

Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA Minutes Thursday, November 14, 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 in the Meeting Room at Casa and welcomed those participating. There were 9 members present: Betty Jo Radley, Carmen Letourneau, Lorrie Wittke, Honorary Branch Member Marilyn Sinclair, and Brad Parker. Brenda Lockmuller, Christine Rogers, and Lavinia Kell Parker joined online. Brad welcomed new member Caleb Kalsbeek whose application to ARMTA is currently being processed. Thank you to Brad for facilitating attendance at the meeting by Zoom.

The minutes were approved as circulated and the agenda was approved. Betty Jo asked that time be allotted for a couple of questions at the end of the meeting.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report (as of November 5th).

Balances as of November 5, 2024:

- Awards Account: \$5,339.21 (\$1.10 interest added on October 31st)
- Operating Account: \$1642.84

Other Financial Notes:

- Outstanding Cheque No. 265 to Lorrie Wittke for \$38 for CMW Pencils
- Upcoming expenses in the New Year
 - \$250 from Awards Account for Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival Awards that we sponsor
 - Allied Arts Council membership fee February \$75
 - Website Domain Renewal through HostGator: \$22.99 USD
- Mindful Yoga for Singers Report **October 5, 2024**

Income:

Admission Fees Collected at Door \$100.00

ARMTA Continuing Education Grant \$250.00

Total Income \$350.00

Expenses:

Clinician Fees \$400.00 (2 clinicians: \$250.00 + \$150.00)

Poster Printing \$10.29

Library Rental \$160.00

Pianist \$00.00 (Brad Parker donation)

Total Expenses \$570.29

Deficit: \$220.29

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

Christine reported on Secretary items. There are 3 extra copies of our Branch teacher contact poster. Members offered to take them and put them up at places in our community. Carmen took a poster for the YMCA and Caleb took one to put up in the Public Library in Fort Macleod. Brad will check in with Michele Tamtom in Taber to see if she can put one up, otherwise he will put one up at the U of L.

Please report any changes to your contact information or website teaching listing by contacting our Branch email address with your request. lethbridgebranchofarmta@gmail.com

A sympathy card has been sent to the family of former Branch member Ruth Ringland who recently passed away in Lethbridge on October 7th, 2024 at the age of 84. Thank you to Mary

Lee Voort for sending the card. Marilyn Sinclair related her phone call to Ruth's brother James Ringland. Ruth and her brother James were very active Lethbridge Branch members from the mid 1960's until the late 1980's. If you wish to view Ruth's memorial card, please follow the link: https://res.cloudinary.com/tangle-media/image/upload/t_medium/cornerstone/5846e382-5ec0-4fb2-8c2f-4845553b8820.jpg

Brad and Carmen reported that even though only a small group attended the Mindful Yoga for Singers workshop on October 5th, it was very beneficial to those in attendance. He suggested that before organizing future voice events, we meet with current voice teachers to find out what might be most helpful for them and their students. Special thank you to Brad who donated his time as pianist for the singers at the workshop.

Lethbridge Piano Intensive will be holding a special Fall session on November 30th at the University of Lethbridge. Piano students, ages 7 and up, of all skill levels will work with U of L Department of Music and Conservatory of Music faculty in a 1-day piano workshop at the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall. The day will include a noon-hour faculty concert, lessons, master classes and music activities such as drumming, singing, and music games.

- Ages 7-12 years: 9am -1pm / Fees: \$35
- Ages 13+ and Adults: 9am – 5pm / Fees: \$50

To learn more, and to sign up:

<https://communityprograms.ulethbridge.ca/program/GetProgramDetails?courseId=64994b25-b62c-4fbe-b362-c5f01ee08044>

Christine reported that 16 teachers have responded so far to the invitation for feedback for our new Branch banner which will be designed using ARMTA's new brand guidelines. There is still time to choose your top two designs if you haven't already given input. It was decided that a review of our slogan (which will appear on the banner) should take place at the same time. Christine will put together an email and send it out.

Our current slogan is: *Providing leadership in private music education in our community*

CFMTA slogan: *Providing leadership in music education across Canada*

ARMTA slogan: *Cultivating Music in Life*

Christine proposed that we donate \$75 to the ARMTA Recognition Fund in memory of Ruth Ringland. Similar donations have been made in the past to honour the memory of former members.

MOTION: Carmen moved that our Branch donate \$75 to the ARMTA Recognition Fund in memory of Ruth Ringland. Seconded by Betty Jo. All in favour. Carried

Christine will take care of the arrangements.

Upcoming recital information was reviewed.

- 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.

Christine will send out an email reminder for the Christmas Recital programs.

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 has prepared a poster. 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, Brad, and Betty Jo will be in attendance to help. Brenda will contact Linda Dickey to see if her student Jerry Wang might be available to play O Canada. Brad offered to play if no one else can be arranged. Betty Jo will bring the quilted Branch banner for display. She will hand out programs and mind the silver collection basket at the door.

The annual Branch awards have been determined and disbursed. The cheques have been prepared. Lorrie Wittke has arranged for the ARMTA Student Recognition Award cheques. Carmen has the ARMTA Milestone Awards. Teachers will be asked to submit voice memos or leave a message on an answering machine with the pronunciation of the names of the award winners. Brenda will check in with Linda Dickey to see if she can help present the awards.

Coffee and Conversation will take place on Friday, November 22nd at 10:30 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 invited Marilyn Sinclair to share the story of her musical career and background. She was born in Saskatchewan and raised on a farm before moving to Regina where she attended high school. She was influenced by the music making of her Mom who was a musician in the community and played in a dance band, for church services and for school concerts. After high school Marilyn applied for a Saskatchewan Arts Bursary which covered 2 years of study at the Regina Conservatory. She and her husband Al moved to Lethbridge in 1968 where he found work as a welder on the construction of the University of Lethbridge. Marilyn attended the U of L and completed her Bachelor Music there and later, attained a Licentiate in Pipe Organ. Her contribution to the community includes private music teaching, school group piano lessons, examining over 5000 students as an RCM examiner (and travelling all over the country!), ARMTA president, establishing the Piano Class Festival and organizing it for 25 years, accompanist for soloists and choirs, and church organist at McKillop United Church for many years until her retirement. She still teaches a few students in her home.

Brad and Christine will arrange a time hopefully in December to review our Branch records to see if we might have anything to submit to the ARMTA Archives. If you are interested in helping please contact Brad or Christine.

A letter of support from our Branch for the [Pass Early Music Festival](#) has been sent.

Brad reported on a proposal from piano students Jerry Wang and Lisa Mo about volunteering to help students with their practising. Jerry has been busy with school and other activities and is hoping to finalize plans soon.

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

Christine proposed the idea of a “Harpsichord Adventure” at her home one Saturday in February to give students the opportunity to play a harpsichord. Details will be finalized at our January meeting.

Our next Practice-a-thon will be held February 3-8, 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.

Christine reported that 5 gift cards (\$25 each) from Long & McQuade have been donated as well as 2 sets of 2 tickets for the final LSO concert in May featuring John-Paul Ksiazek playing Beethoven’s Emperor Piano Concerto. In addition, The Lethbridge Community Band has donated 4 sets of two tickets for the final concerts of its season, and The University of Lethbridge Conservatory will be sponsoring vouchers for the summer sessions of Lethbridge Piano Intensive. Cheryl Emery-Karapita has forwarded information to her contact at New West Theatre to see if they would be able to sponsor a gift card. The sponsorship deadline is December 15th. If anyone has ideas and connections to other organizations that might be willing to donate a prize, please contact Christine at c4rogers@telus.net.

MOTION: Betty Jo moved that we allocate \$50 from our operating account in addition to the \$100 approved at our last meeting for a second prize of a gift card of the student’s choice for the second most money raised in the Practice-a-thon. Seconded by Brenda. All in favour. Carried.

Christine also reported that the Lethbridge Symphony offered to include our Practice-a-thon poster in the program of their upcoming concert on Monday, November 18.

Keys to Piano 2025 is being planned for March. They are contacting possible clinicians. 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.

Betty Jo asked for confirmation on the fees for the November 30th Lethbridge Piano Intensive sessions and whether Lethbridge will be offering April RCM exams. Any RCM exam questions can be sent to our Lethbridge Rep, Monica Baczuk: 403-942-4321(h); 403-715-6051(c,) monicab1961@hotmail.com

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 9, 2025 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. Registration opens December 1st, 2024 and closes January 24th, 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.