

A HISTORY OF THE LETHERIDGE BRANCH OF
THE ALBERTA REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION 1978

The Lethbridge Branch of the Registered Music Teachers' Association was formed in 1942.

Miss Hildur Sandquist (now Mrs. Hildur Eriksson of Djursholm, Sweden), who was a prominent music teacher in Lethbridge at that time, was approached many times by Mrs. Mollie Pierce of Calgary to effect an organization of the Lethbridge music teachers into a registered association. She was reluctant at first because of the limited number of "qualified" teachers in the city. However, she did accept an invitation from Mrs. Gladys Egbert of Calgary to attend their R.M.T.A. meetings. While there, she met Mrs. H. H. Sharples who was Resident Secretary for the Associated Board in Calgary, and who also urged her to form a Branch Registered Music Teachers' Association in Lethbridge.

The first meeting was held on the old Mezzanine floor of the Marquis Hotel on the corner of 7th Street and 4th Avenue South—called and chaired by Miss Hildur Sandquist. Those present at the meeting included: Margaret Parisel, Aileen Jones, Beatrice Livingstone (Foster), Florence (Mrs. W. D.) Campbell, Gladys Balderson of Magrath, and Mrs. W. J. Nelson.

Miss Aileen Jones, A.C.T.M., was named the first President with Miss Hildur Sandquist L.R.S.M., as Vice-President, Miss Margaret Parisel A.T.C.M., Secretary-Treasurer, and Miss Gladys Balderson L.R.S.M. and Miss Beatrice Livingstone L.R.S.M., as members of the Executive. Plans

were made to meet the third Monday of each month with the program "in the hands of the executive for the next three months". (Lethbridge Herald Clipping).

On September 28, 1944 - two years later - the annual meeting was held at the home of Miss Hildur Sandquist. The election of officers took place and Miss Hildur Sandquist became President; Mrs. Florence Campbell, Vice-President; Miss Beatrice Livingstone, Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Helen Mackenzie (who had joined later), Press Reporter; and Mrs. Ruby Bellchambers, Executive Member. At this meeting, Miss Elsie Kraft of Coutts, Alberta was accepted into the association. An advertisement from the Lethbridge Herald at this time includes an addition of Arthur K. Putland M.A.B. Mus. (Organist of Southminster Church), from Ft. William (now Thunder Bay) and Elsie Person, a violin teacher.

The first Young Artists' Concert was held in the old Baptist Church on the corner of 4th Avenue and 8th Street South where the Professional Building now stands. (This Church was destroyed by fire in January of 1953). The featured artist was Miss Winnifred Scott—now Mrs. Robin Wood of Victoria, British Columbia.

Little is known about the organization and its early activities as the minute books before 1952 were lost. However, February 5, 1952 finds Mrs. Janice Milevic, (née Janice Thorson), as President; Mrs. Florence Campbell, Secretary-Treasurer; Miss Beatrice Livingstone as Provincial

Councillor and a list of members as follows: Aileen Jones, Ruth Anderson, Margaret Parisel, Mrs. W. J. Nelson, Bruce G. Barrow, Mrs. Anne Campbell, and Margaret Brown (Nelson).

At this time the group was active in the Provincial Organization and busy with student recitals, which were being held in the auditorium of the L.D.S. Church. With the proceeds received from these recitals music reference books and records were purchased and donated to the Public Library.

In 1953 we find the same membership list, the same slate of officers, and a similar program of recitals being held in the auditorium of the Susie Bawden School on 9th Avenue South.

In 1954 Mrs. W. J. Nelson and Mrs. Florence Campbell retired from the Association, and Ruth Anderson left the city. Viola Fletcher, Frank Hosek, Joan Rylands and Florence Ostby (Warner) joined and A. K. Putland re-entered. Officers included: Aileen Jones, President; Bruce Barrow, Vice-President; Margaret Parisel, Secretary-Treasurer; with Anne Campbell and Ruth Anderson as Executive Councillors. Mrs. Margaret Geiger accepted the position of Resident Secretary for the Toronto Conservatory of Music, a position which she held for twenty-three years—retiring after the June exams in 1977.

In 1955 the same slate of officers continued their work with two exceptions. Mr. Frank Hosek replaced Ruth Anderson as an Executive Member and Miss Joan Rylands became Secretary-Treasurer. During the year, Mrs. Rea Tagg and Mrs. Pat Wright joined the Association. Mrs. Reaman also joined.

In 1956 at the home of Miss Aileen Jones, the Annual Meeting was held on January 12th. The following slate of officers was elected: President, Bruce Barrow; Vice-President, Margaret Parisel; Secretary-Treasurer, Frank Hosek; Councillors, Aileen Jones and Bruce Barrow; and Executive Members, Mrs. Anne Campbell and A. K. Putland. This year the membership was augmented by four persons: Mrs. Margaret Brewer, Mrs. Dorothy Glock, Mrs. Margaret Nelson, and Mrs. Irene McCormick of Wrentham. Mrs. Kealy of Barons also joined but Mrs. Viola Fletcher left. The Provincial Convention was held in Lethbridge with our Branch as hosts.

Miss Aileen Jones finished a term of office as provincial President in April, 1956.

The membership was active at this time in supporting the construction of a Civic Auditorium in addition to the regular meetings, Student Recitals, Annual Music Festivals and Social Activities.

In 1957 there was no change in the slate of officers and the membership was augmented by two new members, Hazel Cottrell and Marion Swanston. At this time there were six recitals per year.

In 1958 the following people took office:

President - A. K. Putland

Vice-President - Mrs. Dorothy Glock

Secretary-Treasurer - Miss Margaret Parisel

Executive Members - Bruce Barrow and Mrs. Beatrice Foster

The student recitals were now being held in the Parish House of St. Augustines' Anglican Church with silver collections, the old ticket sale of adults, thirty-five cents, and students, twenty-five cents being discontinued.

Four new members came into the Association in 1958: Margaret Wozak of New Dayton, Elfrieda Dick of Coaldale and Henry Waack and Mrs. Cox of Lethbridge.

In 1959 a series of workshops for students was initiated. These were held in the McKillop Church Hall and supervised by one or two teachers. The object of these workshops was to give the students experience in performance before their peers and to give helpful suggestions to the group wherever possible.

In 1960 Mrs. Dorothy Glock accepted the position of President; Henry Waack as Vice-President; Margaret Parisel as Secretary-Treasurer; Hazel Cottrell as Executive Member and A. K. Putland as Provincial Councillor. Mr. Otto Seifert, Sister Helene Wadden and Mrs. Eileen Mayo joined the Branch during this year.

In 1961 Mrs. Cottrell assumed the duties of Secretary-Treasurer and Margaret Parisel became an Executive Member. Three new members were welcomed into the Branch: Ruth Ringland, Margaret (Peg) Young and Henry Abley (new Organist at the First Baptist Church).

In 1962 the following slate of officers was elected:

President - Henry Waack

Vice-President - Sister Helene Cottrell

Council Members - Aileen Jones and Mr. A. K. Putland

Executive Member - Margaret Parisel

During the year the Junior College was interested in including Music courses in their Curriculum. Dean Cousins of the College was speaker at one of the regular monthly meetings. Mr. A. K. Putland taught these courses when the University of Lethbridge was first begun.

In 1963 at the Annual Meeting on January 14th, at the home of Mrs. Bea Foster the following officers were elected:

President - Anne Campbell

Vice-President - Sister Helene Wadden

Secretary-Treasurer - Margaret Parisel

Provincial Councillor - A. K. Putland

Valorie Robertson, Jean Harris, Philip Smerek, Jim Ringland added to the membership of the Branch. Mrs. Sherry Nott transferred in briefly from Medicine Hat.

Six student recitals per year were being held during this period with an attempt being made to make them as varied and interesting as possible. For example, in addition to General Recitals; All Boys' Recitals, Ensemble Recitals, Romantic and Impressionistic Recitals, Baroque Recitals, etc.,

were offered to stimulate interest. Also a recital featuring all First-Class Honor Students in exams the previous year was begun and has been continued since this time. The following year we decided to offer gift certificates of \$5.00 each to students receiving the highest marks in exams in six different categories:

Western Board - Grades I - VIII and IX - XI

Toronto Conservatory - Grades I - VIII and IX - XI

Advanced Theory WB Grades V - VII

TCM Grades III - V

In 1964 Anne Campbell continued as President with Sister Helene Wadden as Vice-President; Margaret Parisel as Secretary-Treasurer; Otto Seifert as Executive Member and A. K. Putland as Provincial Councillor.

During this year, Jim Ringland, Mary Braun, Philip Smerek and Allister Barter joined the Association.

Since Miss Aileen Jones had retired from active teaching and had given such devoted service to students for nearly fifty years and to this Association both locally and provincially since 1942 (twenty-two years), the Lethbridge Branch nominated her for a Life Membership with the Provincial Organization which was granted to her.

The appointment of Bruce Barrow as Examiner with the Toronto Conservatory of Music was another highlight at this time.

It was also in this year that the members decided to divide the Secretary-Treasurer's office into two positions as the work of both was too time-consuming for one person to handle.

In 1965 the slate of officers elected was:

President - Anne Campbell

Vice-President - Sister Helene Wadden

Secretary - Marion Swanston

Treasurer - Allister Barter

Provincial Councillors - A. K. Putland and Anne Campbell

The Resident Secretary of the Western Board of Music Examining Board, Mrs. Owen Williams, retired after many years of faithful service and was replaced by Marion Smith (Mrs. Seyward Smith).

This was the year the City of Lethbridge required all home businesses to buy a license for \$10.00. This, of course, included all Registered Music Teachers.

This was also the year when the Branch had its largest enrollment. There were twenty-six accredited members of the L.R.M.T.A.—nineteen from the city and seven from smaller towns near the city.

In 1966 the following officers were elected:

President - Sister Helene Wadden

Vice-President - Marion Swanston

Secretary - Hazel Cottrell

The Accredited Members of the Lethbridge Branch
of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association
Offer Best Wishes to the Music Festival

- ✓ HENRY T. ABLEY, A.R.C.M., L.T.C.L., F.L.C.M., Organ, Piano, Theory; Leth.
- EDUCE G. BARROW, A.T.C.M., Piano, Organ, Voice; Lethbridge
- ALLISTER BARTER, F.T.C.L., A.R.O.T.; Piano, Voice, Organ, Theory; Lethbridge
- ✓ MARY BRAUN, A.R.C.T., Piano, Theory; Coaldale
- ✓ ANNE CAMPBELL, A.T.C.M., A.M.U.S., L.Mus., Piano, Voice, Theory; Lethbridge
- ✓ HAZEL COTTRELL, A.T.C.M., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- ✓ ELFRIEDA E. DICK, A.R.O.T., Piano; Coaldale
- ✓ BEATRICE FOSTER, L.R.S.M., Piano; Lethbridge
- ✓ DOROTHY M. GLOCK, A.T.C.M.; Piano, Voice, Theory; Lethbridge
- JEAN HARRIS, A.R.C.T., Piano, Theory; Cardston
- SISTER MARY HELENE, B.Mus., A.T.C.M., School Music; Lethbridge
- CORRINE KENNEDY, L.R.S.M., Piano, Theory; Taber
- ✓ MARGARET NELSON, L.R.S.M., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- MARGARET PARISEL, L.R.S.M., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- ARTHUR K. PUTLAND, M.A., B.Mus., B.Paed., F.T.C.L. Piano, Organ, Theory,
Voice; Lethbridge
- ✓ JAMES C. RINGLAND, A.R.C.T., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- ✓ RUTH R. RINGLAND, A.R.C.T., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- ✓ VALORIE A. ROBERTSON, A.R.C.T., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- OTTO SEIFERT, J.D.C.M., Piano, Strings, Theory; Lethbridge
- ✓ PHILIP SHEREK, B.A., A.R.C.T., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- MARION SWANSTON, A.T.C.M., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- REA TAGG, A.R.C.T., Piano, Theory; Cardston
- ✓ HENRY WAACK, A.R.C.T., A.(Mus.) U.A., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge
- MARGARET A. WOZAK, A.T.C.M., Piano, Theory; New Dayton
- PATRICIA WRIGHT, L.R.S.M., Piano, Theory; Taber
- MARGARET YOUNG, L.R.S.M., Piano, Theory; Lethbridge

Parents wishing to arrange students' lessons for the September, 1965
to June, 1966 term should contact the above teachers at an early date

Treasurer - Allister Barter

Councillors - Sister Helene Wadden and Anne Campbell

Gay Gray, Mary Schroeder, Louise Knelson and Dolores Reid were new members welcomed to the Branch. It was necessary for the President and the Secretary to leave the city in June so Anne Campbell and Margaret Parisel agreed to complete their terms of office.

In 1967, the Vice-President, Marion Swanston became President; Margaret Wozak, Vice-President, Philip Smerek, Treasurer, Bruce Barrow, and Executive Member, Anne Campbell.

Four members left the city this year: Valerie Robertson, Elfréda Dick, Otto Seifert and Henry Abley. Helen Born joined for a brief period. Lucien Needham and Alma Davies also received their memberships.

A committee consisting of Aileen Jones, Margaret Parisel, Bea Foster, and A. K. Putland was organized to write a history of the Branch as a Centennial project. This, however, was not completed during the year and soon it was abandoned.

Mary Braun and Helen Born left the city and Tania Koreshenkov and Marilyn Sinclair joined the Association.

Anne Campbell, then Provincial President, convened a very successful Provincial Convention at the Banff School of Fine Arts during the Easter break with a very able committee consisting of Henry Waack, Marion Swanston

and Philip Smerek. Many meetings went into this convention but the results were most satisfying.

From 1962 to 1967 the Branch members participated in annual Master Classes under the direction of Boris Roubakine. Henry Waack was instrumental in arranging these two-day sessions each year and many of them were held in his home. Teachers and advanced students were given the opportunity to perform and receive instruction. This proved to be a very stimulating and valuable experience for all attenders.

An average of six Student Recitals were presented since this was the time of largest enrollment.

The Branch members were privileged to hear from many fine musicians over the years—Earle Moss, Eric Rollinson, Adelmo Melecci, William Andrews, Gloria Saarinen, Willard Schulz, Richard Eaton, David Peterkin, David Ouchterlony, Gladys Egbert, in addition to Boris Roubakine, who all proved very helpful.

In 1968 the previous year's officers agreed to continue in office for another term. Mary Braun and Helen Borm left the city and Dennis Whiteley, an organist replacing Bruce Barrow, joined later in the year. Corrine Kinniburgh withdrew from the Lethbridge Branch and became a member at-large. In fact, most of the country members found the attendance by-law requiring three meetings a year, impossible to meet because of their heavy teaching schedule so one by one they all became members at-large.

In 1969 the officers elected were:

President - Mrs. Margaret Wozak

Vice-President - Delores Reid

Recording Secretary - Gay Gray

Corresponding Secretary - Dorothy Glock

Treasurer - Philip Smerek

Provincial Councillor - Marion Swanston

Since 1967 the Branch had sponsored an "auditioned" concert at the Yates Centre, at first receiving an over-abundance of entries—but finally such a small group, that it was decided to abandon the idea altogether. The Branch made a motion in favor of Biennial Provincial Conventions running alternate years to the C.T.M.T.A. Conventions, but this was defeated. Three new members were welcomed: Miss Chimaki Kamakura from Kelowna, British Columbia, Mrs. Anne Jensen Molnar of the city, and Miss Louise Chapman from Brandon, Manitoba. (Miss Chapman came to the University of Lethbridge).

Because in 1970 Gay Schmaus and Delores Reid were leaving the city, it became necessary to alter the slate of officers slightly. Marilyn Sinclair became Vice-President and Chimaki Kamakura became Secretary, other officers continuing for a second term. Margaret Parisel was unable to continue as an active member of the Branch because of ill health and Henry Waack left the city for a position in British Columbia. Cheryl Wentz joined upon receiving her A.R.C.T. and Edith Enns, a teacher from Coaldale, also joined.

In 1971 Marilyn Sinclair was elected President; Margaret Nelson Vice-President; other officers carrying on from last term. Marion Swanston resigned as Councillor so Mr. A. K. Putland agreed to complete her term of office. Philip Smerek agreed to look after the "Ad-Board" (keeping the membership up to date).

The Branch gave an Honorary Membership to Margaret Parisel who was confined to the hospital at this point.

Anne Rogers joined the Branch in this year and was elected Secretary in 1972.

In 1972 Anne Campbell, one of the most devoted and hard-working members, found it necessary to leave the Branch and become a member at-large. Mrs. Campbell had formed three different choirs at this time and this, in addition to her private students, took a good deal of her time.

In 1973 the slate of officers elected was:

President - Margaret Nelson

Vice-President - Bruce Barrow

Recording Secretary - Anne Rogers

Corresponding Secretary - Chimaki Kamakura

Treasurer - Philip Smerek

Councillor - A. K. Putland

The City of Lethbridge levied a \$50.00 license fee on all home businesses,

which, of course, included almost the entire membership of the Lethbridge Branch. After fighting this 500% rise in one year by personal letters, by briefs, by visits en masse to City Hall, it was paid, a bit grudgingly, and has been paid since that time.

Chimaki Kamakura returned to Kelowna, B. C. and Mrs. Valorie Robertson returned once again in the fall.

In 1974 the position of Vice-President was filled by Dennis Whiteley; Recording Secretary by Mary Schroeder; Corresponding Secretary by Peg Young; and Provincial Councillor by Marilyn Sinclair. All other officers continuing on from the previous year.

In 1975 the same Executive continued in office for this year—the two-year term by-law being waived because of special circumstances.

It was largely due to the efforts of the President, Margaret Nelson, and the cooperation of the Branch membership and the Kiwanis Club, that a new upright Yamaha piano was placed in the Theatre Gallery of the new Public Library.

Mr. A. K. Putland passed away in April and the Branch entertained a motion to establish a Scholarship in his memory. Some work was done on this over a period of two years but finally abandoned.

Mary Schroeder requested a year's leave of absence but did not come back. Mrs. Linda Dickey joined the group in the fall.

At the Annual Meeting in January, 1976, the following members accepted office on the Executive:

President - Margaret Young
Vice-President - Philip Smerek
Recording Secretary - Louise Needham
Corresponding Secretary - Ruth Ringland
Treasurer - Sister Helene Wadden
Councillor - Marilyn Sinclair

Bruce Barrow sent a letter of resignation which was accepted with regret.

The Branch was approached by a "National Professional Music Teachers' Association" in British Columbia—Alf Carlson, President,—re affiliation with them. No real interest was shown by the membership.

The same Executive continued in office during 1977.

Mrs. Susan Garrie joined in January.

Mrs. Geiger resigned as Resident Secretary for the Toronto Conservatory of Music and was replaced by Mrs. Anna Kunst in June, 1977.

The Branch was saddened by the passing of Bruce Barrow and Margaret Parisel on the same day—June 22, 1977.

The 1978 officers are:

President - Philip Smerek
Vice-President - Susan Garrie
Recording Secretary - Fay Hoople
Corresponding Secretary - Ruth Ringland
Treasurer - Ruth Ringland
Councillor - Lucine Needham

The Lethbridge Branch of the Registered Music Teachers' Association is now thirty-six years old and, although there has been an almost complete turn-over of membership, except Mrs. Bea Livingstone Foster, who was a Charter member, it is still a strong, enthusiastic organization; and although there are only twenty-two members, a good effort is being made to accomplish the objectives which are:

- (1) to broaden the musical knowledge of students,
- (2) to strive to upgrade the skills and abilities of the teacher members.

Throughout the years, as many student-recitals as have been feasible, have been held. For a period of three-five years, workshops, supervised by a teacher or two, were held, where students played for each other and received constructive criticism. The Young Artist Series has always been supported by the organization. For a period of years it was sponsored by the Lethbridge Music Club but there were always tickets available through teachers of the Association. Sponsorship has again been accepted by the R.M.T.A. Many Young Artists have received a good solid background in Lethbridge and District from teacher members.

Since the inauguration of Canada Music Week, the last week of November each year, the Branch has been active in promoting musical activities on radio, television, in the churches and by way of recitals or concerts.

Teachers of the L.R.M.T.A. have always made an effort to improve themselves and upgrade their skills by means of Master Classes, Short Courses, Conventions, Summer Sessions, etc.

The members have also been active supporters for the Annual Music Festival sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. Not only have they encouraged and prepared students to enter, but they have been good attenders and have served on music selection committees and have supported Grand Concerts, Receptions for Adjudicators, and have been willing to assist in any way possible.

Branch members have served on committees when the Civic Centre was planned in 1956, when the Yates Centre was erected and when the new Public Library was built and have been responsible, on numerous occasions, for arranging for suitable pianos for various concerts.

Nine or ten meetings are held each year for planning activities, and for enjoyable, uplifting experiences. The social life of the Branch has deteriorated the past few years. It seems the pressure of business and other interests—including family—has taken priority over the Christmas parties, Examiners dinners, etc., that were held in the 1950's and 1960's. However, the Organization is good for the members and provides an opportunity for them to associate with others of their profession within the Branch, and also via the Provincial R.M.T.A. and the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers.

Submitted by

Mrs. Margaret Young
Mrs. Margaret Young, Past-President
February 20, 1978

ADDENDA - MARCH-1983

As of March, 1983, there are twenty-six members and the current executive is as follows: Past President: Susan Garrie

President: Louise Needham

Vice President: Catherine Fancher

Recording Secretary: Betty Jo Walshe

Treasurer: Elizabeth Martin Jong

Corresponding Secretary: Linda Dickey

Provincial Board Member: Elizabeth Martin Jong

During the current year, a highly successful Christmas party was planned by Elizabeth Martin Jong, and the Branch hopes to rejuvenate some interest in social as well as professional activities. There have been several guest speakers at our meetings and a workshop will be given this month by Dennis Parker who will demonstrate and discuss piano repertoire published by Universal Editions. The Branch still continues to sponsor student recitals and the annual Young Artist Recital.

Louise Needham

President