

LRMTA Minutes January 7th, Long and McQuade

Christine called the meeting to order at Long and McQuade. There were 6 members present: Joan Milton, Linda Dickey, Christine Rogers, Betty Jo Radley, Cheryl Hudak and Marilyn Sinclair. Apologies were sent from Karen MacDonald, Lorrie Wittke, Doreen Laing and Kate LaRocque. Christine took the minutes in Kate's absence.

The agenda was approved with one addition by Linda Dickey regarding rescheduling missed lessons.

The November minutes were approved as circulated by Linda Dickey, seconded by Joan Milton.

Financial update was unavailable for the meeting. Christine informed the members that we received a \$500 donation for our awards program from Cheryl Hudak's student, Richard Buck.

A brief discussion regarding the possibility of our branch sponsoring a Kiwanis Festival Award took place. It was suggested that we sponsor two awards annually: \$50 for a senior piano student, and \$50 for a junior piano student. Christine will send information out for feedback before a final decision is made.

Next, a discussion regarding the early entry deadline for the Kiwanis Festival took place. The consensus was that it would be easier to have a full week of teaching before the deadline. Christine will relay the information to Doreen Laing our Kiwanis Festival Rep. For those teachers not present at the meeting, please take time to contact Doreen directly at dl88keys@telus.net with feedback on this issue before Monday, January 14th.

ARMTA news: Because Karen MacDonald is the provincial president, our branch is responsible for paying her registration fee for the CFMTA conference. The early bird fee (before January 31st) is \$295.

Betty Jo Radley moved that we sponsor Karen's conference early bird fee of \$295 and Linda Dickey seconded. All were in favor.

Christine will notify Karen. Joan reported that she hasn't heard yet if there have been any applications for the Alberta Provincial Round of the CFMTA piano competition. If Alberta does send a winner to the National competition and we host a recital featuring the winner, it was suggested that in an effort to attract a larger audience than last time with Quinn Gomez, we print out free tickets for members to give to their students.

Allied Arts Council: Christine informed members that the new Community Arts Centre is booked for our 2013 Canada Music Week recital on Saturday, Nov. 23rd from 2-5 p.m.

Our next coffee meeting/performer's club will be on Thursday, January 17th at 9:30 a.m. at Linda Davies' home at 1260-5th Ave. S. Please call Betty Jo or Linda to let them know if you will be attending. Thanks to Betty Jo and Linda for making these arrangements.

Christine will check in with Corrie regarding nameplates and updating brochures.

Christine informed members that Renee Werenka will not be renewing her membership for the coming year. As a result we will need to make arrangements regarding our website. Joan will check with the

provincial website coordinator to see what is available to us. Christine will contact Renee to find out our options.

Christine will contact Brenda to see about the status of our Yellow Pages insert and when it needs to be renewed.

Christine thanked Brenda and Marilyn for convening our Canada Music Week Recital. Thanks also to Lorrie and Kate for helping with the Christmas recitals at Betty Jo's studio. Betty Jo reported that students responded well to the low-key atmosphere. It was suggested by Lorrie that to get more participation, we should try for a date in the first week of December. Thank you so much to Betty Jo for offering her studio for our use! Marilyn reported that the Southern Alberta Piano Teachers had about 150 students at their Christmas drop in recital at McKillop on December 8th.

We do not yet have convenors for our March 2nd recital at the Lethbridge Public Library. Please call Christine if you are available. This involves collecting entries, printing the program and hosting the recital. If it has been a long time since you have convened a recital or if you have never done it, please consider volunteering for this one.

Christine thanked Tamara Bowie and Joan Milton for disbursing our awards for this year. She also extended a thank you to Brenda and Mary Lee for help in preparing the cheques and envelopes.

Condolences were extended to Marilyn Sinclair on the passing of her mother Olive Mills at the age of 95. Marilyn handed out memorial cards to those present.

CFMTA is sponsoring a "Branching Out" activity for the month of February. It is designed to focus on student recognition. We will be using the \$50 grant to purchase 2-\$25 iTunes cards to present as prizes in our Practise-a-thon. Christine will fill out the application form. A photo will be taken of the winners and submitted to CFMTA as part of the application process. A waiver will have to be filled out for permission to submit the photo.

Practise-a-thon packages were made available for teachers. Thank you to those teachers present at the meeting who agreed to drop off packages to teachers not in attendance. Christine will mail out any packages left over. A teacher information/instruction letter including all the details, as well as a poster to put up in your studio is included along with the forms for students. Please support our practise-a-thon by handing out these forms to your students. We have more prizes than ever and should be able to hand out 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in each category. Here is a summary of the details:

The Practise-a-thon will run from Feb 4th-9th, 2013. Student packages (containing instructions, registration form and pledge sheet) will be available at the January meeting for teachers. Teachers will help students decide a practice goal when they hand out the packages. The students will gather pledges (either flat rate or by the hour) and record their practicing time for the week of Feb. 4th-9th. If students are unavailable that week, a different week can be substituted. If they miss time one day, they can make it up the next. Students will return to sponsors and collect money before handing everything back to the teachers by the end of February. Teachers will hand back the pledge sheets and money at the March meeting. Even if students don't raise money they can still be eligible for prizes in the most time practised categories so make sure you hand back all your forms. Money and forms will still be accepted after the March meeting, but students will not be eligible to receive prizes. The money will be counted and the results tabulated. Teachers will be informed which students have won prizes. Since we do not have a timely recital at which to present the prizes, they will be given to teachers to award individually

to their students. A formal announcement of winners and results will be made at the May recital. Prizes include a \$100 gift card from Future Shop for the grand prize winner who raises the most money. Other prizes will be awarded for the most time practised in 4 age categories including iTunes cards; a gift certificate from Music Court (Thanks to Doreen for arranging this); gift cards from Long and McQuade; Lethbridge Symphony tickets (Thanks to Mary Lee for arranging this); and tickets for concerts sponsored by the University of Lethbridge Music Department (Thanks to Lorrie Wittke and Deanna Oye for arranging this).

The practice-a-thon shouldn't take much time away from lessons, because we have included careful instructions for parents and students with the pledge sheet. Helping students determine a practice goal is really the only time teachers should need to give up during the lesson (plus reminders to participate and we always encourage them to practice anyway!)

We would like all branch teachers to encourage their students to participate. This is our 6th Practice-a-thon and it seems to be the least amount of work for the amount of money raised. The more money raised, the more time until our next one! The practice-a-thon in Feb. 2011 was our most successful yet. We had 48 students from 11 teachers raise over \$2300. Teachers may not feel comfortable handing out packages to students, but you never know what might come back. Even if forms are handed out and students don't participate, parents might send the form back with a \$20 bill--every little bit adds up. For some families a fundraiser is impossible. Certainly teachers can use their discretion with handing out packages.

Some teachers sponsor their students to get them started and to make a personal contribution to the RMT awards program. Other teachers make a special effort to contact those parents whose children have previously won awards so that they have a chance to contribute a donation even if their children don't participate actively in the practise-a-thon. Some teachers include their own cover letter with the RMT letter. An example of a cover letter has been included on the back of the teacher instruction page with the practise-a-thon packages in case you would like to use this to design your own letter to students and parents. All teachers are encouraged to participate and make this the best Practise-a-thon yet!

Linda Dickey circulated an article regarding rescheduling missed lessons. Christine will scan and send out by email.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 4th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Long and McQuade.