

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

Wednesday, June 21st, 2017

Northwood United Church, 10am

Attendees:

Maureen Hollins
Helga Murray
Leslie Chen
Faye Mulder
Calla Strain
Jennifer Condie
Dianne Szarapka
Carmen Roberts
Yvette Rowledge

Edward Zhou
Esther Neufeld
Belinda Li
Debbie Boganes
Sylvia Leigh
Debbie Nagy
Lea Tsui
Cynthia Goddard
Rose Scott

Catherine Bundt
Elizabeth Gilchrist
Colleen Branson
Jamie Eguia
Andrea Mesana
Wendy Chan
Phyllis Heppner
(Kamela Vinjau)
(Christy Kuettel)

Welcome by Helga Murray, President

New member: Edward Zhou

Minutes of the April 19th meeting are posted on our website.

Moved by Leslie Chen and seconded by Catherine Bundt to adopt the minutes as circulated.

Treasurer's Report:

Total General Account	\$24,305.69
Total Festival Account	\$ 7,636.95

Committee Reports

1. Junior Festival: Christy Kuettel

We had a meeting at the beginning of May to debrief the festival this year. We're still looking for a few more people to get involved, so if you'd like to join our team, please contact me.

For our festival next year (2018), we will be having Barbara Siemens and Alan Crane, both of whom are RCM examiners.

Here is Alan Crane's bio:

Alan Crane holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Western Ontario and a Master of Music in Piano Performance from UBC. For the past thirty years, he has been teaching a full class of students ranging from young beginners to pre-professional young musicians to adults. Mr. Crane's students routinely win awards in music festivals and earn high marks on their Royal Conservatory of Music examinations.

In addition to being on the faculty of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music, where he recently completed a term as Chair of the Piano Department, Mr. Crane teaches part-time at the Langley Community Music School where he has served as Coordinator of the Piano Program. As well as teaching, Alan Crane is a regular performer, both as a chamber musician (he is a co-director of the popular series West Coast Chamber Music) and as an accompanist. He is also active as a festival adjudicator and is a member of the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Music.

2. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen & Maureen Hollins

We are very excited to announce that we have secured our second adjudicator! For our festival, we will be having May Ling Kwok and Corey Hamm as our adjudicators.

Kevin Thompson has drafted a letter to promote our South Fraser Music Festival and to invite corporations to join in supporting us financially.

Maureen read out the letter and passed it out to the members at the meeting.

Discussion:

- We will edit the letter, add the "cheques to be payable to _____", and also have it printed on BCRMTA letterhead.
- This letter is an aid to make our initial presence known; it is validation and affirmation about who we are and where we come from, so that we feel more comfortable going to

the corporations and telling them about our festival.

- We should look through the notes from Concerto Stars (from Brenda Sleightholme's folder), get the list of sponsors, and write letters to them.
- We need to think about how to organize it so we are not all hitting the same place.
- It's best when someone has a connection with the organization.

We will edit the letter and post it online.

3. Webmaster's Report: Kevin Thompson (read by Leslie Chen)

The upgrades mentioned last meeting are all in place now. Teachers have the option to hide their phone numbers on the public pages. We have 'Student Teacher' and 'Associate' as two new categories. The only change is the student teacher category does not support profiles. And the security upgrade has taken place.

Regarding branch notices, I try to gather items together for one hit. Doesn't always work that way. A question for the membership, am I sending out too many notices?

[Members' response: NO.]

Business

1. Composition Workshop: Jennifer Condie

On Wednesday, May 17th, we had a composition workshop with the enthusiastic Katerina Gimon. Katerina's passion for creating was inspiring, as was her reassurance that composing requires many 'crummy first drafts' before you get the composition you want. She showed us a variety of 'extended techniques' inside the piano, gave us some improvising exercises, and introduced ways of thinking about creating a 'recipe' for a student which would help them begin the composition journey.

I was thrilled with the turnout – over twenty people! We more than broke even, as my guesses on numbers were conservative. This was also due, in part, to Kevin's e-mail message sent out right before the event.

Katerina's final comment to me in the car was this (paraphrased): 'We are all composing all the time...this conversation is a composition, so we all should feel free to try it.' I hope we can all bring that kind of openness to our composition teaching.

2. Canada Music Week 2017: Kevin Thompson (read by Leslie Chen)

After the wonderful composition workshop, I hope everyone is getting their students excited about composing over the summer. October 22 is the deadline for entries. Compositions will be played in the Canada Music Week recital and we are hoping to make a book of the compositions.

Students who are not able to notate their compositions themselves or by their teachers, can send them to Rob Hollins before October 1. (He will accept compositions notated on staff lines and do his best to transcribe them.) Deadline for all entries is October 22.

We are also looking for artwork for the cover, so perhaps you have some students who may be interested in creating something in this regard.

Suggestion made at the meeting: Maybe the artwork should say "Canada 150."

3. Provincial Council Report: Colleen Branson

(Report forgotten at home.)

4. Sept 2018 BC Piano Competition: Kevin Thompson (read by Leslie Chen)

Have hit a bit of a snag. I was hoping to secure the Wheelhouse Theatre in South Surrey, but they just sent me an email saying the rental request has been refused. Will now start to explore other options. The White Rock Baptist has been suggested. It is a bit large, seats 800 but has a sloped floor. The date is set for September 22, 2018. Once the venue is in place, then we will start to look for an adjudicator. All suggestions are welcome!

5. Fee Survey Results: Kevin Thompson (read by Leslie Chen)

33 teachers replied to the fee survey. Fees for the teaching year were from \$35 - \$75 per hour. Five were below \$50. Twelve were in the \$50's. Thirteen were in the \$60's and three in the \$70's. The majority is between \$50 and \$60. Perhaps this should be the suggested fee range for 2017-18 for South Fraser Branch.

Suggestion made at meeting:

Maybe we should say "Recommended fee of at least \$50 for the branch."

6. CMT Magazine Poll Results: Helga Murray

18 for Paper

10 for Digital Download

3 for Digital App View

2 for Browser View

7. Thank You For the Music Society: Helga Murray

Thank You for the Music Society is a non-profit society started by Shelley Gimbel – a former member of our South Fraser branch, and a very generous supporter of our branch, including at the festival. Their mission is to bring music (pianos) into Surrey schools, and she has been working very hard towards that.

In collaboration with the Surrey School Board, they are now organizing a Practice-a-thon, with the outcome of assisting the Surrey School Board providing music goals of new acoustics, hybrids and stage pianos. The event will consist of pledges, students practicing and the collection of money raised.

2018. Shelley has invited our branch to be in partnership for this event (taking place in January 2018), and would like to come present it at our fall meeting.

[A quick poll showed that members at the meeting were in favour of this.]

8. Announcements:

Michael Noble Masterclass:

This will be held on Sunday, July 30th at Helga Murray's studio. It is part of a series of masterclasses with artists invited to perform at the MuzeWest concert series organized by Jennifer West. This time, we are having Michael Noble, who is coming from Europe. Three students will perform in this masterclass, followed by a barbeque in the backyard, after which we will have a concert by Michael Noble. For those interested in attending, the fee is \$20. Students performing in the masterclass will have 45 minutes (including

teaching time); the fee is \$75 per student. Please let me know if you have AR students interested in participating in this masterclass.

9. Others:

Elizabeth Gilchrist raised the Mall Event:

Elizabeth had a talk with Willowbrook mall about a December showcase; they want Elizabeth to contact them again in middle of July. Other than Elizabeth, Belinda Li and Natalia Pardalis are also on board with helping to organize this. They are planning on doing a Sunday afternoon for this Christmas mall event. Elizabeth agreed at this meeting that in order for this event to go ahead, she will send a report **by the end of July** to the executives, outlining a plan.

Elizabeth Gilchrist moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Roundtable Discussion

Lunch

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017-2018

Meeting Dates: Sept 20 / Nov 15 / Jan17 / April 18 / June 20

Junior Festival: February 19th – 24th, 2018

Senior Festival: February 26th – March 3rd, 2018