

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

Wednesday, April 19th, 2017

Northwood United Church, 10am

Attendees:

Leslie Chen

Maureen Hollins

Lea Tsui

Kevin Thompson

Katy Messcu

Debbie Boganes

Helga Murray

Elizabeth Gilchrist

Andrea Mesana

Dianne Szarapka

Carmen Roberts

Christy Kuettel

Belinda Li

Sharon Poon

Esther Neufeld

Jennifer Condie

Welcome by Helga Murray, President

Correspondence

We received a thank-you letter from Braden Eguia for the Dorothy Weisner Memorial Scholarship and the Senior Concerto Award that he received at the festival. He also thanks us for our support and our dedication towards the students.

Announcement

Marlene Bartsch's husband had a severe stroke Easter Sunday. Our thoughts are with her and her husband.

Minutes of the January 25th meeting are posted on our website.

Moved by Leslie Chen and seconded by Kevin Thompson to adopt the minutes as circulated.

Treasurer's Report: (Sylvia Leigh was absent today.) – Please see the proposed 2017-2018 budget. If you have any questions, please E-mail Sylvia Leigh to ask.

Committee Reports

1. Festival Duties: Helga Murray

At our last executive meeting, we invited both festival committees to attend so we could discuss issues on festival management. It was decided we need to “up” the duties because we had a shortage of teachers for the duties in both festivals this year.

From now on: **1 to 5 entries = 1 duty**
 6 to 10 entries = 2 duties
 11 to 20 entries = 3 duties
 21 to 30 entries = 4 duties

It was quite stressful for the duties coordinators, so this will be a lot easier for them.

Note:

This year, the Junior Festival paid one person to fill in for duties. The remaining duty fees paid went into the festival funds. The problem is that we often have nobody to hire. It was suggested at this meeting that we can start asking other (active or retired) teachers whether they would like their name on the “hired list.” Having a list of names ready would make it a lot easier come festival time.

2. Junior Festival: Christy Kuettel

We welcome Christy Kuettel as the new Junior Festival Chair, as Claudia Muir has stepped down.

The Junior Festival already has some people on the committee. If anyone else is interested in joining this vibrant team, we’ll have a lot of fun! Please contact Christy if you are interested. We are hoping to have our first meeting by the end of this month.

The dates for the Junior Festival will be **February 19th to 24th**, with Feb. 24th being the recital. We have booked two adjudicators: Barbara Siemens and Alan Crane.

3. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen & Maureen Hollins

We had a week of fantastic playing at the Intermediate and Senior Festival from February 27th to March 4th at Northwood United Church. There were around 200 entries. Our adjudicators were Dr. Rudy Rozanski and Ian Parker.

This year, we had a combined program for the Junior Festival and the Senior Festival together, thanks all the countless hours of work put in by Wendy Chan.

We ended the week with two celebration recitals, featuring just over 60 performances from our students. Several scholarships were given out, in keeping with last year. Shelley Gimbel, from Tom Lee, provided us with several gift cards for our door prizes. Thank-you to Maureen Hollins for the receptions for both recitals!

Expenses were pretty much the same this year as last year. We gave out the same amount in scholarships as last year – totalling \$2700. The expense that was different this year was the cost of printing these professional-looking programs. After taking out \$2300 from the branch's festival account, we were able to end up with a healthy balance in the Senior Festival account. Some people might be wondering why the Senior Festival always needs money from the branch's festival account. Just to give you an idea of numbers, the Senior Festival had \$7600 come in from entries, whereas the Junior Festival had close to \$12,000 from their entries. Another difference is that the Senior Festival gives out scholarships (\$2,700).

Thank-you to all the teachers who volunteered at the festival, and thank-you to the senior festival committee members: Leslie Chen, Maureen Hollins, Dianne Szarapka, Debbie Nagy, Geneviene Wong. Also, thank-you to Colleen Branson for her work with the pianos, and to Jennifer Condie for extra help!

Dianne Szarapka will get your receipts to you soon.

For next year's Senior Festival, which will be held **February 26th to March 3rd**, we are pleased to have May Ling Kwok confirmed for one of our adjudicators. And we are currently working on securing a second adjudicator.

And now... Maureen would like to say a few words:

I'd like to thank all the teachers who considered giving money to the scholarship fund (the actual presentation of scholarships from grades 7 to 11).

I asked Dianne to give me some numbers: \$1442 came out of festival general funds;

\$820 were straight up donations. I'm hoping that, from the generosity of teachers and teachers' friends, that maybe we can increase the number of donations.

[A comment was made about how tax receipts for income tax would be available for their contribution to the scholarship fund only if they own a business.]

This is about the spirit of generosity. Even small donations from grandparents would be very helpful.

It would be really nice to have out-of-town adjudicators for our senior students. You know that the familiarity is quickly used up in adjudicators coming. We know them really well. It's nice to keep some kind of opportunity for fresh viewpoint. I will be working on somehow getting extra funds for getting some hotel sponsorship.

Discussion on sponsorship:

- Someone from the branch should be in charge of getting sponsorship from corporations.
- The best time to approach credit unions is in the summer time. They have a fund that they give to these events – usually \$50. Maybe we can put together an official letter to give out to our members so they can approach credit unions.
- We could make a list of previous sponsors, and send a letter to them, thanking them for their generosity at [this and this event] in the past, and then see if they'd be willing to make contributions.
- At one point in the past, we mixed gift cards with the scholarships. Some students received gift cards as their prize. Now the gift cards are the door prizes.
- What we have done in the past is we'd give the company advertising (e.g. half a page or a page in the printed program) for money.
- Maybe we can invite corporations to "Become a Friend of the South Fraser Festival" (e.g. like The Knowledge Network invites).

4. String Festival: Harold Birston, read by Helga Murray

The 2017 Strings festival was a success in every regard. The adjudicator, Yvanna Mycyk, has years of experience in dealing with students of all ages and levels, and she offered excellent advice and plenty of encouragement to the participants.

Enrollment exceeded our expectations, and an additional morning was added to the schedule. The string teachers raised over \$1,300.00 in scholarship funds.

The Celebration Recital, which was amiably emceed by Rick Dorfer, was a positive experience for performers and audience alike.

Carla and Harold Birston are very optimistic about the future of the Strings Festival, and wish to express tremendous gratitude to the South Fraser Branch for their unfailing support over the years!

5. Webmaster's Report: Kevin Thompson

The website is currently undergoing a few upgrades.

#1 Hide phone numbers option. A few teachers have asked for this feature, which will give everyone the option to hide their phone numbers on the public pages. Members' pages will still show phone numbers.

Important, you must click 'update user' at the bottom of you profile for any changes to take place.

#2 Two new membership categories.

Student Teacher

Associate

Below is a table showing how the membership categories differ.

	Login	Search	Listing (public)	Directory (members)	Profile	Newsletter
Active	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Inactive	No	No	No	Yes	Member Only	No
Retired	Yes	Member Only	No	Yes	Member Only	Yes
Archived	No	No	No	Yes	No	No
Student T.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Associate	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes

#3 https security upgrade. This will not impact how members interact with the website, it just makes it more secure.

Business

1. Composition Workshop: Jennifer Condie

At the last meeting, I volunteered to work on a workshop. I contacted Bob Pritchard, but he is very busy, so he cannot do it. He suggested his graduate student, Katerina Gimon. I E-mailed and asked for a one-hour workshop, keyboard-based, a jumping-off for teachers to encourage composition in their students. It is tentatively booked for May 17th at 10am in the sanctuary, for \$20 per teacher. We will break even if we get 15 people. I am looking for commitment in advance. I'm hoping for enough committed participants in the next week or so. It's also really nice to have someone younger. She has lots of good energy, and is very involved in everything. I'd like to ask teachers coming to please promise to try it with a few students!

[A suggestion was made about making E-Transfers possible for future Professional Development payments.]

2. Canada Music Week 2017 (November): Kevin Thompson

This ties in with the upcoming workshop Jennifer just talked about. As this is Canada's 150th birthday, branches have been encouraged by CF to get our students composing. Branch compositions can be organized in a book (digital) and put in the Provincial archive, which is online. As well, students could get a book (paper) of their works as well. There are two ways this might work. Someone can volunteer to score the music in notation software. Or, we can ask the students to do this, or very neatly hand write out their compositions.

Compositions would be performed at our November 2017 Canada Music Week recital.

Also, CFMTA is giving each branch \$200 from the Heritage Fund for any event that is public and musical, related to celebrate Canada's birthday.

May 17 Composing Workshop, be sure to come and get ideas you can pass on to your students so they can get busy composing all summer long.

Discussion on Canada Music Week 2017:

- Reminder: Canada Music Week recital doesn't have to be all piano; it can be Canadian works and compositions.

- It's usually the third weekend in November.

- If any teacher wants Rob Hollins to transcribe the music, please call Maureen! He'd be more than happy to turn it into professional transcription. This should not be the stopping point for if someone wants to enter a composition!

- We should put together a poster for this event *now* and put it up on our studio walls. Maybe we can Wendy Chan to put together a poster?

3. Sept 2018 BC Piano Competition: Kevin Thompson

If no branch steps forward to host the next provincial conference in September 2018, South Fraser has been asked if we would host the BC Piano Competition. There will be between 8-10 competitors from around the province. Three will make it to the finals.

Provincial gives us \$2,500. With that we would need to rent a venue, basically all day. (Morning for tuning and piano tryouts, afternoon semi-finals, evening finals.) We would need to hire an adjudicator for the afternoon / evening, buy flowers for the competitors, sell tickets and promote like mad. Print a program, (contents provided by the BC Piano Competition chair). Buy dinner for the adjudicator and travel expenses.

Any profits made are split 50/50 with the Province.

2015 ticket prices: semi student tickets \$15 / finals \$20

semi adult tickets \$20 / finals \$25

If we sold only 50 student and 50 adult tickets, that would be \$2,225.00. This event would be promoted to all lower mainland branches, so we have a lot of people to draw on. We would need a small planning committee 3 or 4, plus a few volunteers the day of the event.

Discussion:

- We will know this weekend whether it will be taken up by a branch.
- If there was a provincial convention, the BC Piano Competition would be taken out of our hands, and the host branch would take care of it.
- The last one was July 2015. It's usually the third week of September
- The Wheelhouse Theatre may be a good venue to host it. It's a sloped theatre and seats 290 people; it's easy to get to as well. A number of productions get put on there (including Carla Birston's orchestra concerts).
- The competition's usually been held in a hotel ballroom in the past, but that means dead sound and loud air conditioning.
- If we do host the piano competition, Jennifer Condie would be happy to help out, and Sharon Poon would be happy to volunteer on the day of the event.

The branch voted to host the BC Piano Competition.

We would need to find an adjudicator ASAP.

4. CMT Magazine Poll: Helga Murray

BCRMTA has been directed by CFMTA/FCAPM to take a poll in each province/territory to find out if members would prefer receiving the CMT magazine in paper or digital format. The next four issues of the CMT will be available in both paper and digital formats. We will do this survey now in April 2017 and again in April 2018 to see if members' preferences have changed over the year.

The digital version of the magazine is available four ways:

1. Download PDF from cfmta.org website
2. View magazine through a browser at cmt.cfmta.org
3. Download the app from the Apple store – view magazines
4. Download the app from Google Play – view magazines

We will ask Wendy Chan to create a questionnaire and send it out to everyone. The question will be “do you want paper? Or digital format?” If you choose digital format, please specify which of the 4 digital format options. Survey closes April 29, 2017.

5. June meeting/luncheon: Helga Murray

Our next meeting is June 21st and there will be free lunch after the meeting! It's because Provincial raised our fees by \$5, and as a branch we decided to absorb the cost, but we didn't tell Provincial, so the online membership renewal was \$5 extra.

6. Others:

Elizabeth Gilchrist asked about the Mall Event. If the Mall Event is to happen, Elizabeth will need to come to the June meeting with a plan and a committee in place.

Sharon Poon moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dianne Szarapka.

Adjournment