

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

Northwood United Church, 10am

Attendees:

Leslie Chen	Margaret Brew	Berva Warkentin
Kevin Thompson	Dianne Szarapka	Yuko Denham
Helga Murray	Paulette Nielsen	Jennifer Condie
Maureen Hollins	Yvonne Fawcett	Jennifer Silva
Carmen Roberts	Andrea Mesana	Sharon Poon
Yvette Rowledge	Grace Lee	Esther Neufeld
Sylvia Leigh	Debbie Boganes	Megumi Otani
Elaine Blatchford	Lea Tsui	Debbie Nagy
Calla Strain	Marjorie Foxall	Elizabeth Gilchrist
Sandra Starek	Jeanie Tiede	Kamela Vinjau Christaki

Welcome by Helga Murray, President

New member: Joey Liao (absent today)

Minutes of the November 18th meeting are posted on our website.

Moved by Helga Murray, seconded by Kevin Thompson to adopt the minutes as circulated.

Treasurer's Report:

(as of January 12, 2016)

General Account	\$1,717.06
Term Deposits	\$19,231.27
Festival Account	\$5,899.29
Term Deposits	\$5,613.54

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Membership Renewal Instructions:

Please note: the South Fraser Branch will NOT be accepting any form of membership payment. ONLY ONLINE payments will be accepted for membership renewal. No other form of membership payment will be accepted.

- 1) Go onto the BCRMTA.bc.ca website. (log-in is not be required)

Username: myrmta

Password: 1947aMusical#

- 2) Click "Online Renewals"
- 3) Click on "South Fraser \$165.00"
- 4) Follow the instructions to the Checkout.

If you are not already signed in to PayPal, it will take you less than one minute to do so. Then, you can proceed with a credit card payment.

- 5)

DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 29, 2016.

Late fee is \$50.00.

By March 2nd, unpaid members will be removed from the website.

If you are worried about using your credit card online, here are two suggestions for you:

- 1) You might consider getting a credit card *just* for online stuff, and set the account to a low limit (just in case).
- 2) You might want to link your credit card online to your chequing account so that you can monitor it on a regular basis.

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Committee Reports

1. Junior Festival: Claudia Muir (read by Helga Murray)

We are well on our way to having all things organized for the junior festival. We have our adjudicators, Marjory Purdy and Ildiko Skeldon. Teachers have been informed of their duties. We have door prizes collected for the celebration recitals. The recitals will be at 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Saturday March 5.

For any teachers who are not at the meeting and wish to pick up their programs please contact Claudia Muir at MrsMuirMusic@gmail.com to arrange pick up.

Programs not picked up will be available for the teachers to pick up at the festival.

Parents and students must get their programs from their teachers. None will be available at the festival for parents or students to pick up.

2. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen

Programs are available for pickup today.

Duties for the Senior Festival will be E-mailed to you within the next week or so.

We still need 2 volunteers for Tuesday afternoon (Feb. 23): one for Supervisor duty and one for Desk Duty. If anyone is willing and available to fill these positions, please contact Leslie Chen.

3. String Festival: Harold Birston (read by Helga Murray)

The Festival will be taking place from Monday, Feb. 15th to Wednesday, Feb. 17th. Our enrollment is up over last year, to the point we had to add an extra day!

The Celebration Recital is on Saturday, Feb. 20th, 7:00 P.M. All Festival events are at Mount Olive Church.

We're excited to have Grant Donnellan return to adjudicate. He is a great musician, a wonderful teacher, and a superb communicator to all levels of students.

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4. Honours Festival: Helga Murray

The Honours Recital will be held on February 13, at 3:00 PM. It will be a wonderful concert. We had 76 entries. 31 students will be playing. There will also be some strings performances! Piano students will get to perform on a Steinway grand. Every performing student will receive a certificate, and the top mark in each grade will receive a trophy (for the lower grades) or a scholarship (for the senior grades). We are asking for a \$10 donation per family at the door. Please come and support our students in their excellent achievements!

5. Webmaster Report: Kevin Thompson

Please contact Kevin Thompson if you have trouble logging in to the website. And if you have trouble uploading a picture of yourself onto your profile page, please note that the profile picture needs to be in JPEG format, and no more than 1 MB in size.

6. Provincial Council rep: Kevin Thompson

Yuko Denham, Colleen Branson, and Kevin Thompson are our provincial council representatives. The next meeting is April 24. We will have more to report on that at our branch meeting in June.

Old Business:

1. Canada Music Week Report: Jennifer Condie

On Saturday November 21st, the South Fraser BCRMTA hosted a Canada Music Week Recital. This recital was the third of three events held during the fall of 2015, designed to encourage teachers to explore contemporary Canadian music.

First we had a workshop featuring Teresa Richert and Irene Voros performing pieces from the Red Leaf Pianoworks collection. The following week, Katya Pine presented a workshop demonstrating how to help students use performing repertoire as a springboard for composition.

These events culminated in the Canada Music week recital, which featured thirty

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enthusiastic performances. Most performers were pianists, but three vocal soloists, and the 'Nothing but Treble' glee club added variety to the program. Twenty-one individual Canadian Composers were represented, from Jean Coulthard, to Joanne Bender, as well as Elizabeth Gilchrist, Natalia Pardalis, and Irene Voros, from our own branch.

Following the recital, a draw for three balloon bouquets, and a cupcake reception continued the celebratory atmosphere. Canadian music is alive and well in the South Fraser Branch!

2. Christmas Mall Event Report: Elizabeth Gilchrist / Yvette Rowledge

This year's mall event was held on November 30th at Willowbrook Mall in Langley. The students had a wonderful time, and the audience was appreciative. We had piano, strings, and brass performers.

Due to scheduling problems, short notice was given for the mall event. For 2016, we should approach the mall(s) earlier (e.g. in September). We should also make sure we have a photographer present at the event at least some of the time.

Willowbrook has pros and cons as a venue. The mall was very helpful. They provided a baby grand piano, a stage, and a sound system. Our only cost was \$150 for goody bags (thank-you to Yvette Rowledge and Marjorie Foxall for doing the goody bags!). Unfortunately, Willowbrook is a fairly small mall, so pedestrian traffic was much less than at Guildford. Someone kept turning on recorded music from time to time, but perhaps that is a glitch that can be worked out.

We'd like to thank all the teachers who helped to keep the event running smoothly. A special thank-you to Natalia Pardalis, who helped organize the program, and to Elizabeth Gilchrist's student, Devon Groves, who worked sound for the entire event. He also filled in gaps in the program.

3. Discussion on the Mall Event as a yearly pre-planned event:

At this meeting, we asked the membership how many teachers were in favour of having the Mall Event as an annual event. Around 50% of the teachers present were in favour.

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When we asked how many teachers had students participate in the event this year, only 5 teachers (of the teachers present at the meeting) had students who performed.

We received positive feedback from Sandra Starek regarding having a Mall Event.

Here are some pros and cons between the 2 malls:

	Guildford Mall	Willowbrook Mall
Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closer to our area (Surrey) - It's a very large mall → more pedestrian traffic - Some students prefer Guildford 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They provide the piano - They have a "community stage" and they promote the events held there - They provide the sound system - younger family - oriented
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is no stage - We would have to rent our own piano (e.g. from Pacey's) - They have many restrictions - They do not allow us to make booking for December 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a smaller mall → less pedestrian traffic - It is farther away (in Langley) - The piano is not on the stage (The stage may not be able to support the piano)

Having an annual Mall Event would provide an opportunity to:

- 1) have our students perform in public; and
- 2) present us (the South Fraser branch of the BCRMTA) to the public

This year, the event was not held at an ideal time of the year, as it was too close to the Canada Music Week Recital. In the future, we will need to plan it so it does not happen within a week of the Canada Music Week Recital.

For the Mall Event to be an annually-held, pre-planned event, we need interested members to form a committee to plan things out earlier in the year, so that there will be ample time for things to be set up, and for schedules to be set with the mall. If anyone is interested in getting involved and being on this committee, please contact Helga Murray.

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New Business:

1. Chantal Fennell: RCM B.C. Rep to attend April meeting

Helga has invited Chantal Fennell, our RCM BC Representative, to come to our April meeting to talk about RCM (including the new RCM Teacher Certification) and about how we can liaison better with them. We are thinking of having a roundtable discussion with tea and cookies – a friendly atmosphere in which we can ask Chantal any questions we have about RCM (e.g. requirements, exams...etc.).

2. June meeting:

We will be having lunch together after the June meeting. At today's meeting, most of the membership voted to have food brought in from a deli (instead of having a potluck). We will be asking each person to pay \$5 for the lunch, and the excess will be paid for by the branch. We are planning to have a "teacher talk" session where everyone can submit pedagogical questions and receive feedback from each other.

Questions/Announcements from Members:

- 1) Yuko Denham thanked the branch for the card that was sent when her father passed away.
- 2) Elizabeth Gilchrist encouraged that we promote Pianos on the Street.

Margaret Brew moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Elizabeth Gilchrist.

Adjournment