

Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA Minutes Thursday, January 9, 2025, 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 8 members present: Betty Jo Radley, Carmen Letourneau, Honorary Branch Member Marilyn Sinclair, Christine Rogers, Lavinia Kell Parker, Cheryl Emery-Karapita, Linda Dickey and Brad Parker.

Carmen moved the acceptance of the agenda with the addition of 2 i) Lavinia's announcement, and the change of the dates for the Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival to March 31st to April 12, 2025. Seconded by Cheryl. All in favour. Christine moved the minutes be adopted as circulated. Seconded by Linda. All in favour.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report (as of January 9, 2025).

Awards Account Balance: \$4,199.21

- Outstanding Award Cheques: Clara, Matthew, Evan Sanden (CaH); Brooklyn Friesen (BL)
- Upcoming Expense: \$250 for Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival

Awards that we sponsor

- 1) \$50 annual award to a deserving piano student in a junior piano class
- 2) \$50 annual award to a deserving piano student in a senior piano class
- 3) \$50 annual award to a deserving brass or woodwind student
- 4) \$50 award to a deserving voice student
- 5) \$50 award to a deserving violin student

Operating Account Balance: \$1745.19

- Outstanding Cheque: CFMTA donation to ARMTA Recognition Fund in memory of Ruth Ringland received by CFMTA Treasurer, but not yet cashed
- Upcoming Expenses:
 - Allied Arts Council Annual Membership (\$75)
 - Hostgator Website Domain Renewal (approx. \$25 CAD). The account is currently in Christine's name. She is in the process of updating the account so that it will be in our Branch's name, using our Branch's email address.
 - Venue/piano rental for Spring Recital

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

Christine reported on Secretary items. There is one copy of our Branch teacher contact poster left. Betty Jo will see if there is a spot at the Boys and Girls Club on the Northside. Christine has the Canada Music Week pencils left from the November recital. There are 24 pencils.

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

Carmen gave an ARMTA update. The national CFMTA convention will take place in Montreal July 3-5, 2025. <https://www.apmqmta.org/en-ca/congres-national-de-la-fcapm-2025>

The provincial piano competition is Sunday, January 26, 2025, 2pm in Knoppers Hall at The King's University, 9125-50 Street NW, Edmonton. <https://armta.ca/provincial-piano-competition/>

The provincial winner will represent Alberta at the CFMTA finals in Montreal at the CFMTA Convention. We will have the opportunity to host the provincial winner in a recital sponsored by our Branch. Carmen reported that ARMTA has approved two scholarships for the Rotary Calgary Concerto Competition <https://www.rotaryc3.com/eligibilityrules> which is open to students who study with a teacher who has a primary residence in Calgary or teaches at an institution in Calgary.

A discussion followed regarding concerto competitions and the lack of opportunities for southern Alberta students. The Lethbridge Symphony Young Artist Competition is open to students from all of Alberta. The question was raised as to why ARMTA was awarding scholarships to an event restricted to a specific area, and whether or not the Lethbridge Symphony could apply for scholarship funding for their next Young Artist Competition in 2026. Carmen will request that this item be added for discussion at the next ARMTA Board meeting which takes place on Friday, February 7th. Budget requests are due Friday, January 10th, and reports are due the following Friday, January 17th.

Christine passed around thank you cards from students who had received Branch awards.

A thank you was extended to everyone who helped with and participated in the Canada Music Recital and Awards Presentation in November. Christine was able to arrange for the photo and a short article to appear in the Lethbridge Herald. A special thank you to Betty Jo Radley who hosted the Christmas recitals at her studio in December and those teachers who supported these events.

Brad shared information regarding upcoming Music at Noon Concerts in the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall and will circulate information on upcoming performances. They are free and open to the public and take place Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m. The first recital of the new year will feature Deanna Oye and Brad Parker and will take place Tuesday, January 21st. More details here: <https://www.ulethbridge.ca/notice/events/music-noon-concert-series-presents-deanna-oye-and-brad-parker-0>

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/>

The University will be offering a free workshop for student participating in the Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival on Saturday, February 8th at the University. Sessions will be available for all instruments and voice. Details will be shared with students who are registered in the Festival. Contact Brad Parker if you have questions. bradley.parker3@uleth.ca

The RCM examiner for the upcoming January session is Dina Corrado. <https://jeanlyonsmusic.com/about-us/faculty/> All RCM exam program forms will now be submitted online.

Lavinia shared that her composition, "Frozen Coulee: Soundscape as Meditation" will be featured on a new album soon to be released by guitarist Iliana Matos. The album is inspired by Iliana's experience during the lockdown of the COVID Pandemic and features new music by 8 composers. Iliana Matos will release her album digitally Friday, January 17 on all platforms: <https://hypeddit.com/3jc6u9>

Christine reported that 18 teachers responded to the invitation for feedback for our new Branch banner which will be designed using ARMTA's new brand guidelines. The top two designs will be adapted and circulated for a final vote.



A discussion followed regarding feedback from a Branch slogan review. The feedback did not give clear results as to a preference for members.

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*

Other ideas shared by members:

Providing leadership in music education in our community

Providing leadership in music education

Providing leadership and building community in music education

A small committee will be formed to make a final decision on the Branch slogan. Betty Jo has the current banner with our historic logo and is looking for someone to store it.

Upcoming recital information was reviewed.

- Our Spring Recital will take place at Casa in the Community Room on **Saturday, March 1st at 2:30 p.m.** Details will be finalized at the February meeting and will be sent to teachers.
- A Festival rehearsal will take place before the recital on March 1st from Noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room at Casa. An email will be sent out inviting teachers to sign up their students for a time slot.
- Brad will check on the availability of the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall for a Branch recital in May.

Keys to Piano 2025 will take place on **March 14-15, 2025 at Casa**. Clinicians this year are Cheryl Emery-Karapita, and Carolyn Herrington. Cheryl asked for input for her Friday evening teacher session. Teaching tips for working with students who have ADHD was suggested. Complete details will be circulated shortly.

Our Practice-a-thon will take place **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.

Student packages were handed out to teachers at the meeting and will be delivered to those not in attendance. Additional information will be sent to teachers by email.

Coffee and Conversation will take place on **Monday, January 20th 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

The [Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival](#) dates are March 31-April 12, 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

Brad invited Carmen Letourneau to share the story of her musical journey. It began in Nanton, AB with piano lessons from local teachers and led to a Bachelor of Arts in Music With Distinction from the University of Calgary which she completed in 1999. Carmen married and while raising 5 chil-

dren was involved in many musical activities including accompanying soloists and groups in Lethbridge. A chance encounter with the music of Marie Jaëll on CBC radio sparked an interest that led to pursuing a Masters Degree in Music at the University of Lethbridge. Graduating in 2022, her research thesis earned her the School of Graduate Studies Silver Medal of Merit. Carmen's thesis focuses on the life and work of late nineteenth-century pianist, composer and teacher, Marie Jaëll (1846-1925), discussing her influences, and placing her innovative and integrative approach to teaching piano within the context of nineteenth-century piano pedagogy. Carmen's thesis can be viewed here: <https://opus.uleth.ca/server/api/core/bitstreams/f34c2f42-19a7-4014-a59d-52f4ad95a238/content>

Carmen plans to organize an event in May featuring the music of Marie Jaëll since this year is the 100th anniversary of her death. More details will be circulated when determined. Teachers and their students will be invited to participate. Here are link to Marie Jaëll's intermediate works.
[https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Beaux_jours_\(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Beaux_jours_(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie))
[https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Jours_pluvieux_\(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Jours_pluvieux_(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie))

Teachers who are interested can please email Carmen at coachcarmen@gmail.com for a copy of the Seven Easy Pieces collection which is no longer available online.

CFMTA's Branching Out theme this year is: **Choose Your Own Adventure**. We will be holding a "Harpichord Adventure" the afternoon of **Saturday, February 15th** at the home of Christine Rogers at 1621 Lakeshore Road. Details will be finalized and circulated to teachers.

The Provincial Round of the CFMTA Young Artist Piano Competition will take place **Sunday, January 26, 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, February 6, 2025 at 10:30 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:

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.