Tiffany A. Wilson** at tiffanyawilson@hotmail.com

Please visit www.mrmta.org for the full description.



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.

WINNIPEG'S **CLASSIC 107**

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GOLDEN WEST



Marla Winters



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

Marla Winters: *Rachel, thank you for this wonderful opportunity! I grew up on a farm in the Grand Valley area near Brandon, Manitoba. I was fortunate to have parents who valued giving their children a musical education. I began with piano lessons at an early age and also studied violin in the Suzuki program at the Conservatory, Brandon University. My two sisters studied violin and piano lessons too and we were privileged to have instruction from outstanding teachers until we graduated from high school. Music is a precious gift that brings depth to one's heart and soul. I am drawn to beautiful expression, artistry and interpretation by listening to concerts, recordings and musicians, as well as exploring articulation, phrasing and tone colors. I knew that I wanted to be a music teacher and help people in their lives, through the study of music.*

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

MW: *I have been a member for over 20 years. A favorite memory occurred last year at the Young Artist Series concert in Boissevain, Manitoba. There were many aspiring young students who attended the concert, along with their parents and community members. It was encouraging and inspiring to see such incredible support in a rural area.*

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

MW: *God, our Creator, is my inspiration. I am in awe and deeply humbled around nature and sounds like rustling leaves, flowing water and singing birds. I feel an unexplainable reverence for how nature and music are connected.*

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

MW: *My Grandmother was a school teacher and she would encourage her grand-children by saying that "99% of success is hard work." This is a favorite motto of mine and I strive to inspire my own family and students to set goals and do their best!*

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

MW: *I really enjoy cooking and have a collection of recipe books.*

RD: What is your family tradition for Christmas?

MW: *Spending time at the farm where I grew up, sitting around the fireplace visiting with family.*

RD: Thank you so much!



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BRANDON & WESTMAN BRANCH

By Dianna Neufeld

As the idea of winter is quickly falling all around us, we are kept busy with celebrations of Canadian music, Canadian composers and encouraging our students to explore, play and perform a variety of Canadian repertoire. The fall started off with the annual CNCM Composers & Kids event in Boissevain! This year there were four sessions of students who had the opportunity to perform and work with visiting Saskatchewan composer Janet Gieck. Teachers and students all enjoyed working with Janet as she shared insight on her compositions, and heard her play a new work which was released this past summer in the Northern Lights Grade 9 Repertoire book.

At the end of November on the 24th, another Canadian Music Celebration will happen at the Brandon University where we will host a masterclass with Dr. Daniel Tselyakov. He will work with students of all ages in a workshop setting, and later at a Canadian highlight's recital in the Lorne Watson Recital Hall where students will feature music from Canadian and specifically Manitoba composers.

The Brandon & Westman Branch wishes you a wonderful season of music celebrations in your own communities!



SOUTHERN MANITOBA BRANCH

By Rachel Regehr

The southern branch met over brunch at the end of August to do some visioning for the coming year. We had a presentation on studio website design by a local music teacher. We determined to begin monthly Zoom meetings for pedagogical discussion and support.

In October we began our monthly zoom meetings and covered a variety of topics including logistics of scheduling and studio policies regarding student missed lessons. Our November meeting touched on festival applications and logistics, and how we can participate in Canada Music Week next year. For future meetings, we hope to have guests to join us to share pedagogical insights from their teaching experiences. Teachers attend as they are able. We are brainstorming about some local collaborations for the holiday season.



TAKE NOTE ASKS MEMBERS.....

"What is your strategy to deal with frequent cancellations and reschedule requests? What is your policy for missing lessons?"**Cancelled Lessons – Do We Reschedule?**

Generally my policy has been that lessons cancelled by the student do not have to be rescheduled; however, consideration would be given to the circumstances of the cancellation and availability in the schedule (eg) an open slot due to another cancellation. However, that open spot will be given to the student who has to play in the school band concert on lesson night, not the one with the birthday party invitation. I will also find time to reschedule a lesson that is needed because of an upcoming exam or festival - but the student has to make themselves available for my schedule because I'm making the change for them. If I cancel a lesson, I reschedule to suit the student's availability.

Two important things: 1) clear guidelines for rescheduling lessons set out in the Studio Policy, and 2) fees collected in advance so the missed lesson is still paid for. I have found students are less likely to cancel when they have already paid. If a parent isn't happy about paying for the lesson, I remind them that they pay for missed sports practices and dance classes.

- Nancy Nowosad

Do you have any creative ideas about teaching,
running the studio,
or life in general that you want to share with other members?

Or do you have any questions that you want to discuss?

Please send your questions and answers to editor@mrmta.org

We would love to hear from you!

MRMTA REGISTRAR REPORT

By John Himes

I hope that you've all hit the ground running this year. Your MRMTA Executive chairpersons have busy putting together a month of exciting programming. I encourage everyone to attend Claudette Caron's and Darryl Friesen's Piano Duet benefit concert on January 20th, joint masterclasses with University of Manitoba faculty the preceding weekend, a Gala Concert celebrating our Performance Scholarships Competition winners on February 4th, and Musicthon the weekend of February 10th. Our calendar of events is always available on our front page at mrmta.org.

Registrar's Update on Membership

As of November 15th, 2023, there are 134 MRMTA members.

120 Full members

8 Retired members

3 Honorary Life members

2 Auxiliary members

1 Student member

New Members

We're pleased to announce as new members Anatolii Antonenko, Katherine Plett, and Erica Schultz. Welcome!

In Closing

As ever, I'm here to serve you. Members may contact me at registrar@mrmta.org if you have questions or need any help.

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A Letter from the Editor



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

I have to say, we had a such a beautiful fall this year. I cannot believe there are no piles of snow yet!

It seems like we will have lots of fun events we can look for, while we had a quiet Fall. This issue introduces many upcoming events, such as Masterclasses with faculty members from U of Manitoba, a piano duet recital, Musicthon, and Serata. Also, this issue includes a new initiative to ask members' opinions about different topics, starting with a cancellation policy. Do you have some topics that you would like to discuss? Do you have some great ideas to share? Please send me the email. I would love to hear from you!

Hope you all have a great holiday with family, friends, and students!

Musically yours,

Rachel



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