

Volume 22 - Issue 3

Spring - May 2025

take note . . .

In this issue:

- *Meet our Competitor*
- *U of M Masterclasses*
- *and so much more . . .*

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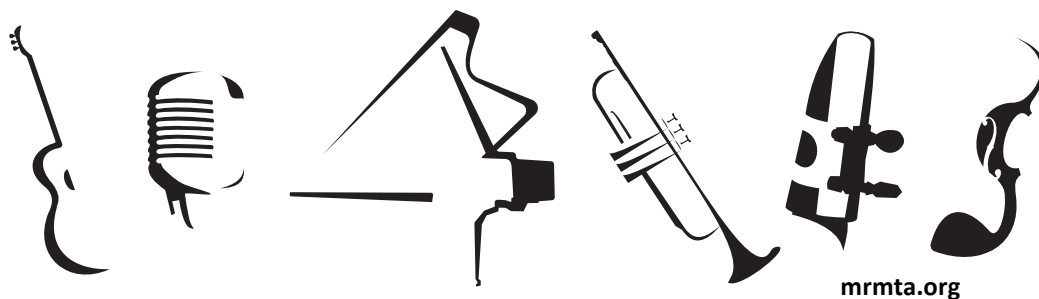
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- RCM Student, Maya Krishnan



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**** Front cover photo Bogdan Shunkov - more on page 17**



The President's Message

Laura Liu



Dear MRMTA members and friends,

As spring arrives, bringing fresh energy and renewal, I want to take a moment to reflect on the year so far and look enthusiastically ahead to the coming months. I hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer season.

This spring marks ten years since I arrived in Canada and became a proud member of the MRMTA. Over the past decade, I have learned much and received invaluable support from this incredible community. I am now serving my third term of the school year as president, and I am deeply grateful to our dedicated Executive team for their guidance and support. Thanks to their efforts, the MRMTA continues to grow and thrive – our traditional spring programming is stronger than ever.

Reflections on Fall and Winter

This past fall and winter I had the pleasure of participating in several in-person events in Winnipeg and Brandon. These included the CFMTA Western Young Artist Tour, Canada Music Week Celebrations, our festive Pancake Brunch, the Performance Scholarships Competition Gala Concert, and the 36th Annual Musicthon. I also helped coordinate the University of Manitoba Masterclasses and supported the MRMTA Community Service Awards program.

These experiences allowed me to connect with many of our members and students, and each event brought new learning and inspiration. I'm truly thankful for the personal and professional growth I've gained as president.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the executive members, committees, event chairs, and volunteers whose hard work ensures the success of MRMTA programming. Special thanks to Maureen Baird (Past President) and John Himes (Office Administrator) for their tireless support as we navigated a season of transition. We also express our deep appreciation to Christina Hutton (Member-at-Large & Musicthon Chair) and Everett Hopfner (Member-at-Large), who are stepping down from the executive. We are grateful for their dedicated service and look forward to their continued involvement in other ways.

Looking Ahead

Membership renewal for the 2025-2026 year opens on May 1st. Thank you for your continued support – we genuinely value your involvement in this vibrant community.

Mark your calendars for two upcoming events:

- June 3rd: Year-End Celebration – Pancake Brunch Gathering
- June 22nd: 106th Annual General Meeting (hybrid format)

This summer, we also look forward to the CFMTA 2025 National Conference in Montreal, July 3 – 5, 2025. We are thrilled that Manitoba will be represented in the National Piano Competition by Bogdan Shunkov (Teacher – Dr. David Moroz). We wish him all the best! With several MRMTA delegates attending the conference we hope to return with new ideas and renewed inspiration. For details, please visit www.apmqmta.org.

Looking to the Future

As we prepare for the 2025 - 2026 school year, we are reviewing and strengthening our programs to better serve our members and support studios across the province. Your feedback is incredibly important to us, so please don't hesitate to share your thoughts by emailing me at president@mrmta.org by May 15, 2025.

Let's stay connected, support one another, and celebrate the joy of teaching and making music. I hope to see many of you in person or online at the AGM on June 22nd!

Laura Liu
MRMTA President



Registrar's Report

John Himes

As I reflect on another year I'd like to show gratitude to all those who make MRMTA's offerings possible. In the span of several weeks MRMTA hosted the University of Manitoba masterclasses, Performance Scholarships Competition, and Musicthon - wow! Rounding out the spring are the Paper Scholarships and Student Composer Competition. To the convenors of our programs and our Executive members we thank you!

Registrar's Update on Membership

As of April 15th, 2025, there are 133 MRMTA members.

- 121 Full members
- 7 Retired members
- 2 Honorary Life members
- 2 Auxiliary members
- 1 Student member

Late in 2024 MRMTA accepted new members:

- Anna Krupenyna
- Beth Emmers
- Madeline Hildebrand
- Meagan Reimer
- Ian Campbell

Welcome!

In Closing

Thanks all for another exciting year. I encourage all to become involved by registering for a program or even joining the Executive. See you next year!

Membership Renewal

MRMTA membership fees remain the same for 2025-2026. Members can navigate to mrmta.org/membership and navigate to the link for the renewal form near the bottom of the page. Renewal opens May 1 and closes June 1. Our fees follow:

Full Membership

- Winnipeg - \$225
- Southern Manitoba - \$141
- Independent - \$131
- Brandon & Westman - \$161

Additional Membership Categories

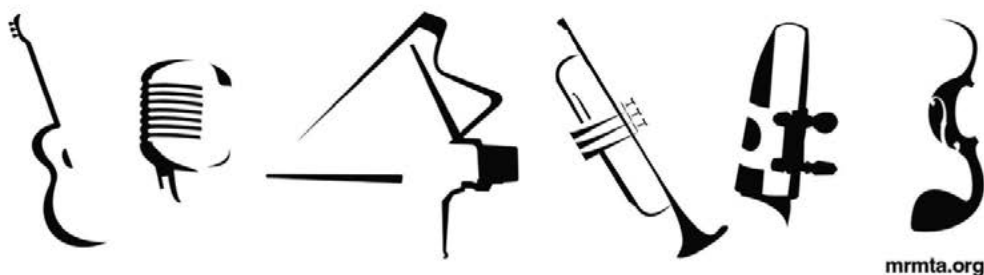
- Affiliate Membership - \$106
- Student Member - \$45
- Retired Membership - \$56
- Auxiliary Membership - \$55

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registrar@mrmta.org

Thank you!



IMPORTANT DATES 2024-2025

DATE & TIME	EVENT & PLACE	CONTACT
Thursday, May 1st Application Deadline	Holtby Scholarships	Laura Liu president@mrmmta.org
Thursday, May 1st Renewal Opens	MRMTA Membership Renewal	John Himes registrar@mrmmta.org
Monday, May 12th 9:30 am	Executive Meeting (online)	Laura Liu president@mrmmta.org
Sunday, June 1st Deadline	MRMTA Membership Renewal	John Himes registrar@mrmmta.org
Tuesday, June 3rd 9:30 am	Brunch Gathering (RSVP only) Original Pancake House, 2220 McGillvary Blvd.	Rachel Dueck mrmmta.events@gmail.com
Sunday, June 22nd, 2:00 pm	106th Annual General Meeting	Laura Liu president@mrmmta.org
Friday, August 15th Deadline for Submissions	Take Note Magazine - Fall Issue	Dina Pollock editor@mrmmta.org

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

Membership Renewal

2025-2026

Renewal for 2025-2026 membership will open May 1st. Please refer to the chart below for membership fees.

Members can scan the QR code (right) or follow the link (below) to access the renewal form.



<https://tinyurl.com/MRMTARenewal25>

A printable renewal form is also available by following the link or QR code.

Or go to <https://mrmta.org/membership/> and scroll down to “Membership Renewal Form”.

Winnipeg & Area - \$225
Brandon & Westman - \$161
Southern Manitoba - \$141
Independent Members - \$131

Affiliate Members - \$106
Retired Members - \$56
Auxiliary Members - \$55
Student Members - \$45



Notice of the 106th Annual General Meeting

Call for Nominations

Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association

The 106th Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association will be held on Sunday, June 22nd, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

This meeting will take place in a hybrid format, with both in-person and online participation available for all Manitoba members. A Zoom link and meeting reminder will be sent in advance. Details regarding the in-person location and RSVP instructions will be provided in an upcoming MRMTA e-News.

Questions,

Comments,

or Concerns?

Notify your Executive

by emailing

president@mrmta.org

Call for Nominations

As a Full Member of the MRMTA, you may be ready to take on a more active role within our association. The following positions are open for election at the upcoming AGM. Each is a two-year term:

- Vice-President

(The elected member is expected to advance to President for two years, followed by two years as Past President.)

- Member Programming Coordinator
- Student Programming Coordinator
- Member-at-Large
- Member-at-Large

Nominations may be submitted in writing with the nominee's consent or made from the floor during the AGM. Please note that nominees must be Full Members of the MRMTA. Descriptions of each position are outlined in the MRMTA By-Laws (*available on our website*).

Additionally, the following appointed positions are currently vacant:

- Archivist
- Musicthon Chair

Suggestions or expressions of interest for these appointed roles are also most welcome.

For nominations, questions, or further information, please contact:

Laura Liu, MRMTA President at **president@mrmta.org**.

We look forward to your participation in this important event and encourage all members to consider how they might serve and support the MRMTA community.



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MRMTA & University of Manitoba

Masterclasses 2025

submitted by Laura Liu

The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association proudly hosted its annual MRMTA & University of Manitoba Masterclasses on January 12, 2025. This enriching event, held in partnership with the Desautels Faculty of Music, welcomed students of MRMTA members to participate in masterclasses for Piano, Voice, and Flute. Registrations were accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and all three sessions took place concurrently within the university's vibrant music facilities. The day concluded with a short concert and a reception for participants and guests.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the distinguished clinicians for their expertise, encouragement, and generosity:

- **David Moroz (Piano)**
- **Monica Huisman (Voice)**
- **Layla Roberts (Flute)**

Special thanks also go to: Dr. Edward Jurkowski, Professor Mel Braun, Sue Stone Scott (Facilities and Events Coordinator, U of M), Maureen Baird (MRMTA Past President), and John Himes (MRMTA Office Administrator) for their invaluable assistance in organizing this event.

We are also grateful to our wonderful volunteers:

- Christina Hutton
- Anna Krupenyna
- Linda De Pauw
- Lori Jede
- Tiffany A. Wilson
- Samuel Zhang (Student of Laura Liu)
- Emily Ma (Student of Laura Liu)

For their warm hospitality and seamless daily coordination throughout the day.

Participating students expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to work directly with faculty from the University of Manitoba, especially as many of them are considering post-secondary studies in music. They gained fresh perspectives on technique and interpretation and were inspired to apply these insights to their future performances.

Masterclasses Performers:

- Nathaniel Liu
- Roy Zhang
- Josh Gong
- Damon Raichura
- Anna-Lucia Mena Shevchenko
- Kara Sims, Aiden Sebbahi
- Abigail Ferencz
- Emma Yang
- Holly Penner
- Amy Farrell
- Princess Yangco

Collaborative Pianists:

- Henry Kelsey
- Leanne Hiebert

The following MRMTA Teachers presented students:

Bennet Charter, Tetyana Novytska, Maddy Hildebrand, Yaroslava Shevchenko, Linda De Pauw, Tiffany A. Wilson, and Lori Jede

We sincerely thank all the performers, teachers, and collaborative pianists for their dedication and preparation. Appreciation is also extended to the audience members for their support, encouragement, and engagement in this meaningful professional development opportunity.



MRMTA & University of Manitoba

Masterclasses 2025

Vocal

The vocal masterclass was facilitated by U of M faculty member Monica Huisman. Our heartfelt thanks to her for sharing her advice and insights. Four talented participants performed:

- Kara Sims
- Aiden Sebbahi (students of Linda De Pauw)
- Abigail Ferencz
- Emma Yang (students of Tiffany Wilson)

Students were encouraged to create a character and invent a scenario for each song. Their job, they were told, was to take the audience somewhere else, using the text, their eyes and the whole body. "It's better for the audience, more fun for you and easier for the accompanist to follow."

Singers were reminded to be aware of how the accompaniment informs the song and to listen and collaborate with their pianist.

Of course, in which ever language, the vowels must be as long as possible, consonants on the pitch and "over done".

The singers responded enthusiastically to all the ideas and the technical advice they received. Ms. Huisman carefully tailored the advice to the needs of each student. They had much to take away from the class and teachers and students alike enjoyed the enthusiasm and energy that Monica brought to the afternoon.

A big thank you to the collaborative pianists: Leanne Hiebert and Henry Kelsey

Abigail was invited to perform *Les Papillons* by E. Chausson for the concert that followed.

Linda De Pauw



Kara Sims and Monica Huisman,
Leanne Hiebert



Emma Yang and Monica Huisman,
Henry Kelsey



Abigail Ferencz and Monica Huisman,
Leanne Hiebert



Aiden Sebbahi and Monica Huisman,
Leanne Hiebert

Piano

Thank you to each of the students who participated in this year's Piano Masterclass, facilitated by **Dr. David Moroz**.

Nathaniel Liu (student of Bennet Charter), played *Variations of a Theme of Paganini* (Berkovich). Nathaniel was encouraged to vary the way each phrase is played and to avoid predictability.

Roy Zhang (student of Bennet Charter), played *Waltz in A Flat Major, Op. 34, No. 1* (Chopin). Roy was challenged to play the introduction with "more abandon," and to gracefully taper off the ending of phrases to give the effect of notes floating away.

Josh Gong (student of Tetyana Novytska), played *Ballade in G Minor, Op. 23* (Chopin). Dr. Moroz suggested using quarter-peddalling to help join repeated notes for a more legato tone.

Damon Raichura (student of Madeline Hidebrand), played *Capriccio in C Sharp Minor, Op. 76, No. 5* (Brahms). Damon was asked to consider this as a "wild dance that wants to get started."

Anna-Lucia Mena Shevchenko (student of Yaroslava Shevchenko), played *Homage to S.R.* (Schneider). Dr. Moroz pointed to the importance of organizing how to communicate the entirety of the piece, beyond just the introduction.

The Masterclass event concluded with a celebratory short concert featuring one student from each class followed by a lovely reception. Nathaniel Liu enthusiastically represented the Piano Masterclass. Thank you to Laura Liu for organizing this event, and to Dr. David Moroz for so generously and eloquently sharing his expertise and knowledge.

Christina Hutton



Anna Lucia Mena Shevchenko
and Dr. David Moroz



Piano Masterclass Group



Nathaniel Liu and Dr. David Moroz



Roy Zhang and Dr. David Moroz



Damon Raichura and Dr. David Moroz



Josh Gong and Dr. David Moroz



MRMTA & University of Manitoba

Masterclasses 2025

Flute

Our flute students were once again treated to the spectacular and engaging teaching of Layla Roberts. Our program consisted of the following...

- Holly Penner - *Sonata in A Minor (Movements 1 and 4)* by Handel
- Amy Farrell - *Carnival of Venice* by G. Briccialdi
- Princess Yangco - *Allegro* by Leonardo Vinci

Layla talked about the importance of breath control and ways to achieve a full breath from the bottom up that will “go the distance” throughout each phrase.

We discussed various ways to bring out the theme within a busy line and how to “overact” characters so that the audience can hear them come alive in the *Carnival of Venice*.

We were reminded of ways to aid our interpretation of Baroque music: using terraced dynamics, holding long notes for their full value and determining background and foreground notes within each phrase.

Holly performed Handel’s *Sonata in A minor (mvt 4)* at our mini recital.

Lori Jede



Holly Penner and Layla Roberts



Amy Farrell and Layla Roberts



Reception Desk - Christina Hutton and Anna Krupenyina



Short Concert - MRMTA/U of M Masterclasses 2025
Piano - Voice - Flute



Reception and Short Concert Classroom



Short Concert - Tiffany A. Wilson

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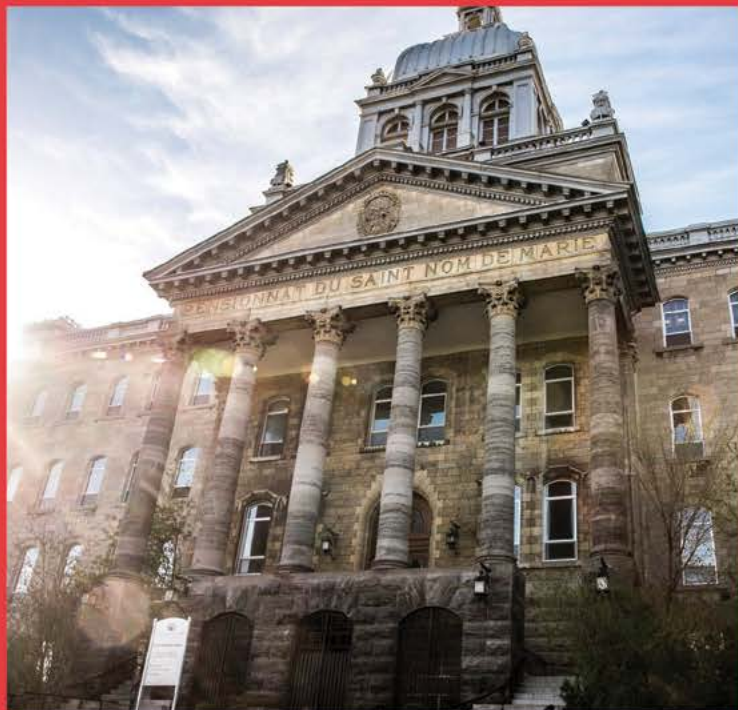


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Thomas Green
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Jess Johnson
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Dr. Midori Koga



Lois Svard
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the "Fountain of Youth"
for Older Adults?



Isabelle Héroux
Harmoniser, rigueur
musical et
liberté artistique de l'élève

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Masterclasses
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Meet our MRMTA Competitor at the CFMTA National Piano Competition Bogdan Shunkov



Bogdan Shunkov is a passionate and dedicated young pianist with five years of music education and performance experience in both Russia and Canada. He began piano studies at the age of seven at a specialized music school in St. Petersburg before continuing training in Winnipeg. Bogdan actively participates

in local and international competitions, continually developing technical skills and musical artistry. He is driven by a deep love for music and a commitment to lifelong learning, striving toward the goal of becoming a professional pianist.

Semi Final Program

Prelude from Three Pieces for Piano Solo
Marjan Mozetich

Sonata in C sharp minor, op. 27 no. 2 (Moonlight)
Ludwig van Beethoven

Prelude in E flat major, op. 23 no. 6
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Prelude in E flat minor, op. 23 no. 9
Sergei Rachmaninoff

Tarantella from 'Venezia e Napoli'
Franz Liszt

Final Program

Sonata in C minor, op. 13 no. 8 (Pathétique)
Ludwig van Beethoven

Etude in A minor, op. 10 no. 2
Frédéric Chopin

Etude in C major, op. 2 no. 4
Sergei Prokofiev

Hungarian Rhapsody no. 13
Franz Liszt



“Kids Helping Kids” MUSICTHON 2025

submitted by Christina Hutton

It was heartwarming to see our community in action at the 36th annual MRMTA “Kids Helping Kids” Musicthon, with music shared and enjoyed by many and money raised for United Way Winnipeg. Students, spanning a wide range of ages, levels, and disciplines, performed at Kildonan Place Shopping Center February 8-9, 2025, cheered on by family, friends, and those visiting the mall.

Musicthon 2025 raised **\$5511**, thanks to many generous donations. This money will support a variety of youth music programs facilitated by United Way Winnipeg donor-funded agency partners across Winnipeg such as:

- Teen Stop Jeunesse
- Graffiti Art Programming
- Mood Disorders M.A. D. Camp
- Rossbrook House
- Maples Youth Activity Centre
- Kildonan Youth Activity Centre
- ACOMI, MSIP – The Peaceful Village
- Urban Circle Training Centre.

Since 1990, MRMTA has raised **\$251,082.10** for children’s music programs in Manitoba. Our partnership with United Way Winnipeg helps provide access to FREE music programming through their donor-funded agency partners, so that all youth may have the opportunity to experience the joy of making music.

A resounding thank you to Kildonan Place Shopping Center for providing us with such a lovely venue, St. John’s Music for delivery and use of a beautiful grand piano, and to Long & McQuade for quality sound equipment and gift certificate prizes. Thank you to the Swain Family for their generous support once again this year, with a \$750 donation made through the Winnipeg Foundation. Congratulations and a special thank you to the three students who raised the highest amounts this year: Dorothy Adrian, Holly Penner, and Isabella Strome. They have each won a \$20 Long & McQuade gift certificate.

Thank you to all who participated in Musicthon 2025 – each person who donated, along with 128 students, 10 teachers, and 7 dedicated volunteers who stepped up and made this event a great success! 🌸





Paper Scholarship

submitted by Linda DePauw and the committee

The MRMTA Paper Scholarship Committee is 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 our donors.

Congratulations to all of the following students and their teachers.

Grace Rich-Bastin Memorial Award

Megan Thiessen	Teacher: Tiffany Wilson
Sophia Cap	Teacher: Tracy Dahl
Aiden Sebbah	Teacher: Linda De Pauw

Grace Rich-Bastin Award Keyboard/Instrumental

Yifei Sun	Teacher: Jane Petroni
Anna Lucia Mena-Shevchenko	Teacher: Yaroslava Shevchenko

Nita Eamer Scholarship

Claudia Vreeman	Teacher: Dianna Neufeld
Lucas Wu	Teacher: Darryl Friesen
Joshua Han	Teacher: Jane Petroni
Owen Raes	Teacher: Tenley Dyck
Marek Song	Teacher: Jacqueline Ryz

Dorothy Lothar Scholarship

Grace Lu	Teacher: David Moroz
----------	----------------------

Marian Nelson Memorial Piano Pedagogy Award

Catryna Muilenburg	Teacher: Dianna Neufeld
--------------------	-------------------------



Student Community Service Awards

Student Community Service Awards

"Through music, acts of kindness and service can be as powerful as any performance." The MRMTA Community Service Awards recognize students who go above and beyond to make a meaningful difference in their communities through dedication, service, and the generous sharing of their talents.

We are pleased to congratulate the following recipients, who were recognized during the Canada Music Week Student Recital on November 17th, 2024:

- Nathaniel Mercer – *Bronze Level*
- Sarah Mercer – *Bronze Level*
- Sarah Mercer – *Silver Level*

Both recipients are students of Shoshana Goldenberg Studio, an MRMTA member.

Their achievement is a powerful reminder of music's role in uplifting others and enriching our communities. Congratulations!

Call for Applications

The MRMTA encourage all members to nominate deserving students for the MRMTA Community Service Awards 2025-2026. These awards are presented annually at the AGM, and the application deadline is April 1st, 2026.

For full details and to access the application form, please visit:

<https://mrmta.org/mrmta-community-service-awards>

Let's continue to celebrate and inspire service through music!



Sarah Mercer, Nathaniel Mercer, Laura Liu, Tiffany A. Wilson



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Festival Season in Westman: A Celebration of Talent

As spring brings new life to our region, it also brings one of the most joyful and meaningful traditions in the musical life of Westman—festival season. From Brandon and Boissevain to Minnedosa, Deloraine, and Virden, young musicians have taken to the stage to share the results of many months of dedication, practice, and love for music. Whether it's their first time performing or one of many, each performance represents a unique and personal journey.

Across these festivals, students have demonstrated remarkable musicianship, expressive depth, and growing confidence. The atmosphere has been filled not only with beautiful music but also with encouragement, support, and pride from teachers, families, and fellow participants. It's a true community celebration—one that continues into May with festivals still underway and more young performers preparing to shine.

We are especially proud to recognize several students who have been invited to participate in the **2025 Provincial Music & Arts Festival**, to be held May 23–25 at Brandon University. Congratulations to **Yegor Zvieriev**, **Dimitra Pipilou**, and **Emery Struck**, students of Alla Turbanova, as well as **Elisabeth Hiebert**, **Lucy Ridgen**, and **Adeline Hehn**, students of Lara Mason. These talented individuals were recognized not only with trophies and scholarships but also with invitations to Provincials—an honour that speaks to their hard work and passion.

In addition, we extend congratulations to **Catryna Muilenburg** and **Claudia Vreeman**, students of Dianna Neufeld, and **Owen Raes**, student of Tenley Dyck, who were awarded MRMTA Scholarships.

As one Westman parent, Serena Strack, beautifully put it,

"Festivals teach our kids resilience, discipline, and joy. Seeing my child light up after being recommended for Provincials made every moment of practice worthwhile."

These words capture the essence of why we do what we do—why we support festivals, why we celebrate student achievement, and why music continues to be a powerful force in our communities.



Sophia Junxin Ye and Joy Sun QiaoYi Zhang – Piano Duo
Trophy Winners, with adjudicator Dr. Daniel Tselyakov



Pianist Juncheng Yu with adjudicator Dr. Daniel
Tselyakov during a masterclass at the Brandon Festival,
held at Lorne Watson Hall

Reflecting on the experience, **Dr. Daniel Tselyakov**, Senior Piano Adjudicator at the Brandon Festival, shared:

“Adjudicating this year’s festival was an immensely rewarding experience. What stood out to me was not just the technical ability of the students—but their openness, eagerness to learn, and how quickly they absorbed feedback. In some cases, within minutes of a suggestion, I could already hear a shift in musical understanding and expression. These moments of connection, where a young performer lights up with new insight, make adjudicating meaningful. Festivals like this nurture more than just performance skills—they cultivate listening, resilience, and creative thinking. I was truly moved by the thoughtfulness many students brought to their interpretations, and I leave the festival deeply encouraged by the future of music in this community.”

We are grateful to all the adjudicators who gave their time and shared their expertise with such care and encouragement.

Thank you to every student who performed, every teacher who guided, every parent who supported, and every volunteer who helped bring these festivals to life. Your dedication has made this season special, and your music continues to inspire those around you.

We wish all the best to those heading to Provincials and everyone still preparing and performing across the Westman region. Keep playing, keep growing, and, most importantly, keep sharing your music with heart.

Alla Turbanova

Brandon & Westman Branch Representative



Pianist Juncheng Yu with adjudicator Dr. Daniel Tselyakov during a masterclass at the Brandon Festival, held at Lorne Watson Hall



Emery Struck



What I Learned From a Huge Pile of Old Music

Part 1

submitted by Evangeline Keeley

It all started when I was given a suitcase full of old music near the beginning of March. The music had been purchased at an estate auction by an acquaintance many years ago. She is not a musician, had no idea what to do with the music, but packed it away to do something with later. And so it eventually came to me.



I had no idea what to expect when I opened the suitcase. Maybe I would find something useful, maybe not. As I lifted the lid,



the musty smell of paper immediately hit me. “Wow!” I thought, “this stuff is really old.” On the top were several pieces of sheet music measuring 10.5” x 13.5”; I’ve since learned that was the size used primarily before 1920. I lifted that stack out to discover what was underneath.

As I began sifting through this treasure trove, a picture of the original owner began to emerge. The name on the majority of the music was “Eileen Weir” followed either by an address on Jubilee Avenue or on McNaughton Avenue. Approximately 80% or so was vocal music and she was clearly a soprano by the range indicated on the covers! Other names popped up occasionally – maybe she had borrowed music and not returned it? Don’t wag your finger at her! We’re all likely guilty of that! One name stood out – Olga Irwin. According to The Canadian Encyclopedia, she was a ‘leading soprano’ in Winnipeg, she conducted the Winnipeg Senior Citizen’s Choir for a number of years, and it turns out she also worked at Tredwell’s with a friend of mine. Could it be that Olga taught Eileen?

There was some piano music as well, so I began sorting the music into piles – piano here, vocal there – approximately a 20/80 split. Within the vocal music I soon noticed trends. Eileen liked opera. There were opera solos in the sheet music although, on closer inspection, only 2 or 3 appeared used. She even had an entire score of Verdi’s *Aida*. Had she sung in a Manitoba Opera (MO) production? Must have been in the Chorus, I decided, since those songs had all the pencil marks. I did a little digging on the MO website and discovered they did indeed mount a production of *Aida* in 1975.

She also liked popular music as there must have been close to 50 pieces of sheet music in that genre. The majority of these had dates from the 1940s. Several covers had photos of movie stars who popularized the song – think Bing Crosby singing *White Christmas* in “Holiday Inn” and you’ll have the idea. Some stars Eileen must have really liked as their names were on several selections! Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy were two such stars! Many song titles I didn’t recognize, but the lyricist or composer was familiar. Names like Oscar Hammerstein II, Lorenzo Hart, and Rudolf Friml popped up often. *The Way You Look To-night* was Eileen’s oldest sheet music. It appears that she bought it on October 19, 1936 and her handwriting was less polished than on her later purchases.



The genre that took me down 'memory lane' was all the classical vocal music, and there were several titles I recalled playing as an accompanist back in the day. Memories of the years I served as principal vocal accompanist at Canadian Nazarene College are among the fondest of my career. There were a couple volumes of Brahms, some Schubert lieder, and then the English art songs I love so much. Who can argue with a text like this by W.H. Davies paired with music by Michael Head?

*Sweet Chance, that led my steps abroad,
Beyond the town, where wild flowers grow –
A rainbow and a cuckoo, Lord,
How rich and great the times are now!
Know, all ye sheep
And cows, that keep
On staring that I stand so long
In grass that's wet from heavy rain –
A rainbow and a cuckoo's song
May never come together again,
May never come
This side the tomb.*

The song became all the more poignant to me when I learned the text was penned in 1914, the same year that WWI began, and the music written in 1929 during those golden years between the two world wars. This sheet music is autographed by Head and dated April 24, 1947. Could it be that he was adjudicating in Winnipeg?



Another pile of music was folk songs from around the world. With the surname 'Weir' I wasn't at all surprised to find Celtic selections like *My Ain Folk*, *Annie Laurie*, and *I Know Where I'm Goin*. There was also a song titled *Gathering Daffodils* which was collected and arranged by Arthur Somervell and Sir Harold Boulton who is better known for writing new words for *Skye Boat Song*. According to a handwritten note on the cover, Eileen sang about the daffodils in the 1938 Festival! The following year on March 21st 1939 she sang *Young Love Lies Sleeping* – a poem by Christina Rossetti set to music by Arthur Somervell. Again, a handwritten note on the cover indicates Eileen was awarded a mark of 79 and was 'Tied with [competitor] 6 for 4th [place]' which made me wonder, was that a heartbreak for a young singer?

Probably the most fascinating find in this category was in the book "Botsford Collection of Folk Songs" first published in the USA in 1922. It contained songs from all over northern Europe including a Russian carol titled 'The Christ is Coming'. Was this collected in Czarist Russia, I wondered in amazement?!



I kept sorting. What began as an evening's pastime turned into a two week long quest! Who was Eileen? Just how diverse was her taste in music? It was a glimpse into the past – not just Eileen's past but also Winnipeg's past.

But you'll have to read Part II for that story! ❁



Student Composer Competition

Winnipeg Year-End Brunch Gathering

Serata: An Evening of Musical Delights!

MRMTA Student Composer Competition

All of the submissions are in for the 2025 Manitoba Student Composer Competition and we have some extremely dedicated and talented students in our province! Thirteen entries were submitted over six categories with multiple pieces for piano solo, voice, choir, and even jazz ensemble! All entries are in the capable hands of our adjudicator at this time, and adjudications will be distributed to participants in May, with results and details being posted to our website at that time.

Our adjudicator this year is Wes Froese of Saskatoon, SK. Beloved of Manitobans, Wes is a well known performer, clinician, and composer with several compositions belonging to Canadian student curriculums.

Again, watch the Student Composer Competition page in May to find out about the winning compositions, prizes won, and advancements to the national level of competition in June. Best of luck, students, but you already have something incredible to be very proud of. Thank you to the families and instructors who undoubtedly contributed so much support.

Melissa Gingrich
Canada Music Week Representative

Dear MRMTA members,

We would like to invite you our annual year-end brunch gathering. Last December, we had a lovely brunch with about 12 Winnipeg MRMTA members. As we are wrapping up our another academic year, it would be very nice to catch up each other. Although this even is in Winnipeg, any MRMTA members are welcome to join.

When: Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM

Where: Original Pancake House,
2220 McGillivray Blvd. Winnipeg.

Please RSVP by May 25th, 2025
to mrmta.events@gmail.com

Thank you.
Event Coordinator, MRMTA

Dear MRMTA Members and Executive,

The Serata Fundraising Committee would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to everyone for the support, dedication and participation at our event. While it is with regret that we must cancel the event and discontinue the Professional Development Award programme, we want to acknowledge the incredible efforts that went into making it a possibility.

On a personal level, I am especially grateful to the Executive and my committee members, Leanne Hiebert and Evangeline Keeley, whose hard work and commitment have been invaluable. Your time, expertise and enthusiasm have been truly appreciated.

Although these fun concerts will not continue, I am pleased to share that the funds raised will be invested towards future conferences, ensuring that our hard work and effort towards aiding the next Conference Committee can still be advanced in meaningful ways.

Once again, thank you to everyone for your contributions, whether as performers, offering raffle prizes or volunteering. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group, and I deeply appreciate everything you have done!

With gratitude,
Tiffany A. Wilson Chairperson
Serata: An Evening of Musical Delights!



RCM Elementary Theory Quiz

Aligned with The RCM Curriculum, the *Elementary Theory Quiz* is a digital test designed to reflect students' current understanding of elementary music theory at their respective levels upon completion of their theory books with their teacher.

This quiz serves as an educational milestone, allowing students to validate their progress and understanding of foundational music theory principles.

Start your student's theory journey today!

rcmusic.com/TheoryQuiz



CFMTA Corner



Stay connected and take part in the vibrant opportunities offered by the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA/FCAPM). Please visit www.cfmta.org or the CFMTA/FCAPM App for detailed information, including past and current updates. Let's celebrate and promote music education across Canada!

Explore These Resources and Opportunities:

1. Monthly "Of Note" Email and Canada Music Teacher Magazine:
 - Receive monthly newsletters and the Canada Music Teacher magazine three times a year.
2. CFMTA and MRMTA Facebook Groups:
 - Connect with fellow music teachers through these Facebook groups.
3. "Connecting Canada Year Round" Online Professional Development Chats:
 - Participate in monthly online professional development sessions. Details are emailed on the first of each month.
4. CFMTA Video Resource Library:
 - Access instructional videos by requesting the password from Dina Pollock at webmaster@cfmta.org.
5. A member of CFMTA Logo for Your Webpage and Correspondence:
 - Enhance your professional look with the CFMTA member logo. Get the logo from Heather Fyffe at admin@cfmta.org.
6. National Essay Competition:
 - Enter the CFMTA National Essay Competition. For more info, email essaycompetition@cfmta.org.

Take advantage of these resources and opportunities to grow and connect within the music teaching community!

For more detailed information, check out www.cfmta.org.





CFMTA Corner



Branching Out - Music Making a Difference

With so much need and want in our world these days, it is especially important for our students to feel empowered to be game changers. The Music Making A Difference Branching Out initiative will encourage music students across the country to raise money by playing concerts to benefit a local need. Some recital targets could be:

- Your Community's Food Bank
- SPCA
- Refugee sponsorship organizations
- Hospice programs
- A particular project such as providing socks for the homeless.
- A local environmental issue

With this public outreach, local students, branches, and provincial organizations can truly make a difference in their community. An engaging option would be to pair the donation recipient with the concert theme, i.e. a fundraiser for the SPCA could be a concert of animal-themed music; refugee fundraiser could feature music written by refugees or from parts of the world where there are many refugees.

Events may be live in-person, live-streamed, or pre-recorded.

Branching Out donations of \$100.00 each will be distributed by random draw to participating Branches after March 31, 2026. All submissions will be acknowledged in the CMT Year in Review.

For further questions, contact Heather Fyffe at admin@cfmta.org

Mark Your Calendar!

- CFMTA/FCAPM Student Composer Competition – Deadline June 1, 2025
- CFMTA/FCAPM Annual General Meeting – June 24, 2025 (Contact admin@cfmta.org to register to attend)
- CFMTA/FCAPM Board of Directors Meeting - July 2, 2025
- CFMTA/FCAPM 2025 Conference – Montreal – July 3 – 5, 2025
- Canada Music Week Poster Competition – November 15, 2025
- Canada Music Week – November 16 - 22, 2025
- Call for Compositions - March 1, 2026
- Branching Out – March 15, 2026 – online submission deadline March 31, 2026



Branch Canada Music Week Reports

Brandon and Westman

Winnipeg

Brandon and Westman

Celebrating Canadian Music at Canada Music Week:

A Day of Inspiration and Talent

The Brandon and Westman Registered Music Teachers' Association (BWRMTA) orchestrated a celebration of Canadian music on November 22nd at the School of Music, Brandon University. This Canada Music Week event brought together students, educators, and music enthusiasts for a day of learning, performance, and connection, serving as a testament to the richness and diversity of Canadian musical artistry.

Master Class: A Showcase of Growth and Creativity

Led by the pianist and educator **Dr. Daniel Tselyakov**, the Master Class provided 14 students with a rare opportunity to refine their skills under expert guidance. Known for his thoughtful mentorship and charismatic teaching style, Dr. Tselyakov seamlessly blended technical insight with storytelling, creating a memorable experience for participants and the audience.

With a repertoire spanning charming beginner pieces to technically demanding works, the class highlighted the depth of Canadian piano literature. Among the many standout moments:

- **Anna-Lucia Mena Shevchenko** brought grace and poise to *Homage to S.R.* by E. Schneider.
- **Alfred Qiao** delivered an electrifying performance of Oskar Morawetz's *Scherzo*, capturing its fiery character.
- **Bella Penner** expressed the haunting beauty of *Solitude* by Stella Claire ter Hart.
- **Adeline Hehn** infused vitality into *Buenos Días* by Sarah Konecsni.
- **Dimitra Pipilou** conjured vivid imagery with her interpretation of *The Stormy Sea* by Anne Crosby Gaudet.

Younger performers captivated the audience with their heartfelt interpretations of beginner pieces.

The Master Class wasn't just about polishing technique—it was about uncovering the stories within the music. "Every piece has a story to tell," Dr. Tselyakov noted, "and as performers, we breathe life into those stories—whether it's the playful antics of a sneaky feline or the grandeur of the open sea."



Concert: A Celebration of Canadian Music

The evening concert, featuring 25 talented performers, transformed the recital hall into a vibrant stage celebrating Canadian music. The program showcased the creative expanse of Canadian compositions, from gentle beginner pieces to sophisticated works by renowned composers.

Standout performances included:

- **Joy SunQiaoYi Zhang** captivated the audience with *Boîte à surprise* by S.C. Eckhardt-Gramatté.
- **David (Juncheng) Yu** offers a deeply moving rendition of *A Wild Innocence* by David L. McIntyre.



Community, Connection, and Canadian Spirit

The event concluded with a warm reception that buzzed with excitement and pride. Attendees shared reflections on the day's performances, celebrating the talents of the students and the vibrancy of Canadian compositions.

Gratitude was also extended to the executive team—Alla Turbanova, Lara Mason, Dianna Neufeld, Maureen Baird, Marla Winters, and Wing Chow—for their dedication to organizing such a remarkable event. Special acknowledgment was given to the leadership of BWRMTA President Laura Liu, who travelled from Toronto to join the festivities.



A Celebration to Remember

This year's Canada Music Week celebration was more than just an event—it was a shared journey through the richness of Canadian music. From Dr. Tselyakov's inspiring mentorship to the heartfelt performances of students, the day underscored the power of music to unite, inspire, and uplift.

As Dr. Tselyakov aptly remarked, *Canadian music has a voice that deserves to be heard—and today, you all gave it wings.* ✨

Respectfully submitted by
The Brandon and Westman Registered Music Teachers'
Association





Branch Canada Music Week Reports - cont.

Brandon and Westman

Winnipeg

Winnipeg

Winnipeg celebrated Canada Music Week with a recital of Canadian compositions by our incredible students. Vocal and piano students spoke a brief introduction to their pieces and shared works of Bender, Chatman, Niamath, and Louie (to name a few) including a piano duet, modern inner piano technique, and a stirring performance of Kuzmenko's *In Memoriam to the Victims of Chernobyl* to close the show by **Marek Song** (student of Jacqueline Ryz). Additionally, we featured four of our **Student Composer Competition winners, Heidi Reimer, Octave Brault, Nathaniel Mercer** and **Sarah Mercer**, performing their nationally recognized compositions from the Spring 2024 competition. It was thrilling to experience how polished and thoughtful their creations were and to receive these premiere performances! Worthy competition winners indeed!

At the heart of our celebration was a "moment with a composer" where respected composer **Julianne Warkentin** spoke about her journey as a composer – her influences, her inspiration, her method, her publications, and her words of encouragement for all the students. Then she and Abigail Ferencz (vocal student of Tiffany Wilson) performed Julianne's recent vocal composition *I Call to the Forest*.

MRMTA President **Laura Liu** and **Tiffany Wilson** presented MRMTA Community Service Awards to Sarah and Nathaniel Mercer, we had some fun with trivia about the Canadian music scene, and everyone went home with a belly full of delicious cake. It was a wonderful event and I applaud our incredible students and incredible instructors for their high level of preparation and participation.

Teachers, now is the perfect time to encourage all of your students to try their hand at composition. Great composers are all around us as this recital has once again proven, and providing that nudge of creative support can be the first step of a remarkable journey for a budding musician.

Respectfully submitted by Melissa Gingrich
MRMTA CMW Coordinator





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From the Editor



Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all well and enjoying the first part of spring. Enjoy the magazine, I am so impressed with all the programs you have for your students.

Thanks

Dina



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