

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

**Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Northwood United Church, 10am

Attendees:

Leslie Chen	Rebecca Yew	Sharon Farenhorst
Susan Olsen	Dianne Szarapka	Karen Daggett
Helga Murray	Yvette Rowledge	Lea Tsui
Kevin Thompson	Esther Neufeld	Maureen Hollins
Calla Strain	Alison d'Entremont	Carmen Roberts
Sylvia Leigh	Catherine Bundt	Jennifer Condie

**Minutes** of the November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting are posted on our website.

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

**Treasurer's Report:**

Total General Account: \$25,954.38

Total Festival Account: \$6,231.33

Please remember to renew your membership online! The deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>. After that, you will be charged an extra \$50.

Some people often like to donate money towards the festival scholarship fund in memory of someone or in celebration of an event.

Suggestion: We should put a note in the festival program and in the Celebration Recital programs – If the general public wants to make a donation to the festival scholarship fund in celebration of or in memory of a loved one, we'd be happy to do that. We would give them an advertising receipt. They would be mentioned in the following year's festival program.

## **Committee Reports**

### **1. Festival Report:** Leslie Chen

#### **Junior Festival:**

Teachers can expect their student performance schedules by the end of the week.

#### **Senior Festival:**

This year, we have 10 more entries.

We are looking for someone to do the following two paid duties:

- 1) Tuesday afternoon Desk Duty in the Sanctuary
- 2) Wednesday afternoon Desk Duty in the Fireside Room

If you are able to take one of these duties, please let me know.

#### **Programs:**

Wendy is hoping to finish the program order and place it next week. Programs should arrive around the second week of February. Once they arrive, we will let teachers know and they can select their pick-up location.

### **2. Professional Development:** Catherine Bundt

The Bergmann Duo Workshop will be the coming Monday, January 21, from 10am to noon at Tom Lee Music in Langley. They will spend the first part of the workshop talking about general tips and repertoire for ensemble playing, and then we'll move into the masterclass segment. There are 4 confirmed ensemble teams playing. After, they will also have a time for teachers to ask questions about duo/ensemble works. Tickets are \$20. We have 17 teachers registered to come. You can pay on the day; we will have tickets there for you.

## **Business:**

### **1. Canada Music Week:** Maureen Hollins

We are on the front page of the magazine!

We had 8 teachers represented in the 41 performances. There was a focus this year to a gentleman, Frank Levin, who is a Canadian composer – Eva Law had several of her students use his resources. It was great having him here. He said a few words about where his compositions came from. Overall, I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the

kids. Several teachers noticed that. The kids were really excited to be there. Thank you to all the teachers who sent their students to perform in this recital!

Other notes:

-Yvette Rowledge suggested having Lorna Paterson for next year's Canada Music Week Recital. (She lives in town, about 20 minutes away.)

(-The gift bags to the students are from Maureen Hollin's own budget.)

## **2. Executive Elections:** Susan Olsen

Susan Olsen, as our past-president ("presiding officer"), conducted the election:

All the current executive are willing to stand:

President (for a term of 2 years) – Helga Murray

Vice-President (for a term of 2 years) – Marlene Bartsch

Treasurer (for a term of 2 years) – Sylvia Leigh

Secretary (for a term of 2 years) – Leslie Chen

Side note: Calla Strain has kindly agreed to come on board as a Director.

## **3. Announcement:** Helga Murray

On Sunday, February 3rd, there will be a masterclass and house concert at my studio. The artist is Han Chen, Raeburn Prize Winner of the Honens International Piano Competition 2018. The masterclass begins at 5:00pm and continues to 7:00pm. There will then be a refreshment break and then the house concert will begin at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$25.00 and include complimentary refreshments. You are all welcome to attend!

## **4. Festival Brainstorm:** Maureen Hollins

On the directors' table, we talk a lot about envisioning, money, the future, and newness. Newness spoke to us about being able to bring in new ideas in the form of adjudicators

from far away and that means more money. Another thing we are concerned about are numbers. 18 members are present at our meetings out of 100 in our branch. Where are the other 80? How often do we see them?

We also noticed that we tend to get stuck on the festival. We come together at festival time, and that's it.

So we are now brainstorming: Are there any ideas from all of you about ways to create events that would bring together the teachers (and not about the festival)?

Let's start with – why do you come to the festival?

This question came from a meeting with Brad, Marlene's husband, who is a hot-shot fundraiser.

Here is a list of the words and ideas that were written down on Maureen's brainstorming board:

#### Why do you come to the festival?

- student development
- gives students a goal
- good exam preparation
- process!
- helps students build confidence
- learning (for teachers)
- a variety of adjudicators (comments)
- instant feedback
- student camaraderie
- performance opportunity
- hearing other students perform
- new repertoire
- good value for the money
- energy
- community
- food
- a dedicated annual time
- central to the studio year

#### Ideas for other non-Festival events to bring teachers together:

- "In-house" focus workshops: senior teachers teaching/showing newer students
- pedagogy
- student teacher mentorship

-“safe” question time

→ workshop for April? (at the meeting?)

→ Christmas lunches in the past

→ coffee for teachers of the area (e.g. the White Rock group that meets regularly at the Yucca Tree Café)

→ phoning committee to phone up teachers: - teacher feels valued

- personal one-to-one connection

- you could offer to pick up someone and bring them to the meeting

1) Split the list of branch members

2) Create a “questions” list from which you can ask them

3) Invite them to the meeting/to events

4) Find out why they have not been coming to meetings

(e.g. Are they just in for the insurance?)

5) Mark it down on the list so we will know for the future.

*Kevin Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting.*

Adjournment

Our next meeting will be April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019.