



CFMTA/FCAPM Conference 2019

A Century of Sound Connections

It is hard to imagine that the 2019 CFMTA/FCAPM Conference A Century of Sound Connections has come and gone. Some of you were here in Winnipeg, attending workshops, presentations, concerts and competitions and now you are home again! After years of dreaming, planning, and working, we feel confident in saying loud and clear, “This conference was great!” As you can read below, we’ve been getting many compliments from CFMTA/FCAPM members who attended from all across the country, as well as MTNA members and others who came up from the States.

From our perspective, the conference ran smoothly from the Gala Concert on the first evening, to the Keynote Speaker followed by the Final Luncheon on Saturday. Meeting at the historic Fort Garry Hotel was a great way to celebrate MRMFTA’s 100th birthday! Workshops were well received. Trade Show traffic was steady with great shopping and happy exhibitors. Coffee times were great for mingling and meeting up with friends. The piano and vocal competitions were a wonderful opportunity for Canada’s young talent to perform for the internationally renowned jurors:

Piano:

- Douglas Finch
- Dr. Scott Meek
- Dr. Christine Vanderkooy

Vocal:

- Russell Braun
- John Greer
- Adrienne Pieczonka

We would like to thank the committee members who worked so hard to make this conference happen:

- Linda De Pauw
- Bernadette Geras
- Leanne Hiebert
- Lee Houghton Stewart
- Lori Jede
- Eleanor Lwiwski
- Muriel Smith
- Glory St. Germain
- Gina Wedel
- Kerrine Wilson
- Tiffany Wilson.



If you weren’t able to attend, we hope the conference pictures included in this issue will allow you a little glimpse into the conference events!

Maybe you’ll be inspired to start planning to go to Edmonton for the 2021 Conference.

Annette Hay and Evangeline Keeley
Conference Co-chairs

Photo by Carla Buelow Photography





Manitoba



British Columbia



Yukon



Ontario



Alberta



Nova Scotia - Newfoundland & Labrador



Saskatchewan



Québec



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Fall / Automne 2019

Comments – **Quotes** – Thank yous



Thank you to all the team for putting together a wonderful 3 days. It was very well organized and ran smoothly. The speakers were top notch and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment!

I have a lot of notes to review now to keep me inspired! No complaints here ... It was all excellent, starting with the concert and ending with the awesome keynote speaker.

Thanks to all involved and enjoy the summer!

Debbie Scott, from Ontario 🌸

As President of the Brandon & Westman Branch Registered Music Teachers' Association, on behalf of myself and our members, I congratulate you and your conference team on a successful conference!

Ann Germani, from Manitoba 🌸

I want to thank you and your wonderful committee for all your hard work, creativity and dedication that went into planning such a fabulous conference! I know how many details and all the work it takes to bring off such a successful conference.

I was honoured to be included in this year's program and was absolutely thrilled with the huge turnout. I was also delighted with everyone's willingness to involve themselves in the discussion, asking and responding to questions, which made it very exciting and lively. This was also my first visit to Winnipeg and I really enjoyed this wonderful city.

Bravo and congratulations to MRMTA and CFMTA on a very successful conference! I hope our paths cross again sometime soon (perhaps MTNA in Chicago in March). Meanwhile wishing you all the best.

Gail Berenson, presenter from Ohio and MTNA Past President 🌸

I would like to congratulate you on a very successful, extremely well organized, fun and entertaining evening of great music, numbers, performances, and artists. We were honoured to be part of it ... We enjoyed that evening a lot.

With gratitude,

**Mira Paches and the entire O. Koshetz Ukrainian Choir
Performers at the Gala Concert** 🌸

Congratulations for presenting such a great conference, it was most enjoyable.

David Côté, Président – APMQ/QMTA 🌸

I know I speak for Michael Dean as well as myself in thanking the entire conference team in Winnipeg for a great conference experience and for all you did to make us feel welcome at CFMTA 2019. We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and experience of collaborating with our colleagues from Canada and the USA. We hope to see you in Edmonton!

Terrie Manno, presenter from Minnesota 🌸

The overall conference was a Great Success for me. Coming from another Church Conference (in Ohio) the previous week, I was amazed at the level of organization.

From the City Bus tour, through the Gala Concert, the Piano Competitions, all were such an experience to me. I must add that for me it was not only the musical [aspects] but many other non-musicals, such as organizing such big programs, stage management, even staging the piano etc. For an example, I witnessed the dismantling of the pianos from the stage by the technicians after the event.

Many things were happening at the same time ... I must confess that sometimes I missed out on very important subjects. Other times also, I'd wished I could be at two programs at the same time. Topics that had to do with introducing kids ages 3-5 to the piano were so dear to me. But it seems I missed out on those.

I made a few contributions about music from other cultures, especially from the African perspective of learning music, methodology, mode of transferring knowledge, the purpose of music within the culture, etc. After the session, I was surprised many people approached me for more insight. I may humbly suggest that transfer of music in other cultures may be given some thought in future conferences, since Canada is such a wonderful multicultural country.

Congratulations to all who put their efforts into giving us such a wonderful experience. GOOD JOB!

Rev. Clement K-Sackey, from Ontario 🌸





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On behalf of the Orville Derraugh Scholarship committee, I want to thank you and the MRMTA for yesterday's concert and award ceremony. I thoroughly enjoyed the three singers and am pleased that the music teachers are offering this incentive to up and coming singers. Our committee felt that this was a perfect conclusion to our original goal.

Beth Derraugh, widow of Orville Derraugh ✨

I wanted to let you and the committee know what a wonderful conference it was!! The location, classes, competition, everything was terrific. This was the first Canadian conference for me, as I often attend the MTNA in the States. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I was honoured to have won the tuition for the conference and just loved all of it. Hopefully I can attend Edmonton.

Thank you again, and it was a pleasure to represent Washington state in Canada.

Georgene Corey, NCTM, from Washington ✨

Congratulations to your committee on a job well done. I really enjoyed my stay in Winnipeg, and was impressed by how smoothly everything ran.

Thank you, and thanks to all the volunteers who worked so hard. The Fort Garry was a lovely choice and the refreshments and food were first rate. The sessions I attended were indeed inspiring and the competitions also. Hope to see you in Edmonton.

Shelagh Scott, from Alberta ✨

Thank you so much for all the countless hours you poured into organizing this year's conference. I thoroughly enjoyed everything as did others. Thank you!

With much appreciation,

Christina Hutton, from Manitoba ✨

Attending the Winnipeg CFMTA convention was a most satisfying experience. It was so well organized and all those involved in the planning and running of the event deserve a standing ovation.

The National Piano Competition was certainly a highlight – so much talent - and full marks to the CFMTA and the Provincial Associations for their continued support of that long running program. It is so worthwhile!

Being presented with the certificate naming me the Honorary President of the CFMTA was of course a personal highlight for me. A great honour indeed and I express my very sincere gratitude.

Ernst Schneider - Honorary President of CFMTA/FCAPM

A Century of Sound Connections: The Manitoba Registered Music Teachers' Association 1919–2019

By Dr. Muriel Smith

The journey to write this book was exciting and informative. As I delved into primary and secondary sources, interviewed members of the association, and stewed over the many resources and narratives, it became overwhelmingly apparent that the MRMTA had a rich history. The connections between individual teachers and their pupils as well as other musical agencies has filigreed across geographical and temporal boundaries, shaping culture not only in Manitoba, but also nationally and internationally.

A Century of Sound Connections:
The Manitoba Registered Music
Teachers' Association 1919 – 2019



Can be purchased from
McNally Robinson Booksellers

<https://www.mcnallyrobinson.com/home>
\$25 plus shipping.

CFMTA/FCAPM **Conference** 2019

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Keynote Speaker Michelle Sawatzky-Koop, Saturday, July 6, 2019

Michelle Sawatzky-Koop has defied labels and expectations for many years. Her funny, emotional and compelling talk about her dual career as an Olympic volleyball player and musician was a fantastic wrap up to our CFMTA convention. She outlined her many years of tryouts and 4-hour commutes to practice volleyball. Her physical stature at 5'6" (you're still taller than me, Michelle!) was viewed by coaches as a stumbling block to the National and Olympic teams. Never one to back down from a challenge, Michelle did extra practice daily at 6:30 in the morning for years, something which gave her a competitive edge as a setter. She was simultaneously working on a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and minor in voice. Michelle recounted how she would bring her piano music with her as she travelled with the volleyball team and would seek out practice time at churches and community centres while her teammates were resting between practices and games. She was awarded the opportunity to have a 12-concert Young Artist Tour and managed to prepare and perform these concerts in between volleyball commitments.

Performance at the highest level, whether in sports or music, has many similar features of motivation, commitment, intense practice and desire to succeed. Michelle had been told by several different coaches and music teachers that she should drop one and focus on the other and yet she continued to strive for success in both areas. She told the audience how the music was so important to her and gave her that grounding and expressive outlet she needed to find balance with her elite sports performance. Michelle concluded by performing *Prélude* from *Suite Bergamasque* by Debussy and showing a video of her singing an original song.

She is a great example of all-round success in sports, music and raising twin sons! Thank you for sharing your inspiring story.

Katherine Hume
Sunshine Coast Branch BCRMTA



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Classical Improvisation Workshop with Douglas Finch, Saturday, July 6, 2019.

One of the highlights for me at this year's CFMTA conference in Winnipeg was the Classical Improvisation workshop with Douglas Finch. This workshop was an adjunct to his Gala Concert performance of his composition, *The Enchanted Mesa* and improvisation on three themes (*O Canada*, *Hockey Night in Canada* and *Land of the Silver Birch*).

Douglas began by explaining that there could be two approaches to classical improvisation: learn all the harmonic and melodic patterns possible according to certain French treatises, which would take approximately 13 years to achieve, or just simply do it.

He invited four volunteers (disclosure: I was one of the lucky ones!) to come up to the two grand pianos. We were asked to pick an animal and play something like it in a relay style, one after the other in a row moving between the two instruments. This activity would be so appealing to children and easy to accomplish in a home studio setting with two pianos. We then broke into pairs and the two "animals" interacted with each other on the pianos. Surprising rhythms emerged.

Another great starter activity was improvising to shapes drawn on paper by another person. We experimented with one pianist-one conductor/artist and then two and two. The only rules were to play when the pen was in contact with the paper and stop when it was removed. This is a great disinhibitor and helpful to break out of the right way/wrong way mindset of playing piano or any other instrument or voice.



We experimented with playing very slow and soft, going to the end of the chord's decay. Also playing extremely fast, using lots of gesture. This led into improvising a melody. The basic exercise was play something, then repeat and extend. Then play something different, which reminded me of what teacher and improviser Forrest Kinney calls "a vacation". Add the left hand with non-traditional chords. For example, you could take a perfect 5th and move it in semi-tones. Douglas reminded us that we are always just a semi-tone away from resolution.

The final exercise was variations on the theme of *Happy Birthday* (in honour of the MRMTA's 100th Anniversary). Some of the ideas we tried were changing meter, for example, playing in $\frac{7}{4}$ or $\frac{9}{8}$ or playing in a dance style like tango. If you happen to play a wrong note, repeat it and make it intentional. Douglas concluded the workshop by suggesting that we could view many classical pieces not as rigid or set-in-stone, but simply one of many possible solutions that the composer chose. He encouraged us to take any piece, like a Bach Invention or Chopin Waltz and try it in a different way.

Katherine Hume
Sunshine Coast Branch BCRMTA

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Edmonton, Alberta is the host city for the 2021 CFMTA Conference *Our Rhythm Runs Through It* and the conference planning committee is excited to organize the event.

Planning began in January 2019 with a sharing of ideas that included possible venues, judges, keynote speakers and the national competition. Following in the footsteps of the Winnipeg conference, the committee quickly decided to hold both a voice and piano competition. Although the judges and keynote speaker haven't yet been short-listed, we are considering a speaker who could also present one or two lone sessions.

The Chateau Lacombe has been confirmed as the conference venue.

This downtown hotel overlooks the river valley and is close to restaurants, shopping, access to the river valley trail system and, most importantly, the express bus to West Edmonton Mall. To complete the conference campus, Muttart Hall in Grant MacEwan University will house the piano competition and MacDougall United Church the voice competition. Both Muttart Hall and McDougall United Church are across the street from the Chateau Lacombe and are routinely used as festival, concert and recital sites.



CFMTA 2021 Conference
July 7-10, 2021
Edmonton, Alberta

Our rhythm runs through it

www.cfmta2021.ca



CFMTA 2021 Conference
July 7-10, 2021
Edmonton, Alberta

Rogers Place

Art Gallery of Alberta

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Rhythm is the theme of the conference and, as such, we are preparing to offer sessions on Indigenous drumming and world music, as well as the traditional pedagogy. The United States will be included in the call for proposals and a poster session is in the works. Alberta has initiated the collegiate chapter program and hope to include the collegiate chapter students in the conference activities.

A tourism/information booth will be available to assist delegates in touring and seeing more of Edmonton and Alberta destinations. Many committee members attended the Winnipeg conference and we will be bringing back some ideas as planning continues in September. Updates will be sent as details are set in place.

