

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

Wednesday, September 19th, 2018

Northwood United Church, 10am

Attendees:

Kevin Thompson

Helga Murray

Leslie Chen

Christy Kuettel

Jamie Eguia

Paulette Nielsen

Catherine Bundt

Alison d'Entremont

Michelle Bumpus

Colleen Branson

Dianne Szarapka

Jen Condie

Calla Strain

Jamie Eguia

Eva Law

Marlene Bartsch

Sharon Poon

Yvette Rowledge

Jennifer Silva

Lea Tsui

Maureen Hollins

Carmen Roberts

Wendy Chan

Sharon Ku

Darlene Brigidear

Welcome: New member: Hui Zhang – voice (Guildford) – absent

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

Moved by Leslie Chen, seconded by Marlene Bartsch to adopt the minutes as circulated.

Treasurer's Report:

Total General Account: \$26,574.16

Total Festival Account: \$6,231.18

Pin Presentations: 50-year pin: Darlene Brigidear

Committee Reports

1. Website Report: Kevin Thompson

Announcement from Elizabeth and Marcel Bergmann:

You are invited to an open dress rehearsal of The Canadian Piano Quartet from 5-6 pm

on Friday Sept 21 at White Rock Baptist Church. The Bergmann Duo and the Duo Turgeon will be performing pieces for 2 pianos, 8 hands from the following list:

<http://whiterockconcerts.com/sept-21-2018/>

This dress rehearsal is free of charge.

Regarding the website:

From Jerry, Google Maps platform is starting a paid structure using its maps. It requires all clients using Google Maps services, including using on website, to have a registered account & valid payment method on file. For anyone using Google Maps without proper account, following result is expected.

The web site has been updated to show meeting dates (go to the events tab) as well the upcoming workshops and festival dates.

2. Junior Festival: Christy Kuettel

The Junior Festival will be held February 25 – March 2nd. Jean Brown and Bernie Duerksen are our returning adjudicators. Our deadline to register is December 3rd. I am currently looking for people to join our fun team. Our meetings will be during the week in the mornings. I encourage you, if you have a little bit of space in your schedule, to join our team.

3. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen & Maureen Hollins

The Senior Festival will be held March 4th – 9th. As Christy already mentioned, the deadline to register (and make payments) is December 3rd. Please remember to read the revised Syllabus! Here are some clarifications:

- Both the Junior and Senior festival now have no restrictions on the number of entries per student.
- Each student may not enter a category more than once. (E.g. may not enter 20th Century class twice.)
- Students need to have entered 2 solos to be eligible for scholarships (in both festivals).
- If a student has entered 1 solo piece and 1 ensemble piece, he/she is still not eligible for solo scholarships.
- Students may enter ensembles without entering solo pieces.

Also, please remember that we will be following Kevin and Sharon's Duties Proposal for festivals this year. (6 entries per duty. Teachers who have 3 or more duties will be able

to do one afternoon duty on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday and have it count as two duties. We will also be having a welcome lunch the Monday of each festival.)

For our festival adjudicators this year, we have Michael Noble and Miranda Wong.

When Michael Noble came to do a masterclass at Helga's last summer, he was so inspiring and helpful to the students that, at that time, it was understood that he was coming at our festival time of the year to do a recital with MuzeWest, and therefore we could piggyback (e.g. plane fares, accommodation...etc.) and make it work. We had gone ahead and excitedly brought in someone who was young and new to us. Unfortunately, the recital idea has fallen through, and he's also moved to New York. You can imagine that we are now looking at quite a sizeable plane fare and accommodation.

There is a bright side! Marlene's husband is doing really well and recuperating, and he is a hot-shot fundraiser! He is not going to raise the money *for* us, but he has volunteered to guide us and set up some sort of advocacy for us (teaching us "how to do it"). So we are looking for a couple of people to go for coffee with him and take this on. Maureen will be there, but we need other people involved! We don't want to use up the coffers of our supply of money, and I know there is money out there. Please talk to me. We do need some money. We need you to help us with this process.

One of the reasons we've opened it to more classes is to generate more funds. (Jen Condie suggested that we all enter more *Junior* students, as this tends to generate more profit.)

It is a time for an influx of new ideas, new ways of doing things for the piano students...etc. We want very much for folks, like Michael Noble, who are training at the highest level and have a tie-in to also educating young pianists, for them to be here inspiring us. We are worth it. So, we should all come and learn from him as well.

The rates for the festival classes are staying the same this year.

4. Festival Program: Wendy Chan

I feel compelled to talk about the workload for the program. Due to a recent injury to my hand, I need to be cautious about the number of hours I spend at the computer with the repetitive tasks (e.g. typing at the keyboard). I am seeing a physiotherapist for tendonitis on both of my hands. I am wondering if anybody can join me in doing the festival program. It would mostly be data entry. Most of the workload involves the schedules, getting the pages (classes onto the pages). There is a lot of copying and pasting from the information on a spreadsheet (not necessarily typing). On average, last year's festival program was maybe around 3 weeks' worth of work (a lot of the mornings). I would send files to whoever is helping me – Word documents and template – to help combine the files together.

Michelle Bumpus volunteered to help! ☺

5. Professional Development: Wendy Chan & Catherine Bundt

We have two workshops planned so far, and one more in the works:

1) Tara Gaertner

Tara teaches at MYC and is also an adjunct professor at UBC, doing lectures in occupational science and occupational therapy. She has a PhD in neuroscience.

I heard her presentation at an MYC conference years ago and was very impressed. She shared fascinating insights on the musical brain from the experience of a neuroscientist, a music teacher, a writer and speaker. It was a very lively presentation and all the teachers were so engaged.

We have her booked for Sunday, October 14th, from 2pm – 3:30pm here in the Fireside Room. She will give a presentation for 1 hour, and then do Q & A for half an hour. The topic is “Music and Motor Control.” Other topics she’s presented before include “The Effects of Musical Training,” “The Neuroscience of Practicing,” “The Neuroscience of Motivation in Music Practice,” and “The Science Behind Reading Music.” Unfortunately, we were unable to book her on a weekday, as she’s been accepted to medical school this year and is busy on weekdays, she is currently only available on the Sunday.

2) Bergmann Duo

This will be a masterclass, involving teachers who want to participate, and/or their students who want to participate. On the form, teachers will indicate their interest. This workshop will be held at Tom Lee Langley. There is a limit of 40 seats. We are also encouraging teachers to pair up to play duos (two-piano music or piano duets), and bring it in to play for the Bergmanns. They will discuss repertoire of duets and duos, and then have a masterclass with either us teachers or our students as performers. The Bergmanns are great, energetic, and fabulous pianists. (They are now the Artistic Directors of the White Rock Concert Society, and generally they like to open the season with their performance.)

3) After the Bergmanns, we will probably have one more workshop with RedLeaf Music Productions and Canadian composers, for the second half of the year.

These workshops will be \$20 per session. We will send out a link to register for these workshops online.

Business:

1. September 2018 BC Piano Competition: Kevin Thompson

The big event is this Saturday, at White Rock Baptist Church! We have a few more big posters and handouts available. The Semi-finals are 1pm to 4pm with a coffee break in the middle. There are 7 performers, each with a maximum-20-minute program.

Encourage your students (even the little ones) to come! Come support our South Fraser rep, Emma Hoglund. She recently did a house concert at Tom Lee, and it was packed – 65 people came to watch.

I am requesting help from the South Fraser branch. We are looking for drivers. We need somebody to pick up two people arriving at the airport at 12:21pm and 1:10pm (pick them up at Arrivals and drive them to White Rock Baptist Church). Whoever can help pick up these two people will get all-day ticket or two evening tickets.

We are also looking for 1 more person for the ticket desk. So far, we have Lea (Helga's student), Debbie Nagy, and Darlene Brigidear.

Colleen volunteered to help out at the ticket desk.

For dinner, we have booked some space at the Ocean Park Pub & Pizzeria for 5pm – 7pm. Teachers are welcome to join us.

2. Canada Music Week: Maureen Hollins

Would you like something happening at the end of November? If you get students ready for this Canada Music Week, then they will be ready for the RedLeaf workshop in the new year.

The majority of members present showed they want a Canada Music Week recital.

It will be on a Saturday, either November 24th or 17th.

It is my understanding that we enter around 6 students (per teacher).

2. "Find Your Forte" Presentation: Jamie Eguia

A friend of mine, Marissa, and I have been planning this program for 2 years now. "Find Your Forte" is a Surrey-based program that provides free music lessons to children in the foster care system. (My family has been fostering children for many years.)

Right now, we have 3 students every Saturday morning. We want to expand it to more kids and also to low-income kids.

Do you have any pedagogy students or level 8 students to come volunteer-teacher these kids? We applied to the City of Surrey for a Cultural Grant – we would be using this grant to pay our piano teachers.

There will be article in the Surrey Now-Leader – in print either this Thursday or Friday.

So far, we only have me and Marissa teaching. The three students are beginner students. We are teaching at Fleetwood CRC (a church) located at 92nd Ave and 160th St. They have a fireside room with a piano. The foster parents already have keyboards at home.

We are wanting 3 teachers, perhaps teaching on a rotational basis. The minimum age requirement for teachers would be fifteen/sixteen years old. Because these lessons are held at a church, the church requires a Criminal Record background check for teachers.

If you have any pedagogy or level 8+ students interested in taking this opportunity to teach foster kids, please contact me. Thank you!

2. Round table Discussion: Kevin Thompson

1) “Floating weeks” (Kevin Thompson)

2) Publications you can’t do without

-The Shaak

-Piano Safari – great for intervallic reading!

-Hello Piano: for little 3 – 5 year-old beginners. Delivered from Germany. By Irina Mints.

-The Art of Pedagogy Facebook page often has useful suggestions

Catherine Bundt moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Our next meeting will be November 21st, 2018.