

# WILLIAM ANDREWS CANADA MUSIC WEEK® AWARDS

*North Shore - British Columbia*

## North Shore Branch, BCRMTA Wins William Andrews Canada Music Week® Award for the Second Time

The North Shore Branch, BCRMTA is the proud winner of one of the two CFMTA/FCAPM William Andrews Canada Music Week® Awards for 2013. Our Branch also won this Award in 2008.

In November 2013, the North Shore Branch, BCRMTA hosted its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Canada Music Week events. We introduced a new feature into our usual format this year.

For the previous eight years, our Canada Music Week® events have centred around our commissioning new works from BC-based composers, and our CMW Recitals have consisted of three elements: premiere performances by students of the new works written by our guest composers; premiere performances of student compositions; and of course student performances of works from the Canadian repertoire.



L to R: Anna Levy, Frank Levin, Dr. Carolyn R. Finlay

Our CMW Recital 2013 held Sunday, November 17 in North Vancouver once again consisted of the three above features. Our guest composer was Frank Levin who describes his music as “classical crossover” in style.

Frank contributed two unpublished works for our students to premiere. *Christmas Alone: Theme and Variations* was premiered by North Shore student Annudesh Liyanage, and Levin’s *Romance in E Flat* was performed for the first time by student Jesse Wang. In addition, Annudesh also performed Levin’s *The Stately Victorians of Pacific Heights*, a previously published musical tribute to the stately old Victorian homes in San Francisco.

This year our CMW recital also included a new feature: we invited pianist Anna Levy, a specialist in contemporary music, to open the CMW Recital with a 50-minute



Anna Levy

recital entitled “An Historical Overview of Canadian Music for Piano from Calixa Lavallee to Michael Conway Baker.” Believing that hearing works of a professional and virtuosic level of difficulty would inspire both teachers and students alike to further explore the more advanced Canadian repertoire, we engaged Anna to perform the following works. Notes about each of the composers represented were provided in the printed programme:

Calixa LAVALLEE (1842-1891)  
*The Ellinger Polka, op. 8 and Le Papillon, op. 18*

R. Nathaniel DETT (1882-1943)  
*Juba Dance (from the Suite “In the Bottoms”) (1913)*

Jean COULTHARD (1908-2000)  
*Three Preludes: IX-Innocence; III-Pensive & XIII-Illumination*

Francois MOREL (1926)  
*Etude de sonorite, No. 2*

Ann SOUTHAM (1937-2010)  
*Rivers, Set 1, No. 2*

Michael Conway BAKER (1937)  
*Four Piano Pieces, op. 22*

Alexina LOUIE (1949)  
*I leap through the sky with stars.*

Anna’s performance gave our students, parents and teachers the unique opportunity to hear part of the rich historical legacy of our Canadian music for piano, including works written during the 19<sup>th</sup> century which most had never heard before.

Our CMW Workshop with Frank Levin was held on Sunday, November 3, 2013; six student composers ranging in age from 6 to 16 presented their own compositions. Five of the six student composers subsequently performed their own works at the CMW Recital:

- Adivi Raiturkar - *Ghosts Climbing Upstairs*
- Alora Bond - *Breathe*
- Serena Schimert - *Affection*
- Julia Tancon - *Land of the Rising Sun*
- Martin Barne - *Midnight.*

Our CMW Recital was attended by a large and enthusiastic audience who heard two premieres of works by composer Frank Levin, five student composers performing their own works and thirty-four students performing Canadian repertoire ranging from preparatory to advanced levels.



**BACK ROW from L to R:** Anna Levy (wearing the red gloves), Martin Barnes, Frank Levin, Serena Schimert, Alora Bond, Julia Tancon and Dr. Carolyn R. Finlay

**FRONT ROW L to R:** Jesse Wang, Aditi Raiturkar, Annudesh Liyanage (looking back).

*Frank LEVIN gave the students who had performed his works and each of the student composers a copy of his book "Complete Chord Classics".*

The event was publicized in the November newsletter from the Canadian Music Centre, BC chapter, and was followed by our customary reception at which everyone had the opportunity to purchase copies of Frank Levin's music and CDs, and to chat with our guest artists.

*Submitted by  
Dr. Carolyn R. Finlay, Co-ordinator  
CMW, North Shore Branch, BCRMTA  
All photographs taken by Don Mowatt*



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# WILLIAM ANDREWS CANADA MUSIC WEEK® AWARDS - cont.

*Halifax, Nova Scotia*

The Halifax chapter celebrated Canada Music Week with special recitals at the Calvin Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, November 23. The guest speaker was Peter Togni, the well-known composer, performer, and CBC radio broadcaster. The afternoon featured two recitals of violin and piano students. They all performed either original compositions or pieces by Canadian composers. The recital opened with a special arrangement of *O Canada* by Skippy Mardon for her violin and piano students.



Guest speaker Peter Togni with teachers Julie Post and Megan Henley

to try and copy anyone else but you also don't have to try to create something totally new. All musicians should listen as much as possible to all kinds of music from all over the world. Teachers can help young composers by sympathetic encouragement to improvise and find their own voice in their creativity.

The afternoon was inspiring to students, parents and teachers. Students performing were from the studios of Anna Lea Bartonova, Simon Docking, Shahien Hamza, Megan Henley, Skippy Mardon, Julie Post, Elizabeth Shearouse, Diana Torbert, and Lorna Wanzel, Thanks to Elizabeth Shearouse for organizing this wonderful event.

*Submitted by Diana Torbert*



Violin & Piano students of Skippy Mardon

Another unique aspect of this afternoon included art works created by students that expressed something about the piece they were going to play. These were displayed in the foyer of the church for all to see and admire. Everyone seemed to appreciate these visual expressions of the music they heard.

Peter Togni gave a presentation between the two recitals called, "Why Compose?"

He posed interesting questions such as "Why do we need music?" and "How long has music been in existence?" Mr. Togni talked about the earliest history of music and how it has always been a part of the human experience. His advice to young composers was to experiment and explore. He made the point that there is always room for more music and new ideas – not all the good music has been composed yet! Creativity is ongoing – we all have original ideas. It is important to be true to yourself and express who you are in your music. You don't have

