

# Canada Music Week® Semaine de la musique canadienne<sup>MD</sup>

## William Andrews Awards



On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the North Island Branch co-hosted a virtual concert with the Edmonton Branch in honour of Canada Music Week®. We had never before considered such a collaboration with a Branch in another Province, but the current pandemic forced us to think outside of our usual box! We feel that this was so successful and enjoyed by the participating students that it opens up multiple avenues of collaboration with other Canadians in the celebration of our Nations' music in future years!

Our Branch featured music composed by Artists hailing from British Columbia, while the Edmonton Branch featured Alberta Composers. All in all, we co-hosted a concert featuring 36 performers ranging in complexity from early beginner to ARCT levels. The Edmonton Branch presented 19 performers, while we in B.C. offered the remaining 17.

In order to adhere to the recommendations of our Provincial Medical officers' all of the students performed on their own pianos in the safety of their homes. Since most, if not all of our students experienced virtual piano lessons since last March, they were all equipped with the necessary technology to accomplish such a 'Zoom' concert.

Although most of the compositions were for piano performance, one young lady from Edmonton delighted us with a clarinet solo composed by Juno award winner D. Ross entitled *Dooti'n Doodily Bonk Bonk*. An Alberta colleague, C. Garritano prepared seven of her students to play Hallowe'en themed pieces which were composed by herself as well as her cousin, K. Puckerin. Kristopher Benoit who hails from the North Island composed and performed his jazzy piece, *621 PM*, so called because of the many ninths inhabiting the composition! We viewed six video performances by students who could not attend on the day of the concert, but who wished to participate nonetheless.

The Branches purchased copies of each of their students' performances and sent these to the other participating Province. As an extra bonus for each performer, our Branch purchased and distributed Canada Music Week® pencils and stickers for all of the students who participated in this unique experience. Our receipt of the William Andrews Award, which

was shared with Edmonton, was *most* appreciated as it assisted us in defraying the costs mailing and purchasing music and miscellaneous goodies for the students!

I have included a photo of the copies of music sent to Alberta.

Although this method of celebrating CMW was foisted upon us, we see it as the ideal means of sharing music and performances with other students and teachers from all over our great country! This will make our celebration of Canadian music truly a national experience!

*Sonia Hauser, President of the North Island Branch of BCRMTA ,  
Chair of the BC Canada Music Week®*

