

Opus e-Journal

Volume 69 - Number 2

January 2023



Inside this issue:

- *2022 Convention - Rooted Foundations for Growth*
- *Upcoming Events*

And so much more . . .

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Registered
Music
Teachers'
Association



Official Publication of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association



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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Opus is published three times a year:
October, January and June

Submission Deadlines:

- January January 1
- June June 1
- October September 15

Next Issue: **June 15, 2023**

Copy Deadline: **June 1, 2023**

Advertising rates:

~~Sold until further notice \$ 185.00~~

Back Cover	\$ 185.00
Full Page	\$ 185.00
Half Page	\$ 105.00
Quarter Page	\$ 55.00
Business Card	\$ 40.00

* Special pricing for 3 issues

Circulation: 225

The Editor reserves the right
to edit submissions.

Send all advertising inquiries
and material to the editor:

editor@srmta.com

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President's Message

Laureen Kells

Greetings Colleagues and Happy New Year!

As we turn to another year on the calendar we are all reminded of how quickly the teaching year passes. For most of us, our teaching year is now half done. With the coming of spring our thoughts turn to festival preparations, spring recitals and music exams. Now the work really begins!

I know all of us have the same goal – that is to produce musicians who have developed a life long love of music. Musicians who are comfortable playing in church, at a birthday party or for their peers. Music is a performing art and I like to remind myself of that goal. I always need to ensure that all the goals I set for my students lend themselves to that end.

When carefully thought out and preparation has been successful, the spring festival season can be a useful tool in preparing students for a life time of successful music performance. While the competition aspect drives us forward, it need not be the only goal for our students. Have we taught our students that their performance really begins before they even get on stage? Do they know how to approach the stage with confidence? Do they know how to prepare their hands and arms to approach the keyboard? Do they know how to exude the confidence necessary to successfully interpret and present their music? Do they know how to keep the music moving forward even when mistakes happen? Are they aware that the last note of the piece is not the end of their performance? All of these things are important when presenting repertoire. My husband is fond of telling my students “you are the best piano player on stage right now”! Students need to believe that and feel it. Helping our students identify as musicians and learning how to share that gift will give them life long satisfaction.

It is also important for our students to have an understanding of the musical history they are representing when they perform their historical pieces. Music from each of the common musical eras is part of the culture of that time and can tell us much about how



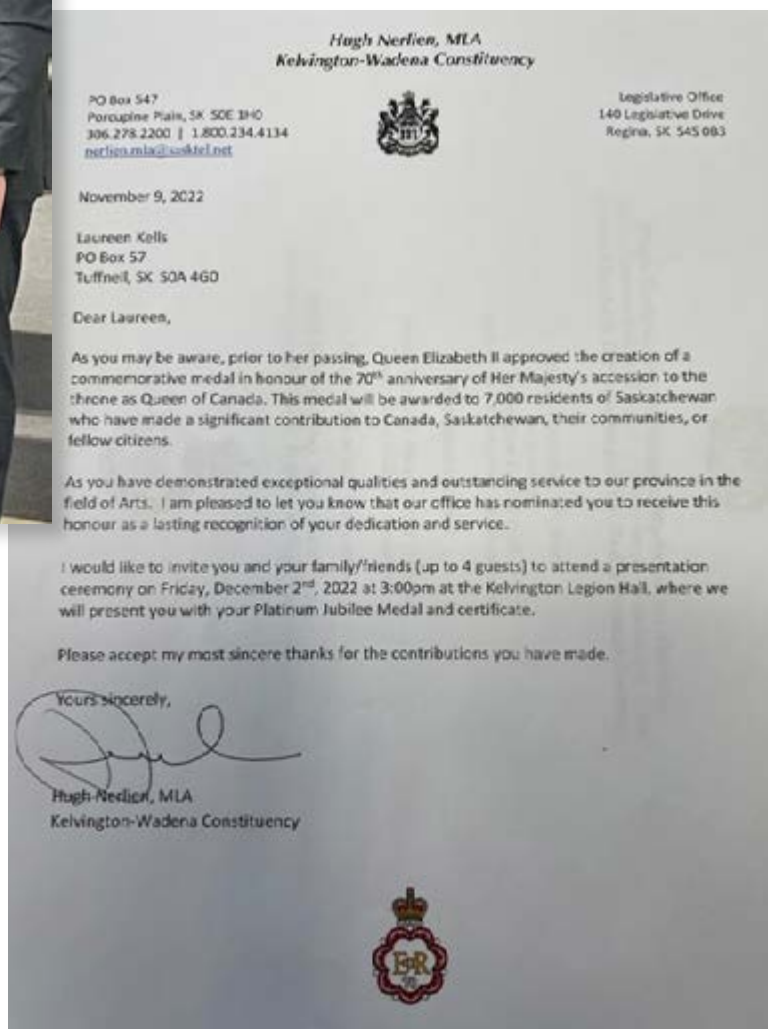
people lived. A little research can help our students learn not only the notes on the page but what the composer was trying to tell us all these years later.

As classically trained musicians, we can be proud of the work we do, and we can be honored to take our place in the history of music education in Canada. Our roots go a long way back and we are but the tip of those roots. Our students represent the future of our work. This future go will go a long way forward.

With best wishes for a successful festival, recital, and exam season.

Yours in music – Laureen Kells





SRMTA President Laureen Kells receiving the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Medal
For Service to the Arts at a ceremony in Kelvington Sk on Dec 2

*L- R. Hugh Nerlien. MLA Kelvington- Wadena, Laureen Kells
The Honorable Tim McLeod, Provincial Secretary, Government of Saskatchewan*

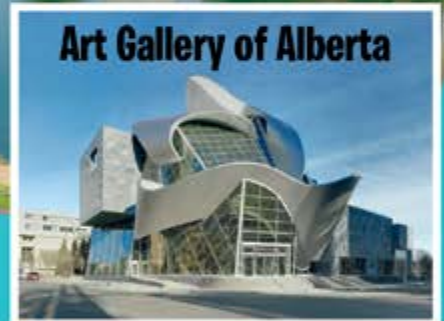
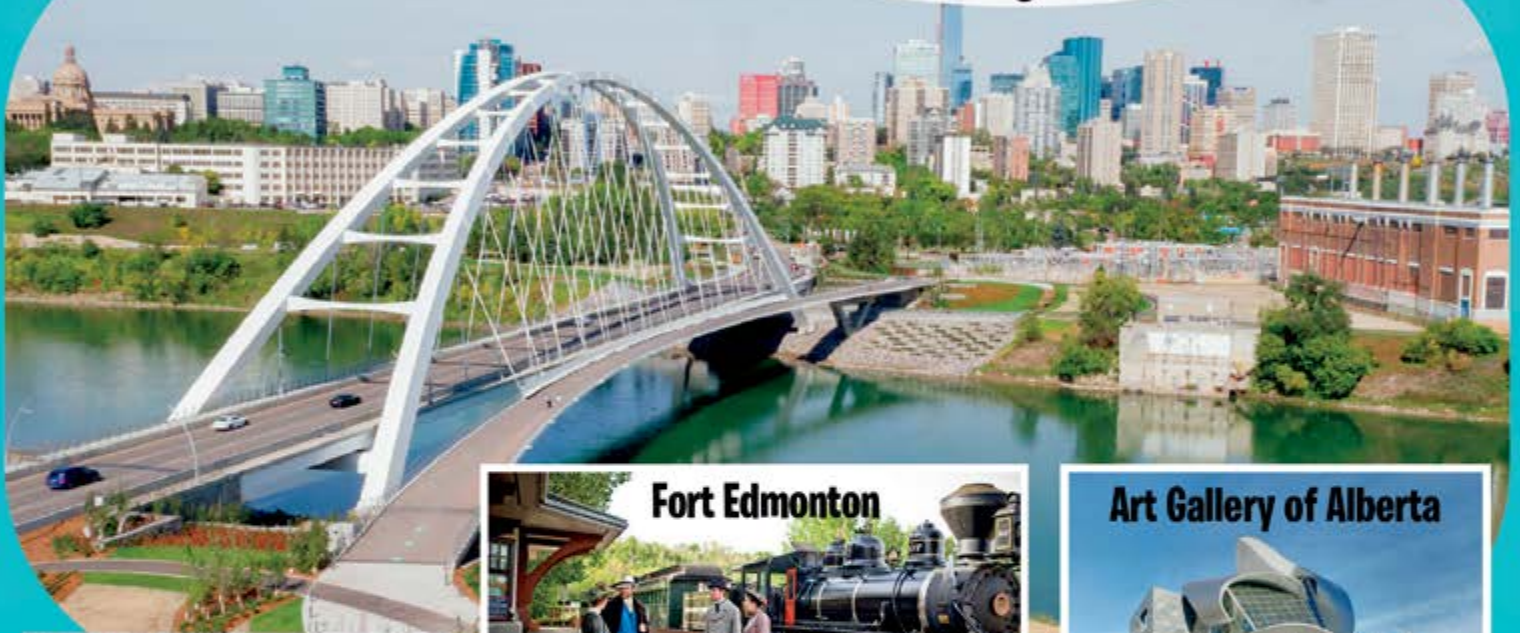
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SRMTA Professional Fees 2023-2024

As of January 1, 2023, SRMTA Membership fees are \$223.00 (\$162.50 for Lloydminster members).

Here is a breakdown of your professional fees:

- \$121.00 Provincial Fee (\$60.50 for Lloydminster members)
- \$42.00 CFMTA Fee
- \$60.00 Insurance Fee

Go to <https://srmta.com/membership/renew/> to renew your SRMTA membership.

Filling out the online form will ensure SRMTA has your most up to date listing and contact information.

Payments may be made by e-transfer to srmta.registrar@gmail.com

-OR-

By cheque c/o 50 Hoeschen Crescent, Saskatoon, SK, S7J 2T1.

Regina (\$65.00) and Saskatoon (\$50.00) Branch payments are still accepted through provincial office.

Membership Fees are due March 31, 2023



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Mark your Calendar for SRMTA Programs

Young Artist Competition

Young Artists must be studying with a Registered Music Teacher. Auditions are held in the spring in each region and an artist is chosen from those auditioning. The majority of artists have been pianists but violinists, cellists and vocalists have also been selected for the tour.

Deadline: January 5, 2024

Convener: Claire Seibold

Email: rcseibold@sasktel.net

Webpage: <https://srmta.com/info/cfmta-young-artist-competition/>

Dorothy Bee Memorial Scholarship

A scholarship of \$750 shall be awarded to a successful teacher wishing to take further studies and who returns to teach in Saskatchewan. Upon completion of studies, the recipient of this award is required to write a brief report for inclusion in Opus.. See the link for eligibility, regulations, and online application form. Application closing date is January 31 of the competition year.

Deadline: January 31, 2023

Convener: Laurel Teichroeb

Email lteichroeb@srmta.com

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/dorothy-bee/>

Lyell Gustin Memorial Piano Scholarship

Competition is open to students up to 18 years of age as of January 1, of the year of the competition.

Deadline: January 31, 2023

Convener: Lynn Ewing

Email: lewing@sasktel.net

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/lyell-gustin/>

The Gordon C. Wallis Piano Competition

This competition is open to students between 15 and 21 years of age for the Piano Performer Category and between 17 and 25 years of age for the Piano Pedagogy Category (ages are as of January 1 of competition year).

Deadline: January 31, 2023

Convener: Lynn Ewing

Email: lewing@sasktel.net

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/gordon-c-wallis/>

Florence Bowes Memorial Competition

This biennial competition, offered in odd-numbered years, is open to students who will have completed Grade 12 requirements by June of the competition year. Scholarships available through competition are:

Piano Performance Category - \$1500.00

Piano Pedagogy Category - \$1500.00

Composition Category - \$750.00

This competition is held in odd-numbered years in conjunction with the Lyle Gustin and Gordon C. Wallis competitions.

Deadline: January 31, 2023

Convener: Lynn Ewing

Email: lewing@sasktel.net

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/florence-bowes/>

Jean McCulloch Memorial Junior Piano Competition

This competition recognizes the hard work and talent of Saskatchewan piano students working in grades three through eight.

Deadline: April 1, 2023

Contact: Clayton Braybrook

Email: cbraybrook@srmta.com

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/jean-mcculloch/>

SRMTA/CFMTA Student Composer Competition

The Student Composer Competition is aimed at encouraging music writing for instruments or voice.

Deadline: April 1, 2023

Contact: Peggy L'Hoir

Email: plhoir@srmta.com

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/cfmta-student-composer-competition/>

Mark your Calendar for SRMTA Programs

SRMTA Community Music Award

PURPOSE: To encourage students to take their music out into the community.

ELIGIBILITY: Students of any age or level of music study, who is studying with a Saskatchewan Registered Music Teacher.

Deadline: May 1 and November 1

Contact: Diana Woolrich

Email: woolrich.diana@gmail.com

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/community-music-award/>

SRMTA Summer Music Camp Award

The Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association's Summer Music Camp Award was established to provide financial assistance to music students who wish to attend a summer music camp.

Deadline: May 1, 2023

Convener: Laurel Teichroeb

Email: lteichroeb@srmta.com

Web page: <https://srmta.com/info/summer-music-camp-award/>



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Objectives of the SRMTA

The objectives of the Association shall be:

To promote a high standard of teaching

- to promote the interest of its members by stimulating them through workshops, masterclasses, and conferences
- to promote progressive ideas and methods in the teaching of music
- to encourage systematic preparation in the art of teaching
- to stimulate the acquirement by its members of a high standard of musicianship and general culture

To foster an interest in the organization

- to promote a spirit of comradeship by encouraging members to serve on branch, provincial, and national councils where appropriate
- to encourage and foster the formation of local branches composed of members of the Association at suitable centres throughout Saskatchewan
- to speak with one voice on provincial and national issues and always advocate on matters of concern for the professional musician and for the student of music

To promote continuing education by and for the teacher

- to encourage the sharing of ideas that would be useful to members and students by giving workshops or writing pedagogical articles for the Association's newsletter

To maintain the recognition of music as a credit in high school and in post secondary institutions

To promote and maintain the status of professional music teachers in the province

- to promote and assist all movements designed to improve the teaching of music and foster the interest of the public in music and for these purposes to join with other societies and associations having like aims and objects in furthering these purposes to promote and maintain the status of professional music teachers in the province by educating the public on the importance of a qualified teacher and by encouraging upgrading and by keeping informed through workshops, periodicals and conferences

SRMTA code of Ethics

The Saskatchewan Registered Music Teacher will:

- teach to the best of his/her ability and always promote a positive professional image
- always respect the dignity of the student and the work of another teacher
- keep the trust under which confidential information is exchanged
- refrain from proselytizing another teacher's students by inducement, innuendo, or insinuation
- be candid but kind and objective when advising a student of his/her abilities
- have fair and honourable business practices at all times- in dealing with students and the Association
- not misrepresent his/her own professional standing or advertise in a misleading manner



Mark your Calendar for CFMTA Programs

Branching Out

Branching Out 2022-2023: "Collaborating with the Arts and Beyond."

The 2022-2023 Branching Out initiative, Collaborating with the Arts and Beyond, encourages branches to host and/or participate in events that connect music with visual arts, drama, dance, and beyond. With a goal of blending music with another sector or organization, both will be enhanced and inspired by the exchange of ideas, perspectives, and creative thought. Events may be live in-person, live-streamed, or pre-recorded for broadcast at the discretion of the Branch and/or participants.

Online submission deadline March 31, 2022

Web page: <https://www.cfmta.org/en/branching-out/>



Call for Compositions - For performance during Canada Music Week® 2023

Grades 3 - 4 / Grades 5 - 6

- Piano
- Instrumental with accompaniment
- Vocal with accompaniment

Deadline Date: March 1, 2023

Entry fee: None

The competition is open to any Canadian resident. Submissions must be new, unpublished pieces, not previously recorded in any form. We encourage you to be inspired by our vast Canadian landscape and geography as the theme of your piece. The composition will be chosen by a selection committee from across Canada. The chosen composition will be published on the CFMTA/FCAPM website until November 30, 2023.



Web page: <https://www.cfmta.org/en/call-for-compositions/>



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Canada Music Week® Highlights

Yorkton

Yorkton Music Teachers Canadian Showcase Event
St. Andrew's Church, Yorkton, Sk.
November 18th & 19th, 2022

The Yorkton Music Teachers organized our first Canadian Showcase in two years. It was quite successful with thirty-nine piano and vocal students participating. The event began Friday evening November 18th at 4:00. Supper was brought in and the second session began at 7:00 which featured a vocal class and some students playing senior repertoire.

Saturday November 19th, we had classes at 10:00 am and 11:00 am. Classes were arranged in levels from Preparatory to grade 8 regardless of the students ages. Times were given for students for each class to be there and our program coordinator did a great job of getting the timing correct.



We were treated to wonderful Canadian music from composers such as Debra Wanless, Tyler Seidenberg, Janet Gieck, Thelma Gillis, Martha Mier, Anne Crosby Gaudet, Lynette Sawatsky and Nancy Telfer to name a few. Such wonderful music to enjoy as an audience and the students obviously enjoyed playing their pieces as well. Terri-Lynn Mitchell from Saskatoon was our clinician and she did a great job with a short master class for each participant. She was wonderful at praising and giving constructive comments for each student to work on in their lessons with their own teacher. She gave a sheet of written comments as well and worked very hard at making it a positive experience for all.

We were pleased to welcome many moms and dads, grandparents and friends who came to listen to their children play. Due to the pandemic, opportunities to play in front of other has been limited so it was such a treat to hear and see the young people perform again.

Submitted by Karen Muir



Saskatoon

At Contemporary Showcase in Saskatoon this year, we had another record level of entrants to celebrate Canada Music Week®. Over 110! We were delighted to have our adjudicator Kathleen Lohrenz Gable inspire our students with new and fun ideas. Preparatory through Advanced levels were represented and students showed a high calibre of ability and preparedness in sharing their music, several students being nominated for national scholarships. The hard work of organizers and volunteers ensured a smooth running and successful event. We recognize Hannah Marple, Lynette Sawatsky, Bernadette Fanner, Willette Neijmeijer, Bonnie Nicholson, Nick Arsenault, Jhena Dela Cruz, and Adrienne Bank for their contributions.

On the following weekend, the Saskatoon Branch hosted a Canada Music Week® Recital to cap off the festivities with many wonderfully varied pieces and Canadian composition once again on full display. We were treated to performances of piano and vocal students, representing several different studios within the branch. Many of the performers from the Showcase Festival received recommendations from the adjudicator to play again in this recital – a valuable performance experience for them. Thank you to Matthew Praksas, Lynn Ewing and Laurien Gibson for organizing and facilitating this recital.

Hannah Marple



Canada Music Week® Highlights

West Central

The West Central branch had a great time celebrating Canada Music Week® together this year, hosting the Contemporary Showcase on November 18th - 19th in Rosetown. It was our first live showcase since COVID, and we were honored to have Gregory Chase from Regina as our clinician and adjudicator.

Greg started off with teacher's workshops on Friday entitled *Developing Musicianship through a Beat Function Approach to Learning Rhythm* and then *Taking a Musical Approach to Reading Notation*. It was insightful and engaging.

Following the workshops were student performances for Greg to give creative feedback on, and fun! We had more than fifty students from all corners of West Central Sask. joining us on the weekend. Not only did they perform Canadian Music, they also received a hand drumming workshop by Helen Barclay, an RMT from Kindersley. Students loved it as they got to try many different percussion instruments and play in an ensemble.

A pizza lunch with fellow students, where they got to play trivia games about Canadian composers for prizes, a draw and delicious fun filled out the days. We all missed this time together the last couple of years, though we kept going "online". This was nice to get together again for music, food and camaraderie.

Everyone enjoyed visiting our "Wall of Fame" – a wall covered with profiles for all the participating young musicians in our showcase. All in all it was a wonderful two days with great memories. We hope to continue this tradition as long as we can.

For any pictures about our showcase, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/SRMTAWCB>

Also in our Chapter the Town of Biggar was active, hosting its annual Canada Music Week® concert at the Biggar Majestic Theatre, featuring musicians age 3 - 70. The music ranged from Raffi to Gillis to Country Rock. Much music from emerging and established composers was heard. An eclectic, educational concert! As well, Biggar students between the ages of 6 and 11 celebrated Canadian music with a musical adaptation of *Charlotte's Web*, created by British Columbia's Dororah Solberg and Yurgen Ilander. This was a stellar production by these young musical theatre pros!

Canadian Music is alive and well in West Central SK!

Sindy Yiu



Swift Current

The Registered Music Teachers of Swift Current held their Canada Music

Week® concert on November 27th at the Swift Current Art Gallery. We have not held a concert for a few years so it was refreshing to have students able to perform for an audience. The concert was short as several students were ill and had to cancel. We did have ten performances with three teachers entering their students to play and sing. Five of the selections were by Canadian composers. Notable was a piano piece entitled *Wet Shoes* by Janet Gieck, a member of our branch. We were delighted by a performance of *Clair de Lune* by Michael Liu. Michael has received a RCM Gold medal for his Level 8 Performance exam in combination with his Level 8 Theory Co-requisite. Congratulations to teacher Marilyn Kin.

Marcia McLean



Canada Music Week®
November 19 - 25, 2023



Student Composer Competition 2023

Rules & Regulations

- The contestant must be a resident of Saskatchewan and study with a current member in good standing of the Saskatchewan Registered Music Teachers' Association; exceptions may be made for students residing near the Saskatchewan border.
- A student may enter more than one composition and more than one class but only one prize will be awarded to any individual. The composition must be a new composition, not previously entered in the CFMTA Student Composer Competition
- Each entry is assumed to be the original work of the individual whose name appears on the entry form attached to the manuscript. Any infraction of this regulation could result in the nullification of the offending entry.
- Do NOT include name or other identifying information on composition.
- First-place winning compositions will not be returned to the contestant after judging at the national level in the CFMTA Student Composer Competition. Therefore, it is advisable to retain an original copy of your submitted work.
- All rights to his/her original work will be retained by the competitor, but winning compositions may be displayed or employed by SRMTA or CFMTA for publicity purposes after consultation with and agreement with the competitor.
- First-place winning manuscripts, along with the composer's bio and photo, will be forwarded to the CFMTA Student Composer Competition in order to be included in the Canada-wide judging against other provincial winners.
- Manuscripts printed by computers are preferred. If submitting handwritten manuscripts, they should be neat and legibly written in black ink, in regulation manuscript size, including all necessary details of dynamics, editing, and tempo, with every 10th bar numbered. Please retain the original copy of your submitted work.
- Decisions of the Adjudicator are final and not subject to question, review, or appeal.
- Prizes will not be awarded if the adjudicator feels the standard has not been met.
- Late entries will not be accepted.

Entry Fees

8 years & under – Preparatory – \$15
11 years & under – Category A – \$30
15 years & under – Category B – \$30
19 years & under – Category C – \$30
Open – Category D – \$40

For more information contact:

Peggy L'Hoir - plhoir@srmta.com



Student Composer Competition 2023

Awards

8 Years & Under – Preparatory

\$50 Ewing Award in Composition for each class

Class 1 – To write an original composition for solo instrument or any combination of instruments.

Class 2 – To write an original composition for voice, with or without accompaniment.

11 Years & Under – Category A

\$75 Ewing Award in Composition for each class

Class 1 – To write an original composition for solo instrument or any combination of instruments.

Class 2 – To write an original composition for voice, with or without accompaniment.

15 Years & Under – Category B

\$100 Ewing Award in Composition for each class

Class 1 – To write an original composition for solo instrument or any combination of instruments.

Class 2 – To write an original composition for voice, with or without accompaniment.

19 Years & Under – Category C

\$150 Ewing award in Composition for each class

Class 1 – To write an original composition for any instrument or any combination of instruments, or voice(s) or combination of voice(s) and instruments with accompaniment when accompaniment is necessary for the performance.

Open – Category D

\$175 Ewing Award in composition for each class

Class 1 – To write an original composition for any instrument or any combination of instruments, or voice(s) or combination of voice(s) and instruments with accompaniment when accompaniment is necessary for the performance.

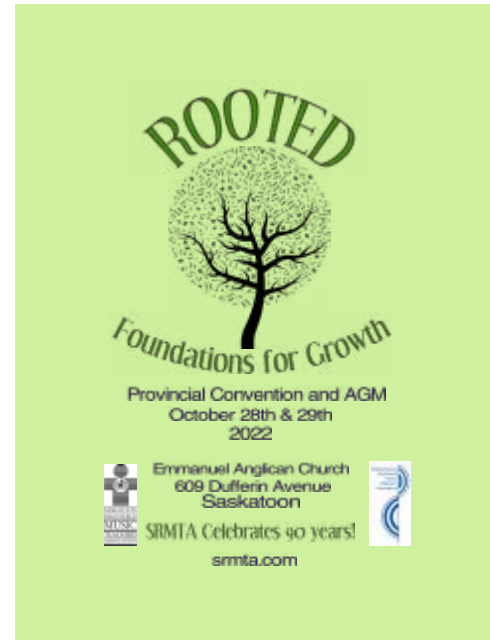


2022 Convention Report

Laurien Gibson - Saskatoon Branch

Saskatoon was proud to host “Rooted: Foundations for Growth”, the 2022 Convention - held in person once again - this past October 28th & 29th. This year also marked the 90th anniversary of our organization which was a wonderful milestone to celebrate with fellow teachers from across the province. A total of 14 different communities were represented by those attending the weekend’s events. It was so nice to meet music teachers from near and far!

There were two jam-packed days of wonderful professional development, enriching musical experiences, and much valued socializing. We kicked things off with an introduction by Dr. Joan Halmo, who took us back to the foundations of the SRMTA and the teacher at its centre – Dr. Lyell Gustin. Dr. Karen Gerelus presented on musical identity and how to foster the development of this in our students. Janna Bernatsky from OUT Saskatoon spoke to us about being a supportive ally for 2SLGBTQ students.

An advertisement for My Music Staff. The background is light blue with musical notes and dollar signs. At the top left is the "my music staff" logo. The main headline is "Late payments giving you treble?" in large, bold, dark blue letters. Below the headline is the text "Set up automated payments with My Music Staff!". The illustration shows two hands holding smartphones. The left phone displays a calculator with a dollar sign, and the right phone displays a "PAID" receipt. A curved arrow points from the left phone to the right phone. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the text "30-DAY FREE TRIAL | Get started today at www.mymusicstaff.com".

2022 Convention Report - cont.

RCM representative Dale Wheeler presented on the newest release of the Piano Syllabus and Repertoire Series – 6th edition.

Day one finished with a concert given by Naomi Piggott Suchan and friends (Laurien Gibson, Chelsea Mahan, Terri-Lynn Mitchell and Sarah Scharf), presented in the spirit of the Schubertiade and celebrating musicians of our community collaborating in chamber and duet repertoire. A wonderful president's reception was hosted by Lynn Ewing where we were treated to tasty food and drink and the musical talents of Martin Janovsky.

(Photos by Donald MacKinnon)



Dale Wheeler



Sarah Scharf



Chelsea Mahan & Laurien Gibson



Naomi Suchan



Katrina MacKinnon



Chelsea Mahan & Terri-Lynn Mitchell



Naomi Suchan & Terri-Lynn Mitchell

2022 Convention Report - cont.

Saturday began with sessions led by pianist Jarred Dunn. He first gave a lecture recital on Chopin editions, performing a selection of Mazurkas and then followed with a masterclass where 3 students worked with Mr. Dunn on more Chopin repertoire. Jarred was both energized and inspiring throughout the morning and we left armed with some fresh new ideas to take forward in our teaching and playing. We were honoured to have the current president of CFMTA Laura Gray in attendance and she updated us on the latest news from the national organization. Lunch, performances from 4 student composer competition winners and a celebratory cake brought us up to the AGM. Thank you to Laureen Kells and her executive for all that you do! The afternoon wrapped up with a zoom session featuring Irina Gorin discussing the Russian method of teaching beginners and finally a talk with Diana Woolrich - Sharing Secrets, gave us a chance to share some ideas and teaching tools. Many attendees took advantage of a ticket rate offered by the SSO for their concert that evening. We hope that all attendees thoroughly enjoyed the offerings and came away with well-nourished roots!

Door prizes were so plentiful that every single attendee went home with something! Thank you to all the members and community merchants who donated items. Thank you also to our trade show vendors who enriched our experience with their presence. To our coffee sponsors: Regina, West Central, and Yorkton Branches, thank you for your generous support. Finally, thank you to the planning committee. Your tireless work made for a smooth-running event.

Thank you to the Saskatchewan Music Educators Association (SMEA) for their sponsorship of Mr Dunn.



Jerry Hu & Jarred Dunn



Laura Gray



Irina Gorin - online



Diana Woolrich



Dr. Karen Gerelus

(Photos by Donald MacKinnon)

2022 Convention Report - cont.

2022 Convention Committee

- Laurien Gibson (chair)
- Willette Neijmeijer (registrar/catering)
- Lynn Ewing (treasurer/reception)
- Michelle Aalders (secretary)
- Chris Kelly (trade show)
- Joy Nelson (door prizes)
- Rebecca Vander Kooi (A/V requirements/stationary)
- Katrina MacKinnon (venue coordinator/coffee breaks)

Volunteers

- Terri-Lynn Mitchell
- Mathew Praksas
- Alyssa Thompson
- Lynette Sawatsky
- Eunice Kohler
- Dennis Moore
- Kelly Gibson



(Photos by Donald MacKinnon)



Meet a few of our Executive and Board Members



Clinton Ackerman (Board Member) kick-started Pantala Arts Lab, an arts education company in Regina this past year. This organization puts creativity front and centre ensuring that programs are built around creative expression, experimentation, and discovery. Skill building, technique, and learning what's been done in the past are put towards the main goal - students discovering and using their voice.



Amy Boyes (Vice President) is a piano and theory teacher in Warman SK. Active as an examiner and adjudicator, Amy has enjoyed working with students across Canada.



Laureen Kells (President Interm) has been teaching in and around the East Central area of Saskatchewan for in and around 25 years. She currently is focussing her teaching in the community of Foam Lake. Having just completed a term as President and Past President of CFMTA, Laureen is happy to once again be working with individuals closer to home. When not on the piano Laureen can be found playing her fiddle with her local group The Tuffnell Circle Jammers.



Peggy L'Hoir (Board Member) Peggy L'Hoir (Board Member) has been teaching, mentoring and community building in West Central Saskatchewan for 50 years. As well as enthusing, empowering and educating musicians in her community of Biggar, Peggy loves adjudicating, doing workshops and making music of any kind! This is Peggy's second time around on SRMTA, having previously served as President of CFMTA and SRMTA. Peggy is delighted to be a part of this board, supporting and listening to you, the teachers who make music education come alive in communities across Saskatchewan.

Meet a few of our Executive and Board Members



Laurel Teichroeb (Board Member) lives in Yorkton, Sask. She has taught piano for most of her life and has thoroughly enjoyed encouraging each student to their best potential. Her studio is active and has a broad range of activity from pre-piano four year olds to the upper piano levels. In addition to teaching, she is an adjudicator, examiner and clinician and is looking forward to the busy months ahead. Laurel loves the outdoors and enjoys cross country skiing, biking, walking and a good strong cup of coffee.



Clayton Braybrook (Board Member)

Photos from the AGM



◀ Laureen Kells presenting Chris Kelly
25 years certificate

Peggy L'Hoir and Wes Froese ▶



(Photos by Clayton Braybrook)



Your Website Listing

Members:

Visit the new website <https://srmta.com> to check your “Find a Teacher” listing.

You can search your listing by postal code or city/town.

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PLEASE NOTE: SRMTA is working with the website developers to update the Find a Teacher section to enable searches by name and/or instrument. Stay tuned for updates on this front!



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When in doubt - roll the dice

I had a lot of fun last fall making a game to help beginners get into writing music. Sometimes the blank page and not knowing where to start can be a bit intimidating. This was a nice way for some of the younger students to break into the idea.

1. Grab a board game and steal the dice (make sure you put them back when you're done or at least choose a game you never play like Monopoly - unless you play Monopoly then just stop playing Monopoly).
2. Go back to your instrument and pick 6 notes - this will be your "palette" for your composition.
3. Assign a note to each number from 1-6.
4. Roll the dice, and write down the note you've assigned to that number.
5. Roll again and write the note down, do this til you think you've got enough notes.
6. Play it in the order you've written. And there you have it! You've got a melody.

Play around with different rhythms of the notes, maybe some are long, some are short, maybe there's some space between notes. Maybe you played the *Gasp* "wrong note" but it sounds cool so just write that one down too.

Play around with these notes and see you find!

Sometimes getting started is the hardest part - using chance procedures like dice can eliminate that.

Bonus: If you play DnD or have a friend who plays DnD you can give yourself way more options.

*Alternatives for non-note readers: Roll a bunch of dice at once and play from one number to the next. Don't worry about writing anything down, just play the notes that you've assigned to each number.



Clinton Ackerman kick-started Pantala Arts Lab, an arts education company in Regina this past year. This organization puts creativity front and centre ensuring that programs are built around creative expression, experimentation, and discovery. Skill building, technique, and learning what's been done in the past are put towards the main goal - students discovering and using their voice.



Off the Shelf

Laureen Kells

Hello friends

The following article was written by me for a University class I was taking. I hope you enjoy it!

Thanks for reading

Laureen



Music Lessons – An Unexpected Legacy

When Mom received a phone call from a family member inquiring if I may be interested in learning to play the piano, she jumped at the chance. After all we had a piano, and Mom had always wanted to play. The fact that I would be doing the learning, not her, didn't worry her. This was before the day of the dangers of living vicariously through your children had been thought of. Little did I know that those lessons and the subsequent years spent studying music would take me on such an interesting musical and life journey.

Things started out very well. Lessons were held weekly. Mom would spend 30 minutes having coffee with Auntie Kay, while cousin Gloria walked me through the intricacies of FACE, Every Good Boy Deserves Fun, All Cows Eat Grass and Good Boys Deserve Fun Always. I had a lovely book called "Teaching Little Fingers to Play" and a highlight of that first year was playing *Swans on the Lake* for my Grandfather's 70th birthday party.

After that first year, I was ready to move on to a more experienced teacher in a bigger center. Miss Keele was a well known and renowned teacher in our area and she was known for taking on serious students. It also was handy that she lived one block away from my Grandma, so now Mom would spend my lesson time having coffee with Grandma while I took a shortcut through a neighbor's yard to spend 30 minutes with Miss Keele.

Again, lessons went well. I knew in the back of my mind that not everyone was lucky enough to have lessons. We lived in a small town and I was one of only three other girls that took lessons. Miss Keele told Mom I had "an ear for music". I came from a musical family, so it seemed only natural that I would learn to play music, and I was reminded more than once, that my mom didn't have the chance to learn so it only made sense that I would. Did I mention this wasn't considered damaging at the time?

At any rate, we continued on. At that time, the only game in town when it came to music studies was the much revered "Royal Conservatory of Music". I had a borrowed book from previously mentioned cousin Gloria and pieces such as *Minuet in G* and *Invention in F* became part of my repertoire. Lessons were \$2.00 per half hour. My lessons were Saturday at 2:00. Miss Keele had a gigantic hard cover record book where she dutifully wrote down the money she received every week.

Miss Keele, whose name was Ethel (although neither myself, my mom or my grandma ever referred to her as that) lived with her sister Miss Anne Keele. Anne Keele was a teacher at the elementary school. Both ladies were spinsters who lived in a beautiful two story home. As can only happen when there are no children or husbands to muss things up, their home was immaculate. Eyelet lace pillows, fancy cups and saucers, and delicate ornaments adorned the music room. If I arrived early, I was sent upstairs to a bedroom to wait my turn. The bad was always made. Sunshine streamed in through the lace curtains and shine objects were spread out on the dressing table. It was like something out of a book. When my turn came, I would carefully make my way downstairs to the piano.

I would love to report that as my lessons continued through the years, I was always a stellar student. Each piece would be carefully practiced and prepared. My scales were always flawlessly executed and my triads beyond imagination. Unfortunately, all this would be untrue. Miss Keele had her students keep track of their practice time in a calendar. We were to write down how many minutes we practiced each day, and she would review this at our lesson. It shames me greatly to admit, I was sometimes less than honest with Miss Keele regarding that practice journal. I clearly remember frantically filling it out on lesson day, using a different pen for each day, thinking she would not know that I did not practice at all that week.

Fortunately, I did possess enough natural talent, and as well was able to muster enough self discipline to prepare for an exam. As such I was able to successfully complete my Grade Six Practical Exam. It was a proud day that I received the corresponding certificates from Toronto and hung them on the wall by my piano. No one we knew had achieved such success.

When I was in Grade 12 in high school, I dropped my music lessons. At that time, I felt no great loss. I had “done my time”. Piano lessons were not cool in the group I moved in and there seemed no good reason to continue. I married young, had children and seldom, if ever, played the piano. But as happens, children grow and before I knew it the house was empty as all the kids were in school. With no career or hobbies to speak of, I decided, much to my mother’s absolute amazement, to return to my music studies. By this time, Miss Keele had gone on to the great music studio in the sky, so I was not able to return to her. However, there were other teachers and before I knew it, I was again struggling through scales, arpeggios and the like.

In terms of grades completed, I have done the majority of my major music studies as an adult. However, now the studies have been on my terms and for my own goals, not someone else’s. Once I had my Grade 8 piano, I could see a career forming. With new found confidence in my abilities, I was able to successfully execute my Grade 10 piano along with all the required theoretical components.

I have gone on to study Piano Pedagogy, taken examiner training with a major Canadian music school and have enjoyed working at the provincial and national levels for our music teacher’s associations. My husband is a musician, and we enjoy taking our music on the road. I have a full studio of students and music is a major part of my life.

In all this, I have had the benefit of studying with some very talented teachers. Teachers with advanced degrees in music, from across Canada. At none of those lessons though, have I been able to cut across the neighbor’s yard to get there. My mom no longer waits for me at Grandma’s. Cousin Gloria grew up and moved away. Auntie Kay and Grandma have died.

With the benefit of years, I am now able to appreciate the effect Miss Keele had on myself during those years. I have since learned she taught upwards of 60 students a week and was one of the first teachers to advocate for private music instruction during school time.

I wonder if she thought, single woman that she was, about leaving a legacy. I wonder if she would have been surprised that I still think of her with fondness, about what I would give to have a conversation with her now, and about what I would give to have Mom waiting for me at Grandma’s?



Laureen has been teaching in and around the East Central area of Saskatchewan for in and around 25 years. During her career she has had the opportunity to teach, adjudicate and examine a vast range of students. A life long learner, Laureen can be found reading studying, chatting with friends, jamming with her fiddle group or attending the next concert.

Laureen has given back to her profession by serving in various roles at her local, provincial and national level and has just moved into the role of Past President of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers. She currently maintains active studios in Yorkton and Foam Lake.

Laureen considers the friendships she has developed during her years of music making among some of the biggest rewards she has earned.




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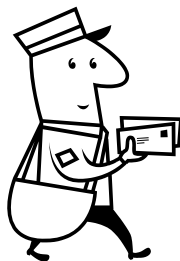
Happy New Year - all the best for 2023.
Amazing photos from your convention.
Look like it was a great event.

Thanks

Dina



Dina Pollock
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