

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association
Wednesday, November 15th, 2017
Northwood United Church, 10am

Attendees:

Helga Murray	Sandra Starek	Malene Bartsch
Kevin Thompson	Debbie Nagy	Christy Kuettel
Leslie Chen	Rick Dorfer	Léa Tsui
Calla Strain	Katy Messcu	Maureen Hollins
Catherine Bundt	Debbie Boganes	Jennifer Condie
Paulette Nielsen	Esther Neufeld	
Carmen Roberts	Yvette Rowledge	

Welcome by Helga Murray, President

New member: Helga welcomed Nancy Wu to our branch. However, she was absent.

Minutes of the September 20th meeting are posted on our website.

Moved by Leslie Chen, seconded by Debbie Nagy to adopt the minutes as circulated.

Treasurer's Report: (as of October 31st, 2017)

Total General Account	\$ 24,512.29
Total Festival Account	\$ 7,636.07

Committee Reports

1. Junior Festival: Christy Kuettel

We have a great committee! Our last meeting was on October 25th.

The entry fees are the same this year. The duties have changed: If you have 1 – 5 entries, that's 1 duty. If you have 6 – 10 entries, that's 2 duties. This is the same as the Senior Festival this year. Our deadline is the same as the Senior Festival's. This year, you can pay by E-transfers, made out to Dianne, with the password "festival2018." Please make sure that your Junior Festival E-transfer is separate from your Senior Festival E-transfer! You can still pay by cheque, but send it in early! The entry forms will be up online tonight.

We have Alan Crane and Barbara Siemens as our adjudicators.

2. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen

Here are some reminders:

- 1) This year, the payment deadline is same as the entries deadline: December 3rd! Please make sure you get your payments in the same time as your entries!
- 2) As Christy already mentioned, payment can be made via cheque (mailed early!) or via E-transfer online (with the password "festival2018").
- 3) On the Teacher's Form online, when you choose the number of programs you are ordering, please remember to include one for yourself.
- 4) At the festival classes, please make sure your students are present at the beginning of their festival class during roll-call.
- 5) Gold winners who receive 2 Gold's need to let me know their chosen piece for the Celebration Recital by 10pm Thursday evening (*not* Friday morning!).
- 6) Please remember that each student's two entries must be from different periods!
- 7) Studies should be entered in the "Etudes" category and not in other categories (like Romantic, 21st-Century...etc.)
- 8) Here are the new duty allotments:

1 – 5 entries = 1 duty
6 – 10 entries = 2 duties
11 – 20 entries = 3 duties
21 – 30 entries = 4 duties
31 – 40 entries = 5 duties
- 9) We will be asking the Junior Festival committee members (with students in the Senior festival) to help out with duties too. If you cannot do your duties, please send in a duty fee of \$50 per duty.

Geneviene Wong has been our Duties Coordinator for the Senior Festival for the past three years. She is now no longer able to continue with this role for our festival, and so we are looking for someone to and take her position on our team. She has the templates, and is more than happy to show you how to coordinate and schedule the duties. If anyone would like to be our new Duties Coordinator, please contact Leslie Chen.

Maureen Hollins came up and started a discussion on duties.

Bye the end of the discussion, it was decided that from now on, teachers who volunteer to do duties in addition to their own duties, will be paid \$50 per duty shift.

On the teacher's Form online, we will add "I am available for paid duties" for teachers to state whether they would be up for doing extra duties.

3. String Festival Update: Rick Dorfer

I have taken on the responsibility of the Strings Festival since the Birstons are only in Vancouver now. (It's overwhelming!)

On October 18th, we had a meeting with around 5 teachers. We are looking at holding the Strings Festival on the Family Day weekend in February. It will be 2 full days, spread over three. We started looking at alternative venues to save on cost to have a bit more for the adjudicator's travel stipend. We are currently 90% set on holding it at St. John's Presbyterian Church in White Rock.

We have a fairly firm commitment from Lucy Shaw from Seattle to come be our adjudicator, but her husband has lymphoma... She seems quite keen, as they are looking to move back to Canada. (If they move back, there would be no work permit issue.)

Just a note related to the piano festival duties: I know that government workers (e.g. CRA employees) get a paid day to go volunteer! If you have students' parents who are government workers, you might want to consider asking them to help out (volunteer) at the festival.

4. Provincial Council Report: Kevin Thompson

I'd like to welcome Maureen Hollins to our Provincial Council.

September 24th, 2017 was the 567th meeting of the Provincial Council in Richmond. Delegates from around the province met to discuss the running of BCRMTA.

First, our finances are in good order.

The "Heritage Fund Branch Continuing Education Project" deadline for application is December 31st, 2017. This year the fund is being used to support Branches with their Canada 150 celebrations for the amount of \$200.

The provincial membership stands at 930 – an increase of 18 from April 2017.

The STA's in BC will now be allowed to stay as STA's indefinitely. However, after five years, they will pay the full membership fees if they have not moved to full RMT status.

The Musical Community Service Awards program is being expanded. Currently, Bronze is 10 hours, Silver 35 and Gold 60. There are three new categories. Elite – 100 hours, Premium – 200 hours and Optimum – 300 hours. These new names are open for change.

Canada Music Week Writing Contest: Starting in April of 2018, all entries will be done online. We've got lots of compositions from our branch that could be submitted, so teachers, explore this with your students.

Progressions Magazine is now available as an app. Look for more info in the fall issue of the magazine. Canadian Music Teacher Magazine (CF) is also available online now.

The next National Conference will be in Winnipeg, Manitoba July 3-6 2019.

The next BCRMTA Conference will be hosted by Mid-Island branch in 2020. Stay tuned for more info.

There are a few positions open on Provincial Council: BC Piano Competition chair, Young Artist chair and 2nd Vice President. If you think you might be interested, talk to me or get in touch with Joanne Lougheed at president@bcrmta.bc.ca . Matthew Chan is our new provincial treasurer.

5. Webmaster Report: Kevin Thompson

We currently have 104 members on our mailing list. I've discovered a small problem with a few members. Apparently the Mail Chimp program will 'clean' an address if it is bounced. This means that member stops getting emails. There are currently two and up to five teachers that have been 'cleaned'. Please let me know if you think you have been dropped from the mailing list.

Business

1. Canada 150 Compositions Book: Kevin Thompson

I will be sending this off to Staples to print on Monday. There are 60 pages, 36 compositions, and 9 teachers represented. Thank you to Leslie Chen and to Rob Hollins for scoring the compositions. Composers will each get a copy of the book for free. After that, students and teachers can purchase a copy for \$10 (cash only, please!). Please let me know if you'd like to order a copy. We can hand these out to the composer-performers at the Canada Music Week Recitals.

2. Canada Music Week Recitals: Maureen Hollins

The date is Saturday, November 25th – one recital at 5:30pm; the other at 7:30pm. We have two flautists, 1 singer, and cake! There are 13 teachers represented, and 60 kids. Katya Pine will come to speak. Come hear the new compositions! You don't need to have students playing in these recitals to come and hear them. The drafts of the two recital programs will be up tonight or tomorrow. Please, no changes in time requests now that they are set; only changes to spellings, please!

3. Forrest Kinney Workshop: Marlene Bartsch

The registrations are coming well. We are switching the days for PatternPlay vs. ChordPlay from last time, so that those who could not attend on a specific day last time might be able to attend this time. Please note that there was an error in the notice sent out – ChordPlay is on SATURDAY, PatternPlay on SUNDAY, and Level 2 (of PatternPlay) is on the Monday morning. I will now pass around the sign-up sheet. You can also register via E-mail and send me an E-transfer or cheque.

4. September 2018 BC Piano Competition: Kevin Thompson

We (the South Fraser branch) are hosting the BC Piano Competition. The date is September 22, 2018, and it will be held at White Rock Baptist Church. Our confirmed judge is Kay Zavislak from Western Washington University.

For our branch, it would be fantastic to have a rep. The branch application will be online with the rules for BCRMTA as well as CFMTA. Be sure to read these carefully if you think you might have a student who might be interested in this competition. Deadline for branch entries is February 1, 2018.

If we have more than one entry for our branch, the play-off will likely be held the week of the Junior Festival, at this church.

5. Announcements:

1) Semiahmoo Academy: Helga Murray

The Semiahmoo Music Academy is looking for at least 1 teacher to teach on a Sunday. It would be around 5 hours of teaching. Cheryl Finn asked me to pass this on to the membership in case anyone is looking for extra work. You can reach her on her cell phone at 604-518-5421, or you can E-mail her at semiahmooacademy@gmail.com .

2) Masterclass: Helga Murray

You are all invited to attend the upcoming masterclass with Asiya Korepanova at my studio on Sunday, November 26th. She is a Russian-American pianist, and she is very into the arts (including drawing, writing poetry, painting...etc.). She will be doing a whole bunch of events here in Vancouver before coming to my house for the masterclass and doing the house concert. The masterclass will start at 5pm (unless we have a fourth student playing for the masterclass). Please let me know if you'd like to come. The cost is \$20 to audit.

6. Thank You For the Music Society – Practice-a-Thon: Shelley Gimbel

To recap, we are trying to practice for a couple of weeks to raise and donate money to Surrey schools for stage pianos and acoustic pianos.

The Practice-a-Thon is live as of now. (So far, we have raised \$100!)

There is a Teacher Package and a Student Package. There is a chart showing you how to do a profile. These have been sent out to the teachers via E-mail.

We have reached out to a few people to ask for help translating the packages into Mandarin for students.

Everyone (including students!) will sign up as an individual (because this will make handling cash/cheques...etc. will be simpler that way).

In December, you can do a “What is a Practice-a-Thon?” and tweak it according to your personality.

We are challenging you all – encouraging you all to practice along with your students!

This project is a way to spread awareness that music is getting taken away from our community.

There are prizes for studios. The top studio gets a 3-4 night stay in Tofino!

The top prize for participants (students) is worth \$500 (e.g. an iPad).

Today is live for the teachers. You have a month to get ready.

December 15th is the deadline for students to register and to start to get pledges.

January 15th to 28th are the dates of the Practice-a-Thon.

10% of the funds raised will go towards the South Fraser music festival’s scholarship fund.

If you are donating at least \$25 directly to the Surrey school board, they can probably write you a tax receipt. However, our charity at the moment cannot do tax receipts for you. (But if say there is a donation of \$500, do talk to me.)

We would love to have around 60 teachers participate in this Practice-a-Thon. (Right now, we have maybe 40 who are interested but have not registered.)

For the pledges, I personally would do just a flat rate: for example, ten cents per minute.

For offline donations, you can either collect it, post it on their website, or post it as an online donation.

Your username is for logging in. Also, the top three usernames will appear on the website.

(All of this might make more sense once you go online and see it visually.)

I have no problem coming to your studios if you'd like help signing up online.

Helga mentioned the idea that you can take your laptop into your studio, and sit down with each student in their lessons to fill in their information and help them sign up online.

Here is the link for the Practice-a-Thon: <http://raiseathon.ca/thankyouforthemusic>

Adjournment