

Progressions

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B.C. REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
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Ta - Da!

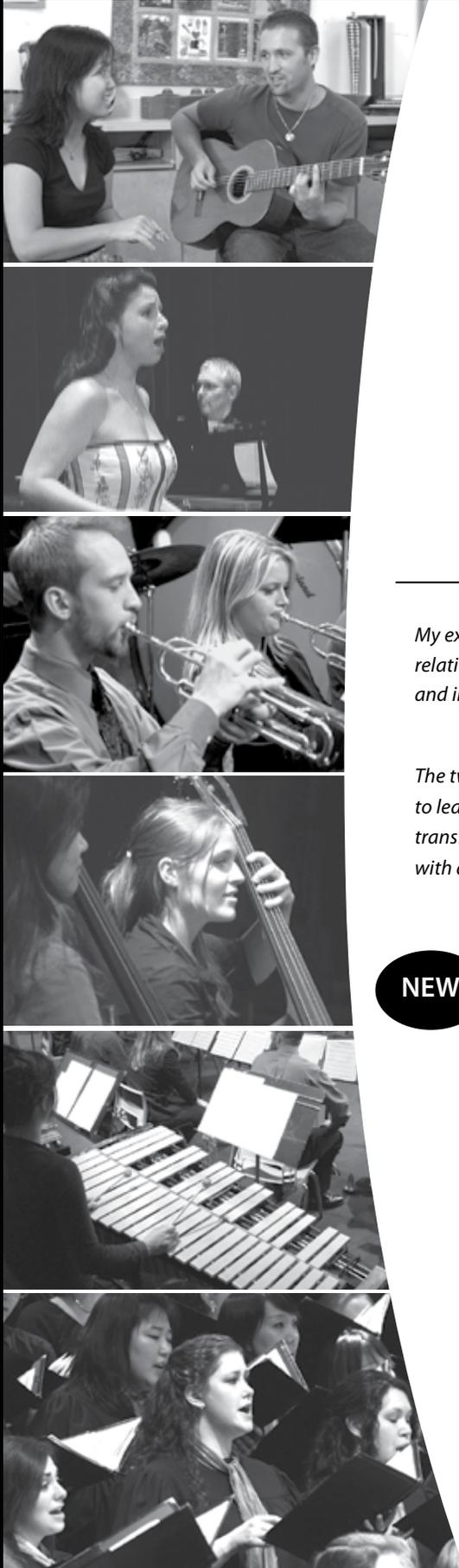
Here it is - our NEW NAME

It did take a little time to work it out but it's definitely worth the effort. Thank you to all the members who submitted suggestions for the name and a big Thanks! to Katherine Hume from North Shore branch for submitting "Progressions" Katherine tells me it is bilingual, same spelling in English and French. Thank you to the Provincial Council for all the feedback, Joyce Janzen for the first draft for the artwork of the logo, Jim Olsen for taking the first draft and tweaking it, Kevin Thompson who gave a working copy to work from and finally the Executive Board for all the help with refining and finalizing the logo design. Hope you all like it.

Update on the improved BCRMTA WEBSITE

www.bcrmta.bc.ca

By the time you receive this magazine the new website should be up and running. The address has stayed the same, but that's all. It has new sections that highlight the magazine, new resource material, new registration process and of course the new "find a teacher" locator. We are also working on a members only section.



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Risa McDonell

The two years that I was studying at Capilano provided me with an amazing environment in which to learn. While there I was enrolled in the Bachelor of Music Transfer Program and I subsequently transferred directly into third year at the University of Victoria, from which I recently graduated with distinction. This fall I will begin my Master of Music Degree at the University of Ottawa.

Adrian Verdejo

NEW

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Please send any changes of address to the registrar:
registrar@bcrmta.bc.ca

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the **President's** *message*

As I speak with many teachers across British Columbia and indeed, while at the CFMTA meetings with teachers from across Canada, it has become apparent that the music teaching profession is moving more and more towards a 12-month program, with many teachers taking only a few weeks off at the end of the summer. This seems to be student driven, with many using the summer to work on their musical studies, without the pressures of schoolwork and numerous winter activities. As well, many choose August exams to complete their theoretical courses or do the final preparation for their practical exams. Although it is no longer the two-month “lazy days of summer” break for many of us, most teachers can adjust their teaching schedules to allow for more days off than during the school year, while others offer special summer programs and music camps for the benefit of our students.

We are not alone in this trend to year-round education. Our summer schools are overflowing with students, both at the elementary and high school levels. Many students are trying to get an “edge” by “pre-taking” courses they will have in the next school term. With co-operation among our BCRMTA members, we can all benefit from the interest in summer lessons and fill the needs of our students.

A key to providing good service to our students is

communication. Through your branch and community music programs you should be able to provide up-to-date information on musical activities, concerts and programs that would benefit your students. At the present time, BCRMTA is working on our brand new website. We are very excited about our new image and all the services we will be able to provide to our members. It is the public face of our organization and we want to make it as professional as possible. Thank you to Carol Schlosar for all her expertise and diligence on this important project.

Have you registered for REJUVINATE 2008 in Harrison Hot Springs? What an inspirational way to begin the next teaching term in such a wonderful setting. Personally, the highlight of these conventions has been to meet teachers from throughout our province and feel a part of such a vibrant organization. It will be a fabulous feast of workshops and master classes, an amazing concert and the BC Piano Competition, which is always of such high calibre. Included will be lunches, receptions and our banquet always a highlight for our organization. Add to this the setting in one of the most beautiful resorts in Canada, the World Sandcastle Championships and all being there together—don't miss out.

May you look forward to the upcoming year of teaching with joyful anticipation.

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant”

Robert Louis Stevenson





May 3, 2008

British Columbia Registered Music Teachers' Association
Office of the Registrar
13088 Huntley Avenue
Surrey BC V3V 6B8

Dear Susan,

On behalf of all of us here at the Victoria Conservatory, please convey to our BCRMTA colleagues our deep gratitude for your part in the production of the archival CD of performances by Dr. Robin Wood. Equally generous was the Association's decision that proceeds from the sale of the CD be donated to the Conservatory.

Dr. Wood was a teacher and performer whose positive influence in the lives of many of us was deep and lasting. Together with Winifred, he was in many ways the face and the soul of the Conservatory. Times change, but the legacy of people like Dr. Wood continues. Just last night I attended the Piano Honours Concert of the Victoria Festival where several awards were presented in his memory, to students whose fine playing was, at least in part, a legacy of his own work.

We greatly appreciate the support that BCRMTA members have shown for the Conservatory through this project. The Conservatory remains a vibrant community of learning, teaching, and performing. Come visit any time!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jamie Syer".

Dr. Jamie Syer
Chair, Artistic Directorate
Head, Keyboard Department <http://vcm.bc.ca/keys.htm>
Artistic Director, Collegium Program for Young Musicians <http://vcm.bc.ca/collegium.htm>
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cc. Nelson Lah, President, VCM Board of Governors
Winifred Scott Wood, Vice-President *emerita*

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Branch Reports

ABBOTSFORD

Hello from the Abbotsford branch.

We have had a busy year so far and anticipate a busy fall coming up as well. We have 25 members that are actively teaching as well as a growing student auxiliary for which we are very excited as these are the future teachers as us “oldies” will some day retire and we can be confident that there are and will be wonderful teachers ready to take up the “teaching torch”. February saw the election of a new executive with Diane Petkau president, Irene Funk vice-president, Debbie Bonar secretary and Jeremy Childs the treasurer.

We also hosted the 8th Abbotsford Piano Festival in May and this again was a successful and well organized event with many people volunteering and giving of their time and finances to make this a highlight for our students. Thanks to everyone who made all of this possible.

We also were privileged to have Dave Wheeler come and give us an overview of the new syllabus for the entire new repertoire. We all have lots to look forward to in the fall with exciting new repertoire and study books.

We look forward to September’s BCRMTA convention “REJUVENATE! 2008” hosted by our neighboring Chilliwack branch but not before we all get some much needed rest and a holiday from our busy routines.

Wishing everyone a restful and relaxing summer.

CARIBOO

No report submitted.

CHILLIWACK

The Chilliwack Arts Council’s Annual “Celebrate the Arts” reception was held on May 8 with eleven piano students playing background music for 90 minutes. Our May student recital evening featured three recitals: adults only, Juniors up to grade 6 and a senior recital for grades 7 and up. A total of 52 students of voice, piano and violin performed.

The Stoutjesdyk Memorial scholarship was awarded to Erica Gibson who will be studying piano and trumpet at UVic in the fall.

Our June meeting featured a catered lunch and discussion of topics to pursue at the first fall meeting: establishing a student auxiliary and of course how to make our fall convention the best ever. We also ordered RCT name tags for new members, business cards with the RMT logo and renewed our group subscription to “Clavier.”

“Rejuvenate! 2008” is the theme and Harrison Hot Springs is the place for our convention weekend on September 26 and 27. Stephane Lemelin is the featured guest pianist performing a solo concert on Friday and giving a Lecture and Masterclass on Saturday. Terry Small will also speak on “Engaging the Brain” a good topic to start off the new teaching year! The BC Piano Competition will feature young artists from around BC including our own Clinton Denoni, Erica Gibson and Nabil Fadai. For complete information visit: www.bcrmta.bc.ca and click on Rejuvenate! 2008. There’s still time to register – see you there!

COQUITLAM – MAPLE RIDGE

Our Canada Music Week Recital was held on November 18 at St. Lawrence Anglican Church. Students performed a variety of Canadian repertory including their own compositions, Dance of the Loons by Lilian Safdie, and piano pieces from Seasons and Just Kidding! by our featured composer, Teresa Richert. Teresa presented a short workshop for students and they received copies of the books containing their performance pieces. Several students received awards for outstanding achievement on conservatory examinations.

Our 2007 finale was a Christmas Luncheon at the Boathouse Restaurant in Port Moody.

We began 2008 with a workshop by Bruce Vogt on the piano music of Franz Liszt. The workshop was educational and entertaining for all members in attendance. A delicious catered luncheon followed.

Branch Reports

COQUITLAM – MAPLE RIDGE - cont.

Our first meeting of 2008 was held on February 6 followed by a presentation by Barrie Barrington on the proposed pedagogy degree at Douglas College. Members were very enthusiastic about the proposed program.

Announcements of special events involving our members in early 2008 include the reading of Teresa Richert's orchestral work, *The Enchanted Forest*, by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in the Jean Coulthard Readings at the Orpheum Theatre on January 31, Henry Waack and Friends' Encore Concert at Douglas College on February 17th (Happy 80th Birthday, Henry!), and Sylvia Kim's trio's "French Classics" Concert at Place des Arts on February 23rd.

We are preparing for our seventh annual North Fraser Music Festival (April 21 – 25) and Honours Concert (May 4th). We are pleased to have Darlene Brigidear, Barbara Siemens and Keiko Alexander adjudicating this year.

All the best for the remainder of our 2007 – 2008 season!

EAST KOOTENAY

The 2007-2008 season was very eventful and most enjoyable for the members of the East Kootenay Music Teachers' Association (EKMTA). The Spring season rounded out the year nicely with some enjoyable events, and we are in the planning stages for another eventful season starting September 2008.

This past Spring, the EKMTA was again involved in the organization and programming of the EK Performing Arts Festival for the piano and voice classes which took place in April. The main sponsorship of the local Credit Union and the many volunteers helped to make the Festival a success and was enjoyed by all.

To conclude the year we held the "Spring into Summer" special Gala performance Sunday June 1st. Our "Sonatina Sunday" event did not take place this year as planned, and the EK Performing Arts Festival Showcase concert was cancelled due to the temporary closing of the local theatre, so we creatively combined all the performances slated for these concerts

into the Gala, plus included additional noteworthy performances. Piano, vocal, musical theatre and speech arts performances showcased our area's diverse talent and made for a wonderful afternoon. We wrapped up the day with a fun reception and it didn't take long for eleven boxes of Concerto cookies to disappear!!

Our members then enjoyed a luncheon meeting in June to wrap up our monthly group meetings and at which we decided on events for next season. In August we will start up again with our annual social potluck luncheon to "kick-start" the New Year with planning and organizing.

We look forward to the new 2008-2009 season. In October we will host an Alexander Technique workshop featuring Larissa Makila from Calgary. We are also gearing up for another performance in late November of the EKMTA-Symphony of the Kootenays Student Concerto Project. Two senior students were chosen through a festival-based selection process in April and are presently preparing to perform the first and second movement of Mozart's piano concerto in C major, KV 246. This is a very exciting event unique to our small community and we look forward to November!

We will update you on these and new events we are currently planning in our next report.

In Memoriam

Charlotte Grundig
Member of North Shore Branch
since 1971



Branch Reports

KELOWNA

The 2008 annual general meeting for the Kelowna Branch was held on April 4th. The Spring Student Recital was held at the Okanagan College Theatre on May 4th.

Our academic year concluded with a celebration lunch at Jakx, where we welcomed new members for the upcoming year.

MID-ISLAND

The Mid-Island branch hosted a three day workshop in November thanks in great part to the enthusiastic organizing talents of Carmen Falconer. Clinician, Robin Harrison (pianist, adjudicator and examiner) began the three day workshop with a Friday evening recital. This was followed the next two days with his lectures on Mozart, Haydn and Chopin and master classes for students playing at all levels.

Another Professional Development workshop for teachers was held in January. This workshop included discussion and sharing about the book club selection "The Inner Game of Music" by Green & Gallwey.

The first of two annual Student Recitals hosted by the branch took place in January this year at St. Philip's by the Sea Church in Lantzville.

There was a marked increase in this year's entries for the branch's Joan Gosselin Music Writing Celebration. Nineteen students submitted their original music compositions to be adjudicated by Lorna Paterson. The three best compositions are automatically entered into the Provincial Music Writing Competition by the branch. The successful candidates were Elysia Biro (Over the Prairies), Trevor Yung (Why?) and Tara Christensen (The Legend). Teachers and the public can look forward to hearing these compositions performed at our next branch recital to be held in May. At that time all the young composers who participated in the event will be presented with albums of Lorna Paterson's music and a certificate.

Students who have successfully completed all of their Grade 8, 9 or 10 practical and theoretical examination requirements will also be presented with Book Awards at the same recital.

The branch has the pleasure of welcoming the following new members, Marianne Sadik (Qualicum Beach) and Nancy Warkentin (Chemainus), Nancy Winters (Cassidy) and Sharon Welch (Nanaimo).

Elaine Ursulak was presented with her 25 year pin at our October General Meeting.

On a very sad note, one of our long time members, Jeannette Russell (Chemainus) passed away recently.

MISSION

This past year has seen some changes in our branch. Our president, Sandra Friesen, has moved to Alberta for further studies and our Vice president has assumed her duties. Laura Webster is now our new President. We appreciate all Sandra has done for our branch and wish her well in her new studies. We are looking forward to resuming meetings again after the summer.

NELSON

Our year began in October, with Master Classes given by Arne Sahlen. This was followed by a Recital which included the young Cambodian Baritone, Hy Chantavoutt, and where \$600.00 was raised for the Cambodia Support Group.

In November we were treated to a tour of Selkirk College School of Contemporary Music where we were shown the array of various keyboards/organs/pianos by Giles Parenteau. You may be interested to look up "Virtual Symphony" on the web to see the impressive arrangement Giles has orchestrated.

Elli Malpass organized our celebration of Canada Music Week by pairing students and having them play a rhythm game to establish their motif, then with some more instruction they continued with composing a piece based on what it is that makes Canada special for them. They then performed these pieces as well as repertoire from recognized Canadian composers.

Various recitals, Christmas carol sing-a-long, have been held by various teachers.

In February Anne Macdonald gave a talk on "physiology and injury prevention" to senior students

Branch Reports

NELSON - cont.

and teachers.

Students were invited to perform in the nearby community of Silverton to help raise money for the beautiful new grand piano which has been purchased. [This piano is extensively used during the Valhalla Summer School.] The students were publicly thanked and treated to refreshments before the drive home.

We have just finished the Kootenay Festival of the Arts with the Honour Concert being held next week [April 15] at the Capitol theatre.

NORTH ISLAND

The North Island RMT Branch continues to be very active. We currently have 25 branch members and 5 Student Auxiliary members.

We hold monthly meetings that are preceded with a "Program presented or chaired by a member; or presented by an invited guest. Some of our program topics this year have included: memorization; a review of the new RCM technical requirements and a review of the Forrest Kinney Workshop held in Richmond in Sept.; Teaching Rudiments; the pros and cons of exams; Early Childhood Music programs – Suzuki- with invited guest Donna Griffiths; Downloading Music Websites; and Recovery Room - a sharing of ideas and difficulties.

A number of our members attended the wonderful Richmond Conference last September. Our branch door prize was the book "Bach's Well Tempered Clavier" written by our former branch member Marjorie Wornell Engels.

Our branch (in conjunction with the C.R. Friends of Music and the Comox Valley Piano Society) sponsors a number of concerts throughout the year. The Canada Music Week Concert was well attended. Both of the CFMTA Composer Competition pieces were performed at the concert. In Nov. Glen Montgomery of Lethbridge Alberta presented a concert and one masterclass however due to a heavy snowfall the other masterclasses had to be cancelled. In February pianist Pavel Egorov was visiting from Russia and gave two recitals and also a masterclass to two of

our senior students. Some of our branch members have given concerts during the past year; The Clarion Trio Concert was in the fall with cellist Ron Edinger and members Erik Taynen and Jennie Atkinson completing the Trio. Member, Elleonore Krullaarts prepared her second public piano recital this year. Former students from our local area who have moved on to very prominent careers in music - Barbara Livingston, Chris Andrew, and Anne Wilson Unger- were involved in the "20th Anniversary Celebration" Concert Series at the Tidemark Theatre.

Our branch also sponsors the Piano Showcase Concert at the completion of the North Island Festival of the Performing Arts. Each student invited to perform in the concert receives a ribbon.

The Campbell River Music Week Music Festival will be happening at the end of April with adjudicator Sarah Hagen doing the "Piano Carnival (beginners – Grade 2 level) and Anne Wilson Unger as the "Fiesta" adjudicator (Grades 3 – advanced). The week concludes with "Cantabile" for voice with adjudicator Sara Wicker; and a Finale Concert of the highlights of the festival.

NORTH SHORE

The North Shore Branch has enjoyed another active and eventful year under the direction of our President, Janette Keefe. There is some good, positive energy in the branch and many members have given hours of volunteer time to ensure that we continue with our quality workshops and events, notably the North Shore Music Festival, which just wrapped up on March 14th. It's also satisfying to hear the progress of all the students from year to year!

In September, we co-hosted a workshop with the Royal Conservatory of Music on "The New Technical Requirements" from the upcoming edition of the Piano Syllabus 2008. Murray Nichol, our clinician, was extremely knowledgeable and answered the many questions asked at this well-attended workshop held at Mount Seymour United Church.

Our October workshop was a first for us. We



Branch Reports

NORTH SHORE - cont.

invited the Western Gold Theatre group to perform "Jean Sibelius: The Last Swan", a play written and directed by Don Mowatt, based on a work by Harri Virtanen. These experienced actors provided a thought-provoking dramatic reading on Sibelius' last days.

Canada Music Week was the focus for our November meeting and student recital. For the third consecutive year, the branch has invited a BC Composer to work with student composers and commissioned them to compose pieces for our students. This year we were thrilled to have Joan Hansen participate as our guest composer. Her pieces were "Whimsy" and "McKenzie's Rag" for piano solo and "Down" and "Purple Tango" for piano and cello. Our CMW recital was filled with students playing their own compositions, the commissioned pieces and other works by Canadian composers. Thank you to Dr. Carolyn Finlay, our Canada Music Week coordinator, for organizing this wonderful event.

In December, Dr. Sasha Starcevich held a workshop at his home on "The Virtuoso Composers...their Concertos and Solos". Sasha's workshops are always appreciated and popular with the branch! Our Christmas Luncheon, held every year at Taylor's Crossing in North Vancouver, gave us a chance to catch up with friends before the holidays.

On January 20th, we held our annual Lucille Little Memorial Recital. It was an incredible afternoon with wonderful performances by very talented students, who demonstrated excellence in their music examinations. This year's winner of the Lucille Little Trophy is Cheralyn Chok, Grade 9, student of Dr. Sasha Starcevich. Thank you to Jan Keefe, Joyce Jackson, Diana Marr and Donna Symons for their contribution to the success of this event.

In February, we looked ahead to festival season with a workshop for supervisors, given by Pat Holme.

The North Shore Music Festival and Workshops was held on March 3rd-14th. We introduced some new classes this year: vocal, winds, piano accompaniment and many non-competitive classes and workshops for piano. This new section of the Festival was celebrated with a Gala Concert at St. John's Anglican Church,

North Vancouver. Two final concerts for trophy winners were held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, also in North Vancouver. Thank you to Alice Rada, our festival coordinator and Diana Marr, festival liaison for their tireless efforts in making the Festival an event to look forward to every year.

The North Shore Branch also holds monthly students recitals from September to June, organized by Donna Symons and Raul Velasco. Thank you both for your ongoing help with these important recitals!

We will be concluding our year with a general meeting in April, followed by our AGM and Potluck Luncheon in May.

PRINCE GEORGE

No report submitted.

RICHMOND

Following Spring Break, the recital committee was busy setting up the Advanced Students recital, presentation of the Winifred Proud Scholarship and the Community Service Scholarship. Another Presentation Award in April was the RICHMOND BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP, which is offered biennially to students of our members in each grade obtaining the highest mark in disciplines of piano, violin, woodwind and voice.

We concluded the 2008 spring season programme with a POP/JAZZ Piano workshop in April and Technique Olympics in May.

It was a very busy year of teaching, recitals, a masterclass with Professor Crudeli and co-hosting of two workshops, one on Technical Requirement Changes and the other on Piano Syllabus 2008 edition.

What a great turnout at our year end luncheon in June (almost 40) This was again held at the River Rock Casino and Resort.

A safe and restful summer to one and all.

Branch Reports

SHUSWAP

Our annual RMTA year-end lunch meeting was held at a fellow teacher's home. June was a busy time for all of us with closing recitals as well as examinations.

We held no meetings during the summer months but many of us took advantage of the August examination time as the winter months are a busy time for many of our students. Some of our members volunteered in a variety of capacities at the Salmon Arm "Roots and Blues Festival" as well as "Wednesday on the Warf" and "Music by the River". The 60th Anniversary of BCRMTA in September was enjoyed by 6 Shuswap delegates. (We currently have 10 members)

November 18 we hosted our annual Canadian Music Week Recital. Along with the music of our many famous Canadian Composers, we enjoyed the performances of two "up-and-coming" young local composers. "Pluck and String" by Daniel Casson was performed by the 4 brothers and was a great crowd pleaser. The "Cello Concerto Adagio Cantabile" by Joshua DenHollander has been awarded second place for the Jean Coulthard Composition Competition. The Concert ended with the performance of the "Dance of the Loons" which was commissioned for Canada Music Week.

The Art Gallery in Salmon Arm is a Heritage Building and our RMTA group was approached to make a work of art from one of the original windows in the building. Marty Moore, husband of our member Carmen Moore, constructed an amazing work of art out of old piano parts and entitled it "Music is the window to the soul".

In January some of us took in a workshop by Joe Berarduci entitled "How I think, How I learn, How I teach. We gained some wonderful insights into teaching!

Our local festival has been in the process of "going on-line". It has been a huge amount of work (and not a few headaches) but hopefully it will mean less man-hours in the years to come. We are forever grateful to Marg Duncan for the untold hours of work she has put

into making this possible.

We have eight directors on the Shuswap Music Festival Society board including three of our RMTA members. We are presently gearing up for our Music Festival which runs from April 14-25 concluding with our night of stars on the 26th.

We are anticipating two weeks of wonderful music!

Extra update - The Shuswap branch had a busy festival and exam season. Our festival was 2 weeks in duration encompassing the disciplines of piano, strings, vocal and band. We had wonderful, encouraging adjudicators and with our partnership with Rotary we were able to award over \$3000 in awards and scholarships. Our adjudicators for 2008 were Arne Sahlen, Tracey Garvin for piano, Michael van der Sloot for strings, Karen Smith for voice and finally Roy Carson for band. We have an open festival and enjoy seeing students from many areas in the Okanagan and further. Our festival in 2009 will take place during the last 2 weeks of April with a Gala concert to end the festival on May 1.

SOUTH FRASER

The South Fraser branch had another busy spring with activities available for every teacher. Our 49th annual music festival was another success, taking place over 12 days with entries for piano, strings, brass and woodwinds. Over half of the branch teachers participate in this event with over 1,000 entries in total. Yvette Rowledge continues to work tirelessly as the Festival Convenor and will continue in this role for one last year to ensure the 50th anniversary festival is a year to remember!

On March 9th there was a 'playoff' to determine the student who would represent our branch at the BC Piano Competition at Harrison Hot Spring in September 2008. Leslie Chen was chosen by adjudicator David Vandereyk.

We had a branch-sponsored workshop on Saturday April 5th with teachers from four different RMT branches attending. Conservatory Canada presented





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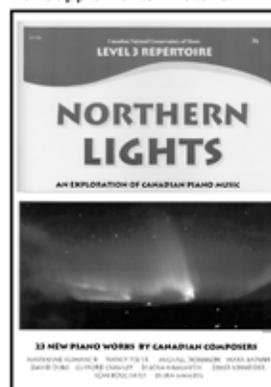
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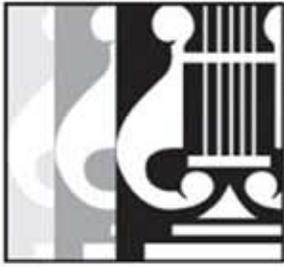


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November 29 - Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra

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Branch Reports

SOUTH FRASER - cont.

information on the Contemporary Idioms syllabus, QuenMar music presented on their Keyboard Accompaniment series, and Forrest and Akiko Kinney discussed Creativity at the Piano. There was much inspiration and many ideas for teachers who want their students to learn to play freely at the piano, not just from the written page.

The branch-sponsored student recital on Monday May 26th was hosted by our president, Jennifer Heyworth. A variety of performances was enjoyed by all, including accompanied works.

Several students approach Cathy Bundt about putting on a benefit concert to aid victims of the earthquake in the Sichuan province in China. Students from around the Lower Mainland participated in the event on Sunday June 15th, raising over \$1,500. Kevin Thompson videotaped the event and DVD's are available for sale to raise even more funds (plus the government of Canada matches the funds). It's wonderful to see students taking their musical talents and helping others through their own efforts!

Our Mall Showcase was held at Guilford Mall on June 21st from 1:00-4:00 PM. A grand piano was brought into a public area of the mall, and passers-bys could be seen looking over the balcony from the second level to see where the fabulous music was coming from! Over 70 students participated, with piano solos, duets, and flute performances.

The Student Teacher Auxiliary had a difficult year, planning meetings on a Sunday afternoon does not work for busy young students/teachers and declining enrollment means that the branch will re-evaluate the role of the STA and what we can offer to student teachers.

After our April branch meeting, Ron Koyanagi presented a workshop on improvising and jazz for beginners. We had our annual June luncheon at a Greek restaurant with 15 members attending. After our September meeting, Dr. Carla Dodek will give a lecture- recital on the French School (including the somewhat stereotyped 'Impressionistic' period). Many of us are looking forward to the BCRMTA convention in September, and we hope to see you there!

SOUTH OKANAGAN

The South Okanagan Branch has lost two members this year to retirement and family commitments so we are down to fourteen members. We meet bi-monthly usually on the second Monday of the month. Our first meeting was busy discussing our fall advertising campaign. We decided that we needed to give our branch a higher public profile. We planned a three week blitz with articles written by our members titled - The Value of a Music Education; How to Choose a Music Teacher for Your Child; and Why Should You Choose a Registered Music Teacher. We accompanied these articles with a branch ad and a list of our members.

Two members were able to go to Richmond for the 60th Anniversary Gala. It was a great celebration! Our gratitude is extended to the organizers for all their hard work - it was much appreciated!

We had our Canada Music Week Recital on November 18. The major criteria for this recital is that all music is composed by Canadian Composers. All teachers submit five minutes of music from their students for the program. With teachers of several disciplines in our membership, this makes for a delightful and varied program. Our scholarships for the highest marks for the 2007 music year were presented at the end of this recital.

Our first meeting on January 14, 2008 was spent organizing our workshop for this winter followed by our annual New Year Lunch. This year it was held at one of one of our members spouse's restaurant Chef Andre's Cafe.

On February 9, we had Arne Sahlen come to our branch. In the morning, he gave a workshop on two topics: Fascination-Motivation-Focus and The Joy of Technique. We then had lunch at "Saigon on Main" in Penticton. In the afternoon we had a master class with six student performers. All piano teachers in the area were invited to the workshop.

The Penticton Kiwanis Music Festival is from April 1-30 so all our teachers have been preparing students for that as well as helping as volunteers in several areas.

Our goals for next year are a Spring Recital and more use of the Professional Development Library.

Branch Reports

SOUTH OKANAGAN - cont.

Our 2007 - 2008 year has been a good one and we continue to try to improve our teaching skills. We provide encouragement and support for each other always making time at the end of each meeting to discuss a professional development topic.

SUNSHINE COAST

The Sunshine Coast Branch celebrated Canada Music Week with a recital at St. Hilda's Anglican Church, Sechelt on November 18th. There was a good turn-out, and the students all performed well, including some original compositions. In Dec., Arlys Peters and Carl Montgomery had students perform for the Elves club telethon broadcast on the local cable channel. Arlys's students fundraised for the event. The members enjoyed a Christmas luncheon at a local restaurant for our Dec. meeting. After our Jan. meeting Carl Montgomery gave a brief presentation summarizing information and hand-outs from the New Technical Requirements workshop held in North Vancouver on Sept 29th with Murray Nichol. Members hope to include workshops or presentations more often with the meetings. We had a very successful student recital on Jan 27th at the Heritage Theatre in Gibsons. A very special thank you to all the teachers who helped make it such a success. Our next Recital is on April 6th at St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church. Teachers are now busy preparing students for the upcoming Sunshine Coast Festival of the Performing Arts in April.

TRAIL – CASTLEGAR

The Trail/ Castlegar Branch has wrapped up meetings for the summer, although some teachers continue to teach a handful of students throughout the summer months. Students and teachers were involved in May and June exams for both Royal Conservatory and Conservatory Canada. We had a wonderful workshop with the Royal Conservatory examiner,

Miriam Mahood, entitled: "RCM Examinations - Meeting the Challenge!" Ms. Mahood shared with us her expectations as an examiner and what she is listening for. For new teachers and those more experienced, it is a good reminder of what a teacher can do to help tweak those pieces and technique as a student prepares for an exam. Ms. Mahood also did a mock exam with a local student, and we appreciate this student's willingness to be subjected to a room full of teacher listening to his mock exam. Thank you Brogan!

The teaching year concluded with our annual dinner, held at Nicole Zimmer's home. We had a wonderful barbeque there, fantastic food, and great company. It is always such a fun way to finish off the year before the summer holidays begin. We wish everyone a revitalizing summer, so that you are ready once again for the challenges of the Fall.

VANCOUVER

After a busy December with our annual Christmas luncheon, the Student Performers' Guild Festival and its two student honour concerts, the Vancouver branch saw the New Year kick off at a furious pace.

In January, we held our General Annual Meeting. Election of officers saw Marilyn Glazer and Sharon West returning as Co-Presidents, Mary Tickner as 1st Vice-President, Keiko Alexander as 2nd Vice-President, Toni Meyer as Treasurer, Jammy Smith as Corresponding Secretary, and Mary McKinney as Recording Secretary.

Our collaborative program with Long and McQuade presenting Marianne Uszler on February 17 was a gigantic success with 70 attending from all over the Lower Mainland. Those who have had the chance to see Marianne speak know that she is a wonderful presenter. She showered us with many useful ideas and techniques for every kind of music educator. The first half of the workshop was a lecture dealing with learning styles. The second half was an interactive discussion on how to apply those learning concepts.



Branch Reports

VANCOUVER - cont.

The spring season finds us busily preparing many more events. We are fortunate to have Dr. Carla Dodek return to speak with us on book II of Debussy's Preludes at our March workshop. Dr. Ronald Morgan will give a presentation at our May meeting on preparing for the RCM examinations for grades 7-9, with a focus on the technical and musical challenges as students transition into advanced repertoire. We will end the year with our annual June luncheon, so we can all relax and share what has been going on in the past season.

25 YEAR PINS for RMT membership were handed out to: Marie Cahill, Paula McLaughlin, Barbara Reichard and Susan Edwards. We congratulate these dedicated members!

PLANS FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2009 - a Sunday afternoon at Hycroft (the University Womens' Club of Vancouver): Guest Speaker - NADIA LASSERSON of London, England. Nadia is the Secretary of the European Piano Teachers' Association, the daughter of Carola Grindea, teacher - both privately and at Trinity College, performer, adjudicator, and author. You are warmly invited to attend this workshop. More details will be announced at a later date. Watch our website!

We look forward to updating you in our next report. Until then, all the best from the Vancouver branch!

VERNON

The Vernon branch has 19 members, teaching piano, voice and violin.

Our annual festival was held in the first week of March with approximately 300 entries in voice and piano. Piano was adjudicated by Glen Montgomery, and voice by Winston Noren. Festival week was followed by a gala concert with performances by festival winners who were presented with scholarships and awards, with a total value of approximately \$2,800.00.

In November we hold a Canada Music Week concert which celebrates Canadian composers and

their music, as well as recognizes the local students who attained the highest marks on music exams in the last year.

Our branch has five meetings a year – every second month from September to May. We have one or two workshops each year; the most recent one with Joe Berarducci.

Our branch maintains a membership in the Arts Council of the North Okanagan.

During the year, we donated a sum of money to the Canada Music Centre.

Due to an error in my formatting I unfortunately did not include the Annual report that was submitted by Janet Leffek from the Victoria Branch in our last issue. I apologize for any problems this may have caused.

The Editor

VICTORIA

Six executive meetings and six general meetings were held during the year, under the capable leadership of President Lynda Simms McCliggott and her executive committee. Membership has grown to a record 152: 136 active members, 7 associates, 3 student teachers, and 6 Friends.

At the September general meeting, Charlotte Hale and Connie Preston introduced their attractive new books (published by Hal Leonard) "Rhythm without Blues" and "Ear without Fear". In March Chris Thompson spoke on how to incorporate jazz piano into traditional piano lessons, an approach that is particularly effective with teen-age students. In May Susan de Burgh introduced new piano literature that has been added to the latest Royal Conservatory of Music syllabus, from Introductory to Grade 10 level, with fine performances of each piece and helpful comments, illustrating how each piece contributes to the systematic building of a good piano technique.

Canada Music Week was observed with a buffet breakfast at Cedar Hill Golf Club. Diane Berry presented a magical slide show of photographs of British Columbia taken by the late Myron Kozak,

Branch Reports

VICTORIA - cont.

accompanied by a performance of her composition "Saltwater, Sweetwater, and Mountains", a suite in several movements, recorded by herself and Gail Olsen on flutes and Dorothy Giesbrecht on violin. Featured composer this year at the Canada Music Week recital was Stephen Brown, who also adjudicated the Murray Adaskin Composition Competition. Three of Stephen's compositions for various combinations of two flutes and piano were performed by Evelyne Deschenes-Godbold and Judith Pazder, flutes, and Charlotte Ridgway, piano, and all the student performances were of Canadian works. The winners of the Adaskin competition performed their pieces, and three prizes were awarded in Junior and Intermediate categories. Mr. Brown advised young composers to consider writing for instruments other than the piano.

Two master classes were held, one in December with Susan de Burgh working with six students, and one in March with Linda Low. We are welcome to have our meetings and master classes at Tom Lee Music in their new premises, and at Long & McQuade's Music Education Centre.

Six successful student concerts were held during the year in Gordon Head United Church, under the capable chairmanship of Rafael Oei. The popular costumed Hallowe'en concert raised money for "Santas Anonymous". The February concert featured performances by 15 students which were adjudicated by Dr. Jamie Syer.

Charlotte Hale has devised an impressive new

format for our Branch Newsletter, with colour pictures and headings.

At the gala luncheon on May 30, 25-year pins were presented to Rosemary Beland, May Ling Kwok, and Garth Williams. Student composers Carmyn Slater and Sean Pickersgill, and pianists Shika Card and Sylvia Yee, reprised their prize-winning performances.

Victoria Branch is fortunate to have endowment funds which support student bursaries and scholarships each year. Various awards given at the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival totalled \$1,100, and five bursaries for the Victoria Piano Summer School and one for the Summer Flute Academy totalled \$1,000. There were five entrants in the Mary Adamson Young Artist competition. It was won by Sylvia Yee who was given a \$400 award, her entry fee of \$40 for the provincial competition, and the cost of a CD to enter the competition. (She has been accepted.) Sylvia also won the Madeleine Till Open Performance competition, with its prize of \$600. Elaine Kao won the \$300 Student Teacher award. Four students each won a \$75 Hilda King theory award for their achievements in Harmony 3 and 4 and History 3 and 4 examinations. In addition, the Branch administers two awards for the highest marks in RCM Grade 8 and 10 examinations in any discipline.

Four members attended the September, 2007, celebration of the 60th anniversary of BCRMTA in Richmond, taking along one volume of our memorial collection, and the Robin Wood scrapbook, for display.



**Canada Music Week 2008
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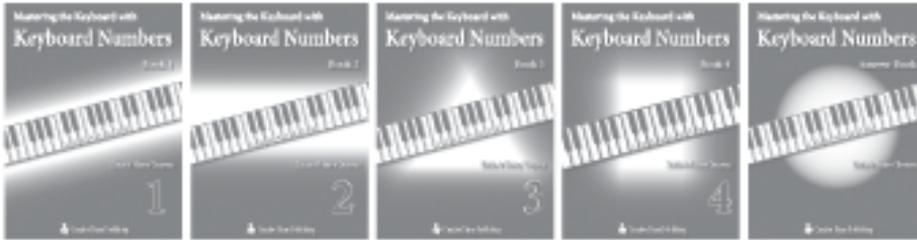
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Listing of Branch Festivals and Events

Hello Members,

I am trying something new !

I am trying to have a quick reference list for festivals and special events that branches hold. Festivals that are open to students from different towns - a list of adjudicators - workshops that may be open to other branches. This is a work in progress, if you have any ideas of what would be included that would make this listing as helpful as possible, please let me know. Thanks Dina

FESTIVALS

ABBOTSFORD

Abbotsford Piano Festival

Open to students Abbotsford Branch members, auxiliary members, and residents of Abbotsford only.

Piano

2008

May 12 – 16, 2008

Adjudicators: Bernie Duerksen, Cynthia Goddard, Ildiko Skeldon-Huber, Tara Wohlberg

2009

Tentatively - May 18 – 22, 2009

CARIBOO

Cariboo Festival Society – Open

Piano, Strings, Vocal, Choral, Speech Arts

2008

April 14 – 18, 2008

Adjudicators:

Piano – Maureen Hollins

Strings – Jose Delgado-Guevara

Vocal & Choral – George Roberts

Speech Arts – Blaine Rowe

2009

Tentatively – April 6 – 24, 2009

Adjudicators

Piano – Arnie Sahlen

COQUITLAM – MAPLE RIDGE

North Fraser Music Festival

Open to Coquitlam – Maple Ridge Branch members', auxiliary members students only.

Piano

2008

April 21 – 25, 2008

COQUITLAM – MAPLE RIDGE - cont.

Adjudicators: Keiko Alexander, Barbara Siemens, Darlene Brigidear

2009

Week of April 20

Adjudicators: Rudy Rozanski, Tracey Garvin.

EAST KOOTENAY

East Kootenay Performing Arts Festival – Open Dance, Voice, Piano, Speech, Dramatic Arts

2008

April 7 – 28, 2008

Adjudicators:

Voice – Erinn Evdokimoff Roberts

Piano – Linda Kundert, Diana Wiens

2009

Dates – TBA

Adjudicators:

Piano – Linda Kundert, Diana Wiens

NORTH ISLAND

North Island Festival of the Performing Arts

Boundries - Qualicum-Parksville / Comox Valley / Vancouver Island West / Alberni / Campbell River / Vancouver Island North

Local Festival - Music Week - which is not a competitive festival but a festival to teach our students to enjoy the process and to perform for others

2008

February 13 - 19, 2008

Adjudicators: Dr. Meijane Quong, Cynthia Goddard

2009

Dates - TBA

Listing of Branch Festival and Events - cont.

NORTH SHORE

The North Shore Music Festival

The Festival is open to all members of the North Shore Branch and their students regardless of domicile.

Open to other RMTA Branch members for their students who live on the North Shore.

Piano, Strings, Vocal, Winds

2008

March 2008

Adjudicators:

Piano – Jacqueline Ryz, Gaye Alcott, Barbara Simems,
Libby Yu, Cary Chow

Strings – Jasper Wood

Vocal – Karyn Way

Winds- Sophie Dansereau

2009

February 23 – March 6, 2009

Adjudicators – TBA

PRINCE GEORGE

Prince George and District Music Festival – Open

Piano, Vocal, Strings, Instrumental

2008

February 25 – 29, 2008

Piano, Vocal, Strings and Instrumental

Adjudicator – Arnie Sahlen

2009

Dates - TBA

Adjudicator – Dr. Jamie Syer

RICHMOND

Our branch is not responsible for the annual Music Festival that is held each year here in Richmond.

SHUSWAP

Shuswap Music Festival – Open

Piano, Strings, Voice, Band

2008

April 14 – 25, 2008

Adjudicators:

Piano – Tracy Garvin, Arne Sahlen

Strings - Michael van der Sloot

Voice – Karen Smith

Band – Roy Carson

2009

Last two week in April

SOUTH FRASER

South Fraser Registered Music Teachers' Festival
Closed

Piano, Strings, Brass, Woodwind

2008

February 18 – March 1, 2008

Adjudicators:

Piano – Aline Banno, Murray Nichol, Jean Ritter,
Jamie Syer, Miranda Wong

Strings – Evelyn Creaser

Brass and Woodwind – Suzanne Snizek

2009

February 16 – 28, 2009

Adjudicators:

Piano – Bruce Vogt, Rita Attrot, Anne Wilson Unger,
Linda Low

Piano Award Recital – Terence Dawson

TRAIL – CASTLEGAR

Music Festival – “A Celebration of Canadian Music”

Piano

2007

November 23 – 24, 2007

Adjudicator – Tracy Gravin

2008

Dates – TBA

Adjudicator – Arne Sahlen

VERNON

Vernon Registered Music Teacher's Festival
Branch members only - Piano, Voice

2008

March 2 - 6, 2008

Adjudicators:

Piano - Glen Montgomery

Vocal - Winston Noren

2009

March 7 - 13, 2009

Adjudicators TBA



Listing of Branch Festival and Events - cont.

VICTORIA

Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival
Piano

2008

April 11 – 18, 2008

Adjudicators: Marnie Carter, Patricia Miller,
Allen Stiles, Dan Wardrope

2009

Dates - TBA

EVENTS

CARIBOO

Master class and Lecture on Romantic Period
October 24 – 25, 2008
Lori Elder

EAST KOOTENAY

Alexander Technique workshop – October
EKMAT – Symphony of the Kootenays student
performance – November
Planning two new scholarship fundraising events set to
take place in January and April 2009

NORTH SHORE

Park Royal Mall Concerts: This is a special new project
in the works. The North Shore Branch has booked
Park Royal Mall (South) for four weekend afternoons
on Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 6, 7, 12-5 pm, 2008. There will
be two Teacher Only Concerts, a Canada Music Week
Demonstration, and 13 Student segments totaling 16
concerts, involving approximately 35 teachers and
200 performers. We have asked teachers to keep the
Mall public in mind when choosing performers and
types of performances and to plan for a wide variety
in solos, ensembles, instruments, compositions, family
performances, Christmas music, etc. We felt this

would be a very good way to promote the Registered
Music Teachers Association, and to keep our work and
names before the public.

Canada Music Week - our students will be working
with Michael Conway Baker who is our special
guest composer. He will be writing works specifically
for this recital and for our students to perform.

PRINCE GEORGE

Planning for a Master class and Workshop in the fall
Information - TBA

SOUTH FRASER

The 50th anniversary of our music festival
Information - TBA
We have a September workshop with Dr. Carla Dodek

TRAIL – CASTLEGAR

We are going to publish our Branch History that
Dr. Paul Crawford has written.

VANCOUVER

PLANS FOR FEBRUARY 15, 2009 - a Sunday
afternoon at Hycroft (the University Womens' Club of
Vancouver): Guest Speaker - NADIA LASSERSON
of London, England. You are warmly invited to attend
this workshop. More details will be announced at a
later date. Watch our website!

VICTORIA

Costume Capers at Halloween
Murray Adaskin Composition Competition – Canada
Music Week
Adjudicated Recital – February
Gala Luncheon with Festival Award winners – May

Branch Members

I have included all the information that was forwarded to me, if I have left out any information or
have listed anything incorrectly, please let me know and I will correct it in our next issue.



Update on the Repeal of the 1947 “Music Teachers (Registered) Act”

After a great deal of discussion over the past 4 years with the Provincial Government we have come to a dramatic but pleasing shift in the matter of the repeal of our 1947 Music Teachers (Registered) Act.

The following is an excerpt from an April 10, 2008 email from Mr. Tony Loughran, Ministry of Advanced Education, (Governance, Legislation & Intergovernmental Relations Branch):

*“Further to our recent communications it now seems apparent that we have reached an insurmountable roadblock in our attempts to bring the Registered Music Teachers Association (RMTA) under the auspices of Society Act, while also maintaining the ability for RMTA members to retain title protection (previously established under the Music Teachers (Registered) Act) and their ability to use the “RMT” designation. As we have previously discussed, government’s intent in providing for the repeal of the Music Teachers (Registered) Act was to afford the RMTA the many benefits associated with establishing as a society under the Society Act, particularly in respect of the bylaw making powers provided for under that Act. At the same time, this initiative was consistent with government’s desire to repeal legislation that was viewed as creating duplication and unnecessary regulatory burden, in this particular instance associated with the requirement for the RMTA to obtain approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC) for any bylaws it intended to make. In any event, given the circumstances, the Ministry is recommending to the Minister that government not proceed with proclaiming section 54 of Bill 12, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2007. This is the legislation that provided for the repeal of the Music Teachers (Registered) Act. In effect, this would mean that your Act will continue to remain in force and title protection for Registered Music Teachers will not in any way be affected. In addition, the Ministry will look to preparing amendments to the Music Teachers (Registered) Act, for consideration at the first available opportunity in the legislative calendar, to rescind **section 8 (3)** of the Act, which is the requirement to seek LGIC approval in order for a bylaw of the Association to be made effective. It is intended this minor amendment may help achieve the original objective of the proposed repeal of the Act, namely to give the Association the flexibility of making bylaws without the need for government oversight.”*

We received this information with great joy and gratitude. We will now be able to pass our own bylaws without assistance, never again face the possibility of deregulation as a cost saving measure and will have the continued Legislative guarantee of our R.M.T. initialization process and recognition of the history of our association.

Time is a consideration to get the amendments into the queue. The Ministry of Advanced Education is assisting us by reintroducing it immediately, with the expectation of ratification in late 2009 or 2010. As there were some issues with the 2005 submitted bylaws, the executive recommended and provincial council approved, the continued use of our 1992 bylaws until such time as we can change and ratify the bylaws ourselves.

I’d like to thank Minister Coell, Mr. Loughran and his office at the Ministry of Advanced Education for their assistance and perseverance in helping us to bring this to such a satisfying conclusion.

Submitted by Carol Schlosar



BIG THINGS

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- Dr. Ardelle Ries-choral conducting
- Dr. Milton Schlosser-piano performance

INSTRUMENTAL OFFERINGS – clarinet, flute, classical guitar, classical piano, pipe organ, recorder, saxophone, trumpet and other brass, violin, voice.

GENEROUS SCHOLARSHIPS – Substantial scholarships are available in all instruments, for the Augustana Choir, and for academic excellence.

PART-TIME STUDENTS – The degree programs have been designed to accommodate music teachers and other working professionals who may want to complete a degree on a part-time basis.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT – The degree programs provide advanced placement in music theory to those with the requisite skills.

AUDITIONS – Auditions for Bachelor of Music applicants scheduled late April. Interviews for Bachelor of Arts (music major) applicants occur from January until May 1st.



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**BCRMTA Provincial Convention at Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa
September 26 -28, 2008 Hosted by Chilliwack BCRMTA**

For those of you who have registered for *Rejuvenate ! 2008* we are sure you are looking forward with great anticipation to this memorable weekend. If you have just decided to join us for the weekend, please note that tickets to ALL events will be for sale at the door EXCEPT the Saturday Picnic Lunch and Gala Banquet. The deadline to purchase the complete package (\$260) has been extended. Registration and fees **must be received** by our Registrar by Friday, September 5. Registration forms are available at [www.bcrmta.bc.ca/ Rejuvenate](http://www.bcrmta.bc.ca/Rejuvenate). Please make your cheque out to **Rejuvenate! 2008** and mail together with your meal choices to
Peggy O'Brennan # 14 - 9232 Woodbine St. Chilliwack, BC V2P 5S8

Rejuvenate ! 2008 Convention Schedule

All events take place at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa

Friday	4:00-7:30	pm	REGISTRATION in Forum Foyer
	8:00	pm	RECITAL Stéphane Lemelin Schubert Sonatas D.958,959,960
Saturday	10:00	pm	"Meet the Artist" Reception & Cash Bar
	8:00-8:45	am	REGISTRATION in Forum Foyer
	8:45	am	WORKSHOP: Terry Small <i>"Engaging the Brain: Maximizing Every Learner's Potential"</i>
	10:05	am	COFFEE & MUFFIN BREAK
	10:30	am	LECTURE: Stéphane Lemelin <i>"Thoughts on Schubert"</i>
	12:00	noon	PICNIC LUNCH
	2:00	pm	MASTERCLASS with Stéphane Lemelin
	4:00	pm	FREE TIME
	5:00	pm	HAPPY HOUR: Cash Bar with entertainment West Coast String Quartet
	6:00	pm	GALA BANQUET with Special Draw
Sunday	8:00	pm	BC PIANO COMPETITION
	9:30	am	PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEETING in Canada Room. Open to all BCRMTA members.
	12:00	noon	Lunch for Delegates only. RSVP to Kevin at secretary@bcrmta.bc.ca by Monday, Sept. 22

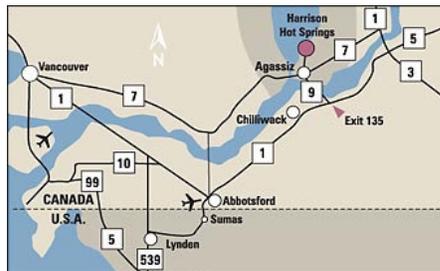
MASTERCLASS SELECTION OF PIECES

Sonata in G +, Op. 79, 1 st movement	L. van Beethoven	Grade 9
The Little Shepherd	C. Debussy	Grade 8
Impromptu in A flat + op. 142 (no.2)	F. Schubert	Grade 9
Sonatina, 1 st movement	R. Fleming	Grade 10
<i>Die Forelle</i> (The Trout)	F. Schubert	Vocal: Gr.7 Piano: Gr.9
Prelude in C# -	S. Rachmaninoff	Grade 10

Inquiries can be directed to Convention Chair Irmi Teichrob: 604-858-2330 or email:
rejuvenate2008@shaw.ca More Information @ www.bcrmta.bc.ca

How to get to Harrison Hot Springs?

Follow the signs to Harrison Hot Springs on Hwy 7. Once in the village of Harrison, turn left at the Stop sign at the beach. This road leads directly to the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa. Street parking is free in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs. Parking is also available at the Resort @ \$5.00.



***Door Prizes** obtained from the business community will be distributed throughout the weekend. This year we have not asked each branch for donations of door-prizes, as is usually the case. Your generosity over the past two years at "Special Edition 2006 " and the "60th Anniversary Gala in 2007" has been recognized and we are giving you a break from it at "Rejuvenate ! 2008. "

A **Special Draw** will take place at the Banquet for our two TOP items: a donated work of art by Hilda Goertzen valued at \$500 and a "One Night Get-Away for Two" donated by the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa valued at \$275. Come prepared with Cash. Proceeds will be used to support Chilliwack branch Student Teacher's Auxiliary & Bursary Fund.

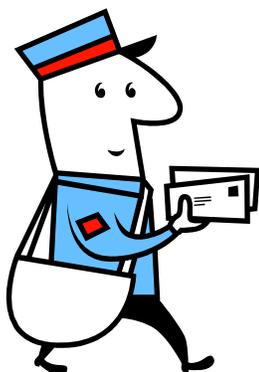
***Hilda Goertzen**, an artist with a musical interest will have art work from her Gallery on display in the Forum Foyer of the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa during our convention. Go to www.hildagoertzen.com for her Online Art Gallery.

***Bring Cash** for the "No-Host Bar" at Friday night's "Meet the Artist Reception" as well as for the Happy Hour and Banquet on Saturday night.

***Friday night dining** options include an Italian Buffet for \$21 in the Lakeside Café as well as many other options in the town of Harrison Hot Springs.

***Minter Gardens is offering Convention Delegates a 25% discount on the admission fee.** Enjoy a refreshing break on your way to Harrison Hot Springs on Friday or on your way home on Sunday. Coupons will be emailed to each Convention delegate before the convention.

***Partners** of Convention Delegates: To participate in organized activities, please reserve your spot by September 15. Golfing at Sandpiper: email lenteichrob@hotmail.com
Hiking/backwoods exploration: call Jack @ 604-858-3147



Are you moving?

To keep BOTH your Provincial and Federal Newsletter coming, be sure to advise the Registrar of your new address.

Susan Olsen, 13088 Huntley Ave, Surrey BC V3V 6B8
email: registrar@bcrmta.bc.ca

BC PIANO COMPETITION



The final event of the Provincial Convention in Harrison Hot Springs will be the BC Piano Competition which will be held on Saturday, September 27 beginning at 8 pm in the Forum Ballroom. Stéphane Lemelin, the convention's clinician, will adjudicate the competition. Eight young artists, representing eight branches will perform varied programs. The order of the program is Mission: Clinton Denoni; Coquitlam/Maple Ridge: Maya Nesbit; Victoria: Sylvia Yee; Chilliwack: Erica Gibson; Richmond: Kenneth Lee; South Fraser: Leslie Chen; Vancouver: Raymond Zeng; Abbotsford: Nabil Fadai.

The evening is sure to be a most enjoyable one. Each of these young people began this competition in February 2008 when, for the first time, we held an "entry round" for the BC Piano Competition. Each performer submitted a 30 minute CD performance for adjudication. All eight entrants were accepted.

On Saturday, September 27 three performers will be selected by the judge and the following prizes given out:

The third place winner of the BC Piano Competition will receive a cash prize of \$250.

The second place winner will receive a cash prize of \$450.

The first place winner will receive:

a) the opportunity to represent British Columbia at the CFMTA National Piano Competition to be held in early July 2009 in Sackville, Nova Scotia. (All travel, accommodation and meals will be provided)

b) a tour as BC Young Artist for 2008-2009. (Tour details will be arranged with the BC Young Artist Committee and all travel, accommodation and meals will be provided)

c) a cash prize of \$800.

The Sound of Europe in Your Studio

Dimiter Terziev, piano teacher, accompanist, and a fellow BCRMTA member is an authorized dealer for *Blüthner*, *Bohemia*, *Nordiska*, and other European and Asian piano brands, as well as piano benches, foot stools and violin stands.

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25 year Pins awarded in April 2008

Bonita Wiens	Provincial Member
Faith Choi	Richmond
Joanne Sakumoto-Chan	Richmond
Marie Cahill	Vancouver
Susan Edwards	Vancouver
Paula McLaughlin	Vancouver
Barbara Reichard	Vancouver
Rosemary Beland	Victoria
May Ling Kwok	Victoria
Garth Williams	Victoria



Music Writing Competition 2008 - WINNERS !!

Cynthia Taylor, CMW Coordinator Phone 250 - 923 - 3731
Sharlie McCreadie, Composition Coordinator Phone 250 - 447 - 9130

A DIVISIONS:

First Place:	Carmen Slater	(A1) Victoria
Second Place:	Lisa Leffelaar	(A1) Castlegar
Honorable Mention:	Chantel Gordon	(A1) Nanaimo
Honorable Mention:	Trevor Rutherford	(A1) Victoria

B DIVISIONS:

First Place:	Sheila Allenbach	(B1) Qualicum Beach
Second Place:	Tara Christensen	(B1) Nanaimo
Honorable Mention:	Brian Archdekin	(B1) Victoria

C DIVISION:

First Place:	Graham Roebuck	(C1) Victoria
Second Place:	Joshua Denhollander	(C1) Tappen

D DIVISION:

First Place:	Vincent Lo	(D1) Coquitlam
Second Place:	Megan Nell	(D1) Victoria



Community Service Awards - Awarded in October 2007 and May 2008

October 2007

North Shore	Aline Banno	Chantelle Iacobellis	Gold
Richmond	Mary Ann Cayetano	Elrica Kim	Silver
	Mary Ann Cayetano	Erin Kong	Gold
	Mary Ann Cayetano	Lauren Kong	Gold
	Mary Ann Cayetano	Ivy Yuen	Gold
	Mary Ann Cayetano	Lisa Chow	Gold
	Mary Ann Cayetano	Sarah Mak	Gold
	Mary Ann Cayetano	Melanie Voulgaris	Gold
	Lillian Chan	Alison Poon	Silver
	Lillian Cahn	Justin Poon	Silver
	Lillian Chan	Cheryl Chan	Gold
	Emma Yang	Alisa Yao	Bronze
	Emma Yang	Winni Chou	Silver
	Emma Yang	Sammi Lam	Silver
South Fraser	Darlene Brigidear	Tristan Downing	Silver
	Kathy Kelbert	Regina Chan	Bronze
	Kathy Kelbert	Rebecca Siemens	Bronze
	Kathy Kelbert	Angela Siemens	Bronze
	Yvette Rowledge	Edwin Zhao	Bronze
	Yvette Rowledge	Elizabeth Dindo	Bronze
South Okanagan	Sue Gay	Kayla Selsing	Bronze
Vancouver	Patty Wu	Tiffney Hsieh	Gold

May 2008

Richmond	Ildiko Skeldon-Huber	Isaac Ho	Bronze
	Lillian Chan	Phoebe Luk	Silver
	Lillian Chan	Jason Luk	Gold
	Mary Ann Cayetano	Erin Kong	Gold
South Fraser	Darlene Brigidear	Caleb Robinson	Silver
	Darlene Brigidear	Isaac Robinson	Gold
	Darlene Brigidear	Geoffrey Thomson	Gold
	Carol Fyffe	Kevin Too	Gold
South Okanagan	Jean Boothe	Jan Benedict Bitara	Gold
Trail/Castlegar	Tammy Francis	Samuel Kenna	Bronze
	Tammy Francis	Lisa Leffelaar	Bronze
	Tammy Francis	Jonathan Smith	Bronze
	Tammy Francis	Ryker Smith	Bronze
	Tammy Francis	Victoria Smith	Silver
	Tammy Francis	Gabrielle Kenna	Silver
	Tammy Francis	Ryan Sahlstrom	Silver
	Lori McWilliam	Kelsey Voykin	Silver
Vernon	Lyn Taron	Kaylee Handschuh	Bronze



Lyrics for Christopher Norton's Connections Series

Dear Teachers of BCRMTA,

I am a an Ontario RMTA colleague with a rather unusual invitation. With those of my colleagues who are piano teachers and who also have found great delight getting to know and teach the pieces in Christopher Norton's Connections series, published last year by Frederick Harris Music, I would like to share the lyrics, yes the lyrics, that I have written to 15 pieces in this series. I have sent them all to Christopher Norton, who has been very encouraging and who finds them to work very well with his music. My own piano students are learning their Connections pieces along with these lyrics, and the response from both my students and their parents has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic. I am also currently producing a video called Connections Kids Sing! with many of my piano students who also love to sing, in which the children are singing and acting out some of the Connections pieces that I have set to lyrics (this is now available on youtube). We are all having a wonderful time with this! If you are a Connections enthusiast, and would like to receive the lyrics to some of the Connections pieces (such as Feeling Silly, Snappily Dressed, Mysterious Stranger, Cool as a Cucumber, Last September, Fantasy Bossa, In the Snow, etc.) please contact the editor, I have sent her the complete list of lyrics and she would be happy to forward them to you. Of course, there is no cost involved in this, but I really would appreciate any feedback you care to give from yourself and any of your students who get to know the lyrics with the music. I know that my students are begging me to write more for them.

Here are two sample:

Lyrics for In the Snow (Grade 1)

Deep winter snowfall, billowing softly,
nudging its stillness close to me.
Wild things asleep in pathless white forests,
gone are the birds that sang to me.
Snowflakes that fall from the silvery sky
tumble like waves on a sea.
Deep winter snowfall, shimmering magic
fluttering softly, down to me.

Lyrics for Snappily Dressed (Grade 2)

I've got lights on bright blue sneakers
Gonna skip right down the street first, yes---
looking my best.
A cool t-shirt, dark blue elegant jeans,
A new hair-cut shin-ing so clean
Swingin' around
All over town.----
Sailing along feel-ing happy,
Singing this song
Look-ing snap-py now.

Enjoy!

Best wishes,

Janet Windeler Ryan

Janet Ryan [janetwindeler.ryan@sympatico.ca]

If you would like to receive more lyrics please send me a email and I will forward the PDF with all the lyrics to you. Thanks dina_pollock@telus.net



Art of Teaching Music Educator's Conference 2008

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Registration Coming Soon. Details are posted online at www.rcmusic.ca/artofteaching

The Vancouver Chopin Society 2008-2009 concert season

The past year was an extraordinary one for the Vancouver Chopin Society as we capped off ten wonderful seasons of concerts with our most sensational concert to date featuring **Rafal Blechacz**, winner of the 2005 International Chopin Competition in Warsaw. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to our loyal subscribers and friends for their support over the years and we look forward to carrying on our successful ways as we embark on our 11th season in October.

The Vancouver Chopin Society continues its tradition of bringing excellent pianists and interesting programs while maintaining affordable ticket prices, with the goal of attracting new audiences and young audiences. This coming year is no exception as we will introduce a number of internationally established musicians, some of whom are making their Vancouver debut.

We will continue our tradition of holding a reception following the concert, to which the whole audience is invited. It is a great opportunity to meet the artist.



Concert 1 – Vladimir Ovchinnikov, Saturday, November 1, 2008 8 PM (Magee)

Vladimir Ovchinnikov, the only pianist ever to win the top prizes at both the International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow (1982) and the Leeds International Piano Competition (1987).

The Independent described him as *"an immaculate performer with impeccable taste and a sense of deep repose, even when confronted by the most extravagant technical demands. He seems totally without vanity. He took all Liszt's bravura in his stride, and exposed La campanella so scrupulously, it prompted a spontaneous burst of applause, which he acknowledged gracefully before continuing."*

Vladimir Ovchinnikov has collaborated with many renowned conductors, among them Vladimir Ashkenazy, Alexander Dmitriev, Vladimir Fedoseyev, Valery Gergiev, Neeme Järvi, Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and Sir Georg Solti.



Concert 2 – Akiko Ebi, Friday, November 29, 2008 8 PM (Magee)

In 1975, **Akiko Ebi** won the Grand Prix in the international Marguerite Long competition in Paris where she also won four special prizes awarded by Artur Schnabel. She was a laureate of the Chopin competition in Warsaw where jury member Martha Argerich took note of her artistry and became her mentor.

Ms. Ebi toured Europe, the United States, South America, China, the Middle East and Japan. Invited to play in the world famous music festivals, Akiko Ebi has served on the juries of the world's most important international piano competitions, including the Martha Argerich, Marguerite Long, Clara Haskil, Jose Iturbi, Vianna da Motta, and Gina Bachauer, as well as the competitions of Montreal and Panama City.



Concert 3 – Antti Siirala, Saturday, February 21, 2009 8 PM (Magee)

Antti Siirala has won four competitions at Dublin, Leeds, London and Vienna.

"By the end of the first line of the first movement of the Mozart Sonata, K533, I think the whole jury had decided that this was the first prize winner," says John O'Connor, who chaired the Dublin jury.

Mr. Siirala's engagements include appearances with the Detroit Symphony, BBC Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, Sinfonia Varsovia, Wiener Symphoniker and St. Petersburg Symphony, among others. He has also appeared in recital at London's Wigmore Hall, the festivals of Bolzano, Bath and Kilkenny, Hannover, Detroit and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Mr. Siirala's debut recording of Schubert transcriptions for Naxos in 2003 received outstanding reviews. The following year, his recording of works by Brahms for Ondine received Gramophone Magazine's "Editor's Choice" award, and the highest rating in the category of interpretation from Piano News.



Concert 4 – Nelson Freire, Thursday, April 23, 2009 8 PM (Centennial Theatre)

Nelson Freire, *"one of the most exciting pianists to emerge in the Rubinstein succession... This is one of the biggest natural talents for the keyboard that I have ever heard,"* raves The Boston Globe. Mr. Freire appears regularly with leading orchestras and in recital throughout Europe, North America, Australia as well as his native South America. Now exclusive with Decca, a CD of Freire's most coveted performances is included on Philips' acclaimed series, "Great Pianists of the 20th Century", released in 1999.

In 1999, Nelson Freire marked the 150th anniversary of Chopin's death with a triumphant performance of the composer's Concerto No. 2 in Warsaw.

His Chopin recording received the most prestigious prizes in 2002: Diapason d'Or, Grand Prix de l'Académie Charles Cros, Choc du Monde de la Musique.

Mr. Freire's two most recent releases on Decca received Grammy nominations:

Chopin: *Études, Op. 10, Barcarolle, Op. 60, Son. No. 2*, released in 2005, and in 2006, Brahms.

PROGRAMME

Beethoven - 15 Variations and Fugue in E-flat, Op. 35

Liszt - 3 concert studies
Polonaise No. 2 in E major

Chopin - Polonaise in C-sharp minor, Op. 26, No. 1
Two Nocturnes Op. 27
Variations on "La Ci darem la mano" from Mozart's Don Giovanni

PROGRAMME

Beethoven - 32 Variations in C minor
Sonata No. 32 in C minor, Op. 111

Chopin - Impromptu No. 1 and No. 2
Two Nocturnes Op. 62
Sonata No. 2 in B-flat minor, Op. 35

PROGRAMME

Bach - Partita No. 1 B flat major
BWV 825

Brahms - Rhapsody in B minor
Op. 79 No. 1
Variations in D major
Op. 21/1

Chopin - Three Mazurkas Op. 50
Sonata in b minor Op. 58

PROGRAMME

Mendelssohn - Variations sérieuses in D Minor, Op. 54

Schumann - Sonata in F-sharp minor, Op. 11

Debussy - Images, Book 2

Chopin - Ballade No. 4 in F minor
Nocturne in F major, Op. 15, No. 1
2 Mazurkas
Scherzo No. 4 in E major, Op. 54

The Vancouver Chopin Society 2008-2009 concert season

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Adults	Seniors	Students
\$125	\$90	\$90

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

	Adults	Seniors	Students
Concert 1, 2 and 3	\$35	\$25	\$25
Concert 4	\$45	\$35	\$35

- All subscriptions include membership.
- Group discount of 10% available for purchases of 10 or more tickets.
- Reserved seating for all concerts.

Call: 604.871.4450
 Email: info@chopinsociety.org
 Website: www.chopinsociety.org

TICKETS

- Single tickets on sale October 1, 2008.
- Tickets for all Concerts may be purchased through all Ticketmaster outlets, charge-by-phone 604.280.3311 and on-line at www.ticketmaster.ca.

VENUES

Concert 1, 2 and 3: Magee Theatre, 6360 Maple Street (at W 49th Ave), Vancouver
Concert 4: The Centennial Theatre, 2300 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver



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Edited, compiled, and recorded by Helen Marlais

Review of Publications



Lillian Chan - Piano
Richmond Branch
RMT member since 2002



Eileen Deros - Piano
Abbotsford Branch
RMT member since 1998



Joyce Janzen - Piano, Theory
Abbotsford Branch
RMT member since 1983



Nita Pelletier - Piano
Chilliwack Branch
RMT member since 1988



Jean Ritter - Piano, Theory
Abbotsford Branch
RMT member since 2006

PIANO

ALFRED PUBLISHING CO., LTD.



Premier Piano Course - Lesson 4

by Dennis Alexander, Gayle Kowalchuk, E.L. Lancaster, Victoria McArthur, Martha Mier

It was with great excitement that I approached the Lesson 4 book! I can hardly wait to get my students playing in September. Many of them finished their book 3 and were anxiously awaiting the arrival of book 4! It continues with the same excellence of design that the series began with.

This book teaches relative minor and the keys of a and e natural and harmonic minor. Their chords in root position and inversions are included. Amazingly enough, triplets and sixteenth notes are now added to increasingly more difficult rhythms. The Technical Workouts continue to develop skills such as one octave arpeggios, scales and chord patterns in new keys, blocking, changing fingers on the same note, finger substitution, and even Alberti bass!

The music is now so full and complete that the optional teacher duet is no longer required. I am looking forward to seeing the Performance and Theory books yet to come!

JR



Keys to Artistic Performance - Book 1

Early Intermediate to Intermediate

by Ingrid Jacobson Clarfield & Dennis Alexander

Five keys are introduced to transform from average performances to polished artistic ones (colour, pedaling, rubato, characterization, choreography). Besides editorial

suggestions, there's also additional suggestions to help achieve better balance, voicing & greater musical expression.

Colour – by using fingers, wrists & arms in different ways, various sounds & colours can be created (e.g. bright, rich or pastel colour, etc.).

Think of the piano as an orchestra, imagine which instrument in the orchestra might play that part. Bring out the important voice. Very useful voicing, pedal exercise.

Pedaling – various length & depth of pedal create colours.

Rubato – special tempo symbols (from the editor).

Characterization – create story / lyrics.

Choreography – gesture (beginning, ending, throughout the piece).

Hopefully after learning this book, the student's performance will be more dramatic, imaginative & interesting.

LC

Review of Publications



Keys to Artistic Performance - Book 2 by I. J. Clarfield & D. Alexander

What an amazing book! It is wonderful to see books like this available to teach students the skills required to transform average performances into polished and artistic ones. The music has been selected to use the five “keys” for achieving performance artistry. They are: color, pedaling, rubato, characterization, and choreography.

The 23 Intermediate to Late Intermediate pieces include familiar favorites, less-familiar pieces, as well as original compositions by Dennis Alexander written to feature and highlight these “keys”. The music is arranged in order of technical and musical difficulty. While the pieces appear in their original form, there are editorial suggestions which include fingerings. The pieces include suggestions for achieving better balance, voicing, and musical expression.

Each of the “keys” is discussed in a message to the student with excellent explanations on what color is and how to achieve it. There is an entire page devoted to Voicing Exercises. Two more pages deal with pedaling including one page of pedal exercises. Special tempo symbols have been inserted to provide precise indications as to what the performer should do like: take a lot of time (at the end of a section) When dealing with Characterization, one page contains expressive words to help convey the mood of the music. The page on Choreography includes symbols that mean Lean to the right, or Arc, or Fill out.

This book is so impressive that I can hardly wait to get some students working with it! Definitely a 10!

JR



Alfred's Piano 101 POP - Book 1 Arranged by Carol Matz

This book is a compilation of popular music from movies, TV, radio and stage to play for fun. Although this book is designed to be used in conjunction with Piano 101, Book 1, there is no reason why it can't be used to supplement many method courses. The familiar tunes were chosen to appeal to teens and adults beginning piano studies. As I played through the book many of my younger students became great candidates

for much of this music. Positions are indicated at the beginning of each piece and at various points the student is required to name an interval or a note. Clues like “change finger” or “stretch” are inserted to aid the student in mastering the music more quickly. This music is sure to motivate and provide much enjoyment!

JR



Celebrated Lyrical Solos – Book 3 Early Intermediate to Intermediate by Robert D. Vandall

This book is equivalent to UK Exam (Grade 2 – 4). Expressive / lyrical playing can be achieved through bending the tempo, playing with flexibility, colourful harmonies & their movement. Pieces are in variety of tempos & moods & each one can help students develop skills in lyrical playing. Variety of styles can also be found (tango, waltz, nature, dream, memories, etc.). Pieces are of difficulty upto 1# & accidentals, mostly simple time, only 1 compound time. Skills learned: Syncopation, LH & RH melody, use of pedal & cross hand. It would be helpful if the suggested metronome marking can be provided.

LC



Grand Solos for Piano - Book 5 Intermediate Pianists by Melody Bober

This book is equivalent to UK Exam (Grade 3 – 4). The pieces are of different keys, styles (e.g. rag time, boogie, waltz, jazz, swing, etc.), meters & tempos. It helps the students progress both technically & musically. Pieces are of difficulty upto 1# & 2b, use of accidentals, triplet, sixteenth notes & chromatic. Skills learned: RH/LH melody, use of pedal, cross hand, syncopation, glissando, etc. Special point: another kind of “music box memory” can be compared to the traditional one (music box dancer). Hope the students will find the songs unique & challenging, fun to practise & perform, feel excited as well.

LC

Review of Publications



Grand Solos for Piano - Book 6 **Late Intermediate Pianists** **by Melody Bober**

This fabulous book of piano solos contains pieces in various keys, styles, meters and tempos providing a great learning experience as well as helping technically and musically. This was the first book I chose to play of the group I was to review because I knew that the music would be unique and beautiful. For those familiar with music by Melody Bober, I guarantee you'll not be disappointed. If you don't know her music, this is a must! The first piece "006 Blues" is very much like James Bond music, a definite hit with all students. "Sweet Memories" is very nostalgic and lyrical providing a great opportunity to work with pedaling and cantabile playing. If you're looking for something to kick start September, try this book!

JR



Famous & Fun for Adults Pop Book 1 **Arranged by Carol Matz**

11 carefully selected popular hits from movies, radio, television, and Broadway make up this early elementary POP book. All of these arrangements have optional teacher duet parts to add to the fun. The lowest note is bass F and highest note is treble A. Only whole, half, and quarter notes are utilized. Accidents are used as well as ties. Suitable fingering is provided. All of the music contained in this book should be playable within the first few months of piano instruction.

JR

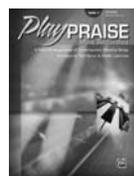


Simply Joplin **The Music of Scott Joplin** **Arranged by Mary Sallee**

This book was a delight to review! I have a copy of every piece of piano music Scott Joplin composed and have played it all, performed it, and performed some numbers with dancers dancing the Charlton and other steps of the time. These Easy Piano selections provide this attractive music to young players so that they can get caught up in

the fun and spirit of Joplin's music. The print is large and interpretation is made easier with the phrase markings, articulations, fingering and dynamics that have been included. Every student should develop the ability to play the dancing left-hand accompaniments with ease. Of course pieces like The Entertainer and Maple Leaf Rag are included here in this collection of 12 of his ragtime classics. Most of his rags contain a variety of sections to allow for experiencing contrast in key and character within each work. There are so many skills developed by playing Joplin's music that this book is a definite winner!

JR



Play Praise Most Requested Book 4 **Arranged by T. Gerou & V. Labenske**

Here is an intermediate level book of 9 piano arrangements of contemporary worship songs. The music is clearly written with appropriate pedal marks and dynamic markings. Each song has a little introduction that projects the rhythm to accompany the lyrics. Some of the songs have syncopation and many of them have a broken L.H. pattern. The size of the chords is all easily managed and everything "fits" comfortably for the ability of the intermediate student.

JR

FREDRICK HARRIS MUSIC CO., LTD.



Grade 2 – Celebration Series – Perspectives **Repertoire – Studies – Workbook**

It is with great anticipation that one approaches a new set of repertoire books from RCM. As we have come to expect, the layout is easy to read and the pieces well edited. The repertoire book repeats approximately half the same pieces as the previous Piano Odyssey edition and has just over half new pieces, several of which are returns from the New Piano Series which preceded Piano Odyssey. Tried and true favourites such as Impertinence (Handel) and March of the Goblins (Berlin) are back

Review of Publications

and we are introduced to some wonderful new repertoire by familiar names such as Anne Crosby, Nancy Telfer, Mel. Bonis, Linda Niamath, Yoshinao Nakada, and Christopher Norton.

An interesting change is in the categories – List A Baroque and Classical Repertoire, List B 20th and 21st century Repertoire and List C Inventions.

Although the new syllabus includes Romantic in List B there are only two Romantic era pieces in the list and none in the repertoire book.

There are 9 new studies among the 13 offered. Under the title of each study is the technical aspect being featured in the piece. There is a wide selection of elements and styles which is heavily balanced towards the contemporary era.

One of the best kept secrets in the materials published for RCM by Frederick Harris are the Student Workbooks. There is a wealth of resource, biographical included, but mostly musical - which could be of great help to a student who is keen to discover things on their own. Considering the cost of music instruction, a modest investment of \$11.50 would pay enormous dividends in the perceptivity a student would bring to the lesson. This material is great for beginning teachers as well but has its greatest potential in parent and/or student study. Each piece is approached from a technical as well as interpretive point of view and the reader is led to discover all manner of valuable information which will enhance both understanding and performance.

JJ



Grade 4 – Celebration Series – Perspectives Repertoire – Studies – Workbook

The new Repertoire Book has 13 new pieces from a total of 28. List A and B each have 2 new pieces to bring freshness into the music we teach. List C has 9 new pieces of

the 16 in that group. It is interesting to note that there is no Mozart in either the Repertoire or Study books. A personal pleasure is seeing a new piece, A Winter Melody, by Y. Nakada. It is also excellent to see our Canadian composers quite well represented. The new music has equal technical challenges and I'm sure will be very appealing to our students. The various styles included should be able to serve the students well.

It is nice to see that the Student Workbook is more “student” friendly than the ones with the previous edition, The Piano Odyssey. Each piece has a small biography of the composer which helps them become more real to the student. The explanations of things like Sonata Form are excellent. Play It Again by Christopher Norton has descriptions of syncopation and blues scale and a section “Meet the Musicians in the Jazz Combo”. The exercise on B. Bartok’s Children’s Game goes into detail about articulation. I think that if a student worked through the exercises for the pieces he/she is learning, it would be of great benefit for when it is time to memorize.

The Study Book once again has 15 etudes. Eight of these are new. One nice new feature is that in the table of contents the technical challenge is articulated under the title. Again we have more Canadian composers represented. I think Masquerade by Linda Niamath and Hotshot by Stephen Chatman will be instant favorites. All in all, I believe these new books will be appreciated by students and teachers!

JR



Grade 8 – Celebration Series – Perspectives Repertoire – Studies - Workbook

After playing through the grade 8 repertoire and study books, some words that came to mind were: entertaining, fun, sparkly, jazzy, lyrical. I'm delighted with the choices RCM

has made.

A general overview: There are thirty-one pieces in the new edition, five more than the last edition. The increase can be seen in List D. Here are five more choices, showing an emphasis on contemporary music. There is refreshing new material, as nine selections in the book have never been on the list before.

Here are some highlights from each List:

List A: There are two new gigue by Krebs and Handel. Both pieces are quick, airy with (mostly) two part counterpoint. My favourite Bach piece at this level, the Little Prelude in D Major, is an elegant three-voiced prelude that provides a challenge in voicing and phrase shaping.

List B: Three pieces are new to the list: a movement of a sonata or sonatina by Arnold, Dussek, and Kuhlau.

Review of Publications

The Arnold is structurally simple; it would be a fitting first Sonata at this level. The Dussek is vibrant and energetic. The Kuhlau is athletic and flamboyant. A Haydn first movement provides a challenge in fast dotted rhythms and is a welcome addition

List C: Here we have one newly listed piece, a lovely little Nocturne by Hofmann. This is a good teaching piece, with long lyrical soaring melody lines over a flowing accompaniment. Two reprints from older editions that I am happy to see here are Grieg's lovely Poetic Tone Picture, and Gliere's Prelude in D flat.

List D: There are three delightful newly listed pieces: the humourous Early Morning Exercises by Kabelevsky, and two Jazz Exercises by Oscar Peterson. The lovely Little Litanies Of Jesus by Grovez, which I have taught out of a very old edition has been reprinted here, as well as Nakada's exciting Etude Allegro, which has been out of print. Chatman's Sneaky is quirky and jazzy.

There are some exciting new studies. Some highlights are a virtuosic piece by Previn; a cantabile left hand only study by Swinstead; a fast chromatic etude by Chatman; a syncopated ballad by Norton; Classical Pop Tune with a cute walking bass by Schoenmehl; the dramatic etude in D minor by Heller, with its big sonorous chords; two lyrical studies by Hofmann and Rowley. Certainly something here to suit everyone. The Student Workbook is an excellent teaching tool. Here are many ideas to aid in teaching harmonic structure and analysis, as well as placing pieces in their historic and cultural context. With practise ideas and hands on exercises, there is lots to inspire a thorough approach to these pieces.

ED

FJH MUSIC COMPANY INC.



On Your Way to Succeeding with the Masters - Elementary through Late Elementary Repertoire with CD
Compiled and edited by Helen Marlais

This book consists of pieces from the 6 different periods (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic & 20th/21st Centuries).

Each era has an activity page (history / fact), practise strategy (e.g. learn & practise, chain-linking, getting ready for a performance, balancing the melody with the accompaniment, careful listening). Also 3x1 rules (3 times slow, 1 time fast = slow practise & repetition). Skills learned: 5/4, changing meter. Earlier works were originally written for ancient instruments (e.g. lute / recorder). Some of the pieces can be found in Beyer / Bartok (finger exercise), RCM (Intro / Grade 1). Musical terms are explained at the end of the book. By listening to the CD, students will know the correct style of playing.

LC

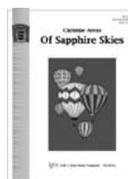


**Succeeding with the Masters
Classical Era Volume Two
Teacher's Handbook and Student Activity Book**

By Helen Marlais with Kristen Avila

What a wonderful opportunity for students to discover the composers of the Classical Era: Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. The activity book is full of stories, games, puzzles, and activities for listening, drawing, and writing. The book is designed to go with the Classical Era Volume Two, Performance Book and CD. The final page of the activity book has terms identified with classical music. The teacher handbook has answers for the student activity book. Some of the activities could be done separate from the Performance Book and could be used with an individual or in a group class. Quite a wonderful set!

JR



**Of Sapphire Skies by Christine Arens
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NP



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Review of Publications

HAL LEONARD CO,



Contemporary Piano Repertoire - Level 1

This book will make it much easier and less expensive to prepare students for the Contemporary Idioms Level 1 exam.

There are twenty pieces divided between each of the required categories: Ballad/Blues, Swing, Rock, and Other Genres (such as Latin, Waltz etc.) Besides being used as an exam book, these pieces can be used as supplementary music for any piano method. These arrangements would also be good for sight reading or quick study.

The pieces are a mixture of popular songs and jazz standards. There are five Disney favourites, including "A Whole New World", four songs from "Phantom of the Opera", and "Sound of Music", two Beatles songs, seven jazz standards, Eric Clapton's "Tears in Heaven", and Billy Joel's "Just the Way You Are". I like the large note size, and the large bar size. With 2 bars per line the page is easy to read. The accompaniment is simple, often with one or two notes per bar. The arrangements are tasteful. They are in the key of C or G or E minor. I am looking forward to using this book as it has a lot of appeal.

ED



Contemporary Piano Repertoire - Level 3

The material in this book meets the requirements for the Level 3 Contemporary Idioms Examination of

Conservatory Canada. The music is divided between the categories of: Ballad,

Swing, Ballad Rock, Blues Swing, Latin, and Rock. Some the numbers include Hey Jude, Imagine, The Music of the Night, and Stormy Weather. The music is easy to read with the larger print. The chord symbols are included so that the ambition students could use this for this "starter band" experience.

It's nice to see all the technical elements required at this level. Although this is popular music, great rhythmic, voicing, and hand independence skills are being developed. Students trying to escape alberti bass will

be disappointed to see its appearance in How to Save a Life. There are frequent key changes in the pieces and various articulations. Excellent fingering markings and dynamics are provided.

I know students will be attracted to these books with familiar music they relate to. It is an attractive alternative for the student that wants to play piano, just not taking the traditional approach. I see this being a superb supplement for those students that have chosen the traditional path as well. There is definitely a market for these books!

JR

NEIL A. KJOS MUSIC COMPANY

That's Jazz book two: Digging Deeper by Bradley Sowash

I had the pleasure of reviewing the book one of That's Jazz. This book continues with its comprehensive explanations and tools. Although the songs can be studied in any order, if the student is serious about learning jazz, the book should be covered sequentially. Again, as in the first book, the Warm Up Pages walk you through step by step instructions and provide excellent tips to master the challenging passages. There are appropriate exercises to accomplish this. The tunes have an accompanying CD with demonstration tracks. The score provides optional duet parts. Another great addition is the chord symbols to encourage the ability to read a chord chart.

I'm impressed by this series of books!

JR

SCHAUM PUBLICATIONS, INC.



Fingerpower Level Two

This is effective technic book for all piano methods. The exercises are designed to strengthen all five fingers of both hands and provide equal hand development.

The same patterns are worked in each

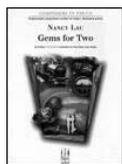
Review of Publications

hand and are short enough that they can be easily memorized. Then the focus can be on the technical benefits, playing with a steady beat, and listening carefully. The exercises become progressively more difficult as the student proceeds through the book. Each of these exercise books corresponds with a method book at the same level. Practice instructions are provided as well as a section titled Directions for Use of Slurs. Some exercises included are: trill, wrist rotation, thumb crossing, and chromatic arpeggios. This is well designed to be of great benefit to our students!

JR

PIANO DUETS

FJH MUSIC COMPANY INC.



Gems for Two by Nancy Lau **An Artistic Intermediate Collection for One Piano, Four Hands**

A delightful collection of five duets ranging in length from 40 to 55 bars. Primo and Secondo are equal in difficulty.

Keys up to 1 or 2 sharps/flats.

Appealing style, suitable for all ages.

NP



Concerto Bravo by Kevin Olson **An Artistic Late Intermediate Piece for Two Pianos**

In 3 movements, this lively piece could be performed in its entirety (29 pages) or each movement could stand on its own as a separate piece. Grade 9 and up students would have fun with the bright energetic rhythms. Challenges include changes of meter and key. Piano 1 and 2 parts are printed on the same page making it easy to keep an eye on the other part. (Purchase 2 copies.)

NP

NEIL A. KJOS MUSIC COMPANY



The Blue Bells of Scotland **by Weekley & Arganbright** **Elementary Level**

One Piano, Four Hands

The traditional melody in a 24 bar arrangement with Primo and Secondo printed on the same page. Great for students just starting to play duets.

NP



Cha Cha! **by Weekley & Arganbright** **Early Intermediate Level**

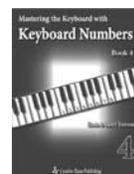
One Piano, Four Hands

Short and snappy, this duet has a fun latin flavour.

Easy rhythms and mostly chordal style.

NP

THEORY



Mastering the Keyboard with Keyboard Numbers

Books 1 – 4, Answer Books 1 – 4

Xenia and Harry Troysen
Creative Piano Publishing

Over the course of 160 lessons in four books, a student, through much repetition, learns note names through association with numbers. In addition, note values, clefs, bars, accidentals, intervals, ledger lines, triads, construction of scales, compound intervals, triads and other rudimentary music information is studied. The exercises are divided into small segments, most of which can be done in 20 minutes. The answer books supply a quick check for student or teacher. These books provide supplemental repetitive exercises to facilitate and reinforce concepts in rudiments.

JJ

Please note - I will be adding more reviews of the New Celebration Series Perspectives and of the New Conservatory Canada Series in the next issue.



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RCM EXAMINATIONS

News

FREE WORKSHOPS for Piano Teachers: An Introduction to the *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition*

The *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition* has arrived! RCM Examinations will be co-hosting **free**, three-hour workshops **New Expectations: Highlights of the *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition*** at over 30 locations across Canada beginning this spring and going throughout the summer and fall. Be sure to obtain a copy of the new *Syllabus* to take along to this informative presentation.

Workshop highlights include:

♪ an overview of the new layout and look ♪ changes to the marking scheme ♪ a demonstration of repertoire ♪

To register for a workshop in your area, contact the local representative as listed below:

City	Date	Contact	Clinician
Victoria - Tom Lee Music 105-2401D Millstream Road, Victoria	Friday, September 12, 9:30-12:30	Lynda Simms McCliggott 250-479-1633 or mcllynda33@hotmail.com	Murray Nichol
Kelowna - Rotary Centre for the Arts 421 Cawston Avenue between Ellis and Water, Kelowna	Friday, September 19, 9:30-12:30	Ruth Moir 250-764-8800 or moirpianos@shaw.ca	Janet Lopinski
North Vancouver - Mount Seymour United Church 1200 Parkgate, North Vancouver	Saturday, September 20, 2:00-5:00 p.m.	Katherine Hume 604-980-3951 or khpiano@telus.net	Janet Lopinski
Prince George - Classic Touch Piano Studio 478 Ospika Blvd. Prince George	Monday, September 22, 9:30-12:30	Anne Barnett 250-964-3413 or peter-anne@shaw.ca	Murray Nichol

Check our website www.rcmexaminations.org for updates.

UPDATE! Syllabi Crossover

Teachers and candidates should note the following amendment to the *Piano Syllabus* crossover period of September 2008 to August 2009:

- During the crossover year candidates preparing technical tests and studies / etudes from the *Piano Syllabus, 2001 Edition* for their examination will be permitted to play repertoire from the *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition*.
- Candidates playing technical requirements from the *Piano Syllabus, 2001 Edition* must play studies from the *Piano Syllabus, 2001 Edition*. Likewise, candidates playing technical requirements from the *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition* must play studies from the *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition*.

This reflects a change in policy, resulting from the enthusiasm displayed by candidates and teachers wishing to explore the new piano series *Celebration Series Perspectives*®.

Piano Crossover

- The *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition* will take effect September 1, 2008.
- The crossover period for using the *Piano Syllabus, 2001 Edition* goes from September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009.
- Starting September 1, 2009, only the *Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition* can be used for examinations.

Cello Crossover

- The crossover period between the *Cello Syllabus, 1995 Edition* and the *Cello Syllabus, 2007 Edition* will end August 31, 2008.
- Starting September 1, 2008, only the *Cello Syllabus, 2007 Edition* can be used for examinations.

Acoustic or Digital Piano - The Great Controversy

by *Dimiter Terziev*

It is hard to find a piano/keyboard teacher who hasn't been asked about his/her preference regarding acoustic or digital pianos. This article is an attempt to outline the arguments of both the "pro-digital" and "pro-acoustic" camps. Products of rather different philosophies and expectations, these instruments have clearly established their own artistic niches in the mysterious planet of music.

I will start with the most common arguments of the "pro-digital" camp:

1. **Acoustic pianos are simply "archaic technologies"**. They are doomed to be replaced by the digital pianos and synthesizers the same way typewriters were replaced by computers.
2. **Acoustic pianos will always be "nothing but pianos"**. Digital pianos can produce hundreds of different sounds, and they can provide automatic rhythmic and instrumental accompaniment in a huge variety of styles.
3. **Higher quality digital pianos can easily record without the need of microphones and studios.** The tempo of the recorded pieces can be changed at will, and the pieces can later be edited in any imaginable way through a computer programme.
4. **Higher quality digital pianos become better and better in mimicking the touch and sound of a grand piano.**
5. **Digital pianos can be used with headphones;** they are more neighbor-friendly.
6. **Digital pianos are cheaper to purchase;** they don't need tuning and regulation, and are hardly ever affected by temperature and humidity changes.
7. **Digital pianos are lighter, easier and cheaper to transport.**

The arguments of the pro-digital camp are, as a rule, simple, well organized, and easy to understand; in contrast, the arguments of the pro-acoustic camp tend to be emotional, philosophical, and – sadly – often incomprehensible for the general public.

1. **The sound of acoustic pianos is more beautiful.** The sheer physical joy of a "real" acoustic sound with its vibration and overtones can not be produced by digital means. True, the sound of a good digital piano is taken from the sound of a real grand; however, we tend to forget that it comes to us via speakers having quite small vibrating area. Its equivalent, the sound board of an acoustic piano, is incomparably larger, thus creating much more spatial sound. Imagine yourself in a concert hall listening to a symphony orchestra playing *pianissimo*; then imagine yourself in the FOYER listening to the same orchestra playing *mezzo forte*. In the later case you hear the sound through an open door leading to the hall. Will both experiences be the same? Clearly not.
2. **Regardless of the advancement of technology the touch of an acoustic piano is superior.** True, a touch-sensitive digital piano will react to differences in key velocity, but it will respond with stepped, pre-programmed variations. Higher quality digital pianos contain more possible variations by using more memory to store the digital data, but always in predetermined steps of volume and tone color, and always with a limit of possible responses. Performance of classical music and jazz is based on great dynamic contrasts, as well as an incredible variety of nuances and shades. Clearly, these are weaker points of the digital instruments.
3. **Acoustic pianos represent our need for devices hardly affected by change of time and technologies.** Have you ever purchased a digital piano to discover that the exactly same model is selling for half price a year later? Needless to

Acoustic or Digital Piano - The Great Controversy - cont.

say, acoustic pianos have much lower level of depreciation than digital; in some rare cases their value could even increase. Also, the acoustic pianos are usually much more beautiful as pieces of furniture. Created by craftsman, NOT factory workers, acoustic pianos represent both our link to the great tradition of the past and our innate desire to possess a valuable artistic object; an object we are happy to leave to our children and grandchildren.

Lastly, I am tempted to quote the great Keith Jarrett who probably sums up the feelings of the majority of the pro-acoustic camp in his introduction to Larry Fine's *The Piano Book* :

"I personally feel the piano to be far in advance of any of the more recent keyboard instruments in that it still demands that you use your whole body and all your muscles, whereas everything since has been denying that need. Artificially adding piano-like

touch control to a synthesizer is about as much of an improvement as electrifying a pepper mill. So what? [. . .] The piano answered the artists' need to be more involved *not* to get more done with less effort. The "artistic need" that has generated instruments since the piano, on the other hand, is the need to find something that can be successfully played [. . .] by typists on a lunch break. [This is a product of] desire to be creative in one's "spare time." To me, leisure and creativity are as far apart as the *Reader's Digest* and the *Well Tempered Clavier*."

To sum up, the digital and the acoustic piano are products of very different human needs. Even though both are related to the art of music performance the former fulfills our need for modernity, practicality, and entertainment, while the later relates to our longing for permanence, unchanging values, and deeper level of artistic involvement. 

Hello Piano Teachers,

This article does open the discussion regarding digital pianos. We, as teachers have to deal with them. Are there ways to teach the difference between the weighted keys of a digital compared to an acoustic piano?

Can there be any benefit of a digital piano?

Do we refuse to teach a student that can only practice on a digital?

Any ideas????

Please send your ideas, questions and information - I think this would be a beneficial discussion to us all.

Send your emails to: dina_pollock@telus.net

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