



Name

SPRING 2008

Publication Agreement

Number 40016225



B.C. REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION PROVINCIAL MAGAZINE

BCRMTA Provincial Convention

September 26 – 27, 2008 Hosted by Chilliwack BCRMTA



Stéphane Lemelin

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My experience as a music student at Capilano College was unforgettable. The personal and professional relationships I made with superb faculty and vibrant students provided foundation, direction and inspiration.

Risa McDonell



The two years that I was studying at Capilano College 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



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Not one word of this newsletter may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor. We are perfectly happy to co-operate, but we don't want quotations to appear out of context.

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

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Next Issue: **FALL 2008**
Copy Deadline: **July 15, 2008**

Advertising rates:
Back Cover \$ 125.00
Inside Cover \$ 125.00
Full Page \$ 100.00
Half Page \$ 60.00
Quarter Page \$ 35.00
Business Card \$ 25.00

Circulation: 1175

The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.
Send all advertising inquiries and material to the editor:
dina_pollock@telus.net



the
President's
message

It's hard to believe another teaching term is almost over. I trust it was rewarding for all of you.

I can't think of a more rewarding way for BCRMTA to begin its year than the amazing 60th anniversary celebration. I can't think of a better way to end this year (BCRMTA was born in September!!) and begin the next teaching term than by attending Rejuvenate 2008 in Harrison Hot Springs. We are looking forward to having a "best-ever" convention. Our convenor Irmi Teichrob and her Chilliwack Branch committee have been planning a most outstanding time for all of us and the setting couldn't be more perfect. May I suggest that you try to come early on Friday in order to walk down the promenade and visit the world class Sandcastle Competitions, where artists from all over the world come to compete. Don't forget your bathing suit—there

are pools, pools and more pools to enjoy- how hot would you like it? Of course, we have to squeeze the relaxation into the packed schedule of musical delights!!

The executive of BCRMTA has worked hard to implement effective benefits to all of our members and to make our organization as professional as possible. We value your continued support. We appreciate all those who have taken on projects and worked on our behalf to make them successful. We appreciate all the branch executives who work in their communities to keep the importance of music alive. We appreciate the work of service clubs, branches and parentgroups who spend countless hours running music festivals to celebrate the accomplishments of our students. We cannot ever relinquish our musical and artistic endeavors. In this world of rushing, stress and indifference, music is a humanizing influence.

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away".



From the Editor:

Hello Everyone,

By the next issue we will have our new name!! The votes are in and the top three names are:

PROGRESSIONS (with musical notes)

KEYNOTES

UPBEAT

These names will be presented at the Provincial Council meeting in April and a final vote will be made by the council. Be ready for the unveiling next issue

Thanks

On a different subject, as the editor I receive many submissions and media releases for this magazine. I try to include the information that has value to our members, but I cannot include it all. I know I can not meet the needs of every teaching discipline since there are more workshops and material available for piano. I would like to include more information for strings, vocal and other instruments; if teachers of these disciplines have information, could you please forward it to me at dina_pollock@telus.net.

Thanks

Dina ♪

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Branch Reports

ABBOTSFORD

Hello from Abbotsford Branch, currently our branch consists of 26 members and 8 student teacher auxiliary members. We were fortunate to have 5 workshops, 1 recovery room and 3 luncheons this year. **March** - a workshop on Piano Maintenance – what to look for – what to watch out for. Thank you Jeremy, for giving us a really good look inside the instrument we spend so much time in front of. **April** - A recovery room dealing with memorization issues. **June** - we capped the teaching year in by going out and having a great luncheon at which we presented Joyce Janzen and Caroline Peters with their 25 year pins and Hilda Reimer with her 50 year pin. **September** - we had a discussion on ‘tweaking’ our festival, clarifying some minor points and moving the event one week earlier, which was capped by an enjoyable luncheon and catching up with friends. **October** - (which was held in September) Dr. Tom Green from RCM presented a great workshop on the new “Technical Requirements” which was both informative and inspiring. **November** a workshop on being more musically creative with our students presented by Dianne Petkau. **December** we had a great Christmas potluck, to which most of our branch members attended. **January** - a workshop presented by Barbara Siemens on her new student workbook, which was very inspiring and helpful.

Eight members of our branch attended the ‘60th Anniversary Gala’ in Richmond. What an enjoyable way to acknowledge the history of this association. We were treated to a great workshop, banquet and an outstanding piano duo performance. I left feeling both satisfied and proud to be a small part of this association.

Our Canada Music Recital on November 23rd, 2007 was a great success; we presented 27 awards to students that received the highest marks in practical and theory exams for 2006/2007 year. We ended the evening with cake and refreshments for all.

Our 8th Abbotsford Piano Festival is an annual event we all look forward to, with almost 500 entries – 5 busy days and a final concert. This event would not happen without the energy and commitment of the committee and the entire branch membership, and I thank all of you.

CARIBOO

Hello from the Cariboo branch, we are still 8 members strong and have three meetings a year. We have Five Branch Recitals yearly and we support our local Festival.

We are proud to give two awards annually, one to the Junior and one to the Senior candidate with the highest exam mark in our exam center.

CHILLIWACK

Our Canada Music Week recital last November featured student performances, awarding of bursaries and composer Jack Kopstein’s piece: “Vienna 1900.” Our December meeting was followed by lunch and social time. Recent community involvement included: students and teachers provided entertainment for the Christmas Craft Fair Market. The Chilliwack Arts Council annual award reception in May will feature RMT teachers and students providing background music. Our January meeting was followed by a viewing of a DVD on Oscar Peterson.

The AGM in February saw the election of Peggy O’Brennan, President: Sharie Atley, Vice-President: Karin Fehlauer, Secretary, and Irmi Teichrob, Treasurer/Registrar. The Lions Club 61st Annual Music and Dance Festival concluded this week with a gala concert featuring selected winners from various disciplines.

RMT members who were fortunate enough to attend the 60th Anniversary of the BCRMTA in Richmond last September may remember the promo for the Convention next September in beautiful Harrison Hot Springs. Our branch looks forward to welcoming all BCRMTA members to a memorable weekend including a concert and masterclass with Canadian pianist Stephane Lemelin.

COQUITLAM/MAPLE RIDGE

Spring Greetings from Coquitlam/Maple Ridge!

Our Canada Music Week Recital was held on November 18 at St. Lawrence Anglican Church. Students performed a variety of Canadian repertoire

Branch Reports

COQUITLAM – MAPLE RIDGE - cont.

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.

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 at the Orpheum Theatre on January 31, Henry Waack and Friends' Encore Concert at Douglas College on February 17 (Happy 80th Birthday, Henry!), and Sylvia Kim's trio's "French Classics" Concert at Place des Arts on February 23.

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

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

EAST KOOTENAY

The East Kootenay Music Teachers' Association (EKMTA) has had a very eventful year so far and we are looking forward to more exciting events to come this season.

The annual Canada Music Week student recital was held November 24th. Students of all levels treated the

audience to a variety of very enjoyable performances including piano, voice, trumpet, and a rhythm ensemble. Of special note was the performance of the two compositions that were part of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers Associations' "Cross Canada" performance. The EKMTA was very excited to be a part of this special project. The Association also sponsored a "Composers' Celebration" project which encourages our students to compose their own music. Presentations of EKMTA annual scholarships were also made to students who achieved the highest marks in Royal Conservatory of Music and Conservatory Canada practical and theory exams for the 2007 exam session.

The EKMTA enjoys a special partnership with the Symphony of the Kootenays and the Student Concerto performance December 1st and 2nd was a wonderful example of the success of this unique relationship. Three EKMTA student pianists each performed one movement of Haydn's Piano Concerto in D Major, and were thrilled to perform in front of 400+ people at two separate concerts. Of special note was the development of a special comradeship between the three performers and the memories that will last a lifetime. It is a truly great example of how music can really benefit everyone- performers, teachers, and the audience and community alike. The feedback has been very positive and the EKMTA and Symphony are looking forward to more student concerto concerts in the years to come.

The new year was then started off in Cranbrook with two recitals, the newly renamed "February Funtasia Recital" February 3rd and the "All Boys Recital" February 7th. "February Funtasia" featured forty piano solo, piano duet, and vocal performances. A full house audience enjoyed a program that ranged from preliminary to senior level music and featured a wide variety of popular, boogie, jazz, and contemporary selections including some from movies and musicals. At the "All Boys Recital" residents of a local senior care home were treated to a performance that featured a fun mix of preliminary to senior level popular and boogie style piano music.

One of the main objectives of our association is to bring Professional development to our teachers. We

Branch Reports

EAST KOOTENAY - cont

continue to enjoy “Meeting Pro-D” presentations by members who share their knowledge with the group on various subjects at some of our monthly meetings. We are also presently organizing a workshop for music teachers of all disciplines with Sophie Gamache in May entitled “Free and Discover Our Voices.” Sophie will teach us how breath support, singing on pitch, posture, and engaging our entire body are essential to performing music properly.

We are also in the planning stages of hosting a two day Alexander Technique workshop in October with Larissa Makila from the Rocky Mountain Theatre Arts in Calgary.

To wrap up the year June 1st, and back by popular demand, our third annual “A Sonatina Sunday” will feature student performances of classical Sonatinas on a historic 1864 John Broadwood and Sons concert grand piano at the Royal Alexandra Hall located at the Canadian Museum of Rail Travel in Cranbrook. This has been an overwhelmingly successful event for the past two years, and has been notably enjoyed by the student performers. We are looking forward to it and will update you in our next report.

Until then, all the best for the spring season from the Kootenays.

KELOWNA

The 2007 annual general meeting for the Kelowna Branch was held on November 23. The following new officers were elected: President – Marla Mesenbrink, Secretary – Andrea Brown, Treasurer – Debbie Batycki. Canada Music Week was celebrated by teachers and students with an all-Canadian program on November 25 at the Okanagan College Theatre. Also at the recital, students were awarded for the highest exam marks. Congratulations to the following students and teachers:

Grade 1 • Zachary Sousa (87) • student of Joe Berarducci

Grade 2 • Erick Noh (86) • student of Joe Berarducci

Grade 3 • Christopher Papke (82) • student of Joe Berarducci

Grade 4 • Abbey Jones (82) • student of Lorna Paterson

Atina Drenka (82) • student of Gerry Curtis

Grade 5 • Jenica McKenzie (83) • student of Lorna Paterson

Grade 6 • Allison Turner (Jan) (85) • student of Sandra Fletcher

Grade 7 • Allison Turner (June) (84) • student of Sandra Fletcher and Michael Adria • student of Dale Luck

Grade 8 • Christian Kelz (84) • student of Joe Berarducci

Our annual Christmas luncheon was enjoyed at the Yellow House Restaurant. Student recitals were held at the Rotary Centre for the Arts on Feb 3, March 2, and March 9. Our 2008 annual general meeting will be held on April 4.

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 & Galloway.

In Memoriam

Ruth Scott

Member of North Island Branch
since 1992



Jeannette Russell

Member of North Island Branch
since 1993

Branch Reports

MID-ISLAND - cont.

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

No report submitted

NELSON

On Feb. 16th, Anne Macdonald presented a talk on "physiology and injury prevention" to advanced students of BCRMTA members.

Studio recitals are presently occurring.

On Sunday, March 30, at 3pm in Silvertown Memorial Hall (near New Denver), there will be a concert given by string and piano students of West Kootenay teachers.

From March 25th until April 15th, the main event in Nelson will be the FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS. Students can perform in one or more of six categories and also attend free workshops presented by the adjudicators. Later in the month, on April 25th and 26th, at FESTIVAL NELSON, bands, choirs and ensemble groups from BC schools, and schools from nearby provinces and states will fill the town with music.

NORTH ISLAND

This year's concert season has been very exciting for the North Island Branch. Our local Tidemark Theatre celebrated its 20 year Anniversary in October with a week full of concerts showcasing musicians and dancers from our community. Some of our former local branch students who have gone on to have careers in music were invited to perform for the Anniversary celebrations.

On the "Classical Evening" Anne Wilson Unger (daughter of branch member Kay Wilson) shared her musical talents on the piano with a beautiful performance of Chopin's Ballad #2, and Debussy's Image Book 1 – Reflets dan l'Eau, Hommage to Rameau, and Mouvement. As a piano student growing up in Campbell River Anne began her lessons with local retired branch member Doris Wallace and then with former branch member Ruth Williams. Anne now has a music studio in New Westminster where she teaches piano and also has a busy career as a performer and adjudicator. As choir director of the Amabilis Singers for ten years in New Westminster, Anne developed her choral skills and is presently a choral director for a children's choir.

The Tidemark Theatre continued with their 20th Anniversary celebrations by presenting a concert series of former local musicians who have moved away to become professionals in their chosen artistic disciplines. Opera singer Barbara Livingston returned to Campbell River in January, with her collaborative pianist and vocal coach Robert Holliston. Together they drew the audience into the world of opera with Barbara's powerful voice and Robert's wonderful story telling

Branch Reports

NORTH ISLAND - cont.

and skills on the piano. Barbara grew up in Courtenay studying piano with branch member Kay Wilson but she had a passion for singing and changed her focus to voice training. Barbara had a teaching career in Campbell River when she “burst unforgettably onto the opera stage, singing the lead role of Amelia in Pacific Opera Victoria’s *Un ballo in Maschera*. Now a veteran of many of North America’s most prestigious stages, she enjoys a successful career as an opera singer and concert artist.” Barbara presently lives in Victoria and teaches at the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

The celebrations at the Tidemark Theatre continue in April with Chris Andrew and his Latin – Jazz group “Bomba”. Chris grew up in Campbell River and studied piano with branch member Cindy Taylor. After graduating from high school Chris continued his interest in jazz by enrolling in the Jazz piano program at Grant McEwan College in Edmonton. “Bomba has toured across Canada, performed at South Korea’s top international drumming festival, headlined at the Seattle Brazilfest and performed at the Havana International Jazz festival in Havana Cuba.” Chris has a very busy career as a performer, composer and arranger, and has produced a number of CD’s; one of which has been nominated for a Juno award.

It is really rewarding for our branch members and also our local students to hear and see how these talented former students have grown and developed their musical skills to become the successful artists they are today.

Ruth Scott

When Ruth Scott died in January this year, her family lost a beloved wife, mother and grandmother. But the musical community lost a true friend. It was only when the Friends of Music began preparing for the 2008 Music Week that we realized how much of a role Ruth played in our organization and in the musical life of Campbell River for many years.



Ruth had superior computer skills, and could always be counted on to produce membership lists, posters, publicity materials, data bases and programs. She was also our liaison with one of our artists, Pavel Egorov. Whatever job Ruth took on was done willingly and well, even though she was frequently in considerable pain.

Ruth got most of her musical education as an adult, and despite severe arthritis, received her ARCT, joined the North Island Registered Music Teachers Association, and became a very thorough and effective teacher. She continued to upgrade her teaching skills through workshops, conferences and summer programs.

Ruth’s family and her many friends and colleagues have chosen to remember her through an annual scholarship of \$500. As Chopin was Ruth’s favourite composer, this award will be given to the winner of a Chopin piano competition, to be held in conjunction with Music Week starting next year. Current students of Friends of Music members within the School Districts 71 and 72 boundaries will be eligible for this scholarship. They may be of any age, including adults, and must be continuing their musical studies in the following year.

Donations to the Ruth Scott Chopin Scholarship Fund may be sent to
Campbell River Friends of Music
P.O. Box 1006
Campbell River, B.C.
V9W 6Y4
All donations are eligible for tax receipts.

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!

Branch Reports

NORTH SHORE - cont.

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 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

Prince George Branch has had many enjoyable and stimulating events so far this season. We had an informative workshop with RCM Chief Examiner Dr. Thomas Green on the new Syllabus and particularly the changes to the technical requirements. Like all our RMT colleagues we are eagerly awaiting the new books to see what we will be teaching for the next few years.

We also enjoyed a one-day masterclass with Lori Elder, primarily on the grades 1 - 8. At the February meeting we had an informative presentation on Sight Reading by branch member Anne Barnett.

Two recitals have been held so far, one in November to coincide with Canada Music Week and also one in February. We all then plunged into the Prince George Music Festival where we were entertained and informed in grand fashion by adjudicator Arne Sahlen. We'll now turn our attention to spring recitals and exam preparation.



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10th Anniversary Gala Concert

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8:00 pm

The Chan Centre

After winning in 2005 the 15th International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw jury member John O'Connor described him as *"one of the greatest artists I have had a chance to hear in my entire life."* After standing in at a short notice for Lang Lang at Verbier's Salle Medran in July 2006, the English critic Julian Sykes, writing in *Le Temps*, observed: *"...It seems we have gained by this exchange...this young man, modest, elegant, and slightly too serious, does not show any exaggerated manners"...Chopin fits him like a glove. Much like Krystian Zimerman, he projects this music with staggering naturalness."*

Programme:

Mozart - Piano Sonata No. 9 in D Major, KV 311

Debussy - Estampes

Szymanowski - Variations in B flat minor, Op. 3

Intermission:

Chopin - 24 Preludes, Op. 28

Tickets: \$45 Adults, \$35 Seniors/Students

Ticketmaster: 604.280.3311 www.ticketmaster.ca

Gala fundraising reception will follow the concert

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CANADA

Branch Reports

RICHMOND

We held our General Meeting in October – two tickets were donated by Barry Jakel, Group Sales Co-ordinator of the Vancouver Symphony – and won by two attending members! Our 1st Class Honours Recital was held on Oct.21st honouring students who received highest marks in the June (07) RCM exam session. Certificates and Trophies were presented.

To commemorate Canada Music Week, the Richmond Branch filled a Display Window at the Richmond Cultural Centre Library with Canadian musical memorabilia and Branch activities. Richmond's Resident Pianist & Composer, Mrs. Linda Niamath, was our guest. She gave a mini-workshop to the Scholarship Applicants before presenting her 3 Scholarships. Kent Niamath kindly offered to be the "Official Photographer" for this event.

We continued to serve the Community during the busy holiday season by offering additional opportunities to our students for public performances, including Richmond City Hall's Winter Wonderland Programme, featuring all disciplines. Admission was canned goods donated to the Food Bank.

We commenced 2008 by honouring students in our 1st Class honours Recital (Aug.07) RCM exam session.

February saw the Pacific Piano Competition at the Gateway Theatre with 40 entrants – both local and international. This was followed by the Branch presenting a Master Class on Feb.24th with Marcella Crudeli as clinician. From Rome, Professor Crudeli has given Master Classes around the world. She has received many awards and prizes for her artistry. Six students performed varied repertoire in the 3-hour class. The Richmond Branch welcomed the participation of four students from teachers of the North Shore and Vancouver Branches. Thank you to Kelsey Chan; Rainbow Lo; Rozalyn Chok; Jacky Feng; Richard Ho and Braedon Lim for fine performances, contributing to a stimulating afternoon with an outstanding clinician.

Programmes for the Branch included - Russian Method for Beginners. We look forward to upcoming workshops in April and May on Pop/Jazz Piano & Technique Olympics.

Towards the end of May we will host a workshop on the "Piano Syllabus, 2008 Edition". This will feature information concerning the outstanding changes, content and layout. Further details will be forthcoming.

We wish you all a "Happy Easter" & a most deserved rest during Spring Break.

SHUSWAP

No report submitted.

SOUTH FRASER

The South Fraser branch currently has over 100 members and four student teachers. We plan to continue encouraging STA membership and events for up and coming young teachers. Barbara Siemens from Vancouver branch is tentatively scheduled to host a student workshop on her Piano Workbook publications, plus tips on organizing home practice.

The Christmas luncheon was great fun on Friday, December 14th. It was held at a local golf course and we enjoyed a guessing game on Christmas carols, a gift exchange (made interesting with Darlene Brigidear's "rules"), raffle for bottles of liqueur, all followed by a hot buffet.

The January branch workshop was presented by Catherine Bundt on performance anxiety. Her stories about how famous performers deal with nerves (and they all do) was fascinating! After our April meeting we have invited another South Fraser member to speak - our own Kevin Thompson, on 'Sound Through Gesture'.

Catherine Bundt hosted a House Concert with Terence Dawson performing at her home on January 27th 2008.

Student recitals are organized throughout the school year; we aim for bi-monthly events. The Christmas 2007 recital featured piano solos and duets, a piano trio, and a violinist.

South Fraser will be sending Leslie Chen to represent our branch at the B.C. Piano Competition

Branch Reports

SOUTH FRASER - cont.

at the next BCRMTA convention. This should be an exciting event!

Our annual music festival was another success, with students competing to provide the artwork for the program cover. It is also displayed on our branch website (www.southfrasermusic.com). On the website in the 'members only' section, we now list piano tuners that members recommend and we hope to have ads from local stores to offset the costs of hosting the website.

Saturday, April 5th is the date that South Fraser branch is hosting a workshop with Forrest and Akiko Kinney, Victoria Warwick and Marya MacAulay presenting on teaching 'Creativity at the Piano'. As various conservatories release new syllabi and books, this trend of playing "off the page" (the equivalent of 'off-roading') will increase in the years to come and teachers need to feel prepared and confident. We hope to organize more events like this, and perhaps information on other conservatories which offer teacher's diplomas (as a comparison to the three-tiered RCM teacher's diploma).

Another Mall Showcase is planned for May 24, 2008 at Guilford Town Mall, where students can dazzle shoppers with their performances. This is a highlight for many students as there is less pressure than an exam or festival!

SOUTH OKANAGAN

No report submitted

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 December, 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

As another season passes by, and a new one is about to begin, it is time for the annual president's report. The Trail/Castlegar Branch maintained a membership of 11 this past year, but Carol Romney, a long time member and past president, retired from teaching at the end of June. Since then, she has decided not to renew her membership for this upcoming year, and she will be sorely missed. We greatly valued her wisdom, experience, cheerful attitude, and friendship. We wish Carol and her husband all the best in their retirement, and many, many years to enjoy their family and friends.

Of our current membership, one teacher is a life member, and two are student teachers. We may not be a large Branch, but we are a busy and active one. This past year included preparing students for both the Royal Conservatory and Conservatory Canada examinations. We also held numerous recitals and a mini-festival in the Fall that focused on Canadian music. Our adjudicator for this year was Tracey Garvin, from Grand Forks, and she did a fantastic job. The Friday was a festival in which Tracey adjudicated students, followed by an informative Canadian music workshop on Saturday, and an Honours Concert on Saturday evening. Awards were presented at the conclusion of the recital, to students who had received



Branch Reports

TRAIL/ CASTLEGAR - cont.

the highest marks in the practical and theoretical categories for exams last year. Community Service Awards were also acknowledged, and we were delighted to hear the piece composed by local student, Ben Buckley, who won first place in the CFMTA's Canada Music Week National Competition.

An exciting development for our Branch this past year was sponsoring three students to attend the Valhalla Summer School of Music in August. These students were recipients of the Dora Tweeddale Summer School Scholarship, which will now be awarded annually to enable students to attend summer music schools. The scholarship is possible due to the generous donation that Dora made to the Trail / Castlegar Branch in her will. She may not be with us any longer, but she will continue to touch lives through her generosity.

Other excitement this year included:

- Our year-end dinner that was held in June at Café Michaels, to celebrate the end of another teaching year.
- one member attending the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the BCRMTA.
- The whirlwind weekend that four of us took in the Fall to the Coast to choose a new piano for our Branch, followed by a workshop in Kelowna the next day, and then home again (to teach the following day).

Finally, former member, Paul Crawford, finished writing a detailed history of our Branch, which he entitled: "Historical Record: 1944 – 2007". It is an amazing book, which details the history of the Trail/Castlegar Branch, its activities, and the teachers that have been involved in it since 1944. By reading through this book, one gains a deeper appreciation for the teachers of the past, who set the strong foundation that our present Branch has been built upon.

I want to thank each and every one of you for all your continued hard work and dedication. I am thankful to have such a great group of colleagues and friends to work with, and I look forward to the coming year.

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.

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.

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

VERNON

Hello from the Vernon Branch. We recently had Joe Berarrducci come to Vernon to deliver a workshop on learning styles. We learned a lot about our own style of learning and how to adapt our teaching to meet the needs of our students, regardless of their style of learning.

Branch Reports

VERNON - cont.

Our RMT Festival for Piano and Voice, held in March, was a big success. It was wonderful to hear so many talented students and to benefit from the excellent adjudication provided by Glen Montgomery and Winston Noren. We look forward to our luncheon meeting to be held in May.

PROVINCIAL MEMBERS in TERRACE

If there are Provincial Members living in other areas somewhat close to Terrace, perhaps a new Branch of the North can be formed. Please contact the BCRMTA Registrar for more details.

As this is the first time a report has been submitted from this area, at least in recent years, we'd like to tell you a little about ourselves and the Terrace area.

All three of the BC Registered Music teachers here (Bonnie Juniper, Kelly Lima, Andrea Warner) are part of the Terrace Academy of Music. We are lucky to be living in a musically-rich community – we have two community bands, one symphony orchestra and one community choir, all of which have competed at the MusicFest Canada level. At the Terrace Academy of Music, in addition to providing private lessons in piano, strings and theory, and offering Kindermusik classes, we are part of the larger community of music in many ways: Bonnie is the current president of the Pacific Northwest Music Festival; Kelly is the past-president; we support an award in the Festival each year; Andrea provides rehearsal piano for the senior high school choir; we organize clinicians to assist our students in piano, strings and also to assist with the symphony and bands, of which some of our students are members; we are ourselves band and symphony members; and we also provide accompaniment for a variety of other school choirs, instrumentalists and community musical productions.

The last couple of years seem to have been especially busy! Last March we were very fortunate to have Dr. Michael Redshaw of Victoria here to provide private piano lessons as well as masterclasses and a pedagogy session. We had students from the whole Pacific Northwest attending – including musicians from not only Terrace but Prince Rupert, Kitimat and Smithers!

Also in March, two of us travelled to Toronto to take part in the Collaborative Conference – what an inspiring and valuable event! In April, the Pacific Northwest Music Festival displayed the talents of our students, a number of whom went on to participate in Provincial competitions. The spring practical exam session was particularly exciting in June, as it coincided with our flood – local highways were impassable making it impossible for Dr. Tom Green, our examiner, to drive here! With quick thinking he was able to secure one of few available airline tickets from Prince Rupert to Terrace and also on to Smithers. Co-operative students and parents enabled all exams to proceed despite last-minute changes from the flood-induced travel alterations. Our 2007-08 teaching year began with a fabulous workshop by Christopher Norton in August, introducing his very appealing set of books. In October, students and teachers alike dressed up again for our annual Halloween recital! Our Canadian music week recital in November showcased our wonderful Canadian composers, including one of Terrace's own, and included one of the country-wide performances of "Dance of the Loons" by Lillian Safdie. The winter theory and practical examinations went smoothly - and thankfully without any natural disasters, like floods. We recently had Mary Sokol-Brown, of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, return again for inspiring lessons with our string players and to assist with the orchestra. The next large event in the horizon is the Music Festival, and our students are busy practising for their performances. If any fellow music teachers are passing through the Terrace area, please stop in for a visit; we'd love to meet you!



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Abigail Burnett receives BCRMTA Award

Every year the BC Registered Music Teachers' Association presents a \$ 500.00 bursary to the student who has achieved the highest mark in the Teachers's A.R.C.T. examination. This year's recipient is Abigail Burnett. Here is Abigail's biography:

Growing up in Langley, B.C. I was the second of four girls. My musical training began at the age of six, with my grandmother as my first piano teacher. My next instructor was the very talented Phyllis Heppner, who instilled a love for music within me. It was because of her that I never gave up, but kept pursuing my dream of an ARCT in Pedagogy. Later I studied with Mr. Edward Parker and it was due to his genius that I reached that goal with such success.

I am not by any means, a naturally talented person. Growing up I used to say that while others had the talent, I had the qualities of endurance, diligence, and perseverance. The gold medal became a reality through hard work and constant driving from my teachers.

I took the pedagogy, rather than the performance exam, because of the joy I find in teaching. I love the challenge each new student brings and I love the opportunity to connect with so many people.



My other passion is discipling and working with youth. I am currently living at an international boarding school in Kenay, E. Africa. My main responsibility is serving as a dorm mom to 17 girls. I am also privileged to be able to teach piano, accompany the high school choir, and teach a general music class to the grade 7's, hopefully instilling in them that same love for music...it is a contagious thing. :)



Members
if you would like a digital copy of this logo please contact the editor or the provincial secretary



The Chilliwack Branch is looking forward to hosting the 2008 Provincial Convention at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa. Stéphane Lemelin, our guest piano clinician will be presenting a Recital on Friday night featuring two of Schubert's late piano sonatas. A "Meet the Artist" reception with a cash bar will follow the

Recital. Stéphane has received particular praise for his interpretations of Schubert, Schumann, Fauré and Ravel. On Saturday morning Stéphane will give a lecture on "Thoughts on Schubert" and in the afternoon he will conduct a two hour masterclass. You won't want to miss the BC Piano Competition Saturday evening, featuring some of the top young pianists in our province competing for a place in the CFMTA National Piano Competition to be held in Nova Scotia in July 2009. Stéphane Lemelin will judge the competition.

We are also very pleased to have Educational lecturer Terry Small join us on Saturday morning for a workshop on "Engaging the Brain". Terry believes, "anyone can learn how to learn easier, better and faster, and learning to learn is the most important skill a person can acquire." His knowledge, warmth, humour and dynamic presentation style have made him a much sought-after speaker at workshops and conferences.

Other special attractions at this convention will be the display of art work from the Gallery of Hilda Goertzen in the Forum Foyer of the Harrison Hot Springs Resort. Hilda is a self-taught artist who was born in Argentina where her interest in movement, music and art was fostered. Go to www.hildagoertzen.com for her Online Art Gallery.

Hilda has most generously donated a painting valued at \$500 towards our Door Prizes. Another great Door Prize is a mid-week one-night "get-away" for two at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa valued at \$275.

The Gala Banquet on Saturday will begin at 5:00 with the West Coast String Quartet entertaining us during the Happy Hour and a gourmet 3 course meal being served at 6:00.

All events during this convention take place at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa located in the village of Harrison Hot Springs: 25 minutes north-east of Chilliwack; 1½ - 2 hours east of Vancouver; 3 hours south of Kelowna and Kamloops and 3 hours north of Seattle.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort (www.harrisonresort.com). Book your room by calling: 1-800-663-2266 or reserve online at res@harrisonresort.com. From the USA call direct: 604-796-2244. Mention you are with the BCRMTA to get special Convention room rates before August 27, 2008. Room Rates range from \$164 - \$214, plus taxes, based on single/double occupancy. An additional charge of \$20 per person will apply up to a maximum of 4 per room. Check-in time is 4:00 pm. Check-out time is 11:00 am. To inquire about possible transportation from the Vancouver Airport guests of the Harrison Resort may contact Vern at Ph. 604-796-4722.

E-mail vschram@harrisonresort.com

The use of the pools is limited to registered guests at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa.

For other accommodations within 2 blocks of the Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa go to info@harrisonbeachhotel.com; info@harrisonhotsprings.com; www.bigfootcamping.ca

For more information or to download the registration form go to www.bcrmta.bc.ca
Click onto Rejuvenate! 2008

Direct any inquiries to Convention Chair Irmi Teichrob Ph. 604-858-2330
email rejuvenate2008@shaw.ca



Convention Schedule
Friday, September 26 –
Sunday, September 28

Friday	4:00-7:30pm	Registration in Forum Foyer Harrison Hot Springs Resort Stéphane Lemelin Recital followed by a "Meet the Artist" Reception & Cash Bar
	8:00 pm	
Saturday	8:00-8:45 am	Registration in Forum Foyer Workshop: Terry Small "Engaging the Brain: Maximizing Every Learner's Potential" Coffee & Muffin Break Lecture: Stéphane Lemelin "Thoughts on Schubert" Picnic Lunch Masterclass with Stéphane Lemelin Free Time Happy Hour: Cash Bar with entertainment West Coast String Quartet Gala Banquet BC Piano Competition Provincial Council Meeting
	8:45 am	
	10:05 am	
	10:30 am	
	12:00 pm	
	2:00 pm	
	4:00 pm	
	5:00 pm	
	6:00 pm	
	8:00 pm	
Sunday	9:30 am	

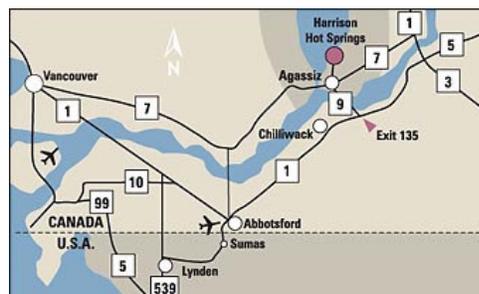
Dining options at the Harrison Hot Springs Resort for Friday evening include casual fare at the Lakeside Café featuring an Italian Buffet for \$21 or fine and elegant dining in the Copper Room.

Minter Gardens is offering Convention Delegates a 25% discount on their admission fee. Enjoy a refreshing break on your way to **Rejuvenate! 2008** on Friday or on your way home on Sunday. Located at Exit 135 off Hwy #1 enroute to Agassiz and Harrison Hot Springs. www.mintergardens.com

Partners of convention guests who wish to golf at Sandpiper Golf Resort on Saturday, may book their spot by emailing: lenteichrob@hotmail.com by July 15. Cost is approximately \$75. Other nearby golf courses are the Harrison Resort Golf Course and The Falls Golf & Country Club. Interested in hiking or back woods exploration? Contact Jack Hirschman at 604-858-3147.

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. You can't miss the Resort. Street parking is free in the Village of Harrison. Parking is also available at the Resort.





Rejuvenate! 2008 Registration Form



September 26 & 27

(One Person per Form)

This form may also be downloaded at www.bcrmta.bc.ca

Photocopy as needed. Please print clearly.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov. _____ Postal Code _____

Branch Affiliation _____ Telephone () _____ - _____

E-mail _____

Registrations will be confirmed by e-mail or telephone. All prices include GST.

Full Package (A) - includes all events listed below for (B)

	No.	Total
June Special (Deadline: June 1, 2008)	\$245	\$ _____
Regular price (June 2 - August 15, 2008)	\$260	\$ _____
Subtotal Full Package	\$	_____

Individual Tickets (B)

	No.	Total
Stéphane Lemelin Recital	\$30	\$ _____
student price	\$15	\$ _____
Saturday Morning Terry Small Workshop	\$35	\$ _____
Saturday Morning Schubert Lecture	\$35	\$ _____
Saturday Picnic Lunch	\$25	\$ _____
Saturday Afternoon Masterclass	\$60	\$ _____
Gala Banquet	\$60	\$ _____
BC Piano Competition	\$25	\$ _____
student price	\$15	\$ _____

Subtotal Individual Tickets (B) \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL include both (A) & (B) \$ _____

*Tickets to Workshops and Concerts will be sold at the door ONLY after August 15th

*Tickets to Saturday Lunch or Banquet cannot be sold after August 15th

Please check meal: *If bringing a guest please indicate your choices with a number, otherwise check your meal preference.*

Saturday Picnic Lunch

Fine Sliced Deli Meat & Cheese Vegetarian

Saturday Banquet

Grilled Wild BC Salmon Fraser Valley Chicken Breast Vegetarian

Make cheque payable in Canadian Funds to Rejuvenate! 2008 and mail with the registration form to:

Registrar, Rejuvenate! 2008

Peggy O'Brennan

14 - 9232 Woodbine St.

Chilliwack, B.C. V2P 5S8

Email: rejuvenate2008@shaw.ca



12th Pacific Piano Competition Winners

A full house at Gateway Theatre in Richmond was treated to dazzling piano performances as six competitors vied to win the Finals of the 12th Pacific Piano Competition February 23rd. Capturing 1st place and \$5000 was Elizabeth Schumann, 26, from Los Angeles. Elizabeth has performed at the Kennedy Center, in a PBS documentary and was a recent winner of the 2007 Bosendorfer International Piano Competition. Second place and \$2000 was won by Sergei Saratovsky, 26, a doctoral music student at UBC. In 3rd place with an \$800 prize was Peggy Sung, 20, from Hong Kong. Three distinguished pianists judged the event, Marcella Crudeli (Italy), Ronald Turini and Richard Raymond (both from eastern Canada).

The Final Competition was the culmination of 4 days of intense competition which brought together 40 talented pianists ages 16 to 28 from Canada, USA, the Ukraine and Hong Kong. Twelve pianists were chosen to proceed to a Semi-Final round where the

field narrowed to 6 competitors for the Finals. The next Pacific Piano Competition will be in February 2011.



Grace Hoff, Richmond Branch member and on the Pacific Piano Society board, presents Elizabeth Schumann with 1st prize.



Just over one year ago, I, Win Rompf, met with Trudy Morse and Dorothy Lau, the organizers of the successful Pacific Piano Competition. Before we could sip our coffee, we all had the same idea – why not a PIANO ENSEMBLE COMPETITION? A competition for ONE PIANO 4 HANDS and TWO PIANOS 4 HANDS. This would provide an opportunity for the serious “duettists and duos” for who there is currently little opportunity in their field.

Before long, the name of the competition was settled – *North West Piano Ensemble Competition*

New Competition – New Excitement: Piano Ensemble Competition Richmond, BC January 24th, 2009

an organizing society was created and we are proud to say, the first competition will be held at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond, BC on January 24, 2009.

We do invite the readers to check our website for further details – www.nwpes.ca – outlining this interesting new competition. Since it takes time to obtain the right repertoire for this event, early preparation is encouraged. Feel free to use the “contact us” for any information or assistance you may require.



Donna Fishwick Piano Ensemble European Tour 2008

This summer, Europe will be taken by storm once again by over 40 young Canadian pianists on their whirlwind continental tour. Founder and director Donna Fishwick, who maintains a renowned piano studio in Burnaby, will be leading many members of her piano ensemble to perform in the Czech Republic and Austria. This third European musical expedition will see the group perform at such venues as *Bertramka* in Prague (The Museum of W. A. Mozart and the Dusseks), Palais Pálffy in Vienna, the Bösendorfer Recital Hall, and the historic Lichtenstein Palace. Mixing work with pleasure, the two bus-loads of students and family members will also visit Switzerland, Germany, and France.

Founded in 1993, the Donna Fishwick Piano Ensemble consists mainly of performers from 5 to 17 years old. Over the past 15 years, these musicians

have performed solo and ensemble music throughout North America, Europe, and Africa. Highlights include Steinway Hall in New York, Cairo Opera House, Disneyland, and several cruise lines. Their repertoire includes transcriptions and original compositions for 2, 4, 6, and 8-hands for one or two pianos.

This unique tour of Europe, under the guidance of Donna Fishwick, has taken years of hard work and preparation by the performers, supporters, and organizers; however, it is the love of music that inspires all to fulfill their potential. The youthful artists are very excited to visit Europe, the heart of classical music!



The Donna Fishwick Piano Ensemble will also be performing at the Queen Elizabeth Playhouse at 2:00 pm on Sunday, June 15th, 2008. Please call Donna Fishwick at 604-431-6700 for more information



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Helen Hall, B. Music (Acadia); M.A. Musicology (UVic)
Miranda Wong Wilkins, B. Music (Victoria);
M. Music (Peabody Conservatory)

Harpsichord

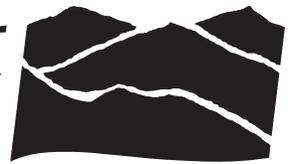
Gerald van Wyck, B. Music (Toronto); M.A. (Toronto)

Jazz piano

Sharon Minemoto, B. Music (Capilano College)

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Upcoming Events

EMPOWERING MUSICIANS: BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT NEW YORK CITY, JULY 7–9, 2008

If you like **music, art, theatre, dance, architecture** or **history** (and of course shopping) you may be interested in joining us for this **three day educational travel trip!**

The CFMTA together with the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) are proud to host a three day wellness symposium for our members!

EMPOWERING MUSICIANS: BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT will take place at the **Yamaha Artist Services Facility**, located at 689 Fifth Avenue, in the historic Aeolian Building in midtown Manhattan. **Three renowned clinicians** will offer **daily workshops** from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The remainder of each day will be free for your own personal activities. This trip offers an opportunity for professional development (making it tax deductible) along with personal independence in other daily activity planning! Please visit the MTNA website www.mtna.org to register and view information on our stellar lineup of clinicians. Or register by telephone by calling the MTNA office at 1-888-512-5278.

The fee for this three day symposium is \$150.00 US per person. Limit of 140, so register early!

The hotel delegates are using is the Wellington Hotel New York, at (but there are many in the area).

<http://www.wellingtonhotel.com/default.aspx?pg=home&hid=53&vl=610f4061-6e94-4151-90b2-d49b187d0e6a>



Canadian pianist **Alan Fraser** has created a new approach to piano technique that accesses the innate structure and function of the human hand to replace tension and over-relaxation with effective hand *activation*. His book and DVD, *The*

Craft of Piano Playing, presents this new approach in detail, with an extensive series of exercise to align one's skeleton, enrich one's sound, increase virtuosity, and eliminate the danger of injury before it ever arises. For more information, go to <http://alanfraser.net>



Carol Montparker has been enjoying a dual career as pianist and writer. Montparker majored in music at Queens College, where she won the Orchestral Society Award, granted to the "most outstanding instrumentalist on campus." She gave her New York

debut recital at Carnegie Recital Hall in 1976, about which Donal Henahan of the *The New York Times* wrote "a splendid debut by a pianist who starts where others leave off", and has since appeared in solo and chamber recitals across the country. Ms. Montparker's CD's, *Pianogarden I and II*, recorded in live concert, have been praised by artists and critics including Harold C. Schonberg; Michael Kimmelman of *The New York Times*, called her "a real artist, whose playing is unfailingly graceful and affecting." As senior editor of *Clavier* for fifteen years, Montparker interviewed world-famous artists for feature stories, reviewed concerts and books. For more information, go to <http://www.montparker.com/about.html>



Louise Montello is an internationally known authority on music and wellness and award-winning author of "Essential Musical Intelligence: Using Music as Your Path to Healing, Creativity and Radiant Wholeness".

Dr. Montello conducted clinical research on the use of an integrative music therapy approach to treating and preventing musicians' stress-related disorders in the Department of Psychology at New York University for over ten years. In an effort to bring her groundbreaking music therapy-based prevention program to the musical community, Dr. Montello co-founded a not-for-profit organization, Musicians' Wellness, Inc. To serve performers in a more systematic and effective way, over the last four years, Louise has been developing training materials to assist students and trainees in mastering the Performance Wellness/Essential Musical Intelligence techniques. For more information, go to <http://www.performancewellness.org/about.html>



MEDIA RELEASE

January 2008

**JOIN WORLD MUSIC EDUCATORS
IN BOLOGNA, ITALY
JULY 14 - 28, 2008 AT THE WORLD CONGRESS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION (I.S.M.E.)**

**Contact Info: Lois Harper
Tel (613) 234-3360
Fax (613) 236-2636
Toll-free: 1-800-267-8526
Email: abc@abc.ca**

I have attended all but one **International Society for Music Educators (ISME) World Congress** since 1978 and I have not enough superlatives to describe the experience and its value for conductors, teachers and educators! The programming is a rich blend of concerts, workshops, papers, sessions and general assemblies augmented by one=s own interactions with a broad cross-section of other delegates, plus concerts by 60-70 choirs, orchestras and other performing groups from all over the world..

ISME 2008 conference theme speaks to everyone - **Music at all ages; in infancy, childhood, young people, adults and seniors**. This will be examined through an interdisciplinary approach covering all aspects of music education, including pedagogy, arts, teaching practices, psychology, musicology, ethno-musicology, sociology, theory, philosophy, medicine and school administration.

Of interest to all is the planned creation of a **brand new ISME commission focusing, exclusively, on activities and concerns of private/independent/studio teachers of instrumental or vocal performance and to uncover the most recent relevant research that could assist performance teachers**. Other ISME commissions include: Research, Music in Cultural, Educational and Mass Media Policies, Music in Schools and Teacher Education, Early Childhood Music Education, Community Music Activity and Education of the Professional Musician.

Many times I have taken groups of music teachers and educators and choirs to ISME and this will be no exception. Starting in Eternal Rome, we will travel IN SEARCH OF TUSCANY to San Gimignano, Siena, Pisa, Florence, Bologna, Padua and Venice. **Please contact me for costs, and the itinerary for our special tour for music teachers and educators including 6 nights at the ISME conference in Bologna**. In the 11th century (1088) the oldest university in the world was founded within its walls. Historic mansions and churches, rich in works of art, line the streets of one of the best preserved old towns in Europe and highlight the cultural importance Bologna has had through the ages. Its old town centre, classified by UNESCO as the largest in the world, conserves vestiges of the old Roman town. I have been working with Don Robinson and others to create an interesting, affordable tour that incorporates ISME in Bologna. To fly into Rome and back from Venice you may use frequent flyer points, book online or you can call me toll free (1800-267-8526).

All activities for the **ISME World Congress** will be in the main old Etruscan town of Bologna, so all are within 10 minutes walking distance. The main Conference activities and some concerts, will be held along Via Zamboni – between the Conservatorium and the Academy of Fine Arts, and between these two, there are several venues, including some at the University of Bologna. Away from this street, there is the Manzoni Theatre, which ISME will use - and then various churches in the area. **The ISME program includes:**

- Gala Reception and Prelude Concert
- Mainstage Concert every night
- ISME Opening Ceremonies
- ISME sessions, workshops, commissions, papers, general assembly, trade show, etc
- Concerts every day 10:30 or 12 noon - 3:00 pm
- ISME 2010 Reception
- Closing Ceremony

Ciao!

*Lois Harper, B.A., M.Ed., ARCT
President, Arts Bureau for The Continents*



Upcoming Workshops

PIANO WORKSHOPS

Royal Conservatory of Music launches their brand new piano series "Perspectives"

Clinician: Andrew Markhow

9:30am-12:30pm

FREE!

April 15th (Tue) Vancouver - Long & McQuade

New Store! 368 Terminal Avenue (lots of parking)

The presentation room at the new store only seats 65, so pre-registration is a must!

Pre-register with Christie at 604-682-5288 or csmith@long-mcquade.com

April 16th (Wed) North Vancouver - L&M

1363 Main Street.

Pre-register with Patti Schulte at 604-986-0911 or pschulte@long-mcquade.com

April 17th (Thur) Victoria - L&M Music Education

Centre 2822 Nanaimo Street

Pre-register with Sheila Grigg at 250-384-3622 or vicprintmusic@long-mcquade.com

April 18th (Fri) - Port Coquitlam L&M Music

Education Centre 1360 Dominion Avenue

Pre-register Marie Prime at 604-464-1011 or mprime@long-mcquade.com

Novus Via Music Group and Long & McQuade present Scott McBride Smith

9:30am-12:30pm

FREE!

Scott will be introducing us to the brand new series American Popular Piano by Christopher Norton

May 12th (Mon) Victoria - L&M Music Education

Centre 2822 Nanaimo Street

Pre-register with Sheila Grigg at 250-384-3622 or vicprintmusic@long-mcquade.com

May 13th (Tue) Vancouver - Long & McQuade

New Store! 368 Terminal Avenue (lots of parking)

The presentation room at Terminal only seats 65 registrants so pre-registration is a must!

Pre-register with Christie at 604-682-5288 or csmith@long-mcquade.com

Hal Leonard Publishing and Long & McQuade are proud to bring back jazz pedagogue,

composer and arranger Tony Caramia

9:30am-12:30pm

FREE!

July 22nd (Tue) Langley

Venue to be announced soon.

Pre-register with Jessica Shea at 604-530-8704 or langleyprint@long-mcquade.com

July 23rd (Wed) Vancouver - Long & McQuade

New Store! 586 Terminal Ave (lots of parking)

The presentation room at Terminal only seats 65 registrants so pre-registration is a must!

Pre-register with Christie at 604-682-5288 or csmith@long-mcquade.com

July 24th (Thur) Victoria - L&M Music Education

Centre 2822 Nanaimo Street

Pre-register with Sheila Grigg at 250-384-3622 or vicprintmusic@long-mcquade.com

Alfred Publishing and Long & McQuade

are very excited to present a special masterclass with two of Alfred Publishing's most esteemed composer/arrangers

Dan Coates and Gayle Kowalczyk

9:30am-12:30pm

FREE!

ONE DAY ONLY!!!

August 15h (Fri) at the Vancouver Academy of Music (Theatre)

1270 Chestnut Street, Vancouver

Register with Christie Smith - 604-682-5288 or csmith@long-mcquade.com

Workshops available at Tom Lee Music - All Locations

Starting in April the workshops are available at all stores

1st Saturday 10:00 am How to Select a Piano

2nd Thursday 7:00 pm How to "Rock" Series

3rd Saturday 10:00 am Digital Keyboards 101

4th Thursday 7:00 pm How to "Rock" Series

Please visit www.tomleemusic.ca for more details.

The rock and digital keyboard events will cover a different topic each session.

Professional Development Courses – Summer 2008

sponsored by the Royal Conservatory Music School - workshops to be held in Ontario

www.rcmusic.ca/communityschool

Dalcroze Eurhythmics Level 1

Start date: July 2

Duration: 52 hours over 13 days

Dalcroze training stimulates the senses used to make music - hearing, sight and touch – and develops the mind-body connection. Level 1 encourages music-making as an act of discovery in both performance and teaching.

Orff Teacher Training – Levels 1, 2, 3

Start date: July 7

Duration: 10 day-long sessions

Participants learn to foster student literacy and creativity through carefully sequenced musical experiences using songs, games, rhythms, poems, dances and stories from around the world.

Music in Early Childhood

Duration: 10 day-long sessions

Start date: July 21

Explore the philosophies and methods developed by prominent music educators, with specific reference to working with young children.

Kodály Teacher Training – Level 3

Start date: July 21

Duration: 78 hours over 13 days

Kodály Teacher Training emphasizes the development of the ability to read, write, hear and think musically through its focus on singing.

Exploring Elemental Music with Steven Calantropio

Workshop: August 11

Course: August 11 to 15. Includes workshop on August 11.

Steve Calantropio presents an in-depth study of elemental music styles found in the collaborative work of Carl Orff and Gunild Keetman's *Music for Children*.

Musica Poetica: Music, Literacy and Orff Schulwerk with Doug Goodkin

Workshop: August 18

Course: August 18 to 22. Includes workshop on August 18.

Join Doug Goodkin in dynamic sessions that explore the relationship between language and musical understanding and how music strengthens literacy programs.

Art of Teaching Music Educator's Conference 2008

sponsored by the Royal Conservatory Music School - conference to be held in Ontario

November 7-9, 2008

At the new TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning

Call for proposals will open soon. Details are posted online at www.rcmusic.ca/artofteaching



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
Richmond - Broadmoor Baptist Church	Thursday, May 29, 9:30-12:30	Gloria Cristobal 604-275-7144 or moodymusic@shaw.ca	Peteris Zarins
Abbotsford - West Abbotsford Mennonite Church	Monday, June 2, 9:30-12:30	Dina Pollock 604-859-6333 or dina_pollock@telus.net	Dale Wheeler
Burnaby - Shadbolt Centre	Tuesday, June 3, 9:30-12:30	Toni Meyer 604-298-7804 or tonimeyer@hotmail.com	Dale Wheeler

Check our website www.rcmexaminations.org for updates.

Aspects of Advanced Harmony (Grade 5 Harmony), Part 2

by Joe Ringhofer, Chief Examiner, Emeritus

Here are a few suggestions for you to consider and a few tips to help your Grade 5 Harmony students:

Re: Question #1

In this question students must demonstrate their four-part writing skills.

Sometimes the question gives the chord symbols – I liken this task to basic colouring, as in, “Don’t colour over the lines.” They need to know the basic mechanics such as the correct doublings and voice leading. Grade 5 vocabulary, including elements such as augmented sixth chords and Neapolitan chords, is always contained in this question. Drill – yes, *drill* – them on common harmonic idioms, e.g. flat II⁶ to vii^o7/v to V-7 to I. Think of your role as a “personal trainer” – repeat exercises with them if necessary; see that they can answer such questions quickly and accurately. Be a demanding coach – as they improve their skills and gain confidence, they’ll thank you for it.

Re: Question #2

Students need to know how to set up a binary form composition, including the correct use of repeat signs and pick-up beats. The student is expected to write a 16-bar composition in what is essentially an eighteenth century dance style. I discourage my students from using any Grade 5 vocabulary in this question. That is not to say that these elements never appear in such works. But a clear grasp of harmonic rhythm, cadence placement and appropriate modulation are largely the domain of Grade 3 and 4. While the question is a *counterpoint* exercise students stumble largely because of their weaknesses in harmony (and yes, even rudiments.) In the final analysis I am convinced that we can teach almost every student the *craft* of melody writing. But can every student learn the *art* of melody writing? I leave that for you to answer.

Re: Question #3

This question requires students to modulate to a distant key and then return to the home key. I explain to my students that in this question there are essentially only two Grade 5 Harmony chords to consider: the pivot chord *to* the new key, and the pivot chord which *returns* you to the original key. Only in certain cases could it be desirable to employ the same chord as the pivot chord moving away from and returning to the home key. Generally a highway has an *on ramp* and an *off ramp*; so too, what works well moving *towards* the new key may not be as convincing on the return. Students need to understand this well. First and foremost, they need to demonstrate an ability to maintain the style (as given in the question) as well as building sensible (Grade 3-and-4-type) progressions.

Re: Question #4

Chorales form the basis of the study of harmony. While sometimes the chorales chosen here are “busier” than those seen in earlier grades, they are largely constructed from Grade 3 and 4 vocabulary. A firm grasp of proper text-setting, use of simple suspensions (e.g. 4 – 3) and common cadential formulas (e.g. II^{6/5} to V-7 to I) will go a long way in helping students achieve a high mark on this question.

I am constantly reminding my students that they are not studying some kind of extra-terrestrial harmony; rather, that through the study of harmony, they are trying to understand better the music which they experience directly through their playing and listening.

Of course for the students who bemoan the fact that they must study advanced harmony I promise them a tantalizing reward: that once they pass the course, there is no Grade 6 Harmony!



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Winds • Brass • Guitar • Harp
Percussion • Theory • Orchestra
Western Fiddlers

Jazz Programs
Music For Baby & Toddlers
Orff & Recorder Classes
Suzuki Preschool Programs

2008 Summer Programs

Playing with Music
July 7-11

Suzuki Summer Workshop
July 21-24

Early Learning Programs
July 21-24

**Pulse Advanced Chamber Music
Workshop and Festival**
July 26 - August 3

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Begin June 23

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Phone: 604.534.2848

Fax: 604.532.9118

4899 207 Street, Langley, B.C.

Summer Programs for Students

Langley Community Music School (LCMS) provides an exciting array of courses and workshops each summer for individuals of all ages. The school has been offering summer camps for kids, teens, and adults for many years in LCMS' spacious facility on City Park in Langley, BC.

The summer begins with *Playing with Music*, a course for children ages four through nine. Participants explore the musical aspects of rhythm, harmony and melody in a fun and creative way with movement, dance and crafts.

Younger children can join LCMS for *Music for Babies and Toddlers*. The program is a wonderful opportunity for caregivers to introduce music to young children by encouraging musical contact. Kids can also participate in the *Pre-Twinkle Introductory Violin*, a Suzuki preparatory class designed for pre-schoolers and no experience is necessary.

LCMS' *Suzuki Summer Workshop* takes place each July, and it is geared towards students and teachers who want to expand their experiences within the Suzuki programme and in a broader musical and artistic sense. The school also offers teacher training courses that are an excellent occasion for teachers to further their musical training in a nurturing environment.

The very popular Suzuki student workshop involves daily master classes and group lessons as well as a variety of enrichment classes such as *Fiddling* or *Playing with Poetry*. Students and family members have the opportunity to attend daily noon hour



2008

Victoria Conservatory of Music

Summer Guitar Academy

June 30 – July 4

Bradford Werner,
Artistic Director

Activities

- Technique warm-ups
- Masterclass
- Ensemble class
- History of the guitar
- Exciting youth activities
- Student & Faculty Concerts

Faculty

- Bradford Werner
- Adrian Verdejo
- Michael Dias
- Alexander Dunn

Concerts

Faculty Concert

Monday, June 30th - 7:00 pm
The Guitar Academy kicks off its performance element with solo and ensemble works featuring Academy Faculty and guests.

Student Recital

Friday, July 4th - 7:00 pm
Talented students from the SGA perform solos, duos, and ensembles.

Victoria Conservatory of Music

Inquiries:

Victoria Conservatory of Music
Campus: 900 Johnson Street
Victoria BC Canada V8Y 3N4
(250) 386-5311
Toll free: (866) 386-5311

Bradford Werner
brad@bradfordwerner.ca

SGA Website:
www.vcm.bc.ca/sga.html

Summer Programs for Students

student concerts as well as recitals with special guest artists.

The second annual *Pulse Summer Advanced Chamber Music Workshop and Festival* with Land's End Chamber Ensemble in residence is the last of the events at LCMS in the summer. As part of the *Pulse* workshop, LCMS offers *Piano Teachers Chamber Music*, a 3 day course given by the Bergmann Piano Duo. Participants get the opportunity to team up and explore the 2 piano and duet repertoire.

Pulse participants work in chamber groups and receive coaching on pre-assigned repertoire, attend master classes, improvisation classes, "Nurturing the Musician" sessions and many concerts. The course is open to violinists, violists, cellists, pianists, wind players and singers.

Young composers are invited to participate in the *Young Composers Competition* where they will have the opportunity to work with Land's End Chamber

Ensemble during an afternoon workshop. Their pieces will be performed and critiqued by the ensemble and jury. Winning compositions will be premiered at a special concert.

New this year, is a one day *Jazz Workshop* for beginner to advanced levels. Students can learn about the history, theoretical concepts and performance practice behind playing jazz with jazz pianist and educator Amanda Tosoff.

The *Pulse* festival includes many concerts, including daily performances as part of the chamber music workshop. It is truly an international experience as students attend from all over Canada and abroad.

For more information about LCMS and their summer camps visit www.langleymusic.com or contact the school at 604.534.2848.

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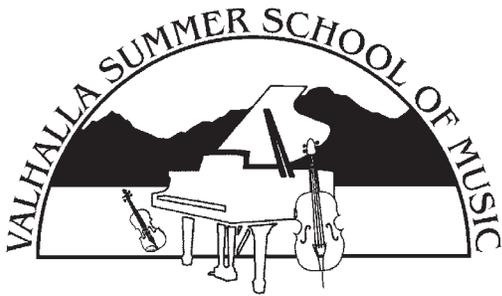
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Summer Programs for Students



Dates for Summer 2008 session:
August 10 - 15, 2008

David Moroz	Piano
Arne Sahlen	Piano
Anne MacDonald	Piano
Tracy Garvin	Piano

The Valhalla Summer School of Music (VSSM) is a weeklong celebration of music and learning.

A primary goal of the VSSM is to support and foster the love of music in all people.

Currently, the VSSM programs offers instructions for violin, viola, cello, piano and two choral options.

Music programs and activities are available for adults and children.

VSSM

Box 163 Silverton, B.C. V0G 2B0

<http://www.valhallafinearts.org>

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Lillian Chan
Piano
Richmond Branch
RMT member since 2002



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.



We're Off to See the Wizard - Intermediate Piano Solo
Lyrics by E.Y. Harburg, Music by Harold Arlen
arranged by Melody Bober

This solo is from the Simply Pop Solos. It's nice to have familiar music arranged for the early intermediate student to use for quick study or a reward for working hard on other assigned material. This arrangement is in 6/8 time and has effective fingering provided to assist the student to be able to phrase the music as required. The piece is written in the key of C+ and doesn't contain any intervals above a 7th. Nicely done!

JR



(We're Gonna) Rock Around the Clock - Late Elementary Piano Solo

Max C. Freedman and Jimmy De Knight
arranged by Carol Matz

Here is a composition from the Simply series designed to supplement lesson repertoire. This arrangement includes helpful phrase markings, articulations, fingerings, and dynamics. The familiarity of the melody and the rhythm are guaranteed to appeal to the late elementary student. It is written in C+ and the notes are within a 2 octave range.

JR



Classical Jazz, Rags, & Blues - Book 1
Early Intermediate by Martha Mier

Again Martha Mier has not disappointed us with her adapting of classical melodies into arrangements of ragtime, blues, and various jazz styles! She has taken music by Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Haydn, and even J.S. Bach and made these selections from orchestral, opera, and piano literature come alive in a new way.

If your students enjoy the other music by Martha Mier, why not introduce them to this latest approach of supplementing their repertoire!

JR

Review of Publications



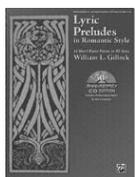
Piano Miniatures - 24 Short Solos in All Major & Minor Keys

by Victor Labenske

24 intermediate piano solos in different styles (e.g. Swing, Blues, Latin, Rock, Spanish dance, Waltz, etc.). Interesting points include: 1 piece in every major & minor key, pieces are paired in parallel major & minor keys & the pieces continue around the circle of 5ths. Use of LH melody & cross over technique.

Also note to the following songs: Lost in thought, Feeling guilty – deep feeling. Determination, Thoughtful – very interesting. The silent movie, Carefree – very interesting rhythm. Meditation, Mountaintop view – very poetic. Bitter sweet – like pop song. Out of time – syncopation in LH. Pieces can be performed in a number of ways. E.g. play pieces in parallel or relative minor key, group pieces by style, combine pieces that have the same mood or theme.

LC



Lyric Preludes in Romantic Style 24 Short Piano Pieces in All Keys Intermediate to Late Intermediate

by William L. Gillock

24 intermediate to late intermediate piano solos in major & minor keys – these preludes are designed to tackle 1 or more musical & technical problems. Performance notes are included to help both teachers & students understand the work. This book would be a helpful resource in preparing for the more complex works of the 19th & 20th century (e.g. Chopin, Schumann, Brahms, Debussy, etc.). Enclosed CD will also help in the interpretation & performance.

Interesting points include: Use of top note, rubato, LH melody, double sharp & flat, sustained voices, practise in different rhythm, etc.

LC

FJH MUSIC COMPANY INC.



Look what I Can Do!

by Reed Burkholder

This collection of 10 original elementary piano pieces is part of the Composers in Focus series which is designed to enlarge and enhance piano teaching repertoire.

Each of the titles of these pieces helps to draw on the imagination of the young pianist. Lyrics are also provided for each of the pieces.

The music is often divided between the hands with passages of hands together playing. The student is required to travel to various registers. Some of the pieces employ a smattering of accidentals, ties, slurs, staccato, and LH crossing over. Only triple and quadruple meters are introduced. The melody sometimes shifts the hands helping the student develop a better sense of balance between the hands.

The notes are large and this is easy read. This book is a nice “extra” to have on hand for a bonus piece for the progressing student!

JR



Solo Standouts Book 1

Early Elementary/Elementary

The 11 compositions in this book feature 9 outstanding composers. Skills applied are use of the damper pedal including legato pedaling, moving to various registers, extreme dynamics, variety of articulations, and imaginative interpretation. The keys covered are C+, F+, and G+. The time signatures of 4/4 and 3/4 are the only ones present.

This is a great supplemental book at about our Grade 1 -2 level!

JR



Watercolors for Ten Fingers

Intermediate through Early Advanced
M. Kutnowski edited by Helen Marlais

Fourteen piano solos make up this collection of music that hints of Schumann and Chopin alongside

Review of Publications

references to Latin American folk music. All the titles are very descriptive, such as One Slimy Caterpillar and Crawling Spiders, and the music brings each title to life. The music in this collection will reveal new sounds and pedal effects, interesting melodies, rhythms, and harmonies, and provide contrast lyrically or energetically. Mr. Kutnowski employs tools such as polymeter, hybrid rhythm, and clusters.

I would recommend this book to the student that loves to explore sounds and is imaginative and adventurous because this would definitely feed that appetite!

JR



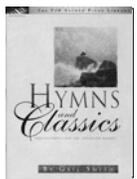
Musical Treasures Volume 1 - Intermediate by A Komanetsky, edited by H. Marlais

27 piano solos that allow student to explore new sounds & pedal effects, interesting melodies, rhythms &

harmonies. The pieces are of difficulty up to 3 sharps & 2 flats in both simple & compound time. A Student will have has to use lots of imagination (e.g. "One brave horseman" - someone who came back after the war, "Riding along" - riding a horse).

Like the composer, I hope one day the student will be impressed with the beautiful sounds of the piano that all he/ she wanted to do is to practice. He/ she will even chose practicing piano over playing soccer & hockey w/ friends. Great supplementary pieces for recitals, concerts or just for personal enjoyment.

LC



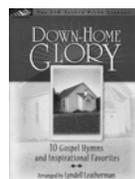
Hymns and Classics arrangements for the advanced pianist by Gail Smith

This book of 10 traditional hymns pairs each piece with a well-known classical work. The piece generally begins with 8-

12 bars of the classic and then 'rewrites' the hymn in the style of the classic, substituting the melody of the hymn for that of the known work. For instance, 'Sweet Hour of Prayer' is written in the setting of Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring. This takes careful pairing of the two works involved and very clever writing.

'Just As I Am' in the setting of Chopin's Prelude in A+, op. 28#7 skillfully puts the hymn melody in the bass with Chopin's chords above it. For those who enjoy this style, this book has pieces which range in difficulty from about Gr. 7 to Gr. 10 and beyond. The piece which I think works most successfully is 'Take My Life' written in the setting of Rachmaninoff's Concerto #2 in c minor.

JJ



Down-Home Glory – 10 Gospel Hymns and Inspirational Favorites arr. by Lyndell Leatherman

What a trip down memory lane this volume is! I played straight through this book and enjoyed every piece and every

arrangement. These are pieces which were popular 40-50 years ago and have remained as classic gospel hymns – Standing on the Promises, 'Tis Marvelous and Wonderful, and Does Jesus Care? – to name just a few. Classified as 'Intermediate', the arrangements are within the capabilities of a Gr. 8 with an ability to play large chords. The style has country, blues, jazz and gospel influences. The sounds are rich, warm and harmonic and are well suited to each piece. The pieces are 'special arrangements' without being overly virtuosic. This book would be ideal for an adult who is familiar with these pieces from the past or for a younger person who would learn them to make a grandparent very happy.

JJ

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British Columbia Suite Intermediate Piano Solos by Stephen Chatman

In his inimitable style, Stephen Chatman succeeds again with a slender volume of eight pieces which has something for everyone! 'Echoes of November' begins the collection and immediately captures the interest with warm,



Review of Publications

rich but somewhat haunting chords. Each hand has an opportunity to play the melody and carefully placed fermatas guide the performer in interpreting the phrase. 'Mount Robson' has a wide range of dynamics and chords of open fifths which rise in pitch, intensity and rhythm. 'Maple Bay at Twilight' is reflective and calm. Bitonality and a scuttling ostinato figure perfectly depicts 'Crabs' while rhythm represents 'Fingerlings'. 'Red-Tailed Pursuit' begins with an exciting glissando and keeps the momentum going with fast alternating chords. 'Bowser Boogie' has a 'rough and tumble' feel. The book ends with majestic rising chords which portray 'Douglas Firs'. Kudos to Mr. Chatman for another great collection of idiomatically pianistic B.C. gems.

JJ

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Londonderry Air - Late Intermediate Piano Solo

Arranged by Ann Buys

The arrangement of this familiar Irish Folk tune begins quite simply with a repetitive pattern of an arpeggiated LH. Each page of the 4 pages of music becomes increasingly more difficult for the RH. The last 18 measures include octave chords in the LH. Here is a piece that would be suitable for a performance class or recital.

JR

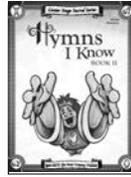


Hymns I Know - Book 1 Early Elementary

From the Center Stage Sacred Series, this book contains 7 selections that would work well with any piano method. The hymns are paired with corresponding Bible verses and full-color illustrations to help the student understand the music and doxology behind them. Three of these hymns have teacher duets to add more depth to the music. The range of notes is between treble C and bass C. All but 1 of the pieces has some

hands together playing. This is well placed at Early Elementary level.

JR



Hymns I Know – Book 2 Elementary

Here is a gem of a book! When a student is past the Primer and in a Level 1, able to play simple HT, this book would make a great supplement. Seven straightforward arrangements of classic hymns and choruses are each enhanced by a beautiful facing page with an illustration appearing to have been drawn and colored by a child. This page also has a Bible verse which relates to the musical choice. The arrangements stay strictly within a five-finger position and feature melody in RH only, divided between the hands and occasionally in the LH. Several pieces include eighth notes, others have quarter and half notes only. The two added duet parts are not difficult but blend well and augment the solo part. The duet part for 'Shall we gather at the River' is rich in unexpected harmonies.

JJ



That's Jazz Book 1 - Getting Into It by Bradley Sowash

Do you have any students that: want to play by ear? Want to get into jazz for the first time? Want to learn how to improvise? Want to have fun playing jazz tunes? Want to learn skills that will help them become a jazz pianist? If you do, perhaps you should consider this book.

The book is a collection of 8 tunes covering the main jazz styles of swing, Latin, and rock. A "Warm UP" page prepares the student with the skills and knowledge necessary to play that tune and then an optional "Going Further" page follows the tune to introduce the student to improvisation in its many forms. To encourage the student even further, there are optional duet parts and even a CD featuring performances by the composer. The book is well organized and the tunes increase with difficulty. FIVE STARS!

JR

Review of Publications

SCHAUM PUBLICATIONS, INC.



Piano Pieces & Puzzles - Primer Level Music and Lyrics by Al Rita & Dan Rita

This book combines 12 progressive piano solos with lyrics expressing personal and social experiences and the environment.

Coordinated activities have been created for each solo. These have educational values which include music notation and musical terms and are designed to appeal to a range of ages at this level. All the pieces are within the bass C and treble C# range. Some of the selections include eighth notes and hands together playing. Sharps and flats are also employed. This would have excellent appeal to the primer level student!

JR



Piano Pieces & Puzzles - Level 2 Music & Lyrics by Al Rita & Dan Rita

12 piano solos with a written activity after each piece (e.g. transposition, note naming, rhythm, interval, triad, terms, chromatic scale, etc.).

A great supplementary book for beginners of difficulty to 3 sharps & 3 flats. Also, use of accidentals (e.g. sharp, natural, etc.), 8th & 16th notes, syncopation, pedal, simple & compound time (e.g. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, etc.). The student will also learn the different LH accompaniment.

There's also lyric written for each song. So student can sing along & understand the story behind. In "Piano Fun", the musical terms are introduced in the lyrics. "Groundhog Song" has a very interesting intro. "Just a Good Old American Rag" has a lively swing rhythm. Visit the website for more information: www.schaumpiano.net.

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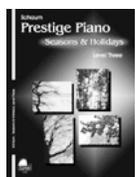
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Review of Publications



Prestige Piano Seasons & Holidays - Level 3

I found this book to be a very pleasant play! The 11 compositions cover all 4 seasons and special days such as

Thanksgiving and Valentines. They make

excellent recital material. Each piece covers a specific challenge for the student to master from fascinating rhythms, special tempo, to stylistic markings. Level 3 of this series promotes both hands playing in the bass clef, introduces modal harmony, 6/8 and cut time, as well as chromatic progressions.

With its great variety of melody, style and rhythms, I would recommend this book for your studio!

JR

PIANO DUETS

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Famous & Fun Pop Duet

by Carol Matz

Six duets at the intermediate level are arranged in equal parts including sharing the melodies. Great fun, especially "Cruella De Vil."

NP

Oakton Toccata

by Robert C. Vandall

Late Intermediate duet in an energetic style: fast scale passages, repeated staccato chords and dramatic shifts of dynamics. A show stopper!

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Waltz Indigo

by Weekley & Arganbright

A gentle tune in C minor with a slightly easier - Primo part (Grade 1-2).

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by Weekley & Arganbright

A lively tempo in 6/8 time with the Primo part in the upper register seems to portray kites on a windy spring day. Very nice. Grade 3-4.

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THEORY

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Handbook on Harmony - Preparatory textbook

Handbook on Harmony - Preparatory exercises

The first in a series of 4 books/workbooks on Harmony, the Preparatory level features some review of Rudiments. Harmony topics include: major key triads, non-chord tones, cadential 6/4's, Dominant 7th chords, melody writing and some analysis including a very good overview of the 18th Century dance suites. Designed to be used on their own or in conjunction with other harmony texts, these volumes are easy to read. The layout of the text is excellent. Explanations are clear and concise and musical examples well chosen.

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WATERLOO MUSIC COMPANY, LTD.

Lawless: Elementary Harmony & Melody

by Debra Wanless

Here is a book to satisfy the requirements for RCM Introductory Harmony Exams and completes the Conservatory Canada Theory IV Program! This harmony book bridges the gap between Grade 2 Rudiments and Grade 3 Harmony.

As a teacher of harmony, I appreciate the simple explanations that are then followed by understandable exercises. The layout and progression of concepts are clear and logical.

I like the steps she outlines for a student to prepare a bass line for soprano and then again for adding a soprano to a given bass. There is a page to describe dance types and an analysis of Baroque dances for the section on form.

I like what I see in this book and already have a student that I believe will thrive with this course!

JR

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An Exploration of Various Approaches to Practicing the Piano

by Svyetlana Djordan

Although practicing is an important process of our music learning, it has often been given little or no attention in research. In the past, researchers who chose to explore the topic of practicing (*a complete research list is included at the conclusion of this article*) did so mostly by employing various qualitative and quantitative methods of inquiry.



Many researchers decided to examine the topic through observations of various groups; namely, professional performers, serious students majoring in music or children. Others chose to write books thoroughly explaining their philosophies which had been formed after years of personal practicing and from instructing others in the art of practicing. Another somewhat rare examination of the topic was through A/r/tography in which personal experience in practicing was used as a method of inquiry.

I discovered that very few researchers had concentrated on interviewing music educators about their approaches to practicing following specific lines of inquiry. I decided to concentrate on this method when I set out to do my research project on piano practicing.

Besides being rarely used, this method of examining the qualitative nature of practicing seemed the most interesting because it did not limit the information I gathered with my research questions. It provided me with a wide range of answers from music educators with various orientations and philosophies towards practicing a musical instrument. And since each individual student learns differently, this approach did not concentrate on one kind of practicing that should be used by all, but rather informed the reader about different approaches that could be employed during practice sessions.

The interviewed educators were three accomplished professionals who have been teaching piano for at least five years and who have successful teaching careers. All three were asked nineteen, open-ended questions which explored their thoughts and

experiences about practicing. As well, they were questioned about teaching their students to practice, specifically,

- the amount of class time they devote to teaching students to practice
- the first practicing strategy they teach and promote with their students
- the ways that they monitor whether their students use the suggested strategies
- the kinds of parental involvement they experience
- the common problems they encounter when teaching practicing
- the ways in which they accommodate the specific needs of each student
- the environment they believe is appropriate for practicing
- the use of the metronome
- the ways they instruct their students to memorize a piece of music, develop sight reading, practice technique and any other aspects they wished to mention.¹

Even though my intent was to construct open-ended questions so that the teachers could thoroughly explain their philosophies, the questions could not have been completely separated from my influence. They never are in these kinds of situations because there is no such thing as pure data (Kuhn, 1962). At the same time, it was challenging to construct open-ended questions which were not too broad for the participants to feel encouraged to answer and understand fully.

In the end, the data I collected showed a lot of similarities, as well as differences between the teachers' answers. They were presented in a creative way, through narrative ABER (arts based educational research), entitled *The Story of Teacher 1, 2 and 3*. (Arts based educational research is done in association with arts and humanities and in the past twenty years, inquiry approaches that are artistic in character have begun to be explored by many educational researchers.)

An Exploration of Various Approaches to Practicing the Piano - cont.

There are many aspects that could be discussed; however, I will just briefly list and explain the main themes. First and foremost, teachers expect their students to be self-reflective about their practicing and to constantly ask questions and listen to what they are playing. One of the teachers explained that she is concerned about quality rather than quantity of practice. The parental role of involvement and encouragement is crucial for the child's successful musical development and two of the teachers described how their success in piano playing is, to a certain extent, due to their family involvement. However, it should not be the parents' concern only. Teachers need to explain and discuss the importance of practicing to their students and should devote a certain amount of time in each class to teaching them to practice. So, the success and enjoyment of practicing is the combination of all the parties involved. The teachers often instructed parents that home environments should be free from distractions (but not too isolated), the piano in tune and the room at a comfortable temperature.

The teachers prefer not to use the metronome greatly because it can be distracting. They feel that the students' sense of timing has to come from within, otherwise it just doesn't work. One of the teachers had a student who had to turn on the metronome for the start of every piece in order to check the tempo. This teacher thinks that students should not completely rely on the metronome, but use it more specifically. The other teacher does not believe that the use of metronome with the youngest students is very beneficial, because they have a hard time working with the metronome and often get frustrated with it when practicing at home. Therefore, this teacher prefers to use other things, such as a shaker, when working with the younger students.

Two of the teachers like to teach technique through the 'circle of fifths'. They also like to use Czerny and sometimes Hanon exercises for practicing technique with their students. There was a suggestion that the students play exercises and scales in different rhythms, and in various combinations of staccato/legato and crescendo/diminuendo. Sometimes students who have problems with speeding up or unevenness of the hands can be helped by these ideas.

Since each student is different, it is important to

organize the lessons based on the individual needs of each person. One of the teachers likes to know about her students' hobbies and activities because it helps her to better organize the lessons. It was also mentioned that being positive, kind and consistent with students goes a long way to encouraging regular practice.

The main difference between teaching children and adults is that children often do not question the teacher's instructions. Adults, on the other hand, constantly ask questions, are keen about learning music history, and often feel they should be progressing faster. Teachers often like to concentrate on ideas of music evolved over time when they are teaching pieces from different musical periods. The teachers felt that children need to have fun, and one of the teachers, in order to create that, spends a lot of time on imagery in music.

The most common problem the teachers encounter is lack of time for practicing. Some of them blame it on the difference between today's life and the one they led as a child. One of the teachers feels that students have a shorter attention span and she prefers to use prizes as an incentive for students to practice. She also asks her students to tape their practicing on a cassette tape, which she later listens to. The main task, which another teacher discussed greatly, is to develop discipline, as we cannot expect that to come naturally from very young students. Therefore, this teacher instructs her students to begin practicing five times a week (ten minutes) in order to help start developing self-discipline. Then when they become comfortable with that kind of practicing, she suggests that they practice a certain song three times, while encouraging some parental assistance. Teachers also use practice charts to help their students organize their practice sessions.

Not all answers were, however, similar. The teachers talked about different ways of instructing students to memorize a piece of music. One of them explained that she instructs her students to divide pieces into segments and practice each part, while the other teacher talks about three different levels of memory: aural (in the ear), kinesthetic or physical (in the fingers), and intellectual (in the mind). The third teacher analyzes pieces with her students and asks them to play these with closed eyes, after which

An Exploration of Various Approaches to Practicing the Piano - cont.

it is expected that they will be able to recall the music and play by memory. She says that it's all about the feeling.

Teaching a student how to sight read is approached differently with each of these teachers. One of them believes that guided sight reading is better than just sending the student home with a book. The other teacher, in addition to using Four Star publications, has a special way of teaching sight reading. She asks her students to tap the rhythm of the example they are sight reading -- with the RH tapping the notes of the example and the LH tapping the basic time signature. At the same time the children are saying their note names aloud. If there are eighth notes there, then she has them double their time. This teacher also has a variety of practice suggestions for her students, including flashcards for learning how to read notes.

This was an interesting research project as it enabled me to explore many interesting ideas and philosophies by not limiting the kinds of answers I would have received if I had decided to concentrate on one specific area of piano practicing. I think it would be interesting to explore more of the visual memory in addition to the others discussed. I think we can continue exploring this topic and perhaps concentrate on further investigation of how to intrinsically motivate students to practice for the enjoyment of practicing.

The exact questions were:

1. What are your thoughts on practicing a musical instrument?
2. What has been your experience with practicing? Did your teachers place an importance on this aspect of your musical training? Why or why not?
3. How do you teach practicing or how do you explain practicing to your students? Why?
4. How much class time do you devote to explaining practicing to your students? Why?
5. What kinds of practice strategies do you promote? Please explain why these are important for you.
6. How do you monitor whether your students have used your suggested practice strategies?
7. What is the first practice strategy you teach your students?

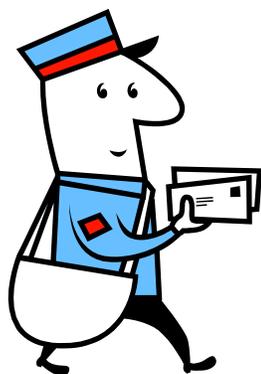
8. What kinds of practice strategies have you found worked for children? Adults? Do you think there is a difference?
9. What kinds of parent involvement did you experience? Please provide specific examples. What do you suggest parents can do to help their children with practicing?
10. How do you accommodate practicing to the individual needs of each person?
11. What is the most common problem you have encountered when you teach practicing?
12. What, in your opinion, is the appropriate environment for practicing?
13. What do you think about the use of metronome for practicing?
14. How do you instruct your students to practice memorizing a piece of music?
15. How do you instruct your students to practice in order to develop sight-reading skills?
16. How do you instruct your students to practice the technique? Please provide a couple of examples.
17. How do you tell your students to practice contrasting repertoire works? Please provide a couple of examples.
18. Any other comments about practicing?
19. Do you know of any other practice resources available for students?

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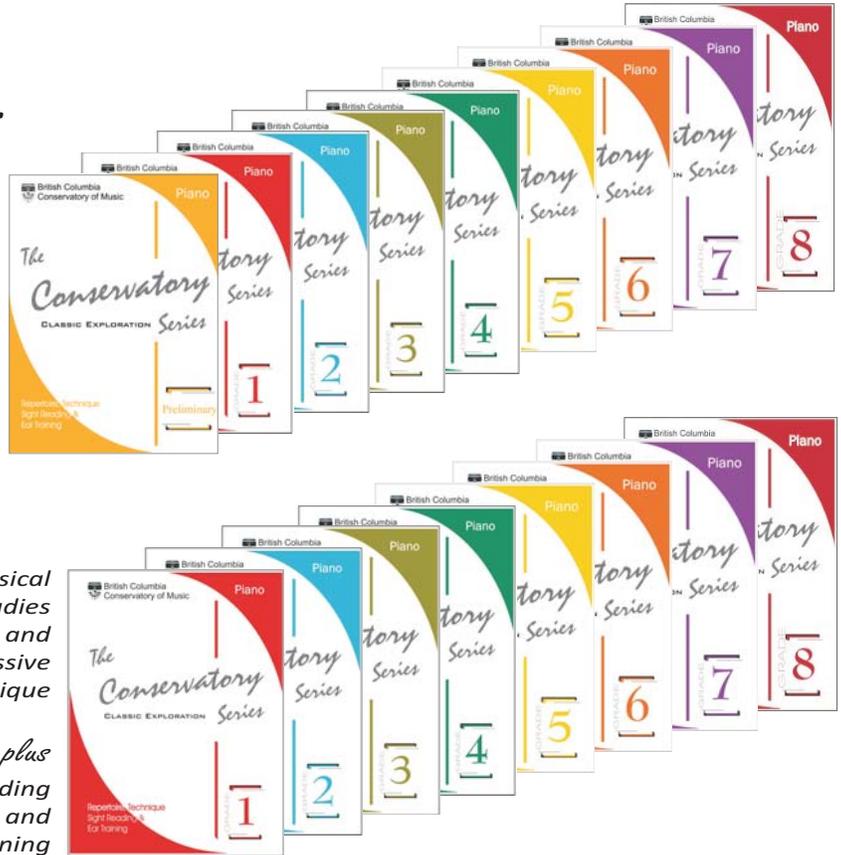
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