

## LRMTA Minutes Monday, October 4th, 2021, Zoom Meeting

Check out the LRMTA website for updates and information regarding upcoming events and meetings at [www.lrmta.com](http://www.lrmta.com)

Christine called the Zoom meeting to order and welcomed those participating. There were 10 members present: Tamara Bowie, Christine Rogers, Betty Jo Radley, Tracy Bozzi, Lorrie Wittke, Lavinia Kell Parker, Doreen Laing, Linda Dickey, Brenda Lockmuller, and Brad Parker. Thanks to everyone who attended! Thank you to Betty Jo for taking notes for the minutes!

Linda moved the approval of the agenda with Brenda seconding. Tamara moved the acceptance of the September minutes as circulated with Brenda seconding.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report. The account balances as of September 29th: Awards Account: \$4402.48 and Operating Account: \$1652.45. Christine moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's report with Brad seconding.

The dates for the 2022 Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival are March 28-April 9, 2022. If you have any questions or concerns contact the Festival: phone: (403) 381-6512 or the General Manager, Megan Wittig: email at: [generalmanager@lethmsf.org](mailto:generalmanager@lethmsf.org)

[ARMTA](#) News: The ARMTA AGM took place on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our Branch Rep, Lorrie Wittke prepared the following report. Thanks to Lorrie!

The ARMTA AGM was held over Zoom and went very smoothly. Reports from the Executive, Convenors, and Branch Representatives were included, as well as a treasurer's report. The President, Nathan Arthur encouraged us to focus on our goals and what we want to accomplish. She used an interesting analogy from a jazz camp she attended:

*There was a question about playing Jazz piano. Question: "How do you make it sound like jazz when you are improvising all over the place?" And the two-part answer: "First, know where you are going (or at least aiming for!), and second, practice landing in a "wrong place" and still go to the goal by adjusting the rhythm or adjusting a pattern." So, I propose that we in ARMTA need to know our goals. Why are we here? What do we want to do? How can we do it? And still land where we want to go? This upcoming Board meeting will cover what we hope to do in*

I think this is an interesting analogy, especially in these times. Planning can be hard right now, and we have to regularly adjust how we do things, but keeping our eyes focused on our overall goals will give us some stability as we find creative ways to meet those goals.

There was the election of a Vice-President as Tamara has moved into the ARMTA Admin role. Rosemarie Horne from Edmonton is stepping into this position. Rosemarie has been the Edmonton Branch Representative.

There were Milestone Awards given out, as well as the ARMTA Service Award. The recipient of this award is Vicki Martin.

There was a Presentation of thanks to retiring board members and convenors. Alexandra Munn spoke briefly as she received a milestone award for 55 years.

Currently there are 477 members in ARMTA.

The [RCM Teacher Portal](#) is still open to all teachers at this time. It was noted that the RCM is using a rolling deadline for students to apply for certain exams. Currently for most practical exams, students can apply when they are ready, although it was suggested to book at least 8 weeks before the date you would like. Level 5-8 theory exams can also be booked as needed, but level 9 and up have specific dates. Follow the link for more information: <https://www.rcmusic.com/learning/examinations/examination-resources-for-students/examination-dates-canada>

Our next virtual coffee and conversation will take place by Zoom on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Details will be circulated to members by email. A discussion followed about the focus of the meeting. It was noted that our original goal was to provide a time for teachers to visit and get to know each other better. It was decided that to start the conversation, we would share the story or reasons we became musicians and teachers: “Tell us why you are a musician?” Christine will record the meeting so that others might be able to watch later.

Brad Parker updated members on University of Lethbridge activities. He is currently the Music at Noon recital series coordinator and the Studio coordinator. If you have senior students who are interested in more information about studying at the U of L, please contact Brad at [bradley.parker3@uleth.ca](mailto:bradley.parker3@uleth.ca) November 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for anyone on campus to be fully vaccinated, including recitals. Information regarding University of Lethbridge Fine Arts events can be found here: <https://www.uleth.ca/fine-arts/event-season>

Ticket information for events can be found at the following link: <https://uleth.universitytickets.com/>

Thank you to Tamara Bowie who updated, printed, and circulated our LRMTA teacher brochure to the Allied Arts Council office and the Purple Hippo (316-6<sup>th</sup> St. S—handmade gift shop supporting local artisans). The City of Lethbridge is no longer displaying brochures. If you know of other venues that would display our brochures, please contact Christine or Tamara. It was

suggested that an information leaflet be developed for potential members and posted at the University of Lethbridge. Resources will be developed and posted when ready.

Please visit our website ([www.LRMETA.com](http://www.LRMETA.com)) regularly and notify Christine if you would like any information updates for your listing. Photographs and biographies as well as links to individual websites can be added. In addition, if you have any suggestions for information to be posted, please feel free to contact Christine. Thanks to Lorrie Wittke for curating listening lists with YouTube links that we have now posted on our website: one for children:

<https://lrmta.com/classical-music-for-children-listening-links/>

and an introduction to classical music listening: <https://lrmta.com/listening-to-classical-music-where-do-i-start/>

An advertising update followed. Lorrie has updated our entry on Kijiji. There have been over 50 views in the last month. Christine will take an updated poster to the Allied Arts Council office. Lorrie is part of an online group which shares positive teaching moments and was wondering if there would be an opportunity for our group to organize something similar to give teachers a boost. We have a private Facebook group set up that is currently not being managed which might be a venue for sharing. If you have any ideas for advertising, please contact Christine, Tamara, or Lorrie.

Next followed a discussion about our recitals. Our Canada Music Week activity will be a video recital of Canadian works by students viewed at a watch party on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. by Zoom. Tamara will prepare the video and Lorrie will work on the scavenger hunt and the information slides for the video. The deadline to submit videos is November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please use the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/elw34f68Go9D7nxKqylv>

In addition to submitting your videos, send the names of your students and their selections by email to Tamara: [gtbowie@telus.net](mailto:gtbowie@telus.net)

If you already know the composers of any submissions, please send a message to Lorrie Wittke at [lorrie99@telus.net](mailto:lorrie99@telus.net) so that she can begin the research needed for the video slides and scavenger hunt. Complete details have been circulated by email.

**MOTION:** Lorrie moved that we spend up to \$30 for Canada Music Week pencils for recital participants. Seconded by Linda. All in favor. Carried. Christine will make the order.

**MOTION:** Tamara moved that we arrange for \$100 of gift cards (\$10 each) for door prizes for students attending the watch party. Betty Jo seconded. All in favor. Carried. Christine will purchase the gift cards.

Our Christmas activities will take place on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> by Zoom. Details will be confirmed at our next meeting. It was suggested for our adult recital, that we ask students to

share, “Why do I play?”. This could be shared in a video clip if students wish. Teachers could be invited to share a positive moment in their teaching.

An executive meeting to begin planning for Christine’s transition from the President’s position will take place on October 7th. Any members interested in contributing to the process are invited to participate.

Branch student awards submissions are due on or before October 4<sup>th</sup>. The disbursement committed will tabulate the information and circulate to teachers for confirmation.

The CFMTA Branching Out 2022 initiative is *Celebrating Musical Multiculturalism and Diversity in our Communities*: <https://www.cfmta.org/en/branching-out/> The deadline for events is March 15, 2022. A discussion of ideas followed. Two ideas were suggested: the first to have students dress in their traditional, cultural costumes for a performance; the second to have a program featuring women composers. We will follow up with these at upcoming meetings.

A Policies and Procedures review will be done in conjunction with the executive transition planning.

***Keys to Piano*** has been tentatively set for March 4-5, 2022. Details will be circulated as soon as plans have been finalized.

A discussion followed regarding the possibility of holding a Practise-a-thon in the Spring of 2022. The last practise-a-thon was in 2019. We have previously held them every 2 years to fund our awards program. Currently we have funding for at least two more years of awards. In 2020, we decided to postpone the 2021 practise-a-thon because of the Pandemic. We will continue to review this at upcoming meetings and in the executive transition meetings.

Brenda will initiate an RCM book exchange program for students. Complete details will be circulated by email. Contact Brenda at [bjlockmuller@gmail.com](mailto:bjlockmuller@gmail.com) if you or your students have RCM books to sell or if you have students in need of used books.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 1st, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom.**

Minutes prepared by Christine Rogers and Betty Jo Radley