

**South Fraser RMT General Meeting  
Wednesday, January 21, 2009  
Newton Fellowship Baptist Church**

**Attendance**

Bev Johnson	Marjorie Foxall
Lea Tsui	Janice McCubbin
Cynthia Goddard	Marg Brew
Launny Brian	Brenda Sleightholme
Jennifer Heyworth	Paulette Nielsen
Debbie Nagy	Phyllis Heppner
Barb Zielinski	Graham Yates
Yvette Rowledge	Kevin Thompson
Michelle Barsalou Bumpus	Jennifer Condie
Saya Ejima	Mihye Yoon
Linda Sheppard	Catherine Bundt
Anne Dalton	Leslie MacTavish
Mary Kim	Susan Olsen
Erika Bennedik	Carol Fyffe
Jeanie Tiede	Marlene Hagan
Carmen Roberts	Helen Tung
Ruth Moir	Denise Blatchford
Ada Brown	Esther Neufeld
Megumi Otani	Lydia Yang
Calla Strain	Kamela Vinjau
Sandra Starek	Christine Eschman
Natasha Gonzales	Doreen Kwee
Betsy Wieser	YouKyung Cho
Laurie Forsyth-Freinhofer	

A special thank you to Paulette Nielsen for providing the morning refreshments.

**1. Minutes**

Motion to accept the minutes of November 19, 2008, copy of which was available for inspection by Brenda Sleightholme.

*Moved by Ruth Moir, seconded by Michelle Barsalou Bumpus. Carried.*

**2. Correspondence and Announcements**

Please welcome our new members

CLARISSE CHEN                      Piano  
14127 64<sup>th</sup> Ave., Surrey BC   V3W 1Y9  
778-889-9986  
clarissechen@gmail.com

MARGARET LOCKHART                      Piano  
PO Box 31052, Langley BC V1M 0A9  
604-888-7357  
lockhartmusic@gmail.com

IVY HUANG                                      STA Member  
8138 154B St., Surrey BC V3S 7X9  
604-657-9133  
[yfhuang@hotmail.com](mailto:yfhuang@hotmail.com)

### 3. Elections

Esther Neufeld presided over the elections of the new Executive. The following were elected by unanimous vote:

President	Linda Sheppard – elected to serve a 2 year term
Vice President	Ruth Moir – elected to serve a 2 year term
Secretary	Brenda Sleightholme – elected to serve a 1 year term
Treasurer	Mary Kim – elected to serve a 2 year term
Membership Secretary	Beverley Johnson – elected to serve a 2 year term
Advertising & Public Relations	Launny Brian – elected to serve a 2 year term

Appointments every even year (criteria – must be a past or present Executive member):

Provincial Council Reps	Linda Sheppard Jennifer Condie Esther Neufeld Cathy Bundt
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It was noted that Brenda Sleightholme has indicated she will step in to the position of Vice President if a new Secretary can be found [at any time]. To all members, please consider this position! Contact Linda at [lindas@southfrasermusic.com](mailto:lindas@southfrasermusic.com).

### 4. Unfinished Business

Linda Sheppard reported that there were 13 members in attendance at the Northview Golf and Country Club on Friday, December 12th for our annual **Christmas Luncheon**. A good time was had by all - buffet lunch, gift exchange, and another Christmas carol guessing game. The food was great and the company even better! Several new members were there as well which was great to see. Price was \$20 each for the 'Dickens Buffet'. A table had been booked one month in advance for 12 and numbers confirmed the Monday before the luncheon.

**Emergency Festival Meetings** – Linda reported that two meetings have occurred to date, with another scheduled for Wednesday March 11th. Between now and then, the membership will receive a mail out regarding proposals for the future of the branch

festival. The questionnaire will include a clear question on whether to have a Festival in 2010 or wait until 2011.

The current plan is to hire a Festival Manager for \$5,000 per year, with a minimum two-year contract. Finances would come from several areas, including ALL the current festival honorariums, of \$3,000, plus \$2,000 from festival savings such as switching to one venue and possibly reducing piano rentals, perhaps no special lunches, etc. There would also be some ongoing costs, such as for an online database and payment online. Setup costs for an online database could come from the festival's contingency fund. The posting will be advertised in-house and also in local newspapers. A job description will be included in the mail out as well as the opportunity for every member to vote. The deadline for returned votes, either through mail or via email to Linda, will be February 15th. That allows time to read through teacher's opinions, finalize the job description, and start advertising. A Festival Manager would need to be in place by April if the festival is to proceed in 2010. Supporting the Manager would be a Festival Board of approximately 5 members who are willing to donate their time, experience and expertise. The positions would be something like a Chairperson, Financial Advisor, Advertising Co-ordinator, Technical Advisor, Strings Advisor and perhaps a Member At Large. Some decisions, such as whether or not to skip a festival in 2010, will depend on how quickly a Festival Manager can be found and how quickly a Festival Board is put into place. Some members expressed concern about the impact of next year's Olympics in February and the current state of the economy.

A **Benefit Concert** took place on Saturday, November 22 at 7:30 pm at Seaview Assembly Church. Featured pianists were Catherine Bundt and Sarah Pak. Proceeds, which included ticket and DVD sales in the amount of \$900, were donated to the South Fraser Music Festival Scholarship Fund.

The **Canada Music Week Recital** was held on November 23 at Newton Fellowship Church. Thirty-eight students participated from nine teachers. Students played a variety of music, including Canadian compositions, and several students composed their own pieces. There was a performance of *Anxiety* by our own Kevin Thompson.

The **Branch-Sponsored Student Recital** was held on December 14 at the same church with 17 students and 4 teachers participating. Students from beginner to grade 9 level played. The program included some duets and Christmas music.

Marlene Hagan is the **new Newsletter Editor**. The last newsletter was sent out recently and the next one will be sent mid-May. The deadline for submissions is April 20. Please consider sending Marlene your newsworthy reports. If you include photos, please identify them and include members of the branch or adjudicators, etc. rather than students.

## 5. Unfinished Business

Cathy Bundt is holding a **Senior Piano Master Class** at her studio (#36 8250 158<sup>th</sup> St.) on Saturday, January 31 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. The morning session (10:00 – 1:00) or the afternoon session (1:30 – 5:00) is \$15.00 per session or \$25.00 for the full day. Contact Cathy at 604-507- 9011 or < catherineb@southfrasermusic.com >.

The next **Branch-Sponsored Student Recital** will be taking place on Sunday, February 15 at 7:00 pm at Newton Fellowship Church (7328 144<sup>th</sup> St.). Submit any entries to Linda Sheppard at [lindas@southfrasermusic.com](mailto:lindas@southfrasermusic.com) by February 10.

The next **STA Workshop** will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 3:30 – 5:30 at 16547 63B St. in Cloverdale. Alison Neufeld and Esther Neufeld will be presenting a workshop on introducing new technical concepts to students and tone production. This workshop is open to STA members, free of charge. Non STA members who are currently studying with a South Fraser RMT are invited to attend for a fee of \$10.00. Contact Esther Neufeld at <elmn@telus.net>.

## 6. Reports

**Student Teacher Auxilliary Report by Esther Neufeld** – The STA membership now stands at eight. Alison and Esther are planning a workshop for February 7<sup>th</sup> on Technique and Tone Production. Alison has developed an innovative and creative approach to helping students understand what they are doing in technique and why. Esther will be doing an interactive presentation on tone production as she has found in teaching pedagogy that this is particularly challenging for student teachers. They're also allowing time for discussion on any teaching related topic. If you have student teachers who have not joined the STA, they are welcome to attend for a fee of \$10 and two questions they would like discussed. Due to shortage of space, this invitation is limited to student teachers who are in their first to five years of teaching and no RMT's. There are plans for a workshop in May; likely on teaching rhythm and ear training. Alison and Esther are also looking at some sort of restructuring of the STA to accommodate the two distinctly different needs of new teachers who need a great deal of mentoring and STA members who have significant teaching experience. They are also considering changes in rules of eligibility and will be putting a proposal together for the Executive for discussion at the April meeting.

**Festival Report by Yvette Rowledge** – The new gold covered 50th Anniversary souvenir programme was available for pick-up at the meeting. Yvette read some excerpts from the 25th Anniversary programme. Congratulations to 13-year-old Emily Chen, student of Kevin Thompson, for her winning artwork that appears on the front cover. She will receive \$50 dollars. New features of the programme:

- square binding making it less bulky to carry
- Index at the front making it easier to find the specific page you are looking for
- congratulatory letters from 3 dignitaries
- our Branch has donated \$100 towards our scholarship fund
- the Abbotsford Branch has donated \$100

- 19 artwork entries were received; Kevin scanned all the artwork and each one appears on the page of the student's performance

A special thank you goes to Catherine Bundt and Sarah Heekyung Pak for their generous donation to our scholarship fund. There are 3 very important pages in your package: Master edit list, "Updated" Student ID list and Awards Recital Piece list. You have until next Wednesday January 28th to inform Yvette of mistakes in the Master edit list and the "Updated" Student ID list. Please read the instructions on your Awards Recital Piece list.

A reminder for people doing their Duties during the Festival: it is very important that you arrive 20 minutes before the start of the first class, both in the morning and the afternoon. Note that on Thursday February 19th and Saturday February 28th, there are no classes in the Classroom. The parent of a former student, Don Steele, has donating his time, volunteering on 4 afternoons. Our catered 3-course lunch again is \$8 this year. Email Ada Brown to reserve your spot for these meals. On both Saturdays February 21 and 28, we have allowed 90 minutes for the lunch break. You are welcome to join Yvette and the adjudicators at a local restaurant at your own cost. The church will be locked from 12-1pm on those Saturdays. Teachers who would like mark sheets for their students should get in touch with Yvette and she will distribute them via email. This year we have 584 students, 9 student volunteers and 64 teachers participating in the Festival. Lastly, there are a few surprises that help us celebrate this special milestone. All of these are open to students participating in the Festival:

- 50 CDs have been donated by an anonymous donor: a few names will be drawn by the Adjudicator from randomly chosen classes each day of the Festival in all instruments.
- at the Sunday March 8th Awards Recitals, we will draw 2 winners, each receiving 2 vouchers worth up to \$127 for tickets to a Vancouver Symphony Orchestra concert valid for the remainder of the current season.
- Tom Lee Music will sponsor a contest where you can "enter to win" a \$250 Tom Lee Music Gift Card. Two gift cards will be awarded, one to a student and one to a teacher. All entries will be done on line. The contest will run during the Festival: everyone will receive more details from Beverley when they become available. Winners will be announced at the Saturday March 7th evening Awards Recital and gift cards will be presented if the winners are in the audience.

Please come out to hear your students perform; after all, they have paid for what is, in essence, a 12-day Masterclass!

**Advertising Report by Launny Brian** – The Mall Event will be taking place mid-May prior to spring exams; details TBA. Business card orders were handed out to Michele Barsalou Bumpus and Eva Law. Launny also spoke about the interesting and valuable information on the Links section of our website. She handed out 30 packets of ten information cards that were to go to parents and students; it included our website and all the links information. If any teachers wanted more they were to contact her at [brian777@dccnet.com](mailto:brian777@dccnet.com).

**Financial Report by Megumi Otani** – As of January 20, 2009, the balance of our chequing account was \$1,014.84 with total actual income of \$17,915.26 and total actual

expenses of \$14,298.76. We have Term Deposit #711 for \$5,100, which we can be transfer as needed and #708 for \$5,131.27, which is our contingency fund. Please refer to the Statements of Income and Expenses for the actual numbers.

Your BCRMTA South Fraser branch membership fee is due now. In order to receive your \$10 discount, your fee has to reach the branch treasurer by the end of today. Please note that a membership fee paid after Match 1<sup>st</sup> cannot be processed by the branch treasurer and it has to go through our Provincial registrar Susan Olsen. If you have not sent your fee yet, please do so as soon as possible. Also, if you know some members who have not sent their fees yet, please advise them to pay.

It had been an extremely interesting, educating and privileged experience for being a treasurer for the last four years. I truly appreciate all the patience you had with me, as well as your courage to have someone like me, who has not balance her cheque book for the last few years, as your branch treasurer. I am very glad to report that there was not major mishap and the branch is in fairly good financial condition. Also, I would like to apologize to all who had to go through an unpleasant experience during your dealing with me. According to my kind and honest children, I have a lowest possible interpersonal skill. I am glad that Mary Kim, who is very good at math, is taking over the task.

Thank you very much for your support and help for the last four years. I will miss monthly bank statement from Coast Capital that I actually open and check against our balance book.

On behalf of the Executive and members, Brenda Sleightholme presented Megumi with flowers and a card and a humorous thank you.

**Website Report by Beverley Johnson** – Bev reviewed how to login to the BCRMTA site. For all members BCRMTA site is not the same as our own SF site. Firstly the username for the BCRMTA site is myrmta and the password is 1947a. By logging in, members have access to Meeting Minutes, Newsletters and Bylaws.

Bev also reviewed the South Fraser web site and drew attention to some of the items that can be found under the MEMBERS ONLY section. For all members your login username is your first name and initial of last name as one word and in small letters. Your password is the same until you decide to change it. You will then have access to the MEMBERS ONLY section. Once there you will find:

1. mention of the BRANCH ELECTIONS.
2. a CONTACTS page which lists telephone numbers and email addresses ONLY of Provincial council members, SF Executive members and SF Coordinators. This is a useful page for ALL members.
3. we have a page listing upcoming CONCERTS SENT IN BY MEMBERS.
4. another page on FEES & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.
5. a page on our Festival .
6. there is a page called FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. There are 13 FAQs at the moment and the top question on the list is How much is the annual membership fee? The second question is How much is the annual fee for retired teachers? When the question is clicked, the answer will pop up.

7. there is a MEMBERSHIP LIST with all names, addresses & phone numbers. As of this month we have 129 members.
8. The Minutes & Newsletter page will give our new members insight into what the SF branch has been doing since 2006.
9. there is also a page on NEWSLETTERS FROM MUSIC CONSERVATORIES
10. Information on the next STUDENT RECITAL and the NEXT MEETING are found on 2 other pages.
11. For our new members we also have a page of piano tuners.
12. another on REPORTS
13. near the bottom of the list is a page on SURREY ARTS COUNCIL
14. and the last item is Information on workshops. If you know of any workshops or concerts that would be of interest to all of our members, please advise Bev.

Bev is still looking for someone to help out with the website, someone who enjoys playing around with websites, someone with PC knowledge, use of html would be nice but not necessary, and design creativity. If you have these skills and interest in websites, please contact Bev at [ivorys101@shaw.ca](mailto:ivorys101@shaw.ca).

Sylvia distributed receipts for those who donated to the scholarship fund.

## 7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting.

*Moved by Susan Olsen, seconded by Bev Johnson. Carried*

Next meeting: April 15, 2009

Contact Information:

Phoning committee: Lea Tsui: 604-536-9123

Emails: Beverley Johnson: [ivorys101@shaw.ca](mailto:ivorys101@shaw.ca)

The meeting was followed by a **workshop by Dr. Ronald Morgan** on technical issues in intermediate repertoire and the transition to advanced playing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Sleightholme  
Secretary, South Fraser RMT