



# Canada Music Week - Reports & Photos

## Semaine de la musique canadienne



Here are the Canada Music Week® reports from:

- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
- Québec
- Saskatchewan
- Yukon

Unfortunately no reports were submitted by:

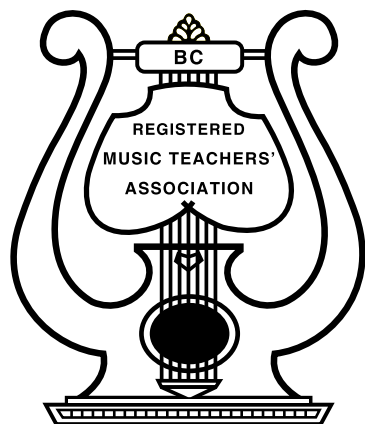
- Alberta
- Newfoundland & Labrador
- Northwest Territories





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2023 saw a happy return to live student concerts from east to west across BC. Performers, teachers and audiences alike were happy to meet in person again to celebrate Canada Music Week.

### The Trail/Castlegar Branch

recital featured pianists, vocalists, and violinists of all ages in a wonderful evening of Canadian music, concluding with branch awards to students for top marks in examinations, and the acknowledgement of three students awarded medals of excellence by Conservatory Canada.



Moving west to the **South Okanagan**, where the branch's 44<sup>th</sup> annual CMW recital took place at the Penticton Lakeside Resort Hotel. Included in the program of Canadian music was repertoire by local composers like Anita Perry and Ernst Schneider. Fledgling composer 8-year old Ellis Ocala, played his first composition ever: *Waterfall*. Over \$1500 worth of scholarships were awarded to students for excellence in music and community involvement. Each member of this small but mighty branch contributed significantly towards this showcase of vibrant Canadian music.

Thirty-six piano, violin, and voice students performed works by eighteen Canadian composers at the Canada Week recital in **Chilliwack**, including four pieces by branch member Kathleen Feenstra. Two students played their own compositions. Students with the highest marks in Primary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior practical exams and with the highest mark in theory exams at level 9 and above were presented with bursaries by branch President Karin Fehlauer. Everyone was encouraged to wear red and white, and maple leaf cookies were served!

On the north bank of the Fraser River, **Mission Branch** celebrated with a recital at Chartwell Carrington House. The four branch members entered eleven students, performing a variety of Canadian pieces at beginner to advanced levels. The recital ended with Student Teacher Association member Ariana playing *Maple Syrup Moon* by Kathleen Feenstra. Each student gave a short introduction to the composer and the piece. Some students chose to celebrate this special week by creating art inspired by the composer or piece of music they were playing.

At the recital in **Abbotsford**, awards were given to students who received the highest mark in each graded Level of practical and theoretical exams. A highlight this year was the dramatised reading by new member and author Flory Godinez of two of her musically themed books for children. Flory's entertaining reading and acting of *The Adventures of Max and Milli* was a performance enjoyed by all.

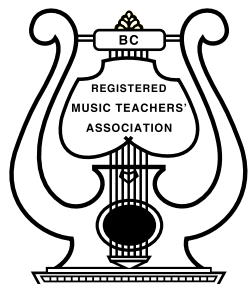
At the **South Fraser Branch** recital fifteen teachers entered a total of forty students. The program of Canadian composers was fun and diverse. The students ranged in skill level from preliminary to ARCT. During this lovely evening event donations for the upcoming South Fraser Branch Festival were collected.

**Richmond Branch** reports that Canada Music Week started with a superb recital that showcased music written by eleven different Canadian composers. The recital included performances by fifty-six students taught by fifteen different teachers performing on guitar, voice and piano. It was a great success, and celebrated students who won medals and First Class Honours awards in May and June examinations.



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Across the Strait of Georgia, the **Sunshine Coast Branch** held their recital at St. Hilda's Anglican Church in Sechelt. eleven students performed pieces by Canadian composers. Two student composers performed their own piano compositions. President Katherine Hume's message reads "The Canada Music Week recital is a highlight of our year", with a steady increase in student participation since the pandemic. "We would like to congratulate our students and thank their teachers and families for their support and encouragement".

A ferry ride away on Vancouver Island, the **North Island Branch** held their recital at Stan Hagen Theatre in Courtenay. thirty-three performers presented the music of twenty-four Canadian composers. Student composer Kristopher Benoit performed his own composition. Composer bios were read before each performance. Students were rewarded with CMW stickers and pencils, and maple leaf cookies (of course)!

In **Victoria**, the branch's annual Murray Adaskin Composition Competition marked Canada Music Week, in conjunction with a student recital. This year's adjudicator was composer Lorna Paterson, who was appreciated for her wise suggestions. In other events, a CMW breakfast meeting was a tribute to composer Joan Hansen, and was attended by her sons Christopher and Greg Lawson. There were readings from Joan's autobiography, from memories of Joan written by Susan de Burgh and Pam Smirl, and a performance of Joan's music by the High Notes Flute Choir.

It has been a pleasure to read the branch reports and be reminded of all the music making and creativity that sparks CMW celebrations at RMTA branches all across BC.

*Susan Evans - CMW Coordinator BCRMTA*



**Vancouver/Burnaby Branch** celebrated Canada MusicWeek with a CMW Festival at the Canadian Music Centre, one of the Festival's sponsors. Eighteen teachers entered sixty-seven students from preparatory to Level 12. Performers entertained with a wide variety of styles, including one student entering with a performance of their own composition. Lori Elder, the adjudicator of the first festival five years ago, returned to provide excellent, encouraging adjudications. Tom Lee Music donated gift cards for first and second place winners in each class, and the branch provided first- and second-place Elementary, Junior, Intermediate and Senior division scholarships.



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Manitoba participated in Canada Music Week with gusto again this year, with our

student events being among the most popular student event of the year. The **Winnipeg** region celebrated Canada Music Week on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup> with a student recital of Canadian compositions. Twenty two students ranging from elementary through late intermediate level performed music for solo piano and voice. The students gave introductions to their selections explaining about the lives of the composers and the compositional aspects they've observed. It was wonderful to hear the students speak so well and, coupled with their polished performances, made for a marvelous show.

Four of the performers were student composers and spoke about their process in composition. Young composers Joshua Han and Heidi Reimer each received honourable mention and placement respectively at the national Student Composer Competition. It was exhilarating to witness the public premieres of their compositions. We see many good things to come!

The event was rounded out with Canada music trivia, improv and composition activities at keyboards around the facility, a sheet music fundraiser sale, red and white cake, and refreshments for all. It was a festive event with great spirit.

*Melissa Gingrich - MRMTA CMW Representative*

In Recognition of Canada Music Week, the **Brandon/Westman** RMT held a Masterclass and Student Recital on Friday November 24<sup>th</sup> at Brandon University. Our outstanding clinician, Dr. Daniel Tselyakov, Artistic Director of the Clear Lake Chamber Music Festival and teacher at the Brandon University School of Music, offered insight on musical interpretation for each of the twenty four masterclass performers covering a broad range of abilities. Incites were gained by all in attendance.

The celebration concluded with a recital of thirty four students performing Canadian compositions with a special emphasis on the compositions of our own branch president, Dianna Neufeld. Bridging the event was refreshments and snacks, a sheet music sale of used treasures from MRMTA members, certificates of participation for performers, door prizes, and awards for three outstanding students selected by Dr. Tselyakov. The event was a marvelous success with excellent support by committee members and volunteers and the participation of the community.

*Prof. Alla Turbanova and MRMTA President, Maureen Baird*





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**Moncton** - held its annual Canada Music Week Recital on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at St Paul's United Church in Riverview, NB. It was well attended by family and friends of our twenty-nine pianists ranging from beginner to advanced. Each performer received a certificate, designed specifically for Canada Music Week, complete with the official CMW sticker. With Covid still being an issue in our area, we opted not to serve our traditional Canada Music Week cake and punch, after the recital.

*Rita Raymond - NBRMTA Coordinator*





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association

The **Halifax** Chapter celebrated Canada Music Week with a concert on November 26<sup>th</sup> in the lovely Lilian Piercey Concert Hall at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts. We shared the afternoon with the Contemporary Showcase Festival Maritimes. Our guest speaker was Amy Brandon, who teaches composition at the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie University. Ms. Brandon has received both Canadian and international composition awards. She spoke to the audience about how she enjoys working with the qualities of sound that are possible, using many different instruments. She advised our students to start using whatever instrument they are playing, including voice, to experiment with composing. We had thirty-three students from nine different studios performing all Canadian compositions as well as original compositions, including a piece for voice and piano by Ameerah Alao, a student of Skippy Mardon, that won first place in the national Composer Competition.

*Diana Torbert*

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, nearly 50 students from the **Yarmouth** area met with their friends and families to enjoy a recital of music by Canadian Composers. The afternoon began with the Music Club from the local Elementary School leading us in the singing of *O Canada*. The students performed each musical selection well and showed the variety of style and genre being composed in our country. Thanks to both students and teachers for their efforts! See you again next year!

On Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the Valley Chapter of the **Annapolis Valley** Chapter held their annual Canada Music Week recital at Kentville Baptist Church, featuring the students of Misty Banyard-Kelley, Rebekah Price-Maxner, Jasmine Moran, Heather Price-Regan and Marilyn Whiteway.





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These students, aged 3 through 16, presented a varied program piano and voice works from prevalent Canadian Composers such as Anne Crosby Gaudet, Linda Niamath, Nancy Telfer, Martha Hill Duncan, and many others. Audience and participants alike were delighted as students performed for their first to fiftieth times, with great success all around. We are providing some pictures, so that others in CFMTA and NSRMTA can enjoy the day as much as we did. We are really looking forward to hearing what these talented students present next year.

*Misty Banyard-Kelley*





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For Canada Music Week 2023, ORMTA **Central Toronto** Branch hosted an Introduction to Film Composition Workshop at the Toronto Canadian Music Centre, led by film composer Erica Procuier. Participants included teachers and students from across the city. They learned about the pillars of scoring, essential tools and scoring concepts and had a lot of great questions. Erica showed examples of some of her projects, completed and in process. A follow-up workshop is planned for January 2024.

CMW was championed with a **Hamilton-Halton** Members' Round Table Discussion with RCM's Elaine Rusk plus a well attended recital by twenty-six students of fourteen teachers. Piano performances interspersed with guitar and voice presentations provided a balanced program showcasing Canadian Composers.

**Kingston** Branch celebrated Canada Music Week 2023 with a mini festival adjudicated by Kingston's own composer, teacher and choral conductor Martha Hill Duncan. They had the pleasure of hearing several pianists, vocalists and a flutist as well as a number of original student compositions. The students' talents as well as their obvious connections to and affection for Canadian compositions were on display.



**Niagara Falls** celebrated Canada Music Week launching it with the First Class Honours Recital as a chance to highlight Canadian music, making special note of it with Canadian flags throughout the program. After highlighting the importance of Canadian music by our Branch President, each of two consecutive recitals highlighted performances from these students, including Canadian works.



**Ottawa** Region Branch, the Canada Music Week Recital has always been a special, non-competitive event in the month of November. There were eleven teachers who prepared thirty-two students of various instruments to perform works by twenty-three different Canadian composers, including Anita Schlarb, a member of their branch. The Recital started with *O Canada*, played by a violin student, with his teacher accompanying him on the piano, while all present joined heartily in singing our national anthem. At the end, the students were awarded special Canada Music Week certificates and an iced muffin treat.







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**Peterborough** branch is happy to report that the recently revived branch held their first event since the virus, a recital to kick off Canada Music Week on Sunday November 19<sup>th</sup>, at St. Luke's Anglican Church, Peterborough. Very successful, with lots of good comments from teachers, pupils, and parents.



*Rebecca Goode - ORMTA Coordinator*





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The PEIRMTA Canada Music Week Recital was extra special this year! As part of the event, we were pleased to present one of our long-time members, Frances McBurnie, with a 2023 CFMTA Hugheen Ferguson Distinguished Teacher Award in honour of her exemplary teaching career, her involvement with the PEIRMTA, and her commitment to the PEI classical music community. The recital featured piano and voice students from nine member studios and featured music of Canadian composers Nancy Telfer, Anne Crosby Gaudet, Violet Archer, Oscar Peterson, and others. The occasion was made more special by the participation of many of Fran McBurnie's own piano students.

*Suzanne Campbell - PEIRMTA Coordinator*





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L'Association des professeurs de musique du Québec a célébré la « Semaine de la musique canadienne » en invitant tous les professeurs de l'association à inscrire leurs élèves à une série de récitals qui se sont tenus au cégep Saint-Laurent, le dimanche 19 novembre 2023.

Lors de ce « marathon » de récitals, les élèves ont interprété des œuvres de compositeurs canadiens. Tous ont reçu un certificat de participation ainsi qu'un crayon souvenir de la SMC. La pianiste et pédagogue Monique LeBlanc, juge invitée pour l'année 2023, 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 eu lieu le samedi 25 novembre, événement couronnant la SMC. La préparation remarquable des étudiants, ainsi que la possibilité de se produire une deuxième fois à intervalle d'une semaine, avec plus d'assurance et de confiance ont fait de ce magnifique concert un grand succès.

Les musiciens et compositeurs présents ainsi que le public ont été très impressionnés par la qualité de ce concert. La salle était comble ! Ce fut un moment mémorable !

Chaque année, un montant recueilli pour la bourse Rose-Goldblatt, créée en mémoire de cette dernière, est octroyé en prix aux élèves choisis pour le gala, en plus des prix en argent donnés par la Fondation québécoise pour l'éducation musicale. Ces jeunes artistes nous assurent une relève impressionnante.

Je remercie sincèrement tous nos bénévoles qui ont fait de cet événement une réussite :

- Solange Bellemare, coordonnatrice adjointe,
- Danielle Langevin, registraire et coordonnatrice Web,
- Patrycia Meunier, trésorière de l'APMQ.

Longue vie à la Semaine de la musique canadienne!

*Christiane Claude, coordonnatrice (APMQ)*

The Quebec Music Teachers' Association celebrated Canada Music Week by inviting its teachers to register their students for a series of four recitals that were held at Cégep Saint-Laurent on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

At these recitals, students performed works by Canadian composers and received a participation certificate and a CMW souvenir pencil. Pianist and pedagogue Monique LeBlanc, guest judge for this year, took pleasure in auditioning these young musicians. A selected few performed again during the gala that crowned the event on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. This magnificent and memorable concert was a huge success with many attendees.

Each year, funds collected towards a bursary established in memory of Rose Goldblatt is awarded to the gala performers. The young musicians also received a cash prize from the Quebec Musical Education Foundation.

I sincerely thank all our volunteers who made this event a success:

- Solange Bellemare, Assistant Coordinator,
- Danielle Langevin, Registrar & Web Coordinator,
- Patrycia Meunier, QMTA Treasurer.

Long Live Canada Music Week!

*Christiane Claude, Coordinator (QMTA)*





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The **Saskatoon** branch had a record breaking number of entries for their contemporary showcase with 113 entries. Stephanie Chua from Ontario was the adjudicator and was exceptional. She took time for each student to sit at the piano and work with her which was much appreciated by the students. There were twenty-three performances at the final recital.

**Swift Current** held their 2023 Canada Music concert earlier than the actual music week, because of pending renovations at their venue which was the Art Gallery.

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, there were sixteen performers, and the concert opened and closed with performances of *O Canada* on the piano. One rendition of our national anthem was a duet arranged by S. Wilson. Along with the pianists there were also three vocalists.

Although the **East Central** branch did not celebrate Canada Music Week during the specified week, three vocal students from this branch performed Canadian music in the Honour Choir on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 in Regina.

The **West Central** Branch hosted their Contemporary Showcase on November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. More than seventy students performed in Rosetown. Laurel Teichroeb was the clinician and adjudicator. The celebration began by Laurel offering two enriching workshops for teachers. One was on pre-piano students, and the second was on lead sheets.

A fellow branch member, Clayton Braybrook led a handbell workshop. A big thank you goes out to Long & McQuade who sponsored the prize draw.

The **Yorkton** branch decided to celebrate Canada Music Week early this year, due to two musical productions taking place in November. Lynette Sawatzky led an interactive group session with students. This was done with a variety of instruments and new pieces.

Friday evening was dedicated to composing a 16 measure work. By the end of the 2 ½ hour session, groups of students had completed a piece including chords, and were able to perform their work for everyone.

*Patricia Niekamp - SRMTA Coordinator*





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Canada Music Week continues to be a popular recital hosted by YRMTA. Our annual recital was held on Sunday November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This year we had twenty-two performers play repertoire from composers across Canada. Composers included Anne Crosby Gaudet, Clifford Poole, Violet Archer, Joni Mitchell, Donna Rhodenizer, and Rebekah Maxner. We also had a few young composers from our Composer Competition last spring join in our Canada Music Week Recital.

Performers ranged from beginner to advance levels and we had a variety of instrument such as piano, violin, voice, and drums! Some of the students did a poster project on their Canadian composers-these posters were displayed throughout the church which was a great way for audience members to learn more about them.

I thanked long time member Annie Avery for organizing this event. As always, helping children to honour our composers creates an environment of respect and encouragement to compose.

*Ellen Thompson - YRMTA Coordinator*