

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING

South Fraser Branch of BC Registered Music Teachers' Association

**Wednesday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020**

Northwood United Church, 10am

### Attendees:

Helga Murray	Michelle Bumpus	Jennifer Silva
Leslie Chen	Léa Tsui	Rebecca Yew
Kevin Thompson	Dianne Szarapka	Eva Law
Sylvia Leigh	Berva Warkentin	Sharon Farenhorst
Marlene Bartsch	Paulette Nielsen	Yvette Rowledge
Calla Strain	Maureen Hollins	Jennifer Condie
Alison d'Entremont	Kamela Christaki	Christy Kuettel

**Minutes** of the November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting are posted on our website.

*Moved by Leslie Chen, seconded by Sharon Farenhorst to adopt the minutes as circulated.*

### **Treasurer's Report:** Sylvia Leigh

Total General Account: \$ 26,960.12

Total Festival Account: \$ 4,959.69

### **Business:**

#### **1. Membership Renewal:** Sylvia Leigh

You can now go online to renew your membership. It is \$185. Just go on the provincial site. There is a deadline to be registered by the 29<sup>th</sup> of February, after which there will be a late fee of \$50. If you haven't registered by March 2<sup>nd</sup>, your name will be taken off the list.

#### **2. New Webmaster:** Helga Murray

We welcome Michelle Bumpus as our new Webmaster! The branch newsletter sent out before this meeting was done by her on her own, and it was very well done.

### **3. Canada Music Week Report: Maureen Hollins**

I am always really grateful and excited by the response! We had 71 performers. (I should learn right at the start to always have two recitals!) I was *really* proud that Lorna E-mailed me and said how impressed she was with the standard. (I forwarded that E-mail to all the teachers who had students perform.) She did a wonderful job being a friend to the performers; she was extremely open in talking to the performers one-on-one, fielding their questions and their attitudes...etc. I was really pleased with the camaraderie that she set up between the kids and herself.

I wondered – what makes it so successful other than that I nag you a lot? We only do this once a year. Is there a place for a themed recital – e.g. rhythm and blues, or anything not in the RCM books? If you have any thoughts, please E-mail me. Canada Music Week Recitals are so joyous! What makes it good?

Discussion:

- It's a real sense of community – all the teachers and all the families coming together.
- Perhaps May would be a good time?
- If Maureen gets some responses, she will do something.
- In the Canadian music teachers' magazine, there is a prize for the best Canada Music Week project (e.g. for the most novel idea). We've won it once in the past. What can we do to win it again?
- The ones that mean the most (and are the most exciting) to the people are when there are real (living) composers there, like Lorna Paterson, Katya Pine, Frank Levin...etc.
- It would be great to have Jocelyn Morlock, who was the composer-in-residence for the VSO, but it would be hard to ask for her to come for free.

### **4. BC Piano Competition: Maureen Hollins**

Deadline for entries for the provincial level is May 1<sup>st</sup>. In our particular branch, we have 1 student extremely interested in representing us, and that is Braden Eguia, who is in third-year piano performance at UBC. The cut-off day for the branch to accept entries is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Let me know by March 1<sup>st</sup> if there are any other entries. We would need to have a play-off.

The BC Piano Competition is taking place at the conference September 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> at Tigh-Na-Mara in Parkville. Edwin Gndt is going to be the adjudicator there.

## **5. Junior Festival & Composition Festival: Christy Kuettel**

Junior Festival:

We are getting close to the festival week. I am very excited and our adjudicators are very excited. Our program is done; it's going to print today. Things are moving along. You will receive your duties in very short time. When you get your programs, please take a look at the hours; there have been a few changes in there.

Composition Festival:

Registrations are coming in. We have decided that January 27th is a harsh deadline; after talking to Katya, we've decided to be softer with the deadline because we really want participation! We want to give everyone as much of an opportunity to be a part of this as possible. (We have 10 entries so far. It's super cute!) Our new deadline is Valentine's Day, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. Please read carefully on how to submit! Print out the registration form, fill it out, and scan it to me. Music files go to Katya. Money goes to Dianne.

We've had some donations, including a trophy for our composition winner. We will put plaques with the names all around it. The winner gets to keep it for the balance of the school year, until June.

Adjudications will all be written up and the winner will be chosen before the Friday. Friday will just be a performance, and then Katya gives her adjudications.

Enter your students!

## **6. Senior Festival: Leslie Chen**

ENTRIES were up this year! 248 entries, which is up from 206 entries last year!

As you know, we have Edwin Gndt coming. For those of you who don't know who he is, here is a very quick bio: Edwin Gndt is a pianist, accompanist, author, adjudicator, competition juror, workshop clinician, international speaker and Professor of Piano and Music at Ambrose University in Calgary where has been teaching since 1995. His performances have taken him throughout North America, Russia and Scotland. He has recorded for CBC with a variety of artists of national and international stature. Mr. Gndt has studied at a number of prestigious institutions, including the University of Washington (with Randolph Hokanson and Bela Siki), University of Edinburgh, Scotland (on a Canada Council Grant), and the Juilliard School of Music (with Adele Marcus).

The workshops on the Thursday morning will be as follows:

9:30am (1 hr) "Intermediate Piano Technique": a demonstration of 'Technical Principles' that govern the performing repertoire from RCM Grades 4 – 10. Additionally, how much 'gesturing' is considered in good or bad taste?

10:30am (1 hr) "Understanding Chopin Piano Style": How are we to teach and perform Chopin? An in-depth piano demonstration on understanding the many stylistic aspects of his music. The repertoire covered will be from Grades 6 – 10 from the RCM Piano Syllabus.

There will be a Q & A at the end of each session.

Edwin will have his two books available:

- 1) *The Soul of the Music: Gifts from the Golden Age of Piano*
- 2) *The Inner World of Fryderyk Chopin: Psychology, Medicine and the Majorca Period* (just recently published)

We are thinking of doing a luncheon that Thursday to encourage more teachers to come to the workshop. Maureen is in charge of this and will pull together lunch for everyone.

Last May, we received an E-mail from Northwood about recycling. They have adopted a goal of zero waste, and they have undertaken extensive recycling protocol and measures as outlined by the City of Surrey to turn this into a reality. As you can see around the church, they have well-marked bins for recyclable clean paper / plastic, organic material, recyclable pop cans/water bottles, and garbage. "Under no circumstances are Styrofoam or plastic plates and cups allowed!" So please be very careful when you place your waste into the appropriate bins. Last year, at the end of every day, I actually went through the garbage and picked out things, just to make sure they were in the right categories. I hope I don't have to do that again this year!

Discussion:

- This is unavoidable, because of the students who come in.
- Do we need to make signs?

Regarding duties for the Senior Festival, right now the one remaining duty we have yet to fill is Desk Duty for the Thursday afternoon (March 5<sup>th</sup>) in the Sanctuary (2pm – 6pm). We are looking for somebody to fill this duty. If anybody is available, please let me know. This is a paid duty.

Please come to the workshop on the Thursday. \$20 per workshop, or \$30 for both. The workshops are open to non-branch members (at the same price). Lunch is included. There will be no printed tickets.

### **7. Angela Hewitt at UBC: Helga Murray**

Angela Hewitt will be doing a recital on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm, at the 300-seat recital hall at UBC, and then two masterclass sessions the next day (Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup>) – from 12pm to 3pm, and then from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

(The Thursday afternoon masterclass session coincides with our Junior Festival that afternoon.)

If you go to the branch notice, Michelle Bumpus has put in all the hyperlinks in there, so all you have to do is to click on it, and it will take you to the page to purchase tickets.

Angela Hewitt is an incredible performer and very articulate in her teaching.

### **8. Christopher Norton Festival: Leslie Chen**

The Chilliwack branch of the BCRMTA is inviting teachers to come to their Christopher Norton Festival on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Chilliwack Alliance Church. There will be teacher workshops on composing, improvising, duets, and going through the Levels 9 and 10 “Connections” books, as well as having students perform at masterclasses. Teacher Early Bird Registration (until March 1<sup>st</sup>) is \$75 for a weekend pass, and includes all workshops and masterclasses, the teachers’ reception and dinner on Friday, and lunch on the Saturday. After March 1<sup>st</sup>, teacher’s registration is \$50 a day. Registration deadline for students is April 1<sup>st</sup>. I will send the registration links to Michelle to be sent out to the branch.

### **9. Justice/Environment Focus Group: Jennifer Condie**

All this that’s come about is not directly associated with the branch, so I don’t want anyone to think I am asking the BCRMTA to sponsor something. It’s come out of my personal frustration, because I actually subscribe to information from a lot of environmental organizations. I would like to do something active but what happens is, when I get an E-mail about something, it’s in the evening, or it’s on a Saturday (during teaching hours), and so I’ve found it very hard to be as active as I would like to be. The idea that came to me was – why don’t we have something for people who don’t work those hours, who might want to do something on a weekday morning? So, the only specific idea I have is something that I stole from Maureen’s family, going to the David Suzuki event: they asked him what is the most effective thing you can do to advocate for change? He said, “Go sit on your MP’s doorstep.” So the only real idea I have that is specific at this point is that maybe we have dates – maybe one a month, once every two weeks – where we travel around and sit on different MP’s doorsteps with our signs, which I do think would be helpful. Other than that, if anyone is interested, we could

collaborate on what it could look like. So, I'm not asking for anything except if you're interested, please send me an E-mail, and then we could start moving towards some sort of action. Personally, I find it very difficult not to be able to take personal action. Whether or not there is a result from my action is less important to me than actually taking action, because for me it's a very empowering thing to do.

#### **10. Extended Health Insurance:** Marlene Bartsch

I actually took the time to read the little E-mail they sent from the CFMTA, which we are all a part of because we are part of the BCRMTA. It said, "New things introduced this year: Group Health Insurance!" (My husband had a stroke and no longer works, we don't have health insurance, and I am currently paying a lot of money every month to get his therapies done.) It's through Morneau Shepell. It's a group insurance available to all music teachers in Canada! This is a big deal. I talked to a friend in insurance and they said you will get a better deal because it's group insurance and the rate is so much better than individual insurance. I talked to them last week. There are a couple plans available.

If you do a Core Plan, you have basic life insurance: units of \$10,000, minimum of \$20,000 to a maximum of \$250,000; coverage reduced by 50% if age 65; term ends at age 70 or early retirement. Your premiums are waived if you have a disability. Basic accidental death and dismemberment insurance. Extended health benefit. 100% covered: vision, professional ambulance service, diabetic supplies, monitory expenses, hearing aids, other equipment. \$500 per person (I'm going for family plan) per practitioner. PayDirect prescription coverage: 100%, up to \$2000 per calendar year. Hospital accommodations 100% covered. Out-of-country coverage 100% for emergencies.

Then, you can add on Dental: 100% for routine, 100% for cleaning, 100% for filling basic restorations, minor dental surgeries, 100% for root canals and periodontal procedures.

Long-Term Disability: it sells for units of \$500, minimum of \$1000, up to \$3000 per month. Benefits start 120 days after the incident, and covers until you are age 65.

My husband has Extended Disability, but it lasts for 5 years. It's been two and a half years since his stroke, and I have 2 years and 3 months to figure out I'm going to make up for \$1000 a month.

Short-Term Disability: starts 15 days after your disability.

My husband's disability kicked in 3 months after his stroke.

Here is the pricing:

For the Core Plan, minimum \$20,000 life insurance, I will be paying \$148 a month for my family. That quote is based on me, a non-smoker, age 54.

The Dental plan for me is \$186 a month.

Long-Term Disability: I get \$1000 a month, and I pay \$32 a month.

Short-Term Disability: I get \$573 a week given to me, for \$65 a month.

This means if I have brain tumour surgery again, I can actually take time off to recover.

To even have this option is a gift.

For more information and questions, phone them at 1-866-432-8427, and it's through their Business Solutions.

*Leslie Chen moved to adjourn the meeting.*

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