

LRMTA Minutes November 3rd, Long and McQuade

Christine called the meeting to order at Long and McQuade. There were 8 members present: Marilyn Sinclair, Christine Rogers, Joan Milton, Betty Jo Radley, Cheryl Hudak, Linda Dickey, Kate LaRocque and Brenda Lockmuller.

The agenda was approved by Joan with Linda seconding. October minutes were approved as circulated by Karen, seconded by Joan.

Brenda gave the Treasurer's report. Our operating balance is \$532.82 and our awards account balance is \$3275.88. Corrie's membership fee receipt has been written and delivered. A copy of our annual financial report was sent to ARMTA. Karen MacDonald will consider taking on the Treasurer position after Brenda's term is finished.

Kiwanis Festival dates for 2015 are March 16th to 28th. The registration deadline is January 7th. Adjudicators will be as follows: Evette Rowledge for Junior Piano and Janet Scott-Hoyt for Senior.

ARMTA news: Christine, Joan and Karen briefly reported on Music Conference Alberta (MCA). The ARMTA Recognition Fund awards will be presented by Karen at our Awards Presentation on November 22nd. 3 awards of \$100 each will be presented to the students with the highest mark in a junior practical performance exam (grades 4-7), a senior practical performance exam (grades 8-ARCT) and a senior theory exam. Students will receive a letter and form from ARMTA to fill out to apply for the award. The form and a thank you card are to be returned to ARMTA in the stamped, addressed envelope. A cheque will then be mailed directly to the student. Christine will notify the teachers of the winners. Joan will present the ARMTA Membership Milestones awards to Betty Jo (35 years) and Christine (30 years) at our Awards Presentation as well. This year the CFMTA Branching Out initiative is for workshops featuring Canadian music or composers.

Our next coffee and conversation is set for Thursday, November 20th at 9:30 a.m. at Linda Davies' home at 1260-5th Ave. S. (Not 5A). Please call Betty Jo at 329-1655 or Linda at 328-6085 to let them know if you will be attending. We will be writing cheques and preparing envelopes for the awards. Christine will pick up the awards account chequebook from Brenda and bring envelopes and pens.

Christine reported that she has made arrangements for the new nameplates and they should be done in about a week. She will update the Music Court signboard when they are ready and take it back to Music Court.

A discussion concerning advertising followed. Christine reported that Lorrie Wittke has made arrangements for the Shaw Cable interview to take place on November 11th. The interview will be featured on "Go Southern Alberta" on Shaw Channel 9. Christine invited teachers to contact Lorrie if they wanted to be involved, but everyone seemed very happy to have her and her students represent our group in any way Lorrie thinks best. Thanks to Lorrie for pursuing this opportunity to promote LRMTA. Kate and Christine will meet to update our Kijiji ad and our website. Andrew Gierulski suggested advertising with the Lethbridge Symphony when Christine talked with him on the phone recently. Christine will look into details and report back to the group.

Our Canada Music Week Recital and Annual Awards Presentation will take place at McKillop United Church on Saturday, November 22nd at 2:30 p.m. Marilyn Sinclair and Kate LaRocque will be convenors. Please have names to Marilyn at least one week before (November 15th). Emphasis is on Canadian composers. The program will be arranged the same as last year. Non-Canadian pieces will be grouped

together after the Canadian selections. Christine has the banner and the pencils. Kate will do up the program. Christine will send her a template. Christine asked Kate to send her the program when it is done. She will photocopy it along with the Awards List. A photo will be taken at the end of the recital and awards presentation. It was decided to take a photo of the award winners to submit to the Herald. Names of students appearing in the photo need to be submitted with the photo. Teachers at the recital will help with recording names and organizing students in rows. Kate will take a short video of each student saying their name. It was suggested that we might add a photo release to the Branch Awards submission form. Christine will draft changes.

Our Christmas adult get-together will be at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 13th at Betty Jo's Studio (810 Kodiak Bay North) followed by a Christmas student drop-in recital at 10:30 a.m. Please call Betty Jo at 403-329-1655 and let her know if you will have students participating. Brenda and Cheryl will be available to help convene. Our Festival Prep Recital is booked at the Lethbridge Public Library for Saturday March 14th at 2:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to convene this recital. Our final adult student get-together will be Saturday, May 30th at 3:00 p.m. at Betty Jo's studio. Linda Dickey and Doreen Laing will be convenors. The date for our final recital will be determined at a later date.

The *Keys to Piano* Workshop has been booked for February 27th and 28th, 2015 at Casa. Glen Montgomery is one of the clinicians. Christine will contact Peggy Mezei and schedule a meeting to finalize the arrangements. Please reserve these dates and plan to support our group by attending and promoting it to your students.

A time is still to be arranged for Doreen to make a presentation on ensemble music for piano. A morning time will be best for her.

Betty Jo and Marilyn related follow up information on Betty Jo's student and high school credits at Winston Churchill. Marilyn reported that Susie Staples was not available for the November meeting to speak about the IB (International Baccalaureate) Music Program but will be available after Christmas to attend a meeting.

It has been suggested that our branch do more group advertising (e.g. Sign me Up Insert, Leisure Guide, etc.). In order to cover the cost of this advertising, it has also been suggested that we increase our branch fees. Christine reported that she had been able to gather responses from all but two members by email and phone. There were 7 in favor of more advertising and 11 not in favor and 2 undecided. (Since the meeting there has been one more "no" response.) Most members felt that it was important to keep a profile in the community, while at the same time making sure that the advertising we do arrange is effective. This issue will be revisited as the need arises.

Christine will make a presentation on LRMTA at the next U of L Conservatory staff meeting and invite teachers to consider joining. She will distribute our handout, "14 Great Reasons to Become a Registered Music Teacher." She will also leave some handouts at Long and McQuade.

Thanks to Joan with the help of Karen for disbursing the awards. This year there are just over 30 recipients. Last year there were over 50. The amount disbursed is \$1145. (Since the meeting, there has been a late submission increasing the number of award winners to 34 and the total amount to \$1175.) It was decided to increase the amount of individual awards, but not to award the full \$1500 available so that if there are more recipients next year, we do not have to decrease the amount of individual awards. It was suggested that an announcement be made at the presentation that the amounts of the awards fluctuate depending on the number of students qualifying for awards. Christine will include this in her notes. Joan will notify teachers of the winners. Cheques and envelopes will be prepared at the November coffee meeting.

Our Practise-a-thon will run February 2nd to 7th. Linda Dickey reported that Long and McQuade will be able to sponsor gift cards as prizes similar to previous years. Joan Milton will check in with Music Court. Lorrie Wittke has been able to arrange for concert tickets from the U of L Music Department and Mary Lee Voort has approached the Lethbridge Symphony. Please encourage your students to participate. All funds raised go directly to our awards program. Brenda moved that we spend \$100 for a Future Shop gift card as the grand prize for most money raised. Christine will make arrangements.

Christine circulated business cards for piano tuner, Bruce Streibel who is helping out Stan Keeling since his back surgery. Phone: 403-393-1239; 403-752-0244; Email: streibelpianotuning@gmail.com

Our next meeting will be January 5th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at Long and McQuade. Everyone is most welcome to attend.