



Canada Music Week® Semaine de la musique canadienne^{MD}

Coast to Coast to Coast

Alberta

Coordinator - Tamara Bowie

The **Lethbridge** Branch held a virtual Canada Music Week® Recital. There were 19 video submissions from students performing music composed by Canadian composers. Interspersed throughout the virtual recital, were slides containing information about different Canadian composers. The students printed off a scavenger hunt before the watch party, and answered the scavenger hunt questions as they watched. Completed scavenger hunts were handed in, and a draw will take place for 10 gift cards. Students receiving awards for First Class Honour marks on exams were also recognized at this virtual recital. Students performing in this recital also received Canada Music Week® pencils.

Submitted by Lorrie Wittke

The **Edmonton** Contemporary Showcase Festival happens annually as part of celebrations for Canada Music Week®. It is a student festival exclusively for Canadian music and this year was another exciting and successful event. Just over 100 students participated in voice, strings, winds, piano and creative music categories throughout the weekend of Nov. 19 - 21. Due to the pandemic, classes were held in a hybrid format, both live and online via Zoom. The final concert of the students who had created compositions in the Young Composers Workshop was also presented during the festival weekend. The gala held Nov. 26th, featuring performances from the festival, was a stunning display of the fine students and teachers in our region.

The festival is supported by many donors, including the Alberta Registered Music Teachers (ARMTA) - Edmonton Branch, and many of their teachers enter students in the festival. Their support helps Contemporary Showcase Edmonton present the festival and also makes it possible to commission composers to write new student level works for the festival. This year's commissioned composers were Allan Gilliland writing for flute and Jodi Penner, writing for treble voice.

This year also included a joint memorial project between ARMTA and Contemporary Showcase Edmonton. Leslie Bai, who is generously active on the boards of both organizations suffered the very tragic loss of her daughter, Erin, in 2020. ARMTA collected donations from members of both organizations and arranged for a new work to be written by Lynette Sawatsky in Erin's memory – *RemembERING*. A scholarship was also made available by ARMTA for the best performance of the piece at the festival.

Submitted by Sylvia Shadick-Taylor 🌀

Yukon

Coordinator - Ellen Thompson

The Yukon Registered Music Teachers' Association hosted an online concert to celebrate the 61st Anniversary of Canada Music Week® this year. We heard a variety of levels of Piano and Voice this year that included solos, duets, and trios! This year our concert featured three young students composers sharing their pieces along with, Nancy Telfer and Stephen Chatman. Canada Music Week® is always a highlight of our year, we are lucky to be able to get together (virtually) and celebrate all the wonderful Canadian composers.

Our Canada Music Week® Video can be found on our website YRMTA.ca 🌀



Manitoba

Coordinator - Melissa Gingrich

Manitoba held three student events in different regions of the province featuring local composers and celebrating the Canadian music scene.

The **Brandon & Westman Music Teacher Association** made special mention of Manitoba's 150th birthday as they hosted a student concert including a tribute to the late Brandon composer, Ken Nichols. Nichols' family was in attendance and the audience reached beyond Manitoba to Alberta, Ontario, the Ukraine and Italy. A second featured composer, Sid Robinovitch, was in CMW celebration in Brandon.

The **Winnipeg Branch** hosted an online student recital on November 21st. Like last year, it felt the safest and most inclusive approach to share a recital of pre-recorded student performances. Beginner through late intermediate students shared Canadian compositions with a generous display of Winnipeg composer Julianne Warkentin's student works. Several students also shared their own compositions including 2021 Student Composer Competition winners who shared the inspiration behind their winning pieces. The recital concluded with a piano quartet - a rare treat in COVID times to see students able to play together! The recital is receiving a growing number of views on the MRMTA's YouTube and Facebook pages.

Southwestern Manitoba's held its 16th Annual *Composers & Kids* event on October 16th, in Boissevain. Despite Covid restrictions, we were able to enjoy another successful event. The featured composer was Saskatoon's Wes Froese who enthusiastically received student performances of his works through the day. Groups were smaller and physically distanced, yet 25 students were able to participate. It was an exciting time of sharing ideas and love of music. Wes is a great storyteller and provided interesting information and inspiration.

Contributors: Alla Turbanova and Tenley Dyck. 🎵



More photos will be included in the Year In Review 2021





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Prince Edward Island

Coordinator - Suzanne Campbell

The PEIRMTA Young Musicians' Recital Series returned with roaring success following a 21-month COVID-induced hiatus. Our Canada Music Week Recital, held on Saturday, November 20, was met with great enthusiasm by our community, with 35 students of piano, voice, and violin representing eight studios. Due to enhanced COVID protocols and a desire for a limited audience size, the young musicians were divided into two short in-person recitals and one virtual recital which was shared online. Students who performed Canadian music as part of the recital received stickers and pencils in celebration of Canada Music Week. What a treat to hear the music of well-loved Canadian composers such as Anne Crosby Gaudet, Christine Donkin, Teresa Richert, Debra Wanless, and Rebekah Maxner performed live on the UPEI Music Department's brand new grand piano! In addition to our recital, teachers, parents, and



students were invited to bring non-perishable food items which allowed the PEIRMTA to make a donation of two totes full of groceries to the Upper Room Hospitality Ministry for the holiday season. 🌀 ▶

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Federation of Canadian Music Festivals - La Fédération canadienne des festivals de musique

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Newfoundland & Labrador

Coordinator - Tiffany Pinhorn Smith

This year, the NLRMTA Celebrated Canada Music Week® with our first in-person event in almost two years: a recital called “Canada’s Contemporary Composers”. The recital took place in Suncor Energy Hall at Memorial University’s School of Music on Saturday, November 27th. The committee members who created and organized this event were: Alyssa Hicks, Grace Nolan, Joan Woodrow, and Tiffany Pinhorn Smith (committee chair).

The recital highlighted our chosen featured Canadian composer, Rebekah Maxner. Six of Rebekah’s pieces were performed throughout the recital, and Rebekah joined us live via Zoom for a Question & Answer period to kick off the evening. Some of the questions for this section of the recital were sent in from the performers, and questions included: “Do you like being a composer?”, “Where do you get your inspiration from?”, and “What advice would you give someone who wants to start composing but doesn’t know where to start?”. This proved to be an interesting and enjoyable experience for our students and audience members alike.

There were 29 performances representing 19 different Canadian composers. When the original call for performers was sent, the committee suggested that there be an emphasis on contemporary Canadian composers. The idea behind this was to encourage teachers and their students to explore music that is currently being written as the scope of Canadian music and composition continues to expand and grow. Learning from the successes of almost two years of virtually-adapted events and performances, the committee offered the option of virtual participation for students who would like to perform from areas outside of the St. John’s vicinity. This event was also live-streamed on the NLRMTA’s Facebook page so that family and friends who may not have been able to attend live could still enjoy the recital in real time.

The NLRMTA was thrilled to be able to offer a live recital and experience an evening of learning and music with a group of wonderful young musicians. 🌀

Northwest Territories

Coordinator - Susan Shantora

No Canada Music Week® events were held this year. 🌀





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British Columbia

Coordinator - Sonia Hauser

This year, I received eight Canada Music Week® reports from the many Branches in BC. The on-going Pandemic has certainly restricted the nature and variety of events we usually host.

Nonetheless, the **South Okanagan** Branch braved a live, face-to-face Recital in honor of their 42nd Canada Music Week® celebration at the lovely Penticton Lakeside Resort Hotel! Over sixty attendees applauded works by Canadian Composers as well as their local composers, Anita Perry and Ernst Schnieder. At the end of the Recital, over \$1500 dollars worth of scholarships were presented. Joey Cheng received the Madame Janisch Award for his excellence in music as well as his community service. The Monica Craig-Fisher Cup was awarded to Anna Mitchell for having achieved the highest mark in Grade eight. Finally, the Lynne Carmichael scholarship was awarded to a most deserving adult. This was a very well enjoyed event by all in attendance!

The other Branches that sent me a report, all celebrated with Zoom Concerts. Fortunately, this method of allowing our students to celebrate Canadian Music has become more utilized in these months of the Pandemic!

Abbotsford Branch enjoyed 14 piano solos and one vocal number entered by five of their Teachers. Their theme was *Diversity* and showcased five Canadian Compositions. A list of the Branch's students who received marks higher than 80% were displayed on the back of the Programmes which were sent to all of the Teachers. Dina Pollock created a video in which students who received the highest marks in their discipline were presented with the appropriate medallion. This was shown at the end of the Recital.

The **Coquitlam/Maple Ridge** Branch used the funds allocated for venue expenses to create an "Anime" style poster to be displayed by the various teachers. They had a "prize draw" for four Canadian Collections of music, as well as a 'Welcome' card with a small package of treats to be given to all of the participating students. Ingrid Fast recorded an interview with Rebekah Maxner which also was viewed mid-Concert.


North Island enjoyed a Zoom Recital with 21 performances on an otherwise gloomy Saturday! The Recital had a touch of Inter-Provincial flavour with three performances that originated in Calgary. Here, at least, is one of the Silver Lining of the Pandemic. Our reach as Teachers need not be restricted to limited geographical area.

Richmond Branch enjoyed two one-hour recitals which featured 37 student performances on piano, guitar and voice. Two of the Branch's Composition Students admirably presented their own compositions! Wonderful celebration of Canadian Music! During the second Recital, Linda Niamath was honoured while her husband and daughters were in the audience!

The third annual CMW Festival was hosted by the **Vancouver/Burnaby** Branch. The Adjudicator was Michelle Mares who viewed the performances on-line via YouTube recordings followed by live adjudications. There were 33 piano entries from Prep to Advanced Levels. The Branch provided cash scholarships as well as certificates for the top placing students.

Chilliwack Branch held a Zoom Recital which included students outside of the community. There were 26 piano students as well 3 violin students who delighted the audience with their performances of Canadian Compositions. Three students played compositions by their own teacher, Kathleen Feenstra. Students achieving 80% and above in exams were recognized in the programme. The President announced bursary winners for Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels in the practical exams at the end of the Concert.

Victoria Branch held their annual Murray Adaskin Composition Competition in conjunction with their Canada Music Week Concert. Their Adjudicator was composer Jan Randall who heard these entries performed at the online Concert. This included solo piano, solo violin, and chamber music of other Canadian Composers as well as works by Mr. Randall himself. The Adjudicator then treated the audience to a picture show of Canadian Composers accompanied by his own music.

Many thanks to the Branches that celebrated Canada Music Week®! 

Ontario

Coordinator - Jacqueline Huffman-Kriza

Canada Music Week® is alive and well in Ontario.

Numerous polished recital performances of music by Canadian Composers often included up to 10% of students presenting their own creations. To encourage their promising composers,

Newmarket and Area Branch consolidated their students' compositions into a book entitled: "Our Shooting "Stars" Compositions" for which they received a CFMTA William Andrews Award. Congratulations! (*Complete report on page 24*)

In **London**, a virtual festival of video performances adjudicated by Ina Dykstra plus an exclusive in-person community competition of only Canadian works adjudicated by Dr. Marnie Van Weelden took place concluding with their CMW Recital and Awards Ceremony.

Brantford Branch hosted a successful improvisation workshop for students and teachers with Suzuki violin teacher/clinician, Laura Nirenberg.

Hamilton-Halton Branch began their events by live streaming two Guest Speakers. Canadian Music Centre Ontario director, Matthew Fava discussed CMC's available resources. "Composer Next Door" by David Jaeger provided valuable insight regarding Violet Archer, Steven Chapman, Alexina Louie and Ann Southam. The week concluded with two live streamed, consecutive, quality recitals.

Students in the **Ottawa Region** Branch displayed their talents with an online concert of video submissions while the **Barrie** Branch produced a YouTube movie of students' videos concluding with recognition of students who achieved the highest exam marks.

Hanover-Walkerton Branch hosted a hands on experience of music by Canadian Composers. Member Laura Gray, gave students the opportunity to sight read and perform duets while playing on the many pianos at Pianovations in Blyth.

Kitchener-Waterloo Branch took pride in providing a live full day masterclass with capable clinician, Emily Hamper. John Burge adjudicated Kingston's virtual mini-festival from which eighteen performances were shared in a highlights recital.

The support and enthusiasm of the ORMTA Council to spotlight music by Canadian composers on Social Media provided an opportunity to showcase materials of ten talented individuals with November Music Mondays and throughout the celebratory week. Composers included John Burge, Abigail Richardson-Schulte, Wendy Edwards Beardall-Norton, Calixa Lavallee courtesy KW Glee, Ian Green, Jacques Hitu, Keisha Bell-Kovacs, Anne Crosby Gaudet, Alice Dearden, Katerina Gimon, and Oscar Peterson.

Members' MPPs were contacted to promote CMW resulting in one MPP adding a performance on her social media page to share with all her constituents. The Proclamation of the week as Canada Music Week® by North Bay's Mayor was also posted on Social Media promoting further awareness.

ORMTA looks forward to enhancing CMW Celebrations in the future. 🌀

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Québec

Coordinator - Christiane Claude

L'Association des professeurs de musique du Québec a célébré la «Semaine de la musique canadienne^{MD}» en invitant tous les professeurs de l'Association à inscrire leurs élèves à une série de quatre récitals qui se sont tenus au cégep Saint-Laurent, le dimanche 21 novembre 2021.

Lors de ce « marathon » de récitals, les élèves ont interprété des œuvres de 34 compositeurs canadiens. Tous ont reçu un certificat de participation. Le pianiste et pédagogue Julio Gonzalo, juge invité pour l'année 2021, a pris plaisir à auditionner tous ces jeunes et a fait une sélection de ses plus grands coups de cœur. Les élèves qui ont été sélectionnés se sont produits à nouveau lors du gala qui a toujours lieu le samedi qui couronne cet événement. Ce magnifique concert fut un grand succès. La salle était remplie au maximum de sa capacité ! Ce fut un moment mémorable ! Les jeunes et parfois très jeunes musiciens ont tous reçu un prix en argent offert par la Fondation québécoise pour l'éducation musicale. Ces jeunes artistes nous assurent une relève impressionnante.

Je remercie sincèrement tous les bénévoles qui ont fait de cet événement une réussite : Solange Bellemare coordonnatrice adjointe, Danielle Langevin registraire et coordonnatrice Web, Patricia Meunier trésorière de l'APMQ.

Longue vie à la Semaine de la musique canadienne^{MD} !

The Quebec Music Teachers' Association celebrated Canada Music Week® by inviting all its teachers to enroll their students for a series of four recitals held at Cegep Saint-Laurent on Sunday, November 21, 2021.

The students were excited to perform pieces by 34 Canadian composers. All received certificates of participation. Pianist Julio Gonzalo, guest judge for the year 2021, enjoyed listening to all these young people and made a selection of his greatest favourites. The selected students performed once more at the gala, which as usual crowns the week on Saturday. The concert hall was filled to capacity. This magnificent concert was a roaring success and a memorable moment.

All young - and sometimes very young - musicians received cash prizes from the Quebec Musical Education Foundation. Those young artists are the promise of an impressive next generation of musicians!

I sincerely thank all the volunteers who made this event possible: Assistant Coordinator Solange Bellemare, Registrar & Web Coordinator Danielle Langevin, and QMTA Treasurer Patricia Meunier.

Long Live Canada Music Week®! 🌀

New Brunswick

Coordinator - Barbara Long

Although we were not able to gather provincially, many teachers had small Canada Music Week® celebrations within their studios as well as some branch celebrations. In Fredericton, they had a poster display in some downtown stores. Students did a drawing or painting of a piece they were learning by a Canadian composer. The **Moncton** branch hosted a Viva Voce workshop. Canada Music Week® events in **Sackville** were at Mount Allison university. They were a Canada Music Week® Collegium featuring performances of Canadian works by students from the Department of Music and an Ensemble Concert featuring the Mount Allison New Music Ensemble. 🌀



Nova Scotia

Coordinator - Diana Torbert

The **Halifax** Chapter hosted a Canada Music Week® recital and presentation on Sunday, November 21st at the Calvin Presbyterian Church in Halifax. This was an in-person event for the first time since 2019! We heard performances from 36 students of piano, violin and guitar. Everyone played pieces by Canadian composers or their original compositions. The students were from 8 studios of the Halifax Chapter. Our presenter was Daniel MacNeil and his presentation was called "HARNESSING INSPIRATION". Daniel is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and educator based in Halifax. He works within a diverse range of world music genres. He is the founder and director of Nova Scotia's New World Music Ensemble, for which he composes and performs on guitar and oud. In his talk, Daniel reminded us to think about inspiration - what it means and where it comes from. Inspiration can come from anywhere and from anything that sparks our imagination! He also talked about how our inner thoughts can influence us in positive and negative ways. It is a good practice to recognize that our thoughts are not who we are, and that we can benefit from listening to supportive thoughts rather than judgmental ones. Daniel then performed two of his own compositions for guitar. Everyone enjoyed this inspiring event! It was wonderful to hear live music from our students. *Diana Torbert*

Yarmouth Chapter - I can only speak of my own studio in the Yarmouth area but my students collected information on their chosen composer and then I posted some of their performances of Canadian compositions on my social media page. *Karen Turpin*

The **Valley** Chapter was pleased to host the first Canada Music Week® since 2019. Marilyn Whiteway and Marlene Jackson organized the concert, which took place at Kentville Baptist Church on their beautiful new Yamaha. The concert primarily featured a variety of Canadian Composers and around 18 students from three of our member's studios in the Kentville-Berwick area. It was absolutely lovely to have in-person music again, particularly all our students' fantastic Canadian music! *Jasmine McMorran* 🌀



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Saskatchewan

Coordinator - Patricia Niekamp

In honour of celebrating our Canada Music Week[®], a Zoom workshop was hosted by the SRMTA **West Central** branch on November 19th with guest speaker Martha Hill Duncan. Martha spoke on “teaching by heart” and “demystifying the score”. The contemporary showcase festival was held on November 20th along with a full day of piano entries. An added treat was a class with a family of cellists. There was also a special class featured with music solely written by Duncan. She adjudicated the pre-recorded performances live on zoom.

On November 23rd, the Majestic Theatre in Biggar was the venue of a live concert which included Canadian vocal music. The groups sang French Canadian folk songs and ancient Saskatchewanian songs. There was also a piano duet by Duncan played along with a variety of other entertaining performances.

The **Saskatoon** Contemporary Showcase for 2021 included separate competitions for strings on September 18th and the piano dates were November 19th and 20th. Live audience was welcome and masks were required at the door. There were 95 entries from 17 teachers. The piano adjudicator was Karen Gerelus and Simon Fryer adjudicated the strings competition. The final concert took place live on November 28th at the Grace Westminster United Church. Everyone attending and performing over 12 years of age were required to be fully vaccinated.

The **Yorkton** branch hosted a Musical Cultural and Diversity workshop on November 20th at the Yorkton Regional High School. The pieces critiqued were pretaught from books arranged and published by Laureen Kells entitled *For Many Happy Years* and *Let Us Be Joyful*. Ten students took part and played these works together on keyboards. After the workshop they learned the Ukrainian words to go along with the music and sang accompanied by a local Ukrainian band. Even a few parents from the audience sang along.

Members of the **East Central** RMTA promoted Canada Music Week[®] in a variety of ways. One teacher had each student write up a short report about the Canadian composer that had composed the piece they were working on. The next step was to draw a picture depicting the title or feelings that the music brought about. Another teacher assisted her students in finding information about composers and found a link on YouTube that had a lesson taught by Oscar Peterson. The same teacher enlightened her students and parents with information about Saint Cecilia day which is on November 22nd. Saint Cecilia died as a martyr in 220 AD in Italy. She is considered to be the patroness of music and musicians and also of blindness. Canada Music Week[®] is held in the third week of November partially to help celebrate Saint Cecilia day. 🎵



Canada Music Week[®] 2022 November 20 - 26