

Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA Minutes Thursday, October 3, 2024, Casa Meeting Room

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

Brad called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in the Meeting Room at Casa and welcomed those participating. There were 8 members present: Betty Jo Radley, Linda Dickey, Christine Rogers, Honorary Branch Member Marilyn Sinclair, Brad Parker, Lavinia Kell Parker, and Cheryl Emery-Karapita. Brenda Lockmuller joined online. Thank you to Brad for facilitating attendance at the meeting by Zoom.

Linda moved the acceptance of the agenda with the addition of item h) Cheryl Emery-Karapita's project under Reports/News, seconded by Brenda. All in favour, carried. Christine moved the acceptance of the September minutes as circulated. Seconded by Lavinia. All in favour, carried.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report. Balances as of October 3/2024:

- Awards Account: \$5,338.11
- Operating Account: \$1,818.68

Notes for upcoming financial actions are as follows:

- \$257.38 Reimbursement: poster printing (\$13.38), Casa meeting bookings (\$84.00), Library booking for workshop (\$160—for-profit rate was charged since we were charging admission)
- Deposit of \$386.49 (250.00 ARMTA Continuing Education funding for workshop and \$140.00 - \$3.51 Stripe fees, for new member local branch fees)
- Outstanding cheques for Mindful Yoga for Singers clinician honoraria \$400.00
- Deposit for whatever proceeds collected at the door for the Mindful Yoga for Singers workshop
- Cheque for 38\$ for reimbursement for Canada Music Week pencils to Lorrie Wittke

Christine moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Cheryl. All in favour. Carried.

Christine reported on Secretary items. Christine will prepare information to circulate to teachers in our community who have previously expressed interest in our association. She will include a note that applications received between October 1st and January 15th will qualify for half price local membership and a \$50 reduction in provincial fees. Upon booking the Library for the Mindful Yoga for Singers workshop, Christine discovered that if admission is charged for an event, no matter the organization doing the booking, a for-profit rate of \$160 instead of the usual \$75 will be charged. Christine brought the last sheets of letterhead with our historical logo for members to take. Christine asked for volunteers to review our current website in preparation for updating to the new ARMTA branding format. Brad volunteered. She has been updating documents to remove our historical logo. Please report any changes to your contact information or website teaching listing by contacting our Branch email address with your request.

lethbridgebranchofarmta@gmail.com

In Carmen's absence Christine gave the ARMTA report that Carmen had prepared. Thank you to Carmen for representing us at the provincial level! **Music Conference Alberta** is happening October 25/26th in Edmonton. This year, there are reduced rates (20% off) for ARMTA members. Early Bird Registration ends October 4th and discounted hotel rates are available until September 24th. The workshops and presenters look amazing, and it will be coinciding with the ARMTA AGM on Saturday Oct 26. First-time registrants get 50% off. ARMTA members can get 20% off

registration with a member code. And if anyone wants to go, both the first-time delegate and a returning delegate can get half price by registering together! Carmen plans to go so if anyone wants to drive with her or get the half price registration fee, contact her before the end of the day, October 4th at coachcarmen@gmail.com
Conference details: <https://www.musicconferenceab.ca/registration.html>

Christine reported on this year's ARMTA Milestone Award recipients from our Lethbridge Branch. Congratulations and thank you to the following members for their service and dedication to our Branch! They will be recognized at the ARMTA AGM and at our Canada Music Week Recital and Awards Presentation.

- Betty Jo Radley: 45 years
- Christine Rogers: 40 years
- Lorrie Wittke: 30 years
- Cheryl Hudak: 25 years

Christine reported on advertising and social media. She is still working on updating our free listings on Yellow Pages online and Kijiji. She has been sharing information and events on Facebook periodically.

Brad reported on upcoming U of L Music at Noon performances. He will prepare a complete calendar of recitals and arrange for the dates and performers to be circulated. 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> 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/>

A "Mini" Lethbridge Piano Intensive one-day session is being planned for the end of November, most likely on Saturday, November 30th. Details will be circulated when finalized.

Brad reported that he and Lavinia had attended the recent APTA (Alberta Piano Teachers Association) conference in Leduc and that it was a great experience.

Cheryl reported on a project that she has initiated which has been a long-time passion of hers—to bring a large-scale music work inspired by Schubert's Winterreise song cycle to fruition here in Canada. Winter is, after all, a major defining element in our culture as Canadians. A Canadian Winterreise will use the Canadian landscape as a metaphor for a woman in the Winter of her life.

The work will be a monodrama 75-minutes in length and written for Piano and Mezzo Soprano. Marianne Jones, poet and author from Thunder Bay, Ontario, and Lavinia Kell Parker, composer from Lethbridge, Alberta, have enthusiastically agreed to join Cheryl on this endeavour. Marianne is a wonderful poet and a septuagenarian uniquely qualified to create words appropriate for the experiences of her generation. In turn, Lavinia's genius as a composer and her compassion and connection with Marianne's poetry make her uniquely qualified to set Marianne's words to music. Costs are significant with such a large-scale project. Grant writing is happening but cannot cover the full cost. Donations are gratefully received. A GoFundMe page has been set up. If you are interested in contributing, even a small amount will be most helpful.

<https://gofund.me/5fa8a36e>

Christine reported that she has received 5 ARMTA banner designs using ARMTA's new branding and is in the process of determining how to edit them for our Branch. Members will be given opportunities for input in the design process.

The following recital dates were determined:

- Christmas Student Recital: Saturday, December 7th at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Betty Jo Radley [810 Kodiak Bay North](#)
- Adult Christmas Get-together: Friday, December 6th at 5:15 p.m. at the home of Betty Jo Radley [810 Kodiak Bay North](#)
- Spring Festival Prep Recital: date to be determined depending on Keys to Piano date in March and the Lethbridge Music Festival March 31-April 11.

Our Canada Music Week (CMW) Recital will take place on Saturday, November 23rd at 2:30 p.m. at the Lethbridge Public Library Main Branch in the Theatre Gallery. Betty Jo will collect the names of students. Please contact her at bettyjoradley@gmail.com by **Friday, November 15th** with submissions. Please include student name, composition, composer, grade level, length of piece and whether the student's performance would make a suitable beginning or end to the program if applicable. **Compositions must be by Canadian composers.** Brenda will prepare the program. Christine will prepare a poster for circulation. CD's and Canadian Music from Doreen Laing's collection will be set out for students to take. Lorrie has arranged for CFMTA CMW pencils and has been reimbursed. Betty Jo has the quilted banner for display. Lorrie, Christine, Brad, and Betty Jo will be in attendance to help. Christine will send out an invitation to teachers regarding the playing of O Canada. Lavinia has students who might be available to play the national anthem to start the program. If her students are unavailable, Brad offered to play if no one else can be arranged. Christine will send out an initial information email regarding the CMW recital.

The deadline for our Branch awards submissions is Monday, October 3rd. Megan Wittig and Christine will begin the process of disbursement. Please carefully read upcoming emails regarding awards and respond promptly to avoid any errors or omissions.

Coffee and Conversation will take place on Thursday, October 10th at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Marilyn Sinclair at [335-20th Street North](#). Coffee will be provided. Christine will send out a reminder email. For more information email Betty Jo Radley at bettyjoradley@gmail.com

Brad began the first in the "Storytime" series—a time for members to share their musical background. Brad related his education experience, his time in studying in Paris, and his many positions before coming to Lethbridge.

The Mindful Yoga for Singers workshop is set for Saturday, October 5th at the Lethbridge Public Library Main Branch Theatre Gallery. Clinicians **Rose van der Hooft** and **Martha Renner**, will lead an exploration of Mindful Yoga with the intent to build awareness of breath in the body and how it can make a significant impact on the work that singers do to embody the repertoire they study and perform. This workshop is designed to help all participants gain greater expressive potential during performance. After singer-participants perform for the clinicians, all participants will engage in yoga exercises which are targeted to help with vocal techniques. Singer-participants will then perform a second time and discuss physical differences that they notice between the two performances. Observers will see and hear the differences that these yoga exercises can have on singers' techniques. No previous yoga experience is necessary. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing suitable for moving and stretching.

This is a pay-as-you-can event. The suggested fee for singer-participants is \$20 and for observer-participants is \$10. Cash only will be accepted at the event at the door. Pre-registration is available, but walk-ins are welcome. Participants are invited to bring a yoga mat, but there will be some mats available for those who don't bring one. Thank you to Brad Parker who has agreed to be the collaborative pianist for the workshop free of charge and who also arranged for the extra yoga mats! Thank you to everyone who worked to put this workshop together so quickly.

The following update to our Branch awards policy was proposed by Christine:

MOTION: In the event of late or lost award submissions which are discovered after the award amounts have been disbursed, every effort will be made to work out a solution with the Branch and the teacher, so that the student will not suffer the consequences. In the event of an error by the Awards Convenor (or Committee) or Branch, the Branch will cover the cost of the award either from the Operating account or the Awards account as appropriate, to be decided by the President, Treasurer, and Awards Convenor on a case-by-case basis. In the event of an error or omission by the submitting teacher or the student's parent(s), the following are examples of solutions that might be applied. Other solutions agreeable to the Branch, the Awards Convenor, the teacher, and the parent(s) will also be considered, once again on a case-by-case basis. 1) The teacher will be responsible for covering the cost of the additional award, 2) The parent(s) will be responsible for covering the cost of the additional award, 3) The teacher will submit the student's mark for the following year. The motion was seconded by Linda. All in favour. Carried. Christine will update the documents.

Brad and Christine will arrange a time to review our Branch records to see if we might have anything to submit to the ARMTA Archives.

Christine is in the process of writing a letter of support from our Branch for the [Pass Early Music Festival](#) for them to use when applying for funding. To help generate interest and opportunities for our students to be exposed to the harpsichord, Keys to Piano will be able to offer access to a harpsichord as part of the sessions it will offer in March. We can also pursue the possibility of having a harpsichord session in conjunction with our May recital in the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall as was done in 2016.

Members discussed a proposal from piano students Jerry Wang and Lisa Mo about volunteering to help students with their practising. Christine will reply to Jerry and prepare an information email to teachers when arrangements have been completed.

CFMTA's Branching Out theme this year is: **Choose Your Own Adventure:** Raise awareness of your local music teachers' branch by:

- Creating an event unique to your location
- Participating in existing community events to include a musical element
- Sharing your music, your way
- Using your imagination and resources

Our next Practice-a-thon will be held in February 2025. To raise money for our annual awards program and for the Lethbridge Music and Speech Arts Festival awards that we sponsor, we hold a Practice-a-thon every two years. Students set practice goals with their teachers, solicit pledges, and then attempt to reach their practice time goals and win prizes. Prizes, including gift cards and concert tickets donated by community sponsors, are awarded for the most hours practiced in 4 age categories as well as for the most money raised. 100% of the money raised through the Practice-a-thon goes directly to the awards program. Any expenses are covered

from our operating account. This will be the last Practice-a-thon that Christine will organize for our group. If anyone is interested in shadowing her this year with the aim of taking over the project, please contact her at c4rogers@telus.net. Christine will send out an email to see if any members are interested.

MOTION: Christine moved that we allocate \$100 from our operating account for a \$100 grand prize of a gift card of the student's choice for the most money raised in the Practice-a-thon. Seconded by Brenda. All in favour. Carried.

Other information on Practice-a-thon prizes: Donations will be solicited from Long and McQuade, the Lethbridge Symphony and the Lethbridge Community Band Society. Christine will donate some gift cards. New West Theatre gift cards were also suggested. New West Theatre will be approached to see if they will be able to sponsor a prize. Brad mentioned that the Lethbridge Piano Intensive might be able to contribute. If anyone has ideas and connections to other organizations that might be willing to donate a prize, please contact Christine at c4rogers@telus.net.

Keys to Piano 2025 is being planned for March. The Conservatory is coordinating with the U of L Music Department who will be bringing in a pianist in March. The date of Keys to Piano may be later in March than usual to coincide with the University's timeline. Information will be shared when the details are finalized.

The Provincial Round of the CFMTA Young Artist Piano Competition will take place March 2025. Following that, branches will have the opportunity to host the winner as part of the Young Artist Tour. There will not be a Voice Competition in conjunction with the Piano Competition this year, since CFMTA will not be offering a national voice competition at its conference next summer in Montreal.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 14th at 10:00 a.m. in the meeting room at Casa. An online Zoom option will be made available.

Minutes prepared by Christine Rogers

Other items of note:

The [Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival](#) dates are March 31-April 11, 2025. 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.LRMta.com) regularly and notify Christine if you would like any updates for your listing.

ARMTA: Certificates of Insurance for events: if the place you are holding an event requires a COI, you may request one from the Marsh certificate team at winnipegcertificates@marsh.com and cc danielle.blaich@marsh.com. Include your name, the date and location of event, mailing address of the party requesting evidence of your coverage. Please allow 24 to 48 hours to have your request processed.