

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

Northwood United Church, 10 am

18 Attendees

Alison d'Entremont
Sylvia Leigh
Christy Kuettel
Lydia Yang
Dianne Szarapka
Sharon Faranhorst
Lea Tsui
Bonnie Leung
Esther Neufeld
Berva Warkington
Kevin Thompson
Leslie Chen
Susan Olsen
Michelle Bumpus
Berva Warkington
Paulette Neilson
Debbie Boganes
Colleen Branson
Carmen Roberts
Maureen Hollins

Welcome by Alison d'Entremont, President.

Treasurer's Report: Alison d'Entremont

Treasurer's report June 16, 2023

INCOME

-As of June 9, 2023, at our fiscal end, the balance and the bank statement are reconciled as \$23,854.76.

-The income from Edward Duan Concert including \$1,076.0 donation was \$2621.01.

-\$6,559.79 was deposited when the festival account was closed.

EXPENSES

-The expenses from Edward Duan Concert was \$1,601.91 (Church rental for \$210, Piano \$1015.90, Insurance \$150, Program printing \$226.01). CFMTA fee was \$509.55.

I can send a copy of the bank statement upon request.

Notes:

- The budget for 2023-24 has roughly \$450 deficit. At this time we can manage to have this deficit due to our surplus from COVID years.
- The two scholarship term deposits were re-invested at 4.45%, one year term deposit. The contingency fund of \$7,100 at 1.5% unfortunately was locked until June 2, 2026. We cannot make any changes, such as to re-invest at higher interest or to reduce the amount until its mature date, June 2, 2026.
- The "Festival Account" was closed and \$6,559.79 was deposited to the branch account. The branch had paid the Scholarship donation of \$750 the last year. I propose to forgo this donation of and keep the balance separate from the branch general account.
- Maureen wished to keep the donation for Edward Duan concert separate from the branch general account.
- Due to the difficulties that we faced with Coast Capital Savings for the account management, I would suggest not to make a separate accounts for the above two funds, but keep them separate from the general account by clear bookkeeping at this time.

Business:

1. South Fraser Music Festival Report: Christy Kuettel and Dianne Szarapk

- Christie stated that the festival was quite successful, and all the adjudicators and parents enjoyed the festival. One of the adjudicators (Sergei) even wrote a letter regarding how organized, helpful the staff is, and enjoyed every aspect of the festival, especially the atmosphere.
- Regarding the Celebration recital since everyone did their respective jobs correctly and effectively, it made some parents want to donate to the South Fraser music festival.
- Diane said that donations should be taken at festivals like these where people are coming in and seeing a ten-year-old shredding on the piano.
- There were none-BCRMTA teachers who even attended the workshops and wanted to join the BCRMTA.
- Some teachers asked how the scholarships are decided. Christie said that the process is completely discussion-based, judged and reviewed with fair methodical practices and done by a group who unanimously decides.
- Christie brought up an idea to amend the duty system. To stop hired personnel for duties (Unless unavoidable) but to implement more community/networking involvement in the duty system.
- Alison suggested that we could use eager senior students to replace the duty personnel.
- Susan also mentioned that using the duty system could also be beneficial, because of educational factors and factors that contribute to the professional development of teachers.
- Diane proposed that we increase the prices of the entering fee's by 20%, note that while the increase may be 20%, we are still comparatively lower than other major piano festivals, the vote was counted, and the motion was passed.
- Going forward, including the donation box, additionally we will be accepting E-transfers at the Celebration recital.
- It was noted that we will be having a future vote, regarding the switching of our festival date back to February, because we would be in direct competition with other festivals if we continued to host the festival in may and Kevin also stated that since there are a lot of parents and students engaged in other activities it would be better to host the festival

during a month where they aren't as occupied as much. Esther also added that February would be better for all students because it has a value for the students no matter when their exams are. If students have their exams in January, they wouldn't need to wait long to perform at the festival. Also, the festival would be a good preparation for the students for their exams in April.

2. Canada Music Week: Alison d'Entremont

The Canada Music Week is back on and will be held on Nov, 19, 2023. And the group is open to ideas. The day will run from 3-9, which gives us the potential to run one or more recitals or even a composition class. Also noted that: Two students will be assigned per teacher.

3. Report on Provincial Council Meeting: Esther Neufeld

June 21, 2023

Provincial Council Report to South Fraser Branch

The #589th Provincial Council Meeting was held April 23, 2023. 29 delegates attended, 11 of whom were via zoom.

You can have access to the detailed minutes on the provincial website. Bcrmta.bc.ca. which are easily accessed with the password: 1947aMusical#
As I was preparing my report I found that most of the topics of interest can be found in our recent Progressions magazine, Spring – May 2023 issue.

Highlights in the magazine:

Provincial Executive

- – elections took place. Barbara Siemens is President, Susan Wood is 1st Vice. Secretary is Susan Chan. Matthew Chan stays on as treasurer, and Joyce Janzen stays on as registrar.
- Nominations Committee

This is a new function to assist the Executive with the problem regarding shortage of volunteers. If this interests you please read the details in the minutes.

Members at Large is also a new initiative for the purpose of supporting the Executive. This is a wonderful opportunity for younger members to become familiar with the provincial operations without bearing the responsibility of a position.

The Heritage Fund provides funding for Continuing Education to all branches regardless of the size of the branch. The annual amount available to us has been increased from \$200 to \$300. We can apply for this fund to assist with our professional development projects. Ten branches took advantage of this fund in the past year. Find out what kind of events they held by reading the magazine. This is free money.

The Registrar's Report in the magazine gives membership statistics as well as important points of interest to all members regarding our individual role in keeping the website accurate. Read info regarding renewal process and

replacement papers in case you ever lose your membership card, receipt or insurance certificate.

- New designation for Professional Pedagogy Instructor p 14
 - Student Teacher Auxiliary. Please read p 27 of your provincial magazine to learn about the Certificate of Professional Development for STA's which extends the time they can be members of the STA.
- 17 members will receive their 25 year pin. This includes our own Deborah Boganes.

Other areas of interest that you can find in the minutes include:

- BC Music Writing Competition
- Vocal competition
- BC Piano Competition 2022 results and prizes
- Social Media ideas and events
- Essay Competition

Branching Out – CFMTA Initiative. CF will donate \$100 to each branch that hosts an event by March 15, 2024 The minutes , p 20 include good ideas for such an event under the heading “Random Acts of Music”.

To finish off this report: exciting events for us to look forward to:

CFMTA Conference takes place July 5-7 in Edmonton. You can still register. In person fee for full package is \$545. Online is \$200 but will not include access to the piano competition. BC's winner Edward Duan will be competing.

If you can't go to Edmonton this year, maybe you'd like to go to the next CFMTA Conference in Montreal in July 2025! It will give you a terrific tax deduction.

The 2024 BCRMTA conference and Piano Competition will be held in Abbotsford, September 13 and 14.

Respectfully submitted.

Esther Neufeld

4. Branch Presidents Forum Report: Alison d'Entremont

Branch Presidents' Forum: Feb 21, 2023

There were 14 people present at this meeting from branches across the province.

Topics

1: 1st Vice President: Discussion of this critical role that was not yet filled on Feb 23. However, it has since been filled.

2: Discussion on Student Composer Coordinator position

3: Building community was one of the biggest topics of conversation. We discussed:

Branch websites

1. It was noted that having a web presence is one of the best ways to enhance or begin to create a sense of community. It allows for announcements, listing of resources in the area and so much more.

2. The provincial website is mostly for our members and is a huge repository of information, both current and historical. Branch websites are the place for branches to get creative and to showcase their area.

3. Three of the branches present do not yet have a website. Information was shared by various branches to help these branches.

4: Communicating via Branch Forum email list

5: There was much discussion on how the organization could approach this concern. Music programs in schools are not being offered and/or music teachers who retire are not being replaced. This is resulting in a general decrease in music literacy across the board. Organizations like RCM and CC are obviously interested in music education but likely have a more business-like approach, i.e., does it effect their bottom line. It was suggested that a task force be created to approach the Ministry of Education, however, it was pointed out that the mandate of the BCRMTA is to work with members to enhance the music education of private students. There is already a music educators association, and one would hope they are working on this issue. To delve into an effort such as this would require much more expertise and time than we have available. Instead, the BCRMTA needs to continue to work with our students and try to raise the level of awareness about the importance of music education to parents.

Adjournment: Kevin made the motion to adjourn the meeting