



William Andrews

Canada Music Week® Awards

Prix semaine de la musique canadienne^{md}

BCRMTA - Abbotsford

To commemorate Canada's 150th birthday and Canada Music Week® 2017, the Abbotsford Branch of the BCRMTA set out to create a book of compositions from students and teachers of the branch. Each person was invited to submit two compositions. The resulting coil bound book – titled Creative Canadians Compose – features 36 compositions with student art work on the cover and includes a message from Mayor Henry Braun and short composer biographies.

The response to the printed book from students and teachers alike has been very positive. Students are thrilled to see their work in print and those who were not involved in this project are keen to have us repeat the initiative so that they can join in!

Joyce Janzen was the chairman of the project, many teachers assisted their students in submitting entries, and Dina Pollock did the design and layout.

Our Canada Music Week® recital on November 17, 2017 featured performances of these compositions – most of them performed by the composers themselves! One of the pieces in the book is a vocal work – a new version of *O Canada*. The teachers of Abbotsford Branch learned this piece before the recital and led the audience in singing it together.

Copies of the book were available for purchase at the Canada Music Week® Recital and are also available in digital format on our branch website <http://abbotsfordmusicbcrmta.com>.



Our recital was to begin with the highly popular game Kahoot – an interactive game which has questions projected onto a screen. Audience participants could sign into the game with their mobile devices – cell phones etc., and answer questions. The audience could see, after each question, who was leading in scoring points.

The questions were based on Canadian history – crafted so that parents and other audience members as well as music students were able to participate. Internet connection at the facility created difficulty in playing the game, so we proceeded with the recital. After the performances, our resident tech wizard, Dina Pollock, was able to get things working and the game was played to much interest and amusement. Prizes for the top four winners of the game were gift cards to local music stores as well as a copy of the composition book.

The evening continued with medallions being given out to students who achieved the highest marks in practical and theoretical exams over the previous year, and concluded with cake and water in the foyer.

While the response to the production of the book was positive, I believe the performance of the works was the capstone to the project. It was as wonderful to see the pride with which young composers presented their works as it was to see the enthusiastic response of the audience to their creativity.



We are grateful to William Andrews for his generosity in giving this award to branches and for Po Yeh who handles the application process. We are especially pleased to win the award this year with our initiative for Canada's 150th birthday as we have applied before without success.

Joyce Janzen - Abbotsford Branch



BCRMTA - North Island

We were delighted and honoured to be one of two recipients of the William Andrews Award for this calendar year! These were the activities which were presented in the application for this much appreciated funding!

Our celebration of Canada Music Week® in this year of our Nation's 150th Anniversary occurred primarily on Saturday, November 25 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Campbell River. It had four distinct components which spanned over one year.

Starting in June of 2016, students and teachers prepared twenty-two original works which were then collected and bound into a volume of local compositions. The cover page and about half of the compositions were illustrated by professional artists from Campbell River. In all, thirty six volumes were produced and made available to students, branch members and families.

Our community outreach portion of this celebration consisted of three recitals at assisted care facilities in both Campbell River and Courtenay. These occurred on the weekend prior to November 25th. In all, 28 students participated. The residents were delighted with solo works by published Canadian composers, several works by the performers themselves as well as Canadian Duets and Trios. The Finales was a wonderful and exciting two piano performance of the *Canadiana Suite* by Joanne Bender.

The third portion of our event consisted of two Composition Workshops by Christine Donkin. The first of these was entitled

Creativity with Music Character and was aimed at the younger student. *Creativity with Harmony and Melody* delighted older students. In all 47 students and adults attended these sessions. Following the workshops, Ms. Donkin performed some of her own compositions, and gave some background for each. Our students were delighted to meet and hear Ms. Donkin as many of them were familiar with her work! Some went so far as to get their illustrations of her compositions, autographed!

Between the morning's activities and the afternoon concert, the workshop participants were treated to pizza, veggies some CMW cake as well as a beverage. Those in attendance also received pencils and stickers commemorating this event.

At 1:30, the sanctuary was populated by 71 (students and guests alike). A total of 37 performances ranging from an elementary to an advanced level rang out to the delight of the audience. A charming duet, as well as a composition with lyrics, were played by their composers! Solo Canadian works, as well as two duets and two piano trios were performed. The finale piece was the two piano work, *Canadiana Suite* by Joanne Bender. This wonderful arrangement of many well known Canadian folk song was much appreciated and a fabulous end to our afternoon's Concert! In all, an inspiring and delightful day was experienced by many people!

We feel that this was a very successful and satisfying celebration on our Nation's Music on the occasion of our 150th Anniversary!

Sonia Hauser - North Island Branch



All of the people who attended the two Composition Workshops as well as the Mini-recital given by Christine Donkin on November 25th.

