



William Andrews

Canada Music Week® Awards / Prix semaine de la musique canadienne^{md}

Lethbridge, ARMTA / Halifax, NSRMTA

ARMTA - Lethbridge

Student Recital with First Nations Culture Presentation

The Lethbridge Branch of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association (ARMTA) held their annual Canada Music Week® Recital and Student Awards Presentation in the Theatre Gallery of the Lethbridge Public Library Main Branch. Over 100 teachers, students, and family members attended. The event began with a special First Nations Culture Presentation by musician Mikael Schmidtke and local artist and educator John Chief Calf.

Mikael Schmidtke, born in Lethbridge and a Grade 12 student at Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, is a solo artist who expresses all aspects of the world and its people through his unique musical style. He performed one of his own compositions on guitar and spoke about his approach to composing. His piece depicted working on the rails and incorporated harmonic, rhythmic and percussive elements on the guitar. Mikael spoke about his process, which begins with a thought or image (in this composition, working on the rails) and how he experiments, develops, and utilizes increasingly more difficult techniques to portray the initial image. The overall process takes time since he develops and learns as he composes, working toward the finished composition.

John Chief Calf, a lifelong self-taught artist who utilizes multiple mediums, with a focus on ink and the spiritual process of creating art, displayed three of his original works and spoke about the influence of Blackfoot heritage, culture and history in his work as an artist. He also explained how being connected

to nature enhances the creative process for both music and art. The first piece John spoke about portrayed the importance of the buffalo and how they were essential to the life of the Blackfoot people—they hunted only what they needed and used every part of the buffalo. The next piece featured four circles depicting the four directions of the earth: north, south, east and west; the four elements of human existence: spiritual, physical, emotional and social; and the four seasons: spring, summer, winter and fall, and how they are all intimately connected with nature. The final piece John shared related to dreams.

Following the First Nations Culture Presentation, twenty-five students performed selections by Canadian composers including Anne Crosby Gaudet, Christine Donkin, Nancy Telfer, Pierre Gallant, Talivaldis Kenins, Linda Niamath, David Duke, Clifford Poole, Jean Coulthard, and Ian Tyson. The afternoon ended with the Lethbridge Branch's annual awards presentation. Thirty-nine awards totalling over \$2200 were presented to students for the highest marks in practical and theory exams during the December 2018-August 2019 examination sessions, including the ARMTA Recognition Fund Student Awards, given to four students with the highest marks in both a practical and theory exam.

The Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA is grateful for the support of CFMTA through the William Andrews Award for innovative Canada Music Week® projects.



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NSRMTA - Halifax

A Passion for Canadian Music

The Halifax Chapter of NSRMTA hosted a wonderful Canada Music Week® event on November 17th at the Calvin Presbyterian Church in Halifax. Our special guest and presenter was Barbara Pritchard who is well known as a champion of Canadian music. Ms. Pritchard is active as a solo pianist, chamber musician and instructor of 20th century music at Dalhousie University. She has had more than 60 new compositions composed at her request and is known as one of Canada's finest interpreters of contemporary keyboard music. In 2009 she was named an Ambassador for the Canadian Music Centre (CMC) in celebration of their 50th anniversary. This honour was given to 50 outstanding conductors and performers "who have played exceptional roles in shaping the Canadian music scene over the last 50 years". In 2015, Ms. Pritchard was given an "Established Artist Award" by the Creative Nova Scotia Leadership Council.

Ms. Pritchard performed 5 short compositions for us: *(Dis-) integration Variation* by Robert Bauer, *Iceberg* by Linda C. Smith, *The Minute Sonata* by Kirk Elliott, *Once in a Dream* by Linda George-Wegner and *Quodlibet* by Dennis Farrell. Two of those composers were present at our recital - Robert Bauer and Linda George-Wegner. These diverse compositions were engaging and very enjoyable and Ms. Pritchard's performances showed us 'her passion for Canadian music' as she brought these pieces to life.

Our student recital featured 36 students of piano, violin, and a guitarist for the first time. They all performed pieces by Canadian composers, including several original compositions, including a Nova Scotia provincial winner in class P-1 of the Student Composer Competition.

Also in attendance at our event was Peggy Walt - who is the Director of the Atlantic Region of the CMC. As Ms. Pritchard explained to us, the CMC has the purpose and vision to support the development of Canadian musicians and composers and to celebrate fresh perspectives and diversity in the world of Canadian music. We were fortunate to make this connection with the CMC. Teachers were encouraged to explore the website: cmccanada.org for information about more than 900 Canadian composers. You can browse through their extensive music library and listen to recordings. You can even borrow music from the CMC to try out. It is a valuable resource for all teachers and students.

The Halifax Chapter was thrilled to receive a William Andrews Award this year for our inspiring event to celebrate our Passion for Canadian Music!

submitted by Diana Torbert

