

LRMTA Minutes September 8th, 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, Andrew Gierulski, Kate LaRocque, Linda Dickey and Karen MacDonald.

The agenda was approved by Joan with Karen seconding. The May minutes were approved as circulated by Linda Dickey, seconded by Karen. Thanks to Kate for taking notes.

In Brenda's absence, Christine gave the Treasurer's report. Our operating balance is \$654.04 and our awards account balance is \$3275.05. Thanks to Kate and Christine for acting as auditors during the summer months. Christine will return the Finance briefcase to Brenda. Kate's new nameplate has been posted in the Long and McQuade signboard. Reimbursements for nameplate and photocopy expenses will be arranged. Unfortunately, Corrie's branch renewal fee was lost in the mail when it was sent to Christine from ARMTA. She will contact Corrie to write a replacement cheque. Karen had asked Christine on the weekend about the possibility of our branch helping out with her Alberta Music Conference registration fee. After doing her best to estimate projected expenses for the year, Christine calculated that we have about a \$70 cushion for the rest of the year and unfortunately our branch will not be able to offer any compensation to Karen for the fee. Christine reported that Brenda will present the annual financial summary at next month's meeting. Thanks to Brenda for preparing this document. This will be Brenda's last year as treasurer for our group. Karen MacDonald expressed interest in helping out, but was concerned because she lives out of town. Karen moved the Treasurer's report be accepted. Seconded by Linda Dickey.

Kiwanis Festival dates for 2015 are March 16th to 28th. The registration deadline is January 7th. Christine will contact Doreen to see if there is any new information available regarding our concerns about the early registration deadline and piano duo requirements. Christine reported that Steven Yang and Andrew Wetterstrand had won our Kiwanis Festival awards this year.

ARMTA news: Karen reported that efforts to design an ARMTA survey will be discontinued for the time being. The ARMTA Provincial Recognition Fund Awards has \$2100 per year available to ARMTA Branches. Each of the 7 Branches that make up ARMTA Provincial have \$300 per year to use for up to 3 awards to the students of ARMTA members who met the requirements of Branch Awards. Our branch will apply to ARMTA for the following in conjunction with our own branch awards. Christine and Joan will contact Judith Ammann to make arrangements.

- \$100 to junior student in a practical performance exam grades 4-7 with the highest mark
- \$100 to senior student in a practical performance exam grades 8-ARCT with the highest mark
- \$100 to senior theory student (excluding rudiments) in a senior theory exam (history, harmony, keyboard harmony, counterpoint, analysis, pedagogy) with the highest mark in a single exam

Joan reported that CFMTA offers 2 annual awards of \$250 each for innovative Canada Music Week projects to the two entries judged as most worthy by a panel of judges from across Canada. Since the deadline is September 30th, it was suggested that we keep this in mind for next year. If anyone has an idea for a project and is willing to work on the proposal for next year, please contact Christine. Christine reported that she was approached to give feedback regarding the ARMTA newsletter, *Tempo*.

Christine thanked Betty Jo, Lorrie and Mary Lee for helping with the Library showcase and for lending materials to be displayed. Thanks also to Corrie for preparing brochures for the display. Also, thanks to those who offered to take LRMTA posters to be displayed at the Yates, Casa and the AAC office.

Our next coffee and conversation is set for Thursday, September 18th 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. Kate will be presenting information on Music Apps and Websites that can be used for teaching.

Christine reported that she had arranged for Kate's new nameplate during the summer and has posted it on the Long and McQuade signboard. During the summer, Brenda went to Music Court to check on our signboard there. She found it on the floor near the back of the store. Brenda took the board for updating. It is currently in Christine's basement. After discussion it was decided that if the board could be properly posted, it was advantageous to have it displayed at Music Court, since it is in the Mall and open Sundays. Christine will check in with Bonnie at Music Court to see what can be arranged. Anyone wishing to update their Music Court nameplate or add their nameplate to the board, can fill out the nameplate form and bring it and a cheque to the October meeting. Thanks to Corrie for updating our brochure. Thanks to those who volunteered to distribute the extra brochures left over from the Library Showcase display after the meeting. There is a 3rd signboard (the one that used to be in Leister's Music) in Christine's basement. It was suggested that we try to find another place in the City to display it. Suggestions included the University of Lethbridge, Southminster Church and the Public Library. If anyone is interested in helping with contacting these places, please let Christine know.

Kate and Christine met in the summer to update the website. Kate requested that since she is having trouble setting up the scrolling photo feature on our website, that we pay Carolyn Garritano, the ARMTA webmaster to do that for us. Kate will make arrangements. Christine and Kate will continue to update the website as needed. It was suggested to Christine that we might add an eye-catching feature to our LRMTA homepage. One idea is a "Did you know?" box featuring interesting musical facts.

A discussion concerning advertising followed. Our ad will run at the Movie Mill the last 2 weeks of August and the first two weeks of September. Christine reported that when she made arrangements for our information to be displayed on the Shaw Cable Channel 9 crawl scroll feature, Ryan Cradduck asked if we would like to be interviewed. Christine has contacted Lorrie Wittke and she would be willing to speak for our group. Christine will make arrangements.

Thanks to Betty Jo who will continue as our recital coordinator this year. McKillop United Church was suggested as the venue for our Canada Music Week recital and awards presentation because of the seating availability. It will take place on Saturday, November 22nd at 2:30 p.m. Dates for future recitals were suggested. Betty Jo will look into locations. A sign-up sheet for convenors was circulated. Christine has the banner.

Christine reported that dates for next year's *Keys to Piano* Workshop have been booked for February 27th and 28th, 2015 at Casa. Glen Montgomery has been booked as the clinician. She will keep us posted on plans. Please reserve these dates and plan to support our group by attending and promoting it to your students.

Thanks to Marilyn and Karen and all those who volunteered to help with The Piano Class Festival.

We invite any members of our branch who are interested to give short presentations on any teaching or music topic of their choice. We have excellent, qualified teachers in our group with lots of experience and we can all learn from sharing ideas. Kate suggested the topics of recital planning and Kiwanis and exam preparation. Please let Christine know if you have a topic or idea that you would like to share.

Christine arranged a photo of the RC gold medal winners, Jessica Sinke and Jared Gyorffy which appeared in the Lethbridge Herald.

Brenda's new contact information is as follows: phone 403-394-9294 and email brenda@normanandcompany.ca

It has been suggested that our branch do more group advertising (e.g. Sign me Up Insert, Leisure Guide,). In order to cover the cost of this advertising, it has also been suggested that we increase our branch fees. Most teachers at the meeting felt that group advertising was not a priority. Many teachers related that most of the calls they receive come from student, parent and other teacher recommendations. Kate offered to put together a survey so that more members can give input before we made a branch decision. The following is a list of current ARMTA branch fees:

- ___ Calgary \$60
- ___ Edmonton \$65
- ___ Fort McMurray \$60
- ___ Grande Prairie N/A
- ___ Lethbridge \$35
- ___ Lloydminster N/A
- ___ Medicine Hat \$50
- ___ Red Deer \$25

Christine will do a prospective member mail-out this fall. If you have contact information for any teachers that might be a good fit for our group, please forward the information to Christine.

First Class honors marks are due at the October meeting. If you are unable to attend, please make arrangements to drop them off with Christine. Please remember to use the branch submission form for all entries. This is available on the website or from Christine. A big thank you to Karen and Joan who volunteered to be the disbursement committee. Marilyn and Linda Dickey offered to help if needed.

After discussion it was decided to proceed with a Practise-a-thon in February 2015. Christine will put together a proposal for the October meeting. If you are willing to help with any aspect of the preparations, please contact Christine.

Andrew Gierulski informed members that the Healing Sound Series will present "Sonata, Sonata," an hour of music by Mozart, Schubert and Mendelssohn on September 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the Lethbridge public Library Theatre Gallery, Main Branch. Free Admission. Donations accepted. Featured performers: Christine Bootland, cello, Maria Geppert, violin, Andrew Gierulski, piano and John-Paul Ksiazek, piano.

Christine brought a box of music to give away. If you are interested in seeing what is left, please contact her.

Our next meeting will be October 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Long and McQuade. Everyone is most welcome to attend.