

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

Wednesday, April 17th, 2018

Northwood United Church, 10am

Attendees:

Helga Murray	Jennifer Silva	Paulette Nielsen
Kevin Thompson	Esther Neufeld	Wendy Chan
Leah Lifton	Christy Kuettel	Janet Gonzales
Leslie Chen	Amanda Lee	Elizabeth Gilchrist
Sylvia Leigh	Ingrid Verseveldt	Carmen Roberts
Catherine Bundt	Maureen Hollins	Andrea Mesana
Marlene Bartsch	Berva Warkentin	Jennifer Condie
Calla Strain	Faye Mulder	Colleen Branson
Art Zhang	Dianne Szarapka	Christy Kuettel
Sandra Starek	Léa Tsui	
Alison d'Entremont	Sharon Farenhorst	

Welcome: We welcome Art Zhang (coming for the first time), and those who are coming back after a long time: Faye Mulder, Amanda Lee, and Janet Gonzales.

Minutes of the January 16th meeting are posted on our website.

Moved by Leslie Chen, seconded by Maureen Hollins to adopt the minutes as circulated.

Treasurer's Report:

Sylvia presented the proposed budget for 2019 – 2020.

Pin Presentations: 25-year pins were presented to:

Marlene Bartsch
Claudia Muir (absent)
Megumi Otani (absent)

Committee Reports

1. Website Report: Kevin Thompson

Membership: I received the updated membership list from Joyce March 18. South Fraser has three student teachers: Leah Lifton, Adele Wheeler and Dianna Meister. Two life members: Carol Shinkewski and Susan Olsen. Our membership now stands at 86 as of March 18. Eight teachers did not renew.

Regarding the branch newsletter: if you are using the default address @southfrasermusic.com and at some point change your home email address, Mailchimp will continue to forward all branch emails to you old address. Jerry needs to make a change in the basement of the site so that the new address is there. This is not something I can do. Let me know if you change email addresses.

Anyone not getting branch notices? Be sure to let me know.

2. Junior Festival: Christy Kuettel

We had an exciting festival week! We did lose an adjudicator (due to sickness), but thankfully were able to find excellent substitutes: Maureen Hollins and Brian Taylor.

We were trying to increase participation by not limiting the number of entries per student. Our numbers did go up a little bit. We had 418 single entries and 22 ensemble entries from a total of 25 teachers. We'd like to see that number go up.

Looking to next year: our committee has decided to add a few extra classes: Etudes, Pop, and Composition. We really want to see this be a successful composition class, as it will be our first time. I really support this in my studio and am encouraging you all to support it in your studios too. We want it to be amazing! Katya Pine has agreed to be the adjudicator for the composition part of our festival. She's involved with the KPU Composition Festival coming up too.

We have booked our adjudicators for next year: Murray Nichol and Dr. Greg Caisley (and Katya Pine for composition). The dates are February 24 – 29.

3. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen & Maureen Hollins

We had a great festival week March 4th – 9th with Miranda Wong and Michael Noble as our adjudicators. This year, we had 206 entries from 24 teachers. (Last year, we had 196

entries from 19 teachers.) Shelley Gimbel from Tom Lee gave us a generous 50% discount off the Tom Lee pianos. The branch contributed \$2094.00 towards the Senior Festival account. We now have a balance of \$492.87.

A big thank-you to my committee members: Maureen – who co-chaired with me and also did the receptions for the recitals; Dianne – our treasurer; and Jane Hou – our Duties Coordinator. If anyone would like to join our team, please let me know!

The 2020 Senior Festival will be held March 2nd – 7th. We have one adjudicator confirmed so far: Edwin Gnant from Alberta. He is a highly-recommended professor and author and a Chopin specialist. He has done a presentation on Chopin at the Victoria branch. He has also been invited to be the adjudicator at the provincial conference in 2021! We are very pleased he will be coming to adjudicate our festival, and are working on having him do a presentation during our festival week as a professional development event for both our teachers and our students.

4. Festival Program: Wendy Chan

Doing the festival program the past few years has been a rather large project, but it was fun. Unfortunately, I can no longer continue, because I am no longer able to commit to the time. It's been a challenge for me. I found that I had no time to spend with my family over winter break the past few years due to working on the program. I would love for someone to volunteer. Right now, it is a combined Junior-and-Senior program. If we have more people working on the program, we should have the program split into a Junior program and a Senior program. For the Junior program, Alison d'Entremont has stepped forward. We are looking for someone to take over the Senior program.

For the program, I usually design and put together the program using Adobe and Design. I have the template set up. My task was to create the tables and the inside pages for the program. The software is expensive, and it's a rather large learning curve, so I do not think it is necessarily for someone to buy the software to do the festival program.

What I can do is set it up in Word, with the dimensions of the program already in place. The only work required for someone to do would be to get the class schedules up. I am willing to take time to train whoever is taking this on. We can explore making it into a PDF file. If that works, then we would still be able to combine the two programs.

I can still do the adjudication sheets and the certificates. If the festival program is still combined, I can still do the cover design of the program.

➔ Leah Lifton has volunteered to do the Senior program.

At the executive meeting, we also mentioned the possibility of having online-only programs. However, I think we all favour having booklet programs.

From now on, we need to charge \$5 per program, because the cost of the program is going up.

Elizabeth Gilchrist suggested we can have extra programs for sale at the festival (e.g. for grandparents and other people coming to watch).

5. Professional Development: Helga Murray

Catherine Bundt, Wendy Chan, and I are on the Professional Development committee. So far, we are planning to have Jennifer Condie and her research partner coming to do a presentation on Alexander Technique principles and applications to teaching. We will be sending out the details soon.

If anyone has any ideas about what they would like to see happen in terms of Professional Development, please talk to one of us. We will also be sending out a survey soon.

Business:

1. Revisioning Project: Maureen Hollins

As a branch, through the year we do pretty much similar things to every other branch in the province, except that this year, since January, we embarked on a process of *revision* – revisioning to determine different ways of engaging additional new, and seasoned teachers. When I chose this out of our branch report to be the highlight (at the provincial council meeting), everybody’s ears became very aware and started to listen to the process that we are in. It’s trying to have more collegial group representation.

To date, this has resulted in some highly productive discussions and conversations with concrete action already in motion. I think it is so energizing and invigorating to move forward in this collegial enterprise.

These are Calla’s words on our concrete actions:

- to provide in-studio mentoring opportunities for newer teachers
- to provide teacher-led pedagogy workshops – opportunity for all members

- to increase connection opportunities – by a real phone call (which many of you have already experienced), coffee-meets, and anything else we can think of to make that happen

This is very exciting, and the Provincial Council was very happy to hear that.

2. Teachers Teaching: Kevin Thompson

This is further to the Revisioning/Mentoring Project.

We had planned for April 27th for Teachers Teaching, but we are now postponing it to end of September / early October to allow more time to think about this and to plan. The directors were thinking that doing this in a studio would be more intimate. The dates are:

- 1) Saturday, September 28th 3:00pm – 5:00pm at Maureen Hollins' studio
- 2) Sunday, October 6th 3:00pm – 5:00pm at Helga Murray's studio

This way, we have a North Surrey studio and a South Surrey studio, and we have both a Saturday and a Sunday. This gives teachers more options to attend one, or even both days! We hope to reach as many teachers as we can.

The format will be a short lesson (15-20 minutes) followed by group discussion after each lesson. We would have either two or three teachers at each session, and they would each bring one of their own students to do a teaching demonstration. At the end of the whole session, we would have a general coffee/snack break and discussion about what happened in the session.

A suggestion was made that we have a particular focus for each of the lessons. We are open to suggestions. What topics would you like to see the teachers teach?

- For example:
- how do you start a brand new student?
 - how do you polish a piece? (e.g. a senior piece)
 - how do you teach technique, ear, and sight-reading?
 - have students from a range of levels
 - ensembles! (taught by Kevin, as requested by Andrea Mesana)
 - how do you teach memory?

If this mentoring project takes off and is well-received, we can repeat this in the fall or in February before the festival.

Wendy suggested that we send out a survey to all teachers so that everybody has a chance to contribute to the brainstorm of topics.

3. June Luncheon: Helga Murray

We will be having a luncheon at our June meeting (June 19th). Please bring \$5!

4. Announcements: Helga Murray

a) **House Concert:** There will be a house concert at my home on Thursday, April 25th by Russian pianist Lukas Geniusas and violinist Aylen Pritchin. Lukas Geniusas was the second place winner at the Chopin Competition. Doors open at 7:00pm and the concert will begin at 7:30pm. The ticket price of \$25.00 will include the concert and post-concert refreshments. Please let me know if you wish to come.

b) **Name Tags:** If anybody needs a new name tag or needs to replace their name tag, please E-mail me directly.

c) **Facebook Page:** Christy Kuettel has set up a Facebook page for our festival (and it was in existence for the festival that just passed). What we have decided to do is to change the title of the page to BCRMTA South Fraser branch so it will be a general branch Facebook page (instead of a page just for our festival). Christy and I will be the admins, and we will watch it very closely and see how it works out. If you use Facebook, "Like" the page and you will be notified every time we post something.

Discussion:

***Please note that if you post any photos of students on social media, you MUST have the parents' consent.*

- Marlene Bartsch: as she registers students in the beginning of each year, she gives them a standard sheet and asks them if they consent. (E.g. "Yes, I consent to having my child's images posted on _____.") She encourages us all to do this, and can send the form to us all to use.

- We will now need to include this on the festival entry forms online.

- For students/parents who decline, maybe we can put a sticker or a dot on their

adjudication sheet and in the programs. → But this will be a lot of work too.

- We have to show that BCRMTA that we are out there in the community. This is a good thing, but it is a lot of work.

- For the festival this year, Christy posted photos of her own students (on Facebook).

- Perhaps “How to Navigate Social Media” could be a topic for a future Pro-D workshop.

Kevin Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment

Catherine Bundt gave a presentation on RCM exams and answered questions from the floor.

Our next meeting (luncheon!) will be on June 19th, 2019.