



## BRITISH COLUMBIA

Close to 500 students across BC played and sang their way through November to again celebrate Canada Music Week! Here are the details.

The CMW recital for the **East Kootenay Branch** was a memorable one with 38 musicians presenting piano, vocal and original compositions for an appreciative audience of over 200! Awards were presented and gifts of two sets of books for students that completed any History or Harmony course with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours (these being donated by a teacher formerly from the area) were presented.

The **Victoria Branch** had a very successful concert with twenty-one performers, seven of whom were performing their own works. Sylvia Rickard was the Featured (and outstanding!) composer and

adjudicator for their annual 'Murray Adaskin Composing Competition'. Four of Sylvia's compositions were also performed throughout the evening.

The **Chilliwack Branch** began their festivities late Oct, joining with various art groups showcasing displays and demonstrations at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre. In November, thirty-three students in piano, violin and voice performed for the CMW Recital with several playing compositions by their teacher, Lois Voth. Bursaries for highest marks were also distributed.

The **North Island Branch** celebrated CMW with thirty-eight students performing a wealth of BC Composers music and 'Red Leaf Piano Works' composers. Special recognition was given to the Grade 9 & 10 exam students of the Campbell River, Courtenay and Comox regions.

On Sat Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> the **South Fraser Branch** sponsored a 'Double Celebration Recital' as twenty-eight students shared the starry-lit stage with our Provincial Representative at the Regina CFMTA Convention

2011, Carter Johnson. Synergy flowed between the special guest and students, and departed with Carter's lingering thoughts: "It's my passion for the music. If I didn't have passion, I wouldn't keep going."

The **Coquitlam/Maple Ridge Branch** celebrated CMW with thirty-three students performing in two recitals. David Gordon Duke was the featured composer and was commissioned to write two piano pieces for the students to perform (at both recitals). Each of these students received 'Premiere Performance' certificates. Trophies were presented for the highest marks in practical as well as theoretical subjects.

Twenty students from the **Sunshine Coast Branch** presented pieces on the organ, piano, flute, guitar, ukelele and voice. Several original compositions by two teachers, Tom Kellough and Carolynn Cordsen were performed as well as one students' composition and two songs from Canadian Icons, Joni Mitchell and Gordon Lightfoot.

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA - cont.

The **North Shore Branch** once again commissioned a professional composer to write original works to be premiered by the students at the CMW Recital. This year's guest was Alexander Pechenyuk and nine students premiered these four pieces beautifully. Several weeks prior, these selected students and composition students joined Mr. Pechenyuk in a wonderful master class setting.

The **Abbotsford Branch's** students presented a diverse program this year with a string ensemble performing Christine Donkin's *Athabasca* and *Crowsnest Pass* along with the piano festivities. This concert also featured Josh Herrett, a former student furthering his musical studies at UVIC, after receiving 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours with Distinction for his ARCT and medals were presented for highest exam marks.

The **South Okanagan Branch** celebrated CMW with twenty students performing including two compositions by Anita Perry, a teacher in the branch. Awards were presented for 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours (with Distinction) exam results and a special 'Award of Excellence' was presented to Paul Ellis for outstanding musicianship over many years.

Another successful CMW concert was presented by the **Vernon Branch** including piano, voice and several students' compositions. Special recognition was given to the local composers Imant Raminsh, Lorna Paterson, Dale Ruebart, Jean Ethridge and Daniel Powter and they celebrated the forming of a student's "Composers Club". Awards were also presented for highest exam marks.

CMW was celebrated by the **Nelson Branch** with a one day festival/workshop/concert involving almost sixty violin and piano students. Invited guest composer/adjudicator/performer Arne Sahlen inspired and encouraged the students to explore more of their Canadian repertoire.

A two day festival (11<sup>th</sup> Annual) with thirty students was hosted by the **Trail/Castlegar Branch**. 'A Celebration of Jazz Music' with composer/adjudicator/performer Hugh Parsons (Kelowna) was the focus this year. This event involved workshops, an adjudicated festival and the final Saturday Evening Concert. Scholarships, Community Service Awards and recognition for two students receiving 'Medals of Excellence' from Conservatory Canada were given.

The **Prince George Branch** celebrated CMW with twenty-five students performing music by Canadian Composers Boris Berlin, Linda Niamath, Clifford Poole and Anne Crosby among others this year. The weather was much calmer than last year as performers, parents and teachers enjoyed fine music and refreshments to make a pleasant evening all-round.


Forty-one students celebrated CMW with the **Shuswap Branch** presenting piano solos, duets, vocals and strings to an enthusiastic audience. Several selections by member teacher and well-known composer, Jean Ethridge, were performed, including a left-hand piece written specifically for a young student who'd recently broken his wrist! A special 'Book Award' was presented to a senior student.


*Tracey Garvin*





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## ALBERTA

Several ARMTA branches participate in the local Contemporary Showcases and these festivals, followed by Gala concerts are how they celebrate Canadian composers and contemporary Canadian music.

Christine Rogers reports that the **Lethbridge branch** celebrated by hearing twenty-one piano and organ students perform in recital. After the performances, more than \$1200 was awarded to 45 students with the highest first class honors marks in Practical and Theory exams.



Janelle and Elani Bykowski from Lethbridge

Eda Nassar reports that in **Fort McMurray**, they had a Music Writing Competition which ended with a Winners Concert. A week later, the Awards Ceremony and Recital was held in Fort McMurray.

*Judith Ammann*



## SASKATCHEWAN

Two of our Saskatchewan RMT groups held Canada Music Week® activities this year.

In **Swift Current** a large audience enjoyed an evening of music that included Saskatchewan, Canadian, European and Christmas music. A highlight of the concert was a performance by "From Prairie to Pine" composer Andrea Neustaeter. Ms. Neustaeter performed her Sudden Prairie Storms.

In **Yorkton**, CMW was celebrated by having a Contemporary Workshop with well know clinician and composer Wes Froese of Saskatoon. Approximately fifty students entered and performed their Canadian pieces in a workshop format.  
*Laureen Kells*



## MANITOBA

Teachers in the Brandon and Western Manitoba Region of the province have been celebrating Canadian Music!

In **Boissevain**, Manitoba, The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual CNCM's Composers & Kids event was held on Saturday, October 15, to huge success! The visiting composer was Joanne Bender – a talented and enthusiastic composer from Waterloo, Ontario. Piano students performed one of Joanne's pieces for the composer and received instant feedback often hearing the 'backstory' for their piece or the inspiration behind the composition. Joanne gave each participant some important one-on-one time as well as engaging the students in fun group activities.



Many of Joanne's piano compositions for students are published in the Northern Lights Canadian Piano

## MANITOBA - cont.

series. There were opportunities for photographs and signing autographs. For students, parents, grandparents and teachers it was a day filled with many wonderful musical memories that will last a lifetime!

A similar event was held in Deloraine the previous day. Participating teachers were Dianna Neufeld [RMT], Dale Whetter, Jo-Anne Neufeld & Tenley Dyck [RMT].



On November 25th and 26th, **Brandon and Westman Teachers** celebrated Canada Music Week at The Music Studio, in downtown Brandon, Manitoba. Guest pianist and composer, David McIntyre, opened the weekend with a delightful, intimate Piano Concert and Talk on the Friday evening. The program was introduced by a short solo violin and string orchestra performance by students. David spoke eloquently about his involvement in music, both as a pianist and as a composer; his presentation consisted of a partial retrospective of his solo piano music, with colourful and interesting commentary on the many contrasts and features inherent in each composition. A reception followed, allowing for further discussion and visiting with the composer.

On Saturday morning, the Canada Music Week® Student Recital was hosted by David, featuring student performances of pieces written by him,



and other Canadian composers. David was meticulous in his comment to students; clearly illustrating his points and suggestions through anecdote, and with an encouraging and inspirational “hands on” approach. Twenty six students played, representing eight local teachers, who then enjoyed the cutting of The Canada Music Week® Birthday Cake.

The party continued ‘til late Saturday afternoon, for Masterclasses & Improvisatory Workshops. Students of all levels worked on their specific piece with a good deal of thoroughness, then had a chance to play with David, in improvisatory piano duets and vocal ensemble.

Students, teachers, parents and audience members were privileged to witness the joy and enthusiasm that David brought to the celebrations, as he revealed and shared his own passion for music, made particular by playing the piano.

*Ann Germani - President  
The Brandon & Westman RMTA*

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## ONTARIO

The **Belleville** Branch of the ORMTA celebrated Canada Music Week® on Sunday November 27th, with a junior music recital. Thirty- five students from grades 4 and under, performed in front of a large appreciative audience of family and friends. Most of the students performed Canadian music by their favourite composers. However, those that did not were encouraged to find a Canadian “connection” to their piece. Titles ranged from *Twinkle Twinkle Little ‘Canadian’ Star* to the ‘RCMP’ *Detective Agency*. One student discovered that her selection, *My Heart Will Go On*, had been performed by Canadian singer, Celine Dion for the movie “Titanic”! The concert concluded with the teachers serving a wonderful array of Canadian treats to all who attended.

Pat Ross

**Chatham-Kent** Branch celebrated Canada Music Week® 2011, with a recital featuring students playing Canadian repertoire on Wednesday, November 23, 2011. Awards were also presented that night to students of ORMTA members who received the highest mark in their conservatory examinations in piano and vocal studies in 2011.

ORMTA members also entered students in the Chatham-Kent Contemporary Showcase Festival, November 18 and 19. There were ninety-two piano and vocal students participating. Piano adjudicator was Frank Horvat, of Toronto, and vocal adjudicator was Catherine McKeever of Windsor. Canadian flag pins, CFMTA/FCAPM Canada Music Week® pencils and chocolate maple leaf suckers were presented to all participants.

Roberta Dickson

**Kitchener-Waterloo** ORMTA celebrated Canada Music Week in a big way.

On November 26, almost forty students signed up for all-day masterclasses with clinician and ORMTA member Marnie van Weelden, who gave valuable feedback on their Canadian and contemporary repertoire.

After a short break, the Canada Music Week® Recital took place. Of the twenty-two student performers, three performed their own compositions. K-W ORMTA president Joanne Bender performed her composition *Drum Dancer Under the Northern Lights* and spoke about both the compositional devices and the social background which led to the development of this piece. Students and audience members were inspired by these words from a ‘real live’ working composer! Red and white balloon bouquets decorated the venue. To end the recital, *O Canada* was played, and each performer was given a helium balloon to take home as a memento of the day. A fun and educational time was had by all.

Carol Ditner-Wilson

The Novus Via

CN/SMS





## ONTARIO - cont.

The **North Bay** Branch did two special things to celebrate Canada Music Week®. We had our annual Honour Recital where awards (including memorial scholarships for higher grades) are presented to the students with the highest marks (of students of ORMTA teachers) for practical and theory exams in the past year.

Our second initiative was the second annual Canada Music Week® Poster Contest. Students in three different age categories were encouraged to choose a Canadian composition (three choices were given) which they listened to on-line. They created a poster using their choice of media to communicate how the composition inspired them. Several artistic people with different art and music backgrounds from our community were given the task of judging these posters. Cash awards were assigned to the first, second and third place posters in each age group. Winners were announced at the end of the Honour Recital. This contest was the brain-child of member Jennifer Baxter and will probably become an

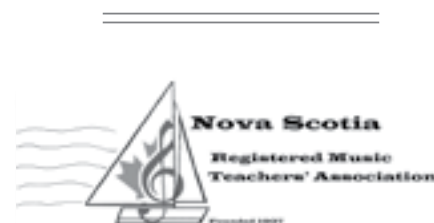
annual event as interest increased this year from last year. Last year we tried holding the Canadian Contemporary Showcase in February as it was getting increasingly difficult to have enough entrants to make it worthwhile during Canada Music Week®. As we had a very encouraging turnout last February, we will hold the next Showcase on February 4, 2012.

*Sue Nicholson*

On Nov. 21st, the **Oshawa & District** ORMTA Branch gathered together to celebrate Canada Music Week®, at the home of Lisa Stewart. To celebrate Canadian Music we invited Canadian Composer Debra Wanless to be our special guest for the morning. President Paula Copithorn read a brief history of Canada Music Week®, and then a bio of Debra. She was welcomed and introduced to the members. Debra then gave a presentation of some of her wonderful repertoire. There was a great variety of styles and pedagogical material to share with us. Members were then able to browse through the extensive selections, and purchases were

made; while enjoying a social time over coffee and snacks supplied by the Executive. A wonderful celebration of Canadian Music!

*Paula Copithorn*



## NOVA SCOTIA

The Dartmouth Chapter NSRMTA holds annual recitals for Canada Music Week®, featuring as many Canadian composers as possible. For Canada Music Week® 2011, recitals were held in four locations with about 175 students participating.

*Peggy Harrison*

*Dartmouth Chapter President*

- See page 10 -11  
Halifax Chapter won the Bill Andrews - Canada Music Week® Award.

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## NEW BRUNSWICK

New Brunswick RMT's and their students celebrated Canada Music Week® both collectively and individually. Special events were held in most areas of the province.

The **Saint John/Kennebecasis** branch held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Contemporary Showcase. Thirty-three pianists/singers performed and received feedback from adjudicator, RMT Jennifer Muir. In addition to the adjudications, Jennifer also shared some neat facts about some of the Canadian composers whose music was performed.

On Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, students aged from 5 to 16 performed works by Canadian composers at the annual Canada Music Week® recital in Moncton. A highlight of the day was the performance of a special musical *The Isle of Loobienox* – music by Frank Horvath and words by Karen Moonah. The students and audience explored the wonderful world of the Loobies and discovered music, just as the Loobies do, when a piano falls in the middle of their village. Voice students of Line Rioux provided the narration while piano students of Jeanie MacCallum performed the music. All performers received Canada Music Week® pencils and were treated to cake and punch after the recital.

The **Sackville Branch** celebrated Canada Music Week with a Student Recital on the evening of Thursday, November 24, in Brunton Auditorium on the Mount Allison University campus. Twenty-one students

performed on either violin, flute, clarinet or piano for an enthusiastic audience of about 50 parents, teachers, and friends. Several of the performances featured works by Canadian composers. Professor Kevin Morse, a composer and teacher from Mount Allison, spoke to the performers about the importance of Canada Music Week® and the role of the music teacher in Canadian culture and in the lives of individual students.

There were other noteworthy events at Mount Allison during Canada Music Week®, although our branch members and their students were not always directly involved. These events included:

- an Canada Music Week Collegium on Wednesday, November 23, featuring performances by students from the Department of Music
- a concert by the renowned Canadian chamber group, the Gryphon Trio, presented by the Mount Allison Performing Arts Series on the evening of Friday, November 25, which included a performance of *Solstice Songs* - a new work by Canadian composer (and CMC Atlantic associate) Andrew Staniland. Gryphon Trio pianist James Parker also conducted a piano master class for Department of Music students on the afternoon of the 25th; participants included students of Sackville branch members.

The students of RMT Sharon Dyer participated in a studio performance class. Each student performed a piece by a Canadian composer and did an oral presentation about the composer they had chosen to perform. They also watched a CBC interview with Jan Lisiecki and listened to him perform a

Bach Prelude. This was followed by cake and ice cream.

Students of RMT Barbara Long also participated in a studio performance class. Each student played two pieces: a published piece by a Canadian composer and one of their own original compositions. The music was followed by games and maple leaf cookies.

For several years RMT Janet Hammock's music appreciation course was taught through Tantramar Senior College to students over the age of 50. This fall she decided to offer the course *Music Brightens the Heart and Gladdens the Soul* in her beautiful Skyloft Studio which adjoins her home. Over 30 registered seniors split into two classes are keen and thrilled to be studying beautiful music together. Janet writes:

"This week, being Canada Music Week®, we'll study the music of two contemporary Canadian composers who set the same poem to music: *We Move Homeward* by Sackville poet Marilyn Lerch. We will begin with Alasdair MacLean, a well-known Maritime composer, who set the poem as a song for large choir and full orchestra in 1998 - the final song of a cycle entitled *We Move Homeward*. We will study the entire work, and then focus on the poem and setting of *We Move Homeward*, noticing how Alasdair's interpretation of the poem inspired him to write music which illuminates the meaning of the poem in a unique way. Then we will move to Lloyd Burritt, a fine west coast composer, who set this same poem for choir and piano in 2010. Like Alasdair, Lloyd chose to end his song cycle with *We Move Homeward* and to call the entire cycle by that name.



## NEW BRUNSWICK - cont.

His personal interpretation of the poem also gives rise to an insightful musical setting. The two compositions are very beautiful, both realizing quite wonderfully the essence of the poem in music, yet in many respects they are very different from one another.

Both received beautiful premieres and I will play recordings of these performances in class."

Canada Music Week® remains alive and well in New Brunswick.

*Kilby Hume*



## NEWFOUNDLAND

The NLRMTA had a wonderful Canada Music Week® this year! We began the celebration with a radio taping at CBC studios here in St. John's; many of our participants met with CBC's Francesca Swann to be interviewed and record their performances. Our Canada Music Week® featured composer, Newfoundlander Dean Burry who current lives and works out of Toronto, was able to participate in the radio broadcast via the CBC studio in Toronto, providing commentary on his compositions and also encouragement to our budding composers. The broadcast aired on CBC Radio One's program *Musicraft* on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, which was wonderful exposure for our students and our organization.

In October 2011, Dean Burry was awarded the Louis Applebaum Composers Award for excellence in music composition for young people. Mr. Burry is highly recognized for his work in opera as both composer and

librettist, including his opera *The Brothers Grimm* which has been seen by over 120,000 school-age students in the last decade. In addition to opera, Mr. Burry has composed incidental music, instrumental music, chamber and choral works.

Our Canada Music Week® recital took place on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> in Petro-Canada Hall at Memorial University's School of Music. We had a diverse program representing Canadian composers from coast to coast. Seventeen students participated in the recital, with eight performing music by our featured composer, Dean Burry, including two multi-movement works for piano and two vocal pieces. The recital was well attended by family and friends and all participants were polished, giving effective performances.

It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the talent and dedication of our students, and we are looking forward to celebrating again next year!

*Heather Hillier-Snow*

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La semaine de la musique canadienne tant attendue à Montréal a encore cette année fait vibrer avec vigueur un fervent public. Près de quatre-vingts jeunes musiciens âgés de 5 à 17 ans ont exécuté des œuvres pianistiques lors de quatre récitals. Ceux-ci ont eu lieu au Cégep de Saint-Laurent, qui a résonné aux couleurs d'ici durant toute la journée du 20 novembre. D'incontournables classiques de notre répertoire ont été entendus. Des œuvres d'Alexina Louie, Denis Gougeon, André Mathieu, Clermont Pépin, Linda Niamath et d'une multitude d'autres compositeurs et compositrices ont été appréciées. De belles découvertes étaient aussi au rendez-vous. Un public béat a eu la chance d'entendre la prestation du lauréat d'un premier prix du concours de composition de la CFMTA/FCAPM dans la catégorie 15 ans et moins. Le jeune et créatif compositeur Francis Battah, a performé, lors du concert gala, son magnifique « Prélude » qui

a littéralement transporté l'audience dans une dimension pratiquement cosmique. D'autres nouveautés telles que la fascinante pièce « L'intrépide » de Frédéric Issid, jouée également lors du concert gala, ainsi que « La Trapéziste », 3<sup>ème</sup> des « Quatre incantations » de Mélina Claude, jouée le 20 novembre, ont été entendues pour la première fois en public.

Le concert gala du 26 novembre fut vivement apprécié. En tout, quinze compositeurs y ont été brillamment interprétés par de jeunes artistes prometteurs. De superbes partitions de compositeurs canadiens, fraîchement imprimées ont généreusement été offertes par le Centre de musique canadienne à Montréal. Elles ont été remises aux 19 interprètes reconnaissants de pouvoir les ajouter à leur répertoire. Ces partitions étaient jumelées à une bourse offerte par l'APMQ. Le juge Matt Herskowitz a également charitablement remis son « coup de cœur » à un élève méritant, soit Antoine Rivard-Landry.

Nous avons été témoins cette année d'un magnifique engouement pour la composition chez nos jeunes. Ce fut une

exaltante surprise de constater que le taux de participants au concours de composition de la FCAPM a quadruplé. L'heureux résultat de cette aventure musicale nous pousse à espérer qu'il en sera ainsi pour les années à venir.

En résultante de cette incessante et noble implication de nos jeunes musiciens et de leurs professeurs, la « Semaine de la musique canadienne » fut un bel événement qui a derechef mit superbement en valeur la richesse de notre répertoire. Nous ne pouvons qu'avoir déjà hâte à l'an prochain afin d'expérimenter à nouveau cette « fête » nous catapultant dans cette merveilleuse sphère qui explore, expose et célèbre la musique canadienne, belle et bien vivante.

*Mélina Claude*

*Coordonnatrice, rapport- 2011 (Français)*

The acclaimed Canada Music Week® had a fervent and delighted public once again. Nearly eighty young musicians aged between five and seventeen performed in four exciting recitals that took place in the beautiful new hall at Cégep de Saint-Laurent. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, the audience appreciated classics from the Canadian music repertory such as pieces by Alexina Louie, Denis Gougeon, André Mathieu, Clermont Pépin, Linda Niamath and many others. Beautiful discoveries were on the agenda as well. People were very impressed by Francis Battah's performance as he played his own composition, called *Prelude*, at the Gala Concert that took place the following Saturday. The young and very creative pianist is this year's winner of a first place at the Student Composer Competition of the CFMTA/FCAPM in the fifteen years and under category.



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## QUEBEC - cont.

The unique and brilliant piece literally sent the audience in a cosmic dimension. Other pieces by Canadian composers were also heard for the first time: *L'intrépide* by composer Frédéric Issid as well as *The Trapezist* by Mélina Claude.

The Gala Concert on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November was a real celebration. Fifteen composers were played with eloquence. Nice freshly printed Canadian music scores, graciously offered by "Le Centre

de musique canadienne de Montréal" were offered to all the musicians, along with a scholarship from QMTA. Judge Matt Herskowitz awarded his « coup de cœur » to a very skilled pianist, Antoine Rivard-Landry.

We were so thrilled that the rate of participation in the composition contest was very high this year. We can only hope that this "tendance" will remain a fact for the upcoming years as well. To conclude, the continuing and noble

implication of our young musicians supported by their dedicated teachers in their mission to discover, explore and keep Canadian music alive, is year after year a real celebration that many music lovers in our province are looking forward to. We are eager to discover what next year's event will reveal in terms of new talented performers and look forward to new and creative "chef-d'œuvres" of « musique d'ici. »



## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

After celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Canada Music Week® with a splash last year, we felt that a much smaller scale would be acceptable this year. We held our CMW recital on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at the Steel Recital Hall of the University of Prince Edward Island Music Department. Thirty students representing six studios performed Canadian repertoire for solo voice, piano and violin. We were very pleased that two piano students were able to perform two of the CFMTA Call for Composition winning compositions; Albert Wu played *Arctic Voices* by Susan Griesdale and Melissa Lewis performed Diane Chouinard's *Aurora Borealis*. We also had a special

performance by 8-year-old Seth Dockendorff who sang his vocal solo which recently won first place in the Under 8 Preparatory: Class 2 category of the CFMTA Student Composition Competition. The song, *The Wind is a Ninja*, is a testament to Seth's love of karate and is performed with several karate moves.

We were very fortunate again this year to have good press coverage of our event, including our local newspaper, an arts magazine and CBC radio.

Thank you to the executive, teachers and students who helped make this yearly event such a success.

*Suzanne Campbell*

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