

## Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA Minutes Thursday, March 6, 2025, Casa Meeting Room

Check out the Lethbridge Branch website for updates and information regarding upcoming events and meetings at [www.lrmta.com](http://www.lrmta.com)

Brad called the meeting to order in the Meeting Room at Casa and welcomed those participating. There were 9 members present: Betty Jo Radley, Carmen Letourneau, Honorary Branch Member Marilyn Sinclair, Christine Rogers, Linda Dickey, Lavinia Kell Parker, Brad Parker, Cheryl Emery-Karapita and Corrie Hausauer. Carmen moved the acceptance of the agenda as prepared. Seconded by Linda. All in favour. Carmen moved the minutes be adopted as circulated. Seconded by Lavinia. All in favour.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report (as of March 4, 2025).

Awards Account Balance: \$3,714.21

- Cheque written and delivered (but not yet cashed): \$250 for Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival Awards that we sponsor
  - 1) \$50 annual award to a deserving piano student in a junior piano class
  - 2) \$50 annual award to a deserving piano student in a senior piano class
  - 3) \$50 annual award to a deserving brass or woodwind student
  - 4) \$50 award to a deserving voice student
  - 5) \$50 award to a deserving violin student

Operating Account Balance: \$1,660.29 (March 4, 2025)

- Silver Collection from March Recital to be deposited \$52.00
- Upcoming Reimbursements: total \$261.93
  - Hostgator Website Domain Renewal completed \$37.46 CAD. Currently in Christine's name. In the process of updating so that we use our Branch's email address.
  - Venue rental for Festival Prep Recital and Festival Rehearsal (March 1): \$84
  - Piano rental for Festival Prep Recital and Festival Rehearsal (March 1): \$66.15
  - UPS 1000 pre-paid copies, Practice-a-thon and Harpsichord Adventure copies: \$74.32
- Upcoming Expenses:
  - Allied Arts Council Annual Membership (\$75)
  - Young Artist Recital
  - Next Year's meeting rentals

Christine moved the acceptance of the Treasurer's report as presented. Seconded by Cheryl. All in favour.

Christine gave the Secretary's report. She has been working on our Branch history including a list of Branch presidents and a general history from the 1980's to present, in preparation for determining which records can be sent to the archives. We will need to decide if we want to continue to meet at Casa for our monthly meetings and book the dates for next year. Please report any changes to your contact information or website teaching listing by contacting our Branch email address with your request. [lethbridgebranchofarmta@gmail.com](mailto:lethbridgebranchofarmta@gmail.com)

Carmen gave the ARMTA update. With respect to our questions arising from conversation at our January Branch meeting regarding ARMTA's sponsorship of scholarships for non-ARMTA events, Carmen reported that ARMTA will gather more information on requests to clarify the parameters of the events and who is eligible to participate before awarding non-ARMTA scholarships. ARMTA grants to help members with the cost of attending the national CFMTA Conference in Montreal this summer are available. Apply on the ARMTA website at: <https://armta.ca/cfmta-conference-grant/#!event-register/2025/7/15/cfmta-conference-grant-2025>

Up to 5 awards of \$400 each are available. Grants are awarded post-conference. July 15 is the application deadline. Carmen will send Christine a copy of the latest Branch report that she prepared for the ARMTA Board meeting in February for our Branch records. Our Provincial President, Annette Bradley would like to visit Lethbridge and attend a meeting. It was suggested that

October would be a good fit. Annette has offered to present a workshop if we are interested. Christine asked Carmen to look into when arrangements for the Young Artist Tour will begin.

Christine read a draft letter that she has prepared to send to RCM based on comments from our February meeting. The following will be sent to RCM from our Branch:

*We would like to take this opportunity to recommend that RCM create feedback opportunities for students, parents, and teachers by providing an evaluation option following practical and theory exams. Many educational institutions provide this type of opportunity for comments in an effort to help improve course offerings and guide instructors in their teaching efforts.*

*We encourage the RCM to explore the development of such a process to help improve its examination system as it seeks to better serve students and their teachers.*

The Allied Arts Council (AAC) AGM will take place on Tuesday, March 25th in the Casa Community Room. Carmen has volunteered to attend as our rep. Thank you to Carmen!

Christine reported on our CFMTA Branching Out activity, *Harpsichord Adventure* that took place at her house on February 15th. Thirteen students prepared Baroque pieces and explored playing them on Christine's 2-manual harpsichord. Students showed great creativity as they experimented with stylistic elements such as ornaments and rolled chords, as well as different manuals, registrations, and stops. 2 teachers attended as observers. Christine has prepared and submitted for the CFMTA \$100 Branching Out grant.

Christine gave an update on the Practice-a-thon. March 6th is the deadline for submitting students' forms and pledges to be considered for prizes. Christine will process the forms and assign the prizes and let teachers know the winners. Prizes will be delivered to students when determined and the results will be circulated. **If teachers were unable to have students participate in the Practice-a-thon, they are invited to make their own contribution to help support our Awards Program.** Cheques can be made out to LRMTA and can be mailed or dropped off at the following address: Christine Rogers, 1621 Lakeshore Road S. Lethbridge, AB, T1K 3G3. Larger donations of \$100 or more can be made out to CFMTA and can be submitted for an official tax receipt. Lavinia has agreed to consider taking on administrating the next Practice-a-thon in 2027. Documents and a checklist are available in our Branch's Google Drive and a record is kept of all emails sent to members regarding the Practice-a-thon. Christine and Lavinia will plan to meet when convenient.

Christine reported on the progress of the design for our new Branch banner. The following is a summary of the process. In October, five ARMTA Banner designs were presented to the members to determine the top two designs. From feedback gathered by email and at following Branch meetings, it was decided to review our Branch slogan in conjunction with the new banner design. In November, members were asked if they wished to keep the existing slogan: *Providing Leadership in Private Music Education in Our Community* or adopt the ARMTA slogan: *Cultivating Music in Life*. The feedback was inconclusive, the number of votes being a tie for both. During some initial design work for the new Branch banner, it was discovered that there was room for a secondary slogan so that the ARMTA slogan and a Branch slogan could both be displayed. Another round of information gathering by email and at meetings regarding the choice of a secondary slogan for our Branch followed. Members were asked to choose between the following 2 slogans as a secondary slogan to appear on the Banner: No. 1 *Leadership and Excellence in Music Education in Our Community* and No. 2 *Providing Leadership in Music Education in our Community*. The former was chosen to appear with *Cultivating Music in Life*. Christine will finalize the drafts of the top two banner designs and send them out to teachers to make their final choice. Christine will prepare an email and circulate to members.

Since we will not be having a meeting in April because of the Music Festival dates, our AGM will take place at our May 1st meeting. At that time we will confirm our Executive for the current year.

Brad will be away on study leave and Christine has agreed to act as President in his absence. An email will be sent out inviting members to consider taking on an executive position. Next year will be Christine's last full year as a member of ARMTA.

Christine asked for feedback on our Branch website in preparation for making arrangements to have the ARMTA webmaster Carolyn Garritano update it with ARMTA's new brand. Corrie volunteered to check with his partner to take a look and provide input.

Upcoming recital information was reviewed.

- Our Spring Recital and rehearsal on March 1st was successful. Several students tried out the piano in preparation for Festival classes. 20 students participated in the recital including guest performer Jenna Steenberg, a student from the studio of Deanna Oye at the University of Lethbridge. Thank you to Deanna for making the arrangements for Jenna to perform!
- Our final recital will take place on **Saturday, May 24th at 2:30 p.m.** in the Recital Hall at the University of Lethbridge. Thank you to Brad for making the arrangements! Brad and Christine will convene. Betty Jo will take the names for the program. Christine will check to see if Brenda would like to help with the program. An insurance certificate will be needed and can be arranged after the new ARMTA membership year begins.

**Keys to Piano 2025** presented by the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music and the Lethbridge Branch of the Alberta Registered Music Teachers' Association will take place Friday, March 14 and Saturday, March 15, 2025 at Casa at 230-8th St. S. Lethbridge. Clinicians this year are [Cheryl Emery-Karapita](#) and [Carolyn Herrington](#).

The Friday evening session from 5:30 to 7:00 pm is open to registered teachers and registered senior students and includes the following presentations by the clinicians: "Thinking Orchestrally at the Piano" and "ADHD and the Wiggly Student".

Saturday sessions run from 9:15 to 4 pm. Students can choose a half day or full day option, perform for clinicians up to 2 times, participate in break-out sessions, listen to the noon-hour clinician recital, and enjoy a catered lunch. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

Half Day (choose 9:15-1pm or 12-4pm): \$40 (includes lunch, concert, opportunity to perform 1 piece, & break out sessions)

Full Day (9:15-4pm): \$60 (includes lunch, concert, opportunity to perform up to 2 pieces, & break-out sessions)

Student Observer (9:15-4pm): \$40 (includes lunch, concert & break-out sessions)

Registration deadline is Thursday, March 13th at midnight. Teachers are free with a registered student, otherwise the fee is \$25.

<https://communityprograms.ulethbridge.ca/Program/GetProgramDetails?courseId=54ad9c23-603a-47fb-8a6d-7ea07f5e3eaa>

Once you sign in or create an account, you will be redirected to the registration page. You may need to click on Programs, then Music Conservatory, and then scroll down to the Keys to Piano icon.

Christine informed the members that ARMTA Continuing Education is only able to cover \$450 of the requested \$650 (which covers the cost of one clinician) for Keys to Piano. Most years, ARMTA is able to grant us the \$650 because other branches don't use their full allotment of \$400. It was acknowledged that we had received \$250 of ARMTA Continuing Education funding for the voice workshop we held in the fall, and that we had been prepared that the amount for Keys to Piano might be affected. Christine received information from the Continuing Education Convenor, Deanna Oye, that she will be requesting that the amount for each branch be raised to \$500 for next year. The question was asked, why is ARMTA sponsoring grants/scholarships for outside organizations when Branches would benefit from more funding for professional development? Carmen will relay the question to the Provincial Board.

**MOTION:** Christine moved that as a Branch we contribute \$200 to Keys to Piano to make up for the shortfall from ARMTA Continuing Education. Seconded by Betty Jo Radley. Following a short

discussion a vote was held. All in Favour. Carried. Christine will take care of writing a cheque to the University of Lethbridge for the contribution.

Coffee and Conversation will take place on **Tuesday, March 18th at 10:30 a.m. at the Tim Horton's at 411 Mayor Magrath Dr N.** In case there are no tables available at that time, it will be moved to the Tims Hortons near the Northside Walmart at 2953 26 Ave N. Christine will send out a reminder email. For more information, email Betty Jo Radley at [bettyjoradley@gmail.com](mailto:bettyjoradley@gmail.com)

The [Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival](#) dates are March 31-April 12, 2025. The General Manager is Jaimee Jarvie. If you have any comments, feedback or suggestions regarding the Festival phone: (403) 381-6512 or email: [generalmanager@lethmsf.org](mailto:generalmanager@lethmsf.org)

Brad invited Cheryl Emery-Karapita to share the story of her musical journey. Cheryl comes from a musical family! She began piano lessons at age 4 and continued to the age 11, when she stepped away until age 16 when she felt ready and motivated to begin again. Following a BMus performance degree from the University of Calgary where she studied with Marilyn Engle, she worked with singers in voice studios learning art song repertoire. The experience revealed to her a desire to improve her technique and broaden the expressive sounds she could create at the piano. This led her to a Masters of Music in Vocal Operatic Coaching at McGill in Montreal, and then eventually to study with English pianist Julius Drake for a post-graduate degree in Concert Collaborative Piano at the Kunst-Universität in Graz, Austria. In 2017 she met her husband and moved to Lethbridge where she continues to work as a collaborative pianist with many soloists, instrumentalists, and performing groups, and as an instructor for the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music, focusing on teaching her students in a healthy way.

Christine mentioned the possibility of organizing a fundraising recital next year for our Awards Program featuring Branch performers, most likely next May.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, May 1st, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.** in the meeting room at Casa. Brad is not available, so Christine will chair the meeting. Our AGM will take place at this meeting during which time we will accept our 2025-2026 Branch Executive.

Minutes prepared by Christine Rogers

Other items of note:

Our local **RCM Rep** is Monica Baczuk: 403-942-4321(h); 403-715-6051(c), [monicab1961@hotmail.com](mailto:monicab1961@hotmail.com) and our Provincial Rep is Derek Chiu: [derek.chiu@rcmusic.ca](mailto:derek.chiu@rcmusic.ca). Please visit our website ([www.LRMTA.com](http://www.LRMTA.com)) regularly and notify Christine if you would like any updates for your listing.

University of Lethbridge Music at Noon Concerts take place in the University of Lethbridge Recital Hall. They are free and open to the public and take place Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1:00 p.m.

Complete information for The University of Lethbridge Music at Noon Series: <https://www.uleth-bridge.ca/fine-arts/study/music/concerts-and-recitals>

Information regarding University of Lethbridge Fine Arts events can be found here: <https://www.uleth.ca/fine-arts/event-season>

Ticket information for events can be found at the following link: <https://uleth.universitytickets.com/>

**ARMTA: Certificates of Insurance for events:** if the place you are holding an event requires a COI, you may request one from the Marsh certificate team at [winnipegcertificates@marsh.com](mailto:winnipegcertificates@marsh.com) and cc [danielle.blaich@marsh.com](mailto:danielle.blaich@marsh.com). Include your name, the date and location of event, mailing address of the party requesting evidence of your coverage. Please allow 24 to 48 hours to have your request processed.