

## Lethbridge Branch Minutes Thursday, February 1, 2024, Zoom Meeting

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

Brenda called the Zoom meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. and welcomed those participating. There were 5 members present: Brenda Lockmuller, Carmen Letourneau, Brad Parker, Betty Jo Radley, and Christine Rogers.

Brenda moved the approval of the agenda with one addition 5b) hosting composer Denis Khvatov. Seconded by Betty Jo. Carmen moved the acceptance of the January minutes as circulated, seconded by Betty Jo.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report. The account balances as of January 30th: Awards Account: \$4372.02 and Operating Account: \$2508.03. There is 1 outstanding award cheque that has been reported lost by the student. A discussion followed regarding our policy for awards cheques. Christine reported that she went through previous minutes and found the last motion in March of 2014 which stated: "It was decided to continue using cheques for our awards process, but to notify students that cheques will be cancelled after 6 months." The following month, April 2014, after discussion of an issue that had arisen since the previous meeting with an award cheque that needed to be rewritten, it was decided "to clarify our awards cheque policy by stating that all outstanding awards cheques will be cancelled after 6 months, and fees will be applied for rewriting cheques." After further discussion at the February 2024 meeting about the policy, it was decided that we should update the policy to include a discretionary statement that will allow for approaching individual situations that might arise. Christine will formulate a statement for review which will be presented at the next meeting for a vote. Upcoming expenses from our operating account include the annual fees for the Allied Arts Council (AAC) membership of \$75. Continuing financial notes: 1) a total of \$1129.00 has been deposited to the operating account from the donations of the sale of Doreen Laing's music and 2) \$200 is left from an ARMTA Continuing Education grant to be used for a voice workshop. The acceptance of the Treasurer's report as presented was moved by Christine. Seconded by Brenda.

Christine reported that she will be printing a few Keys to Piano posters to put up in local venues.

Carmen gave the ARMTA update. She has prepared the Branch report for the next ARMTA boarding meeting which will take place at the end of February. She asked for feedback regarding what we would like to see as the aims for ARMTA's social media presence: 1) information and education for existing members 2) information to encourage new members to join ARMTA 3) information to encourage new students to sign up for lessons with ARMTA members. It was noted that there are avenues including email and the private ARMTA Facebook group for education and information for current members. A discussion occurred regarding the preference of framing social media posts as "attraction" of new members and students, rather than "promotion" of ARMTA in a comparative way with other teachers and organizations in our communities. Carmen will take our feedback to the ARMTA social media committee. Thank you to Carmen for acting as our ARMTA Rep!

Christine shared the thank you letter from the Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival for our \$250 contribution to the 5 awards we sponsor annually.

Brad reported that the University of Lethbridge workshop on January 27<sup>th</sup> for students preparing for the Music Festival was a success, although they had room for more students. A discussion followed regarding ideas to help with promotion and information sharing which Brad recorded for next year's planning. Members expressed their gratitude for this opportunity for students. Upcoming Music at Noon performances include **Fourtitude** Piano Ensemble on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. All performances begin at 12:15 p.m. in the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall. A complete listing can be found here: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/notice/events/374>

The Allied Arts Council (AAC) annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7pm. We will need a representative from our group to attend on our behalf.

Christine reported on information she received regarding the Alberta Piano Teachers Association's (APTA) annual conference at the end of September. She will send out an information email to members and invite them to consider joining APTA. There are lots of benefits and opportunities. Please follow the link for more information. <https://aptaonline.net>

Brad Parker has expressed interest in volunteering for a leadership role in our local branch, but will be away for study leave from the University for the year 2025-2026. The executive will schedule a planning meeting to discuss this.

A committee will be formed to determine how to honour long-time member Doreen Laing who recently passed away. A recommendation/proposal will be brought to a future meeting for a vote. In the past we have honored members with a donation to the ARMTA Recognition Fund as well as naming Branch awards in their honour. A Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival Award is also being considered. So far over \$1100 has been raised from the sale of her music. There are still 12 banker boxes of music left and further opportunities for teachers to view the music will be arranged before the final disbursement of whatever is left. If you wish to view the music by arranging an individual time, please call Christine Rogers at 403-327-2073 or email at [c4rogers@telus.net](mailto:c4rogers@telus.net)

The [Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival](#) dates are March 11-23, 2024. Junior Piano adjudicator is Eric Nyland (March 19-20 at Casa) and Senior Piano adjudicator is Akiko Tominaga (March 13-15 at Casa). All Adjudicators and their bios can be found here: <https://lethmsf.org/adjudicators/>

Our May meeting will take place in person in the Community Room at Casa on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Please set aside this date and plan to attend. It will be great to see everyone!

The Executive will meet next week to finalize an email to the Branch regarding the new ARMTA branding and our historical logo. The email will also provide details about opportunities for response.

The deadline for application for the ARMTA Student Composer Competition is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please see complete details on the ARMTA website at <https://armta.ca/student-composer-competition/> Registration is currently open. Please contact Christine if you have any questions at [c4rogers@telus.net](mailto:c4rogers@telus.net)

Our April meeting will take place on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. by Zoom because of the Easter break.

CFMTA's theme for *Branching Out* this year is *Random Acts of Music*—bringing music and performances to different venues and audiences in the community. Events need to take place by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and the application needs to be submitted before March 31<sup>st</sup>. A recital with a Valentine's theme will take place on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Health Centre at [1400 9 Ave South](#). The program will take place in a room on the west side of the Centre. 30-40 St. Michael's residents are expected to attend this program. Parking is at the rear of the facility and participants can enter through the back entrance. A list of all participants/attendees for security will be required. Masking, although not currently required, may be necessary for participants on the date of the performance. A coat room will be available for performers' belongings. A program order will be prepared. Please have your names and titles to Betty Jo by Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contact her at [bettyjoradley@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjoradley@gmail.com) Thank you to Lavinia Kell Parker for arranging this opportunity!

A Festival Preparation Recital and practise will take place in the Community Room at Casa on **Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**, 2024. The rehearsal time will be from noon to 2:00 p.m. and the recital will start at 2:30 p.m. Teachers will be given an opportunity to book a time slot for their students during the allotted rehearsal time. An email inviting teachers to request a time for their students will be sent out shortly. Brenda is in the process of making arrangements for University of Lethbridge student guest artists at the recital. Please note the change to a Sunday date for the recital.

**Keys to Piano** will take place March 1-2, 2024, at Casa. Clinicians are [Derek Chiu](#) and [Dale Wheeler](#). Registration is now open on the Conservatory website. Click on **Events for the Community**. <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/music-conservatory/concerts-and-events> Volunteers will be needed to help with registration and with moderating the masterclass sessions. Christine will send out an email.

Our final general recital will take place Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall. Brenda has requested the insurance certificate that is required.

A Community Recital will take place in the Community Room at Casa on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. We will invite all teachers in the community to submit students and we will arrange for refreshments after the recital. If you are interested in helping, please contact Brenda at [bjlockmuller@gmail.com](mailto:bjlockmuller@gmail.com)

Our next Coffee and Conversation will take place on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at the [Little Nicaragua Coffee Company at 359 Stafford Drive](#) North at 11:00 a.m. Contact Betty Jo at [bettyjoradley@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjoradley@gmail.com) by Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> if you are able to attend, but walk-ins are welcome!

A voice workshop will be planned to use the \$200 portion left from the ARMTA Continuing Education grant we received before the Pandemic. Christine will contact Megan Wittig this month to begin planning.

Brenda relayed information from Mary Lee Voort about composer Denis Khvatov (who is a relative of violinist Alina Khvatova here in Lethbridge) who will be in Canada and is willing to do a brief presentation for us of his music. The suggested dates are April 5, 6, and 7<sup>th</sup>. Betty Jo

Radley has generously offered her studio for a Saturday morning presentation. Brenda will contact Denis and Mary Lee to make final arrangements. Details will be circulated to teachers once finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Our next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, March 7th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. by Zoom.

Minutes prepared by Christine Rogers

**Other items of note:**

The [Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival](#) dates are March 11-23, 2024. General Manager is Jaimee Jarvie. If you have any comments, feedback or suggestions regarding the Festival phone: (403) 381-6512 or email: [generalmanager@lethmsf.org](mailto:generalmanager@lethmsf.org)

Our local RCM Rep is Monica Baczuk: 403-942-4321(h); 403-715-6051(c.) [monicab1961@hotmail.com](mailto:monicab1961@hotmail.com) and our Provincial Rep is Derek Chiu: [derek.chiu@rcmusic.ca](mailto:derek.chiu@rcmusic.ca).

Please visit our website ([www.LRMTA.com](http://www.LRMTA.com)) regularly and notify Christine if you would like any updates for your listing.

The University of Lethbridge Music at Noon recitals are scheduled for Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. in the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall. Complete information for Music at Noon: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/fine-arts/study/music/concerts-and-recitals> click on the **Music Events Listing** tab: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/notice/events/374> 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/>