

**South Fraser RMT General Meeting
Wednesday, June 17, 2009
Newton Fellowship Baptist Church**

Attendance

Bev Johnson	Heilwig von Koenigsloew
Lea Tsui	Dianne Szarapka
Darlene Brigidear	Elizabeth Gilchrist
Launny Brian	Brenda Sleightholme
Ada Brown	Paulette Nielsen
Debbie Nagy	Angelina Van Dyke
Dolores Antonsen	Carla Birston
Yvette Rowledge	Catherine Bundt
Michelle Barsalou Bumpus	Jennifer Condie
Linda Sheppard	Susan Olsen
Anne Dalton	Mary Kim
Erika Bennedik	Jeanie Tiede
Carmen Roberts	Megumi Otani
Natasha Gonzales	YouKyung Cho

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

1. Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of April 15, 2009, copy of which was available for inspection by Brenda Sleightholme.

Moved by Catherine Bundt, seconded by Erika Bennedik. Carried.

2. Correspondence and Announcements

President's Greeting

Volunteers are needed to help with coffee mornings in the main branch centres: Fraser Heights, South Surrey/White Rock/ Ocean Park, Fleetwood (Cathy Bundt hosted one last week); Launny Brian has offered to host one for Delta/Twawassen/Ladner; need to cover Cloverdale/ Langley/Fort Langley and Newton/North Surrey. This is a great way to network, see who is accepting new students, what each teacher specializes in, etc.

Workshops are being lined up for the fall, including an accountant in September, new exams and lead sheet workshop with Peter Friesen from Richmond branch, and ethical issues in the music studio with Elsie Goerzen in January. We are hoping to present these workshops under budget, allowing us to subsidize or even completely pay for a half-day workshop for teachers in October. One possibility is to have Ron and Ruth Moir bring their fortepiano, or two, and clavichord, to a venue and have a workshop on performance practices in early music.

In early spring the branch should consider a student masterclass/workshop as there will be no branch music festival. This could be the time to try some smaller-scale activities. The schedule for public schools is out for next year and while spring break is now two weeks for all public schools, there are no public school closures planned for the Olympics. Bev mentioned that some private schools will be closed.

As more and more people become self-employed, extended health and dental benefits, and retirement funds become increasingly important to many of us. Linda asked if there was interest in a group rate for an extended health and dental plan.

Please welcome our newest member:

Dolores Antonsen PIANO
8069 Modesto Drive
Delta BC V4C 4A9
604-591-9579
pianolessons@lightspeed.ca

Recording secretary

Linda stated that a laptop could be provided for recording the meeting minutes and as of September, the meeting will be recorded (audio) only, unless someone was willing to type the minutes. Susan Olsen volunteered to do the Minutes.

3. New Business

Scholarship Recital for 2010, Jennifer Heyworth

Brenda Sleightholme read Jennifer's report in her absence. Scholarships or trophies will be awarded to the highest mark for any practical examinations. These will be given to the highest mark in each grade (grade 1 to diploma level) for any instrument, and from any conservatory. There will also be awards/certificates for outstanding marks. The concert will take place in January 2010, and students that have taken exams in any session in 2009 (January, June or August) will be eligible. Teachers will be required to send a clear copy of the exam results to Jennifer Heyworth by October 30th, 2009. \$300 has been budgeted for the scholarships and rental of the church. Additional funds will also be available from interest in branch accounts that usually goes towards the branch festival scholarship funds (approximately \$240 as interest rates were higher until recently). If this becomes an annual event, fundraising can be organized to replace the interest from branch accounts. Linda Sheppard is looking into the new church in Whalley which has a six foot grand as the venue for the Scholarship Recital. Please let us know if you have any other suggestions for a suitable church with a good grand piano.

Canada Music Week, Brenda Sleightholme

Brenda announced a very exciting project for our Branch to celebrate Canada Music Week. Firstly, she thanked Janice McCubbin, who did an amazingly thorough job of researching composers in BC. She sent me three lists: a list from the Canadian Music

Centre of composers by cities and a more in-depth list which included their bios as well as a list of composers in and around our area. Megumi and Brenda then met at the end of April to shortlist potential candidates as the intention was to commission a composer to write a couple of pieces for our Branch which could be performed during the Canada Music Week in November. Dr. David Duke, now the Dean of Performing Arts at Douglas College, was one of the shortlisted composers. Brenda met with him and reported that not only was he very excited about the project, he also offered to donate his commission fee to our scholarship fund. I recall he said he was paid more than enough in his current position. It was arranged that he would compose two selections for piano – one at Grade 2 level and one at Grade 6 level. Dr. Duke promised that they would be completed (in Sibelius) by September 1st at which time they would be circulated to our membership through the web site. [the Canadian League of Composer's Commission for 1 or 2 one minute compositions is \$375.] The compositions will be "quick studies". She envisages a CMW one day Festival. We can accommodate 30 students maximum in the morning: three classes of 10 for the juniors; and 21 students maximum in the afternoon: three classes of 7 for the intermediates. It will be held November 28th and Dr. Duke has agreed to be our adjudicator for the day. In working out the budget for this project, although Dr. Duke has donated his fee to our scholarship fund, we must pay him for the adjudication day, his lunch and mileage. We have set entry fees at \$8 for Grade 2 and \$10 for Grade 6. Because of the limited number of registrations, we may limit the entries to one per teacher per grade level. Details have yet to be ironed out but we are very excited about our Branch's first commissions and the thought of a mini festival – not quite the annual SFRMTA Festival – but a smaller version built on test pieces. We will broadcast email more information. As chair, Brenda will undertake to do the registrations, scheduling, programme, certificates, etc. If you would like to help please contact her at sleightholme@telus.net. Look for the unveiling of our Branch's very first commissions on September 1st.

· **City of Surrey, Arts Grant, Catherine Bundt**

Catherine reported that she had been contacted by Surrey Arts Council for input on the \$2 million grant. She had many ideas to submit; if you have any ideas please forward to Catherine.

· **Student Recitals, Linda Sheppard**

Linda Sheppard will host a Student Recital in December. We are planning some sort of event for Canada Music Week in November, so it would be nice to have a recital in October if anyone is willing to organize it. Linda is looking into the rental fees for the new church in Whalley which has a grand piano.

4. Reports

Provincial Council, Jennifer Condie

Jennifer read highlights of the Provincial Council Meeting on Sunday, April 26:

- 1) Our past president, Lynne Carmichael has to resign due to health reasons. She was presented with a gift on behalf of all of us.

- 2) The massage therapists keep asking us if they can use RMT and we keep declining.
- 3) Thirty three people get 25 year pins this year. Three get 50 year pins.
- 4) Our membership stands at 1,004 members (49 of those are STA)
- 5) Fourteen branches submitted Canada Music Week reports. See the CFMTA Winter newsletter for details.
- 6) The Canada Music Week Writing Competition had a record 37 entries this year. Heather Laliberte is this years' adjudicator. Entries close on April 1st each year. This year many applications were incomplete, late, or without fees. Next year such applications will be returned.
- 7) Pam Smirl is again requesting more archival material.
- 8) Progressions magazine will not change to a colour cover because the cost was prohibitive. Apparently further editing was suggested by one member, because of some grammar and syntax issues. Dina Pollock, the editor, looked into hiring outside editing, and at \$20.00 per hour, the delegates voted it down.
- 9) In September we agreed to dismantle the Video Library. The process was not good, as some branches who had submitted requests (including ours) had their requests lost. Susan Olsen volunteered to take on the job of fair distribution. According to some emails in my box, she will (understandably) attend to this after exams.
- 10) We are still waiting on the Legislature to ratify the change to our act which will allow us to make our own bylaws, with a 2/3 majority approval.
- 11) We also voted to remove the clause in our act that requires residency for membership to be in harmony with TILMA.
- 12) Our new website is great and our branch website can be linked to it.
- 13) Convention 2010 is at the Westminster Quay. It looks exciting. Check your Progressions magazine.
- 14) Provincial competition winner, Raymond Zeng is doing a Young Artist's Tour, recitals in: Chilliwack, Nelson. Trail/Castlegar, Campbell River and Nanaimo.
- 15) Remuneration for future convention committees: was decided
 - Convention fees for 4 persons included in budget
 - one hotel room paid for two nights as on site location
 - no honoraria to committee or volunteers
 - no reimbursement for office equipment/ reimbursement for supplies with a receipt.
 - the host branch can decide what to do with the 50/50 split from profit
- 16) Darlene wants to establish a TOC service.
- 17) Tuition tax credit may be possible.
- 18) New executive:
 - President Carol Schlosar
 - 1st Vice Cindy Taylor
 - 2nd Vice open until September Ilidiko Skeldon-Huber and Joanne Lougheed are up for it. We voted but the result was invalid because the delegates weren't given notice.
 - Secretary Kevin Thompson
 - Treasurer Lois Kerr

Registrar Susan Olsen

Treasurer, Mary Kim

Mary reported on the Financial Statement March 1, 2009 to February 28, 2010 with Actuals to May 31, 2009. Income to date is \$16,362.66 and expenditures \$11,603.29. There are four term deposits in the amounts of \$2,000, \$5,000, \$7,100 and \$5,131.27.

Webmaster, Beverly Johnson

Bev reported that our web site has three new pages where you can find Theory, Specialty Methods and an alpha list of members. Look on the Calendar for events posted to 2010.

String Festival, Carla Birston

Carla announced that the String Festival will proceed with a team effort from all string teachers. They have set a budget at \$5,100 and looking at last year's costs, believe revenue will equal expenses. Linda suggested the committee look at our scholarship donors as we don't want to lose that connection. The signing officers for our Festival bank account will change in July at which time we will know the amount of contingency if required. Linda thanked the string teachers for their initiative in carrying on with this portion of the Festival.

5. Unfinished Business

April Masterclass, Catherine Bundt

Catherine reported that a very successful April masterclass had 23 teachers participating. The next one will be November 8th at 1:30 pm with Bruce Vogt again as the clinician.

Mall Showcase, Launny Brian

Launny thanked all the teachers who took part in the 2009 Guildford Mall showcase. We started with a drummer, then moved on to harpists, and the rest of the afternoon was filled with pianists, vocalists and one flutist. There were over 140 students entered by 21 teachers. Most of the participating teachers were there for part of the afternoon and thankfully we had more teachers volunteer for positions than we needed. It was a wonderful atmosphere created in the mall, with all this beautiful music and enthusiasm for the arts. We had more enquiries at our information booth than we did last year and we hope that this results in student enquiries to teachers in our branch. Launny apologized to teachers who had their students performing in the second half and had to wait as we were running behind. Next year we are looking at the possibility of having this event run for a whole day and giving teachers blocks of time in 15 minute increments that they can fill. Linda added that the participating students really appreciated the colour popcorn gift bags. Thank you again to everyone involved; it was a very worthwhile event for the students, the teachers, and the shoppers who got to enjoy all the wonderful music.

Launny also distributed business cards to Megumi Otani, Cheryl Finn, Rebecca Yew and Dolores Antonsen.

Presentation, *Linda Sheppard*

On behalf of the branch, Linda presented a small token of our appreciation to Paulette Nielsen for the coffee/goodies she supplies after the meetings, and to Lea Tsui, our phoning and Sunshine Convenor.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting.

Moved by Dianne Szarapka, seconded by Jeanie Tiede. Carried

Next meeting: September 16, 2009

Contact Information:

Phoning committee: Lea Tsui: 604-536-9123

Emails: Beverley Johnson: ivorys101@shaw.ca

The meeting was followed by a luncheon at New York, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Sleightholme

Secretary, South Fraser RMT