

On Saturday we had three recitals where we had the opportunity to celebrate all the students who received Gold level marks. Each student was given a medallion to celebrate their accomplishments. After each recital we had a social time where everyone had cookies and juice.

Tom Lee very generously donated many door prizes which we gave out during the three Celebration Recitals on the Saturday. They also donated a Keyboard and a guitar. Two names were drawn, early in the week, from all entries to win these prizes.

Also thanks to Fresh Street Farms for their generous donation of cookies for the recitals. Thank you to all the members of the committee for all your hard work and to all the teachers who came and did duties, brought cookies, made lunches, and helped out with everything else! It does not work without all of you helping.

2. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen

We had a great Intermediate/Senior Festival this year, with 217 entries from 24 teachers! Our adjudicators were Mark Anderson from UBC and Michelle Mares from the University of Victoria; they offered our students and teachers much enthusiasm and wisdom in their adjudications.

We had printed programs this year, and \$2 per program seemed to cover the cost. A big thank-you to Kevin who did all the work putting the program together and getting them printed!

We wrapped up the week with two celebration recitals, where we saw wonderful performances from over 50 students! In keeping with last year, several scholarships were given out (just under \$2800!). Thanks to Shelley Gimbel, Tom Lee kindly donated the door prizes for our two Celebration Recitals: 4 door prizes per recital! (Two \$25 iTunes cards + two \$50 Tom Lee cards at each.)

THANK-YOU to all the teacher volunteers who helped out at the festival (especially to Yvette Rowledge, Marjorie Foxall, Susan Olsen, Maureen Hollins, and Kevin Thompson for covering the extra shifts); to Jennifer Condie and Colleen Branson; to Maureen Hollins and Yvonne Fawcett for the two celebration recital receptions; and to the members of our festival committee who worked with me: Kevin Thompson, Dianne Szarapka, Geneviene Wong, and Debbie Nagy.

Dianne Szarapka has receipts for your scholarship donations.

We have a very important piece of news!

After helping to organize the festival for 18 years, Kevin Thompson is now stepping down from his position on the festival committee!

We are now looking for at least one more person to join our committee. Since the Senior Festival usually gives out lots of scholarships, we need someone who is willing to go to banks and businesses to get donations and sponsorship, to help cover the costs. Please let Leslie Chen know if you are interested in joining our team!

The dates for the festival for next year are as follows:

Junior Festival: February 20 – 25, 2017

Senior Festival: February 27 – March 4, 2017

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

The Strings Festival had Grant Donnellan from Western Washington University come adjudicate. There is no festival report yet, because Carla's mother had just passed away, and both Harold and Carla have been busy dealing with that. We will have a report from them soon.

4. Voice Festival:

Elizabeth Gilchrist and Natalia Pardalis had the idea to get a voice festival together for June. Applications are going to Natalia. We will have more information from them shortly.

5. Honours Recital: Helga Murray

Our Honours Recital in February this year was well-attended, and scholarships were given out. The 2017 Honours Recital (for all 2016 exam marks) will be held on **April 29, 2017**, and the **deadline is March 4, 2017**. This is purely marks-based: the recital is for students with marks of 80% and above. Please note that all theoretical requirements must be finished by August 2016.

6. Webmaster Report: Kevin Thompson

We have a 65% average click rate on branch emails. This is impressive! The industry average is 17%.

As of April 19, seven members have added a photo to their profile. Out of 102! It is really easy to do, just be sure the photo is less than 1MB and in JPG format. If you need any help, please let me know. I can even do it for you if you send me the photo.

We are looking into a new feature on the website in the forum section. Right now, discussions on the forum are open. We would like to also have the option for closed discussions. An example, the executive as we plan an upcoming meeting, or perhaps a festival committee. Or even a few teachers that wanted to talk about something without including the whole membership. This is so much easier than trying to keep track of email threads. And there is also an archive/history (closed) of past discussions that can be referred to later by members who were part of the discussion.

Where we are on this right now: Jerry is exploring having the option to include photos and files. Stay tuned!

7. South Fraser Branch Fee Range for 2016-2017: Kevin Thompson

Thanks to all the teachers who submitted their hourly fee in our branch survey. By 4:00 PM Monday (April 18) there were 41 submissions. Just under half the branch! The range was very wide! \$27 to \$100. The average worked out to \$53. So the executive suggest we 'suggest' a branch range for fees, based on teaching experience / location / credentials of **\$45 - \$65** for 2016-2017. It is entirely up to individual teachers to set their own rates. This will be recorded in the minutes for future reference.

Business:

1. June Meeting and Luncheon:

Our June meeting will be held on June 15 at 10am. (We will be getting deli plates from Safeway.) We're asking everyone to contribute **\$6** for this luncheon. There will be a

roundtable discussion on questions and problems we face in our teaching. Members can submit questions in advance.

2. Search for new Vice-President: Helga Murray

Helga's position of President is a 2-year position: she has been our president this past year, and will continue to be the president for next year. However, we currently have no Vice-President. We need someone to step up to the position, so that Helga can hand over the President position to the next person when she is done her 2-year term.

3. BCRMTA Conference 2016:

The Vancouver branch is hosting the provincial conference this year! Please go to <http://bcrmtavancouver2016.com> for details and to register. The early-bird registration is May 15.

4. Mall Event:

Elizabeth Gilchrist is the Coordinator for the Mall Event, and is looking for someone to volunteer on this committee. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth.

Kevin Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Elizabeth Gilchrist.

Adjournment

After our meeting ended, we enjoyed coffee, tea, and cookies (prepared by Debbie Boganes and Maureen Hollins) while we watched a presentation by Chantal Fennell, our regional representative from the RCM. In her presentation, Chantal showed us the features and resources on the RCM website that would be accessible to those who choose to register for Teacher Certification. She talked about advantages of the Teacher Certification program, and showed us the abundant resources that have already been put in place (and will continue to grow) online for certified teachers. If you have any questions regarding RCM, or the Teacher Certification process, please contact Chantal Fennell at chantal.fennell@rcmusic.ca.