

CANADA MUSIC WEEK®

Coast to Coast

SEMAINE DE LA MUSIQUE CANADIENNE

d'un océan à l'autre

YUKON

Canada Music Week® was celebrated in the Yukon Territory with a Canadian music student concert, featuring students from six to sixteen years playing and singing a variety of selections that included works by Boris Berlin, Christine Donkin, Renee Christopher, Donna Rhodenizer, and Anne Crosby. The effort made by teachers to expose their students and the public to Canadian composers and their music is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Annie Avery



BRITISH COLUMBIA

This November, our beautiful Province was most creative in its celebration of our National culture through its music! Of our twenty Branches, fifteen reported delighting audiences with a Canada Music Week® Recital. Some Branches took this opportunity to present student awards for excellence in both Theory as well as Practical exams. Most were followed with a time of fellowship and refreshment. During the various Recitals across the province, six Branches featured over 70 compositions by the students of Branch members!

Seven of those compositions given special mention were:

Duets from the North Shore Branch written for 'erhu' and 'dizi'

Morning Birds by Sarah Haysom

Reflections by Denise Kerney

D Dorian Rhapsody by Annudesh Liyanage

Oriental Gardens by Julia Tancon

Solos from the North Shore Branch....

Planet X by Martin Barnes

Sweet Trauma by Sasha Chudinsky

Premier from the Abbotsford Branch..

Remembrance by Kathleen Feenstra.

Congratulations! To all of those students who have now joined the ranks of our National Composers!

Several Branches had accomplished Canadian Composers either in attendance, giving workshops, or premiering one of their own works! During the course of four events spread throughout the year, the North Shore Branch availed themselves of the expertise of Mr Armanini, Song Yung, and Charlie Lui in the art of playing two traditional Chinese instruments – the 'dizi' (a Chinese flute) and the 'erhu' (a Chinese stringed instrument). Mark Armanini's work 'Red Leaves' was premiered at the November Recital. The event concluded with six performances of student compositions by the VICO Sounds Global Ensemble under the direction of Farshid Samandari of the VICO and BC Chinese Music Association.

The South Okanagan Branch feted Ernst Schnider with a milestone birthday cake. His work *Nocturne* was premiered and well enjoyed on this occasion. In Vernon, Canadian Composer, Imant Raminsch, attended the recital where his Trio for violin, piano and cello, *Love Songs from Work Chants*, was performed to the delight of all. In Victoria, Nicholas Fairbank enthralled the audience with a power-point presentation titled North of the Arctic Circle, Sept 28 - Oct 15, 2012, *Svalbard and the Creation of Isbjorn*. As the featured composition must be performed by multiple choirs, it was enjoyed by means of a recording.

Ours is a culture well worth celebrating, and the BC Branches were very dedicated and creative in this endeavour! Thank-you all!

Submitted by Sonia Hauser





ALBERTA

In Calgary on an April Sunday, esteemed teacher and examiner, Linda Kundert-Stoll, shared her favorite Canadian music selections for students as early teacher preparation for Canada Music Week®.

The Calgary music community celebrated with Roberta Stephen, ARMTA teacher, mentor, publisher (Alberta Keys), and promoter of Canadian composers, in a September recital featuring her former students and colleagues performing her compositions. In addition, Roberta received the Alberta Music Education Foundation's *Recognition Award* at Music Conference Alberta in October. As Roberta winds down her publishing career, Alberta Keys music will now be carried by Palliser Music Publishing.



Calgary Branch was very pleased to sponsor a workshop with Christine Donkin in association with Calgary Contemporary Showcase. A well-known Canadian composer whose work spans many levels of student performance on many instruments, Christine's presentation was entitled "*Opening the Door to Creativity: Composition Activities for Music Students*". It was open to all members of the teaching

community, and geared toward those who wanted to encourage student composers in their studios. The workshop was informative and well-enjoyed by those in attendance.



Hosted by Innovations Music, **Edmonton** teachers gathered on November 1 to share favorite Canadian music to use with students, and concluded with a wine and cheese reception. Shelagh Scott played Christine Donkin, Deborah Gallant played Janet Gieck, Joan Ritchie played Martha Hill Duncan, Wuensch Canaducts were performed by Leslie Bai and Paulette Pelland, Leanne Regehr played Jean Coulthard, and Janna Olson played David McIntyre.

On November 22, **Lethbridge** combined the performance of Canadian music with their annual awards recognition for top exam marks. Twenty-one students performed works featuring Linda Niamath, Anne Crosby, Nancy Telfer, Christine Donkin and Pierre Gallant. Janelle Bykowski, Elani Bykowski and Anna Jeong received ARMTA Provincial Recognition Fund Awards.

Submitted by Beth Oliver ♣

SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatoon's Contemporary showcase 2014 took place on Saturday, November 14. The thirty-eight participants involved played in classes from pre-grade 1 to grade 10 level. It was a very festive day with several door prizes, balloons and refreshments. Several students were selected by the adjudicator, Peggy L'Hoir, to participate in the SRMTA's CMW recital held the next day in Convocation Hall on the U of S campus.

The **Battlefords** Branch presented a student recital at Logie Hall, Third Ave. United Church, on Sunday, November 16. The recital was titled "Music in Motion" with special guests "the Dance Connection Musical Theatre Ensemble" under the direction of Virginia Winterhalt and Dianne Gryba. It was a lovely afternoon of music with students performing twenty-six piano and vocal selections. The musical theatre selections were *Forget about the boy* from Thoroughly Modern Millie by Tesori and Scanlan, and *Matilda* by Minchin.

Students of Sarah Clark Gregory and Kelly Stein of the **Yorkton** Branch celebrated CMW with a joint recital. Most of the students composed their own pieces which they performed, and others presented music by Canadian composers.

The RMTs of **Swift Current** celebrated CMW by hosting several events throughout the city. Both students and teachers participated in these events, all of which were open and free to the public. The week began with



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SASKATCHEWAN - cont.

free music classes at the public library to show what fun music lessons can be. African drumming, Music for Young Children – piano, and guitar for beginners were presented. A series of noon hour “listen @ lunch” performances by various music teachers were also held at the library, which were well attended. The popular Jazz and Java night returned to the Urban Ground Coffee House on Friday evening. Finally, the week concluded with a student showcase recital on Sunday, Nov. 23 at the Art Gallery. Here, students were acknowledged for awards and accomplishments from the past year.

The **West Central** Branch began their CMW week end on Friday with an inspiring and informative workshop with Cherith Alexander. She spoke on developing creativity, musical form, and what makes an inspiring teacher. A master class with two intermediate students followed. Saturday produced a showcase with forty entries from across west central Sask., including piano, vocal and percussion students. Running concurrently in another area were drum workshops with percussionist Helen Barkley. Students had great fun learning rhythms and composing soundscapes as a group.



Submitted by Dorothy Hamm ❁



MANITOBA

A grand celebration of thirty various Canadian works took place on the afternoon of Sunday November 16th to kick off Canada Music Week*.

The venue was Fort Garry Mennonite Fellowship Church in Fort Richmond where a lovely recital was followed by a reception, rewarding the young players and singers with cake!

Two Manitoban composers, Remi Bouchard, and Julianne Warkentin Dick were in attendance, with Mr. Bouchard's nephew Edwin Todd painting a beautiful and haunting picture of his piano piece entitled *The Gray Wolf*. Remi Bouchard's *Variations on an Icelandic Air* was artfully played by Angela Ng and two pieces of Julianne Warkentin Dick were performed (*Black Panther* and *Snow Storm*). Other composers from Manitoba whose works were represented included Maryanne Rumancik (*Fireworks*), Dr. Kenneth Nichols (*Helen's Waltz*), and Tiffany Prochera (*Doodly Doo*).

Four budding young composers also shared their own compositions which were all very unique and offered some wonderful pop and jazz influences.

Thank you to the eleven teachers from the MRMTA who prepared their students so well and to the team of volunteers that made this recital a success! I think we all went home



inspired to explore more Canadian works, in particular those from Manitoba!!

Thanks so much for the team effort, MRMTA members, in particular:

Laureen Reeds, Julianne Warkentin Dick, Eleanor Lwiwski, Tiffany Wilson, Vivian Klosse, Audrey Belyea, Petra and Christina (singer and volunteer!) Thanisch-Smith, and all those who attended and supported the event.

Submitted by Leanne Hiebert ❁



ONTARIO

Owen Sound Branch's recital had about twenty students performing works by Canadian composers (including local composer Debra Wanless) and a fabulous audience turnout. Afterwards, there was a draw for two paintings, generously donated by composer Rémi Bouchard. The reception was a hit as always, due to the enormous celebratory cake and take-home Canadian souvenirs.



Ottawa Region Branch's recital included 39 young voice, harp, and piano students. Included were original compositions by Ottawa composers Kelly-Marie Murphy, Colin Mack, Claudia Cashin-Mack, Anita Schlarb and young composer Abbey Sugars-Keen. To further their ONMC/ORMTA collaboration, pianist Catherine Donkin closed the concert with two pieces of Christine Donkin's. Participants received a certificate and "Obama" cookies!





ONTARIO - cont.

Every year for Canada Music Week®, the **North York/York Region Branch** gives a special trophy for the highest mark of the performance of a Canadian composition during the Fall Auditions (which fall during Canada Music Week®). All levels are involved, and one performer of each Junior, Intermediate and Senior Piano and Voice will receive a special trophy. Thus six trophies are awarded.

Students who received honour marks in examinations throughout the year were invited to perform at **North Bay Branch's** Honour Recital. Students who received the highest marks in practical and theory examinations were presented with certificates and awards. The Mayor presented a Proclamation, and the Supreme Ruler of the Elks

Kingston Branch's Canada Music Week® Festival included performances on a Friday and Saturday. Adjudicator Susan Griesdale offered encouraging words to the students who participated, whose love and care for their music showed that contemporary Canadian music clearly resonates with our youth. The finale concert on Sunday included a draw for tickets for Kingston Frontenacs hockey games.

The **Hanover-Walkerton Branch** started an innovative initiative called Patriotic Performance Partners. With a large geographical area, the branch felt that it was time to offer a way for students to share music in a supportive, motivating environment. On a carefully chosen website, students, matched by age, share videos of themselves performing Canadian pieces. It's hoped this initiative will continue throughout the year.

At the **Hamilton-Halton Branch's** annual recital, 20 vocalists (and only 10 pianists!) performed music by Canadian composers. Branch member Keisha Bell-Kovacs performed *Place St. Henri* by Oscar Peterson and several vocal students performed songs written by their teacher, Linda Fletcher. The Spurrell Studio Choir and Training Chorus gave a stunningly beautiful performance of two pieces. Afterwards, a Canada Music Week® cake was devoured by all.

Central Toronto Branch hosted a Composition Master Class. Eight composers, from teens to adults, had their works (for various instrumentations) critiqued by Dr. Roger Bergs. Dr. Bergs kept everyone engaged as he gave advice on dealing with issues of form, phrasing, notation, building energy, etc. There were participants and auditors from other branches, and one of the teenage composers participated by Skype from Thunder Bay!

Submitted by Alice Dearden



Lodge presented the Grade Ten award to Gabriel Lavoie, who also received the ARCT Piano and Advanced Theory awards.

Newmarket and Area Branch spread their activities throughout the year. At their branch luncheon in June, branch members performed some of their own piano works. A September workshop with Red Leaf Composers Susan Griesdale and Martha Hill Duncan presented music by several contemporary Canadian composers. In November, eighty students took part in three recitals with piano, vocal, harp, cello, and flute performances.



"How Well Do You Know Your Canadian Composers?" board - Newmarket and Area

QUEBEC

La semaine de la musique canadienne à Montréal 2014 a enchanté une fois de plus son fidèle public. Dimanche le 16 Novembre, environ soixante jeunes musiciens âgés de 5 à 17 ans ont exécuté des œuvres pour piano, violon ainsi que voix, lors de 3 récitals au Cégep de Saint-Laurent. Hormis les classiques de notre répertoire, certaines pièces ont été entendues pour la première fois à cet événement et se sont avérées de belles découvertes. Le juge Michel Fournier a sélectionné une trentaine d'élèves et ceux-ci ont performé avec brio lors du concert gala du Samedi 22 Novembre.

Ce concert gala fut vivement apprécié. 3 compositeurs dont les pièces furent interprétées étaient présentes, soit Alexandra Delgado, Marybelle Frappier et Mélina Claude. Une mention spéciale a été faite à l'attention de Léo Purich, qui s'est vu octroyer le second prix du concours de composition de la FCAPM dans la catégorie instrument solo, avec sa pièce « *Konzertstucke op.109* ».

Sonia Paquet, directrice générale du Centre de musique Canadienne à Montréal était présente et a chaudement salué et encouragé tous les organisateurs et participants. Grâce à sa générosité, de superbes partitions de compositeurs canadiens ont été remises aux interprètes, qui avaient hâte de pouvoir les interpréter. Ces partitions étaient jumelées à une petite bourse offerte par l'APMQ.

Tout cela ne serait pas possible sans la motivation des étudiants ainsi que la dévouement de leurs professeurs. Comme il s'agit souvent des mêmes professeurs, nous tenons à souligner tout particulièrement leur belle persévérance. Nous encourageons fortement tous les professeurs membres de l'apmq à participer. Votre apport est

important afin d'assurer la vitalité de la musique canadienne. Comme le prouve les acclamations d'un public ravi, la semaine de la musique canadienne fut une réussite. L'événement a encore une fois excellé dans sa mission à mettre valeur la richesse de notre répertoire.

Mélina Claude, coordonnatrice, rapport- 2014 (Français)



The Canadian music week welcomed over sixty students to the event. Pianists, violinists and singers performed at three recitals on Sunday, November 16. Approximately thirty among them from several different proud teachers were chosen by Judge Michel Fournier, to perform at the gala recital held on Saturday, November 22. This took place at Cégep de St-Laurent, well renown for its great music education program.

The Gala concert featured the works of several well-established Canadian composers, as well as compositions from composers that were attending the gala, Alexandra Delgado, Marybelle Frappier and Mélina Claude. A special mention was made to Leo Purich who won a second place in the FCAPM music writing competition, in the solo instrument category, for his piece titled *Konzertstucke op. 109*. Our young musicians certainly were true ambassadors and promoted with brio the works of various Canadian composers that evening.

The Quebec's Canadian Music general director Sonia Paquet attended the Gala. She was thrilled by the event and spoke with heart-warming cheering words to everyone involved. Many thanks to her generosity, scores were presented to all thirty performers. The music is selected to appeal to the students and they are all excited about the idea of learning new Canadian pieces for next year's event. Each participant also received a small scholarship offered by the QMTA.

The Canada Music Week® event this year has succeeded in its mission to support the greatness of Canadian music. The motivation and talent of our young musicians as well as the dedication of the teachers supporting them is still going strong. The cheering audience demonstrated once again eloquently, how much this music is very much appreciated in Quebec.

Submitted by Mélina Claude ❖



NEW BRUNSWICK

The Fredericton Music Teachers' Association held a Canada Music Week® recital on Saturday, November 22nd. Thirty students, including pianists, vocalists, and instrumentalists, performed a variety of music from many different Canadian composers. The recital was a well-attended and much enjoyed celebration of Canadian music.

Submitted by Megan Woodworth

The Moncton Music Teachers' Association held their annual Canada Music Week® Recital on November 16, 2014, featuring piano and cello students from beginners to Grade 10. Congratulations to the students and their teachers for a wonderful recital!

Special guests were some of the members of the Wind Masters' Flute Choir, under the direction of Karin Aurell. The group is made up mainly of university and high school students, with a few younger students and some interested adults making up the remainder of the group. Students



travel from as far away as Bathurst to attend rehearsals and concerts. They are currently preparing for concerts in November and February/March. This performance was a dress rehearsal for them. Our piano and cello students were excited to see and hear alto and bass flutes, which they hadn't known existed.

The wonderful afternoon of music was followed by a reception where everyone sampled the Canada Music Week® cake and some punch.

Submitted by Doris Sabeau

The Sackville Branch celebrated Canada Music Week® with a Student Recital on the afternoon of Sunday, November 23 – officially, one day “late”! – in Brunton Auditorium on the Mount Allison University campus. Twenty-five students performed on violin, cello, flute, or piano for

an enthusiastic audience of about sixty parents, teachers, and friends. Several of the performances featured works by Canadian composers. Dr. James Mark – performer, educator, conductor, and Professor Emeritus of Music from Mount Allison – spoke to the performers about the process of establishing the new *Musica Viva NB* orchestra, and described the important role of musical ensembles in our community and in Canadian culture.

Submitted by Margaret Ann Craig

The Saint John Music Teachers' Association celebrated Canada Music Week® with a Contemporary Showcase Music Festival on Friday, November 21st. All of the fifteen performers played two selections and thoroughly enjoyed having adjudicator Megan Woodworth from Fredericton.

Submitted by Rita Raymond-Millet ❖

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NOVA SCOTIA

On Saturday, November 22nd, the Halifax Chapter presented two recitals featuring Canadian composers and original compositions.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Jerome Blais, Professor of Composition and Theory at Dalhousie University's Department of Music.

The recitals began with a group of violinists, (accompanied by piano) playing *Oh Canada* and other pieces, with arrangements and an original composition by Skippy Mardon. Other Canadian composers featured in the recitals were Linda Niamath, Boris Berlin, Lorna Paterson, Clifford Poole, Violet Archer, Dale Reubart, Judith Snowden, and Anne Crosby. Original compositions were performed by young composers - Elena Brushett, Koa Schuette, Evelyn Stewart, Logan Pettipas, Nathan Inglis, and Owen Maitzen. Owen has won several provincial and national awards for his compositions. This talented 17 year old also won the Helen Dahlstrom Award and First Place in the 19 years and under category in CFMTA/FCAPM 2014 Young Composer Competition.

Several students also created paintings or drawings to illustrate the piece they were performing. These art works were displayed next to the piano as they performed.

The presentation by Dr. Blais was about his own musical journey *The Long and Winding Road to Becoming*

a Composer. He told us that young musicians are often compared to the greatest musicians of all time, such as Bach or Mozart, which can be discouraging for the beginner. Dr. Blais came to music later than most, but became a passionate listener of diverse kinds of music. He always wanted to explore sounds and improvise but did not think of himself as a composer until he had spent several years studying science and then piano. His advice to young composers: be passionate about whatever you do, work hard no matter how talented you are (Mozart worked very hard!) and don't give up!

He told the young musicians in the audience that from what he had heard that day, Canadian music was in good hands! Dr. Blais was very impressed by our students, and everyone in the audience was entertained and inspired by his musical insights.



Participating students were from the studios of Anna Lea Bartonova, Patricia Bryson, Marie Casavechia, Simon Docking, Shahien Hamza, Skippy Mardon, Natalia Pavlovskaja, Julie Post and Diana Torbert.

Submitted by Diana Torbert



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

November was a busy month for interest in Canadian music on P.E.I. again this year. On November 8 we had our Branching Out workshop for teachers with Canadian Composer Dr. Richard Covey, entitled "*Works in Progress: Incorporating Free Composition into Music Lessons*".

November 15 was our annual Canada Music Week® Recital. This year there were so many entries that there were two recitals, with a break between for a group photo. The recitals began with the singing of *O Canada* and included students from eight studios performing piano and violin solos, and violin duets. We were pleased to have singers Seth and Chloe Dockendorff perform their CFMTA prize-winning compositions.

On November 23 the PEI Symphony presented two new Canadian works that were written to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference: Garrett Krause's *Where Pines and Maples Grow* (2014) and Alice Ping Yee Ho's *Ocean Child* (2014). It was exciting to have both composers present, and the audience responded with standing ovations for the performances. The audience was also enthusiastic about the performance of PEI Singer/Songwriter Catherine MacLellan with the orchestra.

It was wonderful to have opportunities to perform and listen to Canadian music, bookending the official CFMTA/FCAPM Canada Music Week® this year.



Submitted by Sue Irvine 🍀