

Lethbridge Branch Minutes Thursday, March 7, 2024, Zoom Meeting

Check out the Lethbridge Branch website for updates and information regarding upcoming events and meetings at www.lrmta.com

Brenda called the Zoom meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed those participating. There were 4 members present: Brenda Lockmuller, Linda Dickey, Betty Jo Radley, and Christine Rogers.

Linda moved the approval of the agenda with two additions 5c) Award cheque cashing policy and 5d) Lethbridge Herald student awards photo submission. Seconded by Betty Jo. Brenda moved the acceptance of the February minutes as circulated, seconded by Linda.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report. The account balances as of March 5th: Awards Account: \$4372.02 and Operating Account: \$2498.13. There is 1 outstanding award cheque that has been reported lost by the student. It has been decided that we will wait the 6 months until the cheque is stale dated and then rewrite the cheque to avoid bank cancellation fee charges. 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 Betty Jo.

Carmen was not available for an ARMTA update. Brenda will check in with her to see if she is able to prepare a report on the recent ARMTA Board meeting that she attended.

Christine shared a card from the Little Lethbridge Opera Theatre thanking us for acting as a sponsor so that they could apply for a City of Lethbridge grant to help with professional costs for preparing the cast of *Sound of Music* for performance with the Lethbridge Symphony.

Christine reported that she had made several posts on our Lethbridge Branch Facebook page while promoting *Keys to Piano*.

The Allied Arts Council (AAC) annual general meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. We will need a representative from our group to attend on our behalf. Brenda will send out an email to see if anyone is available. We have received notice that the AAC fees will be waived this year. The AAC acknowledges the financial strain resulting from the Pandemic and are reviewing their membership model.

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. Our Branch presented a recital with a Valentine's theme on Saturday, February 10th at St. Michael's Health Centre. Christine will prepare the application for our \$100 CFMTA Branching Out grant for the event. The deadline is March 31st. Thank you to Lavinia Kell Parker for arranging this opportunity and to all the teachers and students who supported this activity!

Christine reported on the success of *Keys to Piano*. This workshop was presented by the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music in collaboration with our Lethbridge Branch. It featured clinicians Derek Chiu and Dale Wheeler. At the Friday evening session for teachers and senior students, "The Secret Life of the Left Hand" was presented by Dale Wheeler and

"Unlocking Performance Potential" was presented by Derek Chiu. On Saturday, students performed in masterclass sessions and received comments and direction from the clinicians. Students and teachers also participated in breakout sessions including Collaborative Piano with University of Lethbridge professor Brad Parker, *Perk Up your Ears*—Tips to Improve your Listening and Ear Training Skills with Christine Rogers, Fiddling 101 with violinist, Alina Khvatova, and Keyed Percussion with percussionist, Marc Vantol. Between the morning and afternoon Saturday sessions, the clinicians performed a wonderful program of works by Liszt and Mozart. Nearly 50 teachers and students participated in the weekend event, including 27 performers. Thank you to the volunteer teachers who helped during registration and as moderators for the masterclasses: Cheryl Emery-Karapita, Carmen Letourneau, Jill Asling-Monk, Vicky Forsyth, Mary Lee Voort, Tamara Bowie, and Betty Jo Radley. This event was sponsored by ARMTA and APTA.

Christine, Brenda, and Betty Jo reported on the Music Festival rehearsal and Recital that took place on Sunday, March 3rd at Casa. The rehearsal and recital for the most part went smoothly. A discussion followed regarding concerns over the growing problem with information gathering for programs. Several ideas were suggested. Christine and Brenda will discuss this at the next executive meeting and come up with recommendations to bring to the group.

A meeting will be held with Brad Parker at the end of March to discuss the possibility of Brad stepping in as the next president of our local branch.

Thank you to Linda, Brenda, and Christine who met to determine how to honour long-time member Doreen Laing who recently passed away. So far over \$1200 has been raised from the sale of her music and from other donations. The following recommendations were presented:

1) Music Festival Awards totalling \$875

- *Doreen Laing Memorial Senior Piano Student Award*: \$100 each year for 5 years (\$500)
Presented to a deserving senior piano student
- *Doreen Laing Memorial Junior Piano Student Award*: \$75 each year for 5 years (\$375)
Presented to a deserving junior piano student

2) ARMTA Recognition Fund donation from Lethbridge Branch: \$75 from our operating account

3) Lethbridge Branch Student Awards with remaining funds collected from music sale or by donation: *Doreen Laing Memorial Awards* determined by awards committee hopefully for the awards presented in November 2024

The next steps include:

- Email to teachers after March meeting inviting them to set up times to view the music and/or make a donation
- Linda to contact specific people on her list who have previously indicated they want to look at the music and/or make a donation.
- Pass the motion at the March meeting for the above awards
- Make arrangements with the Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival after the March meeting for the Festival Awards in Doreen's memory
- Arrange final open house viewing times at Christine's house in April after Easter

MOTION: Christine moved that the recommendations stated to honour former member Doreen Laing be accepted as presented. Linda seconded. All in favour. Carried.

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

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 2nd at 11:00 a.m. Please set aside this date and plan to attend. It will be great to see everyone!

Progress has been made in drafting an email and an information document to send to Branch members regarding the new ARMTA branding and our historical logo. Thank you to Brenda, Carmen Letourneau, and Christine for their time and efforts. The Executive will meet next week to finalize the details before sending out.

The deadline for application for the ARMTA Student Composer Competition is April 1st. 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

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

A voice workshop will be planned to use the \$200 portion left from the ARMTA Continuing Education grant we received before the Pandemic. Megan Wittig and Stephanie Webster are reviewing possible dates.

Our final general recital will take place Saturday, May 25th at 2:30 p.m. in the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall. Brenda will be away, so Christine volunteered to work with Betty Jo on the program. Brenda has requested the insurance certificate that is required and will also send an email to see if another teacher will be available to help with convening.

A Community Recital will take place in the Community Room at Casa on Saturday, June 8th 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. Brenda will send an email to see if there are teachers who will be available to convene. Christine and Brenda will draft a notice to go out in April after Easter.

Our next Coffee and Conversation will take place on Thursday, Friday, March 8th at the [Little Nicaragua Coffee Company at 359 Stafford Drive](#) North at 11:00 a.m. An email notice was sent out to members.

Composer Denis Khvatov (who is a relative of violinist Alina Khvatova here in Lethbridge) will be making a presentation on his music for piano on Saturday, April 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Betty Jo Radley's Studio at 810 Kodiak Bay North. Parking is available on the boulevard. A notice will be sent out shortly to the piano teacher community. Thank you to Betty Jo for once again so generously offering her studio for our events.

It was decided to hold our Annual General Meeting at our May meeting since we will be meeting about our new executive with Brad Parker on March 28th and may need more time to put things in place.

Next followed a discussion about our Awards cheque cashing policy. After several ideas were discussed, the following was accepted:

MOTION: Brenda moved that we accept the following policy and print a copy for our awards binder and include the ideas discussed for implementation of the policy. Seconded by Betty Jo. All in Favour. Carried.

All award cheques will be cancelled after 6 months, and fees will be applied for rewriting cheques within that time. At the discretion of the president, the treasurer, and the teacher whose student is involved, other arrangements may be made to respond to individual situations.

Brenda reported on the status of determining the names of the students in the November awards photo. There are still a few students that haven't been identified. Frustration was expressed at the lack of response by teachers to emails sent out. Christine and Brenda will meet to see if they can determine the final names and prepare information for submission to the Lethbridge Herald.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Our next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. by Zoom. Please note the change to the second Thursday of the month because of the Easter holiday.

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

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

Please visit our website (www.LRMETA.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/>