



# **South Fraser Branch RMT Meeting**

## **Wednesday, April 17, 2013**

**Fleetwood Library, Surrey, 9:45 am**

### **Attendance:**

Dianne Szarapka  
Margaret Brew  
Bev Johnson  
Elizabeth Gilchrist  
Marjorie Foxall  
Darlene Brigidear  
Angelina Van Dyke  
Yvette Rowledge  
Mary Kim  
Brenda Sleightholme  
Eva Law  
Sylvia Leigh

Carmen Roberts  
Anne Dalton  
Kevin Thompson  
Berva Warkentin  
Lea Tsui  
Rosemary Howe  
Susan Olsen  
Esther Neufeld  
Wendy Chan  
Paulette Nielsen  
Debbie Boganes  
Kamela Vinjau

### **1. Welcome/Announcements/Correspondence**

Susan Olsen, President, welcomed everyone to a very short business meeting this morning.

#### Announcements:

Alison and Marcel d'Entremont welcome Genevieve Anne born Feb 16, 2013 – just in time for the Festival!

New member: Ashley Tai, Piano [ashleyt@southfrasermusic.com](mailto:ashleyt@southfrasermusic.com)  
13250 – 16 Ave, Surrey BC V4A 1P3 778-383-3932

Correspondence: Letter received from Angela Chu, ARCT Scholarship Recipient:  
*“I was so surprised during the award recital in February because I actually had no clue that I had gotten any sort of scholarship! I was just expecting to get a certificate from the Branch, but definitely not the scholarship! What a pleasant surprise! Thanks for choosing me:)”*

*Over the years, I have had nothing but good experiences with the South Fraser branch and all the teachers have always been so kind and supportive. Even though I have finished my ARCT, I haven't thrown away my piano skills. I am happy to report that I am now officially . . . a Funeral Pianist! I play for the Church's memorial services once in a while, which is a whole new experience for me!*

*Thank you again and see you at Concerto Stars!  
Love, Angela Chu”*

## **2. Minutes**

*MOTION to accept the minutes of January 16, 2013, copy of which is available for inspection on our website in the "For Members" section, by Sylvia Leigh, seconded Kevin Thompson. CARRIED*

## **3. Treasurer's Report**

### • Financial Report as at April 2013

- - Total income: \$20,007.96 (membership, workshop, advertisement, bank interest, student concerts)
- - Total expense: \$18,143.45
- - Total income after expenses: \$1,864.51
- - as of today, we have ending balance of \$10,913.79 and term deposits \$19,231.27; totaling \$30,145.06

### Concerto Stars:

- - Income: \$14,592.25
- - Expenditure: \$10,131.62
- - Balance \$4,460.63

Festival Account balance: \$12,740.84

String Festival: surplus \$263.75

### • Budget for 2013-14

*Moved by Mary Kim, seconded by Margaret Brew to accept the Budget as presented.. CARRIED*

All financials are posted on our website in "For Members" section.

## **4. Branch Notices and Website Report – Wendy Chan**

Branch Notices – If anyone is not receiving the notices, please contact Wendy Chan to be added to the email list. To ensure that the notice doesn't end up in spam mailboxes, add [sfrmnta\\_news@southfrasermusic.com](mailto:sfrmnta_news@southfrasermusic.com) to your address book.

Website – Re Teacher Profiles: many teachers still have not updated their profiles on the website. It gives teachers more credibility when families who are searching land on a profile page with a short biography

Re Events Page - A reminder to check the "Upcoming Events" page to see a list of branch events. This page is updated regularly.

Re Concerto Stars Page on the website at

<http://www.southfrasermusic.com/ConcertoStars2013>. We have added a sidebar menu that links to programs and photos from the 2 feature recitals, the poster and sponsors, including "friends of concerto stars". Photos of each Bell performer has also been added to the page. Susan suggested that everyone send their potential ticket buyers to the site.

## **5. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Honours Recital 2013 – Kevin Thompson**

At 3:00 pm Sunday, February 17, 2013, the 4th annual Honours Recital was held at the First United Church in White Rock. 11 teachers submitted 26

students with practical examination marks at 80% and higher from the past academic year. 21 entries were asked to perform in the recital. 13 of the 23 entries received 90% or higher.

8 trophies and 3 scholarships were given out. There were 8 honourable mention certificates and 2 ARCT certificates. We were very fortunate to have a wonderful 7' Steinway from Tom Lee.

The energy at this recital was really exciting. It was just over one hour long, with the awards being presented at the end, followed by photos. The recital was well attended. A \$10 per family entrance fee was requested at the door. We made a profit of \$120, including the Branching Out contribution form CFMTA.

One problem, 11 of the 26 entries were incomplete. Mostly missing was 'proof of mark'. A few entries came in without entry forms! Also theory must be completed by the August session, not the December session. And proof of mark is required. The easiest way for this is to print the student exam info page, which will have all the students exams listed with dates and marks. Black out or highlight what you want me to see or not.

As this recital was filmed, a movie file has been made and is available for free download by interested teacher and families. Email me and I will send the link.

Many thanks to the teachers who entered students, and to the branch for their financial support. Also to Yvette Rowledge, Sylvia Leigh, Mary Kim and Pan Pan for their help. Also to the teachers who emailed me their thanks and encouragement.

## **6. Festivals 2013**

### **Junior Piano: Jennifer Condie**

We had two weeks of festival, wonderful atmosphere, two celebration recitals where medals and cupcakes/juice. Eva, Wendy, Jennifer Leung, Maureen and Rob Hollins, Denise Fawcett who hosted Roger, Claudia who did Duties. Committee members were recognized. Budget \$885 income left over.

### **Senior Piano: Esther Neufeld**

Diane reported on the finances: Total income \$8,739, Total expenses: \$7,657.06, balance \$1,081.94.

Esther reported that the festival for grade 7/11 students took place from February 25 – March 6, ending with the Celebration Recital on March 10. 31 teachers sent 110 students, for a total of 219 entries, plus an afternoon of ensemble participants. Our adjudicators were Barbara Siemens for grade 7 – 9 and Jane Hayes for grade 10 – 11. The students again demonstrated a high standard of preparation, but marks were low, particularly for grade 10 & 11. We give adjudicators the usual guidelines, but this is still subject to their own interpretation. We had a total of 4 golds, a few silvers, lots of bronze, and even quite a number of participation certificates. While this was, I am sure, discouraging for some

students and teachers, at least I can say the marks were consistent. There were many comments that the teachers found the adjudicator's comments to be worthwhile so I hope students as well as teachers felt it was a beneficial experience.

Everything went quite smoothly, thanks to our hardworking committee who gave so generously of their time. The most enjoyable part of the festival for me, was working with this committee. Everyone seemed to know what to do, and I never had to ask twice.

Catherine Bundt helped out wherever needed, including arranging for the pianos.

Alison d'Entremont did a superb job of scheduling including an easy to follow program available on-line. This is the first time we did not provide hard-copy and for the most part this worked OK and saved us some money.

Dianne Szarapka, kept us on track financially and I greatly appreciate her organization and thoughtfulness. We established a free Intermediate/Senior festival account at Prospera Credit Union which could remain open for future festivals. We have money left over which will remain in the Senior festival account for the next committee and continue to serve as a cushion "just in case".

Jennifer Silva took on the task of finding teachers to do duties, going beyond the call of duty herself by filling in when necessary.

Kamela Vinjau bought the trophies, made a beautiful display at the celebration recital, and prepared the program which flowed beautifully. It was an exceptional recital of high calibre playing.

Recommendations for the next committee –

- 1) Under no circumstances should we allow changes after the deadline for the scheduling has passed. We accommodated a few requests after the deadline this year, and this resulted in a great deal of extra paper work for me, as well as confusion for some students.
- 2) Running the two festivals concurrently was designed to make things easier for the teachers. However, it was difficult to co-ordinate as much as we did, and prolonged the festival. It would be easier on the committees to run them at different times, use two rooms at the same time, and shorten the experience.

### **Strings: Harold Birston**

The String Festival was a resounding success. Grant Donnellan did a superb job. He is extremely knowledgeable, and his comments to the students revealed a very insightful, thoughtful and kind-hearted personality. Everyone performed well at the Awards Recital (hereafter known as the Celebration Recital) and there was the usual great camaraderie amongst the students and teachers. Our financial report shows a surplus of \$263.75 which will be put towards next year's festival.

### **Flutes: Carmen**

The Flute Festival was held on April 10, 2013 at Newton Fellowship Church. There were 10 students performing several selections for the adjudicator, Heather Beaty. Carmen Roberts organized the event and after all expenses were paid, there was a profit of \$59 towards next year's Flute event.

Susan said she attended the Junior and Senior Piano Festivals and was able to thank the coordinators publically. She urged members to put the Awards concerts on your calendar for next year as they are valuable professional development for teachers.

## **7. Concerto Stars – Brenda Sleightholme**

### Performances

Since our last meeting in January, a lot has happened with “Concerto Stars”. We held our Second Audition the week after our January meeting. It was an enjoyable afternoon at LCMS courtesy of Susan Magnusson, and Sylvia Leigh, Catherine Bundt, Kevin Thompson and even my husband, Paul, helped out! The students felt it was a very positive and enjoyable experience chatting with Clyde and Anita Coomba. Clyde was so impressed with the level of playing that he decided to extend the “Bell” performers to 20. We decided to keep the duplicate selections to be fair to everyone.

On February 17<sup>th</sup> we had our first feature Recital at First United Church in White Rock, hosted by Kevin Thompson. In March we had an enjoyable session at the Langley Community Music School – a photo shoot, courtesy of Kevin Thompson, a workshop on Stage Presence by Susan and Jim Olsen (with Jim playing the Concertmaster, violin in hand) and a bonus Masterclass with Clyde Mitchell for the 20 participating students.

Our second feature Recital was held on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at Northwood United Church, hosted by Maureen Hollins. JoyTV10 had a small camera there as well as Kevin Thompson who spent an extraordinary amount of time separating the film footage so we could send files to individual teachers with comments.

### Publicity

We are in a major publicity campaign for the project with some help from Tom Lee Music and their marketing team. Some of you may have read the great articles in the Surrey Now and Langley Times regarding our sneak preview recitals in February and April. Tom Lee Music has helped arrange meetings with Fairchild Radio and TV. From the photo shoot we chose one photo which Tom Lee Music’s marketing department made into a poster. This new poster, along with a News Release, was sent to the Asian print and broadcast media, including World Journal, Global Chinese Press, Sing Tao, Fairchild Radio and TV, and Joy TV10. A meeting was set up with Fairchild on April 1<sup>st</sup> with Aida Liang from Tom Lee Music and myself. As a result of that meeting, we have developed a 15 second Mandarin commercial which will be aired 11 times throughout this month on Fairchild TV; myself and a Mandarin speaking student, Vivian Wu, will be appearing on two talk shows: *Asian Magazine* and *What’s On* on April 27 and 28. We shoot on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at the Fairchild studio in Richmond. Vivian Wu, one of our “Bell” performers will be telephone interviewed in Mandarin this evening for Fairchild Radio. Also, Andrew Muirhead and myself, Emma Bordes and her Mother, as well as snippets from our last Recital will be part of a five minute segment to be shown throughout this month on JoyTV10. I have written our final News Release which will be sent out next week with some extraordinary pleas for coverage. Dates on all the TV and Radio media will be circulated through our broadcast email so you can watch and listen.

Our new poster, courtesy of Tom Lee Music, has been sent to neighbouring branches: North Shore, Vancouver, Richmond, Coquitlam and Abbotsford for circulation through their broadcast email to members. I’ve had a positive response from everyone but Richmond. An invitation and request to write a congratulatory letter for our Programme

has been sent to the Mayors of Surrey, White Rock, Delta and Langley. So far, I've heard back that the Mayor of Langley and his wife will be in attendance as well as a Counsellor representing Mayor Diane Watts of Surrey.

### Schedule

Monday, May 6 evening: Masterclass for "Langley 20" with Ian Parker  
String Quartet rehearsal with "Bell 20"

Wednesday, May 8 evening: Masterclass for "Bell 20" with Ian Parker

Friday, May 10, 7 pm: Formal Feature Recital at LCMS

Sunday, May 12, 2:30 pm: Dress Rehearsal at Bell Centre, 7:00 pm Concert

### Programme

Susan has undertaken to do the Bell Programme and we are currently selling ads if anyone is interested. Prices start at \$70 for a business card. Chuck Gorling at Tom Lee Music is assisting us with his connections. Deadline for ad artwork is April 22<sup>nd</sup> to Susan. The Programme promises to be a beautiful collector item!

### Ian Parker

There will be one major change in the program. Ian Parker will not be playing the Chopin Piano Concerto; he will be playing the double barreled rhapsodies: Rhapsody in Blue by Gershwin and Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini by Rachmaninoff. The Rachmaninoff was his Mother's absolute favourite piece of all time, therefore fitting for Mother's Day! This is a lighter programme and I believe will have more appeal, particularly for those not used to coming to such a concert.

### **PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY**

#### Ticket Sales

Now for the punchline! I am concerned about ticket sales. We owe \$18,000 to the performers and at the moment we don't have the money to pay that amount. So, we raise \$18,000 or go into Branch funds! We can sit around and do nothing and therefore go into our kitty or sell a lot more tickets. This was the risk that was voted on by the membership and was an undertaking based on participation by the whole Branch. It is a serious issue if we don't sell tickets. Lots of people have told me that the motivation to buy was too early, but **NOW IS THE TIME!** We sent a letter to the membership in January asking each teacher to sell at least 7 tickets; I have a list of only 15 teachers who have fulfilled this obligation. Each family was asked to sell 10 tickets to their extended family and friends; I have many who have purchased 2 tickets for Mom and Dad and one comp for the performer. Those teachers who don't have participating students should know that this will be a terrific concert to bring students from your studio as it should be part of their musical education and, is professional development for yourselves.

Does anyone know of a wealthy individual, family or corporation that might want to sponsor Clyde Mitchell as conductor or Ian Parker as performer – @ \$2,500 each? We would give lots of recognition and name them on stage. A construction company, a

dentist, a car company, a florist – any connection to help? We are not a Society or charitable organization so we can't give receipts but we are a not-for-profit, professional organization just trying to raise the level of musical experience in our community. If some of your colleagues are not here today, please pass the word around. Although we have some irons in the fire, if they don't pan out we are up the creek! We're doing our best but we really need your help and support now!

## **8. Coming Events**

### **Video Workshop with Kevin Thompson**

Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Fleetwood Library, 10 am to noon. Please pre-register with Kevin. Cost is \$5.00. If you want to improve your teaching skills and your students' performance, you'll want to come. From simple cell phone to multiple camera set up.

### **Mall Event**

To be discussed in the Fall for a possible November/December event. We've done enough public exposure this year. Elizabeth is still willing to co-ordinate this event.

## **9. Adjournment**

*Moved by Susan Olsen, seconded by Jennifer Condie, to adjourn the meeting. CARRIED*

Next meeting: **Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Fleetwood Library 10:00 am to Noon**

- Final Report on Concerto Star
- Hear about plans for FALL 2013
- 10:45 Light Luncheon & Socializing
- Bring a small appetizer item to share
- Beverages provide

*Let's celebrate the end of a busy & rewarding year*

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Sleightholme  
Vice President / Recording Secretary  
South Fraser RMT