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Of Note CFMTA/FCAPM E-Memo — **SPECIAL EDITION**

Greetings Colleagues.

As we continue to move through these unprecedented times, I want to congratulate all of you for stepping up to the plate and finding new and innovative ways to reach your students. We have all been stretched to the limit making sure our students needs are met and we are continuing with this important task. Music teachers are known for our creativity and I certainly have witnessed a lot of that. From the many tutorials being put forward on how to offer on line lessons, to the discussions surrounding how we keep our studios moving forward to the many opportunities I see teachers organizing that allow their students to perform - we can be proud of the work we have done these past number of days. We are in a unique position to provide some much-needed normalcy to our students and I know that this is indeed appreciated by parents and families.

I know many of you face real concerns about finances and your studios viability in times when lessons are being cancelled or students are choosing to discontinue altogether. We also will be dealing with families who may not have the means to pay as they face their own financial uncertainty. These concerns are real. We can be thankful that, although answers seem to be slow in coming, our government is working overtime to address these issues. In this issue we have included information from our government designed to assist as much as possible. We all need to keep in mind that this will be a long-term problem and we will not see any quick fixes. The CFMTA officers also continue to work our way through this, and to find ways to work within our parameters to ensure your voices are being heard. Like everyone else we have no Policy or Procedure to which we can refer. All we can do right now is to continue doing what we do best which is to support each other and support our students.

It is in that spirit that I am pleased to announce a special E - Festival. This festival allows our students an opportunity to showcase and perform their festival pieces, to receive an adjudication and a reward for their hard work. I speak on behalf of all the officers when I say a huge Thank You to Lorna Wanzel and Terri-Lynn McNichol for stepping up and putting this festival together on such short notice.

I wish you all the best in the coming days and weeks - reach out to others, stay well, keep the faith and keep the music going.

Yours in music

Laureen Kells

CFMTA/FCAPM President



LETTER FROM E-FESTIVAL CHAIR

Dear Colleagues,

With the challenges of COVID-19 upon us, the CFMTA/FCAPM E Festival has decided we will offer a special COVID-19 Festival from April 14 to 19, for all the students who have been working very hard for their Spring Music Festivals, which have now been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

We know this special Festival will bring some joy to your lives at a time when you are house-bound, but still able to practice and prepare for some wonderful on-line activities.

Please follow this link for further information - <http://www.cfmta.org/en/e-festival>

The CFMTA/FCAPM E Festival Committee cares about our teachers and their students and wishes you all the best during these difficult times.

Warm regards,
Lorna Wanzel,
Chair, CFMTA/FCAPM E Festival Committee



CURRENT INFO RE: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The following is information that is current as of 2:00 pm March 25. Please note that this situation is fluid and may change without notice.

March 25, 2020 - Ottawa, Ontario - Department of Finance Canada

To support workers and help businesses keep their employees, the government has proposed legislation to establish the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). This taxable benefit would provide \$2,000 a month for up to four months for workers who lose their income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CERB would be a simpler and more accessible combination of the previously announced Emergency Care Benefit and Emergency Support Benefit.

The CERB would apply to wage earners, as well as contract workers and self-employed individuals who would not otherwise be eligible for Employment Insurance (EI) ... all Canadians who have ceased working due to COVID-19, whether they are EI-eligible or not, would be able to receive the CERB to ensure they have timely access to the income support they need.

The portal for accessing the CERB would be available in early April. Canadians would begin to receive their CERB payments within 10 days of application ... paid every four weeks and be available from March 15, 2020 until October 3, 2020.

Source: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/introduces-canada-emergency-response-benefit-to-help-workers-and-businesses.html>



HELPFUL HINTS RE: TEACHING ONLINE

As many of us are now moving to teaching online, there are many platforms to choose from and a blossoming garden of how-to videos on You-tube. We would like to offer the following hints for your students:

1. Space Set Up
 - o Set the camera to give a good view of the student. For piano students, this would be a side view of the student seated at the piano to see the student's full arm and hand; for instrumentalists it would be a view including the instrument; for singers it would be a full view including stance.
 - o The lesson space should be well lit and free of all other distractions (pets, siblings, etc).
2. Materials Needed
 - o A phone or computer with an internal camera, as well as an internet connection.
 - o All lesson books and materials should be at the piano, as well as a writing utensil.
3. Connection Platform
 - o Zoom, Skype, or Face Time are the current preferred choices.
 - o Broadband may be a consideration and you may have to ask the student's family to refrain from online use until the lesson is over.
 - o Its preferable to have internet access that is hard-wired as WiFi connections can be glitchy. There has been reported interference because of microwave use or proximity to fuse boxes.
4. Other Factors
 - o An adult should be present at the start and end of the lesson. Generally, children under the age of 8 will do better with an adult present for the entire lesson.
 - o The first one or two lessons may run overtime as there will be set-up delays and time needed to become familiar with the new normal
5. For the Teacher
 - o You may wish to use a bell or other sound-cutting device that will alert your student to stop playing.



WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEBSITE

Stay tuned for developments.

Remember to check out our Video Library for engaging professional development videos. Go to <https://www.cfmta.org/en/video-resources/> or <https://www.cfmta.org/fr/ressources-video/>

Enjoy!



INSPIRATION FOR TROUBLED TIMES

From CFMTA/FCAPM Webmaster, Dina Pollock. WARNING: you may want to keep these on continual loop! 😊

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eXT60rbBVk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSPG186HvMg>



Hope you enjoyed this Special Edition of Of Note from CFMTA/FCAPM. Remember to wash your hands and stay well. We're all in this together!



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