

LRMTA Minutes November 5th, 2012

Christine called the meeting to order at Long and McQuade. There were 8 members present: Joan Milton, Isabelle Slater, Linda Dickey, Christine Rogers, Tamara Bowie, Betty Jo Radley, Cheryl Hudak and Marilyn Sinclair. Apologies were sent from Brenda Lockmuller and Kate LaRocque. Christine took the minutes in Kate's absence.

The agenda was approved by Linda Dickey and seconded by Joan Milton.

The October minutes were approved as circulated by Joan Milton and seconded by Isabelle Slater.

Our most recent bank balances are \$1121.53 in our operating account and \$2687.70 in our awards account.

At our last meeting, Doreen Laing informed the group that the number of piano awards for Kiwanis Festival is inadequate. It was suggested by Christine that our branch sponsor an annual Kiwanis award for piano. Please send Christine any ideas or feedback you might have. We will have a discussion at our January meeting.

ARMTA news: Joan Milton reported on the recent ARMTA Board meeting and Conference. She encouraged teachers to participate in future Conferences. The concerts and masterclasses presented in conjunction with the Honens International Piano Competition "were incredible." A number of ARMTA members from our branch were recognized for years of service: Karen MacDonald (25), Doreen Laing (55), Alma Davies (45), Isabelle Slater (25), Joan Milton (40), and Mary Lee Voort (30). In addition Joan Milton received the ARMTA Recognition of the Year Award. For those members available, we will be recognizing them at our Canada Music Week Recital during our annual awards presentation. Congratulations to all! Karen MacDonald is currently the ARMTA president. The provincial round of the CFMTA piano competition will take place in Red Deer on March 9th. The winner will participate in the Finals in Halifax during the CFMTA Conference in July. Thank you to Joan for being our Provincial Rep.

Allied Arts Council: Christine related information regarding booking the new Community Arts Centre rooms. The sooner dates and times can be determined and booked, the better chance that it will be available. It was decided to apply for our Canada Music Week recital in November of 2013. Christine will check into Saturday, Nov. 23rd from 2-5 p.m.

Our next coffee meeting/performer's club will be On Thursday, Nov. 15th 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.

Corrie has been ill and not able to take care of brochures and nameplates at this time. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery for Corrie.

Our Canada Music Week Recital and Annual Awards Presentation will be on Saturday November 24th at 2:30 pm. at McKillop United Church. Convenors are Marilyn Sinclair and Brenda Lockmuller. Please have your entries in at least one week before. Brenda and Marilyn will take care of printing the program. Christine will send them information about Canada Music Week for the back of the program. Christine will take care of printing the First Class Honors results. She will make 60 copies and include information about contributing donations to our awards program. At the conclusion of the recital and awards presentation, Christine will be asking participants and awards winners to pose for a photo which

will be submitted to the Lethbridge Herald. It was suggested that students might feel more comfortable participating in a photograph if they know ahead of time. Teachers can notify their students as needed.

Our Christmas recital activities will be as follows:

- Christmas drop-in program at Betty Jo's studio: Saturday, December 15th, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Convenors Lorrie and Kate.
- Adult Get-together at Betty Jo's Saturday, December 15th, 11:00 a.m. until noon

Please contact Betty Jo at 403-329-1655 to let her know how many students will be participating. Betty Jo's address is 810 Kodiak Bay N. Please contact her if you need directions. Thank you to Betty Jo for offering her studio for our use.

Christine reported that because we made a donation to the Music in the Making Campaign in memory of Lucien Needham we will be listed as one of the donors in the new Community Arts Centre.

Christine filled out a City of Lethbridge Recreation and Culture Masterplan Questionnaire on behalf of our group.

Thank you to Tamara Bowie and Joan Milton for disbursing our awards for this year. A total of \$1255 will be presented in awards at the conclusion of our Canada Music Week recital. Joan and Tamara have notified the teachers of the winners. Christine will print the results and have handouts available for the CMW recital.

Christine reported on the upcoming Practise-a-thon which 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. Money 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 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 a gift certificate from Music Court (Thanks to Doreen for arranging this), Gift cards from Long and McQuade, and Lethbridge Symphony tickets (thank to Mary Lee for arranging this). Lorrie Wittke has approached Deanna Oye about University of Lethbridge concert and recital tickets. Our request has been submitted to their concert committee and Deanna will inform us when a decision has been made.

We would like all teachers to encourage 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.

The practice-a-thon shouldn't take much time away from lessons, because we will include 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!)

Some teachers sponsor their students to get them started and to make a personal contribution to the awards program. Linda Dickey related that she makes 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 practice-a-thon. Some teachers include their own cover letter with the RMT letter. Examples of these will be sent out when the student packages are available so that if you would like to add your own letter you can.

Christine reported that Lorrie Wittke has approached the Royal Conservatory about video conferencing professional development sessions. She is awaiting a reply.

Our next meeting will be Monday, January 7th, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at Long and McQuade.