

Lethbridge Branch of ARMTA Minutes Thursday, May 1st, 2025, Casa Meeting Room

Check out the Lethbridge Branch website for updates and information regarding upcoming events and meetings at www.lrmta.com

Christine called the meeting to order in the Meeting Room at Casa and welcomed those participating. There were 4 members present: Betty Jo Radley, Carmen Letourneau, Honorary Branch Member Marilyn Sinclair, and Christine Rogers. Since there wasn't a quorum present (4 voting members), motions could not be presented or passed.

Two items were added to the agenda: information about a recital on May 22nd and time for questions at the end of the meeting from Betty Jo.

Christine gave the Treasurer's report

Awards Account Balance: \$6,347.71 (as of April 28th)

\$250 Cheque for Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival Awards that we sponsor has been cashed

- 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: \$1,345.41 (as of April 28th)

Upcoming Deposits: total \$972.28

- Annual Dues-collected by ARMTA minus stripe fees of \$1.17/\$35 (\$972.28)

Upcoming Reimbursements: total \$375.15

- Practice-a-thon Prizes for most money raised (\$150)
- Allied Arts Council Annual Membership (\$75)
- May 17th Young Artist Recital Rentals:
 - Casa Community Room-minimum 4 hrs (\$84)
 - Conservatory Piano Rental (\$66.15)

Projected Balance: \$1937.69

An amendment has been made to the March minutes to better reflect the conversation regarding ARMTA funding for *Keys to Piano*. *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.*

Please report any changes to your contact information or website teaching listing by contacting our Branch email address with your request. lethbridgebranchofarmta@gmail.com

Carmen gave the ARMTA update. After discussion it was decided that we would invite ARMTA president Annette Bradley to our October meeting. She has offered to do a presentation/workshop for us. Carmen will contact her to set things up. A half-hour meeting and a half-hour presentation was suggested.

Christine passed around a thank-you card from Evan Sanden for his recent award.

Christine reported that she has not heard back from RCM with respect to the email/letter that was sent to RCM based on comments from our February meeting. Christine will send a follow up email.

For reference: email sent to RCM March 12/2025:

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.

UPDATE: Friday, May 2nd After a follow up email, we received this reply from RCM:

Thank you for your follow-up message to check-in on feedback opportunities for students and teachers after completing exams. We have received and update on this to share with you. This is something that The Royal Conservatory Certificate Program has already been discussing and working toward. There are plans in place to implement a post-exam survey as part of the regular exam process as a means of providing a platform for direct feedback in the near future. We don't yet have a release date for when these will be made available, but can confirm that it will not be in place this academic year.

We appreciate your patience and support while awaiting this important program update and thank you for taking the time to reach out sharing your feedback to help The Certificate Program make valuable improvements for all who participate in and use examinations.

*Sincerely,
Crystal
via
Candidate Services
THE ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC*

Thank you to Carmen who attended the Allied Arts Council (AAC) AGM on Tuesday, March 25th in the Casa Community Room. Carmen reported that the meeting was straightforward and she enjoyed connecting with other members of the Arts community. Christine gave some background on the PACAG (Performing Arts Centre Advocacy Group).

Christine gave the Practice-a-thon report and wrap-up. She submitted information and a photo to the Lethbridge Herald but did not hear back. 48 students from 12 teachers practised over 270 hours and raised \$2883.50. Thank you again to everyone who participated! Your efforts are much appreciated! Thank you again to our sponsors for donating prizes for students:

Long and McQuade: five \$25 gift cards
Lethbridge Symphony Association (LSO): 4 concert ticket vouchers
Lethbridge Community Band Society (LCBS): 8 concert ticket vouchers
University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music: 3 Lethbridge Piano Intensive vouchers

Christine explained that this year's amount falls a little short for what is needed to sustain our Awards Program if we run this fundraiser every 2 years. We disperse \$1500 a year from our Awards Account (plus \$850—the current amount from ARMTA) and sponsor Lethbridge Music Festival awards totalling \$250 per year. This means that we need to raise a total of \$3500 every two years to sustain the current awards we present. It was decided that we would designate the silver collection for the May 24th General Recital for our Awards Program. We may also want to consider topping up the amount from our operating account since we are in extremely good financial shape.

If teachers would like to make a personal contribution to help support our Awards Program, cheques can be made out to **LRMTA** and 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 CFM-TA and can be submitted for an official tax receipt.

Lavinia has agreed to take 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.

Annual General Meeting

We were unable to accept our Branch Executive for 2025-2026 because we did not have a quorum at the meeting (4 voting members are needed) so we will confirm our leadership by email vote. Please respond to the email sent on May 1st, before Friday, May 9th with YES or NO if you accept the following list of positions:

President: Christine Rogers
Vice-President: Brenda Lockmuller
Treasurer: Cheryl Emery-Karapita
Secretary: vacant
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Lee Voort
ARMTA Rep: vacant

If you are interested and available to take on either the Secretary or ARMTA Rep position, we would be most grateful. We can add to our Executive with separate motions once we have volunteers in place. Please consider supporting our Branch. The positions can be modified or shared to suit your available time. Next year will be Christine's last full year as a member of ARMTA.

UPDATE May 9th, 2025: The list of Executive Positions as stated above was approved by Email vote taken between May 1st and May 9th, 2025. 14 members voted in favour. Motion carried.

Christine brought the new Branch banner to the meeting. The cost was covered by ARMTA. We will use it at the May 17th Young Artist recital and at our final General Recital on May 24th. Betty Jo will store the banner and bring it to events. Thank you Betty Jo!

Christine has yet to receive any feedback from members on our Branch website in preparation for making arrangements to have the ARMTA webmaster Carolyn Garritano update it with ARMTA's new brand. Christine will send out an email after the meeting. **Please respond by the end of May if you have any feedback regarding the material and organization of the website.**

It was decided to keep our meetings the first Thursday of the month (except where holidays and Festival are considerations) at 10:30 a.m. Christine will book the Casa meeting room for the months of September, October and November. Rebooking fees are now charged by Casa for changes.

Christine will make plans to have our Branch brochure updated with our 2025-2026 membership.

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. Please have your entries to Betty Jo by **Friday, May 16th**. Send them to bettyjoradley@gmail.com Christine will prepare the program if Brenda is unavailable. Christine will make arrangements for the insurance certificate. Our silver collection will go towards our Awards Program.

Our final Adult Get-together will take place at Casa in the Community Room at **11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 7th**. Thank you to Betty Jo for providing this opportunity! Please contact her at bettyjoradley@gmail.com by Saturday, May 31st if you have any students interested in participating. This is an informal gathering that provides a safe, encouraging place for adults to share their music.

Christine gave an update and report on **Keys to Piano 2025** which was presented by the University of Lethbridge Conservatory of Music in collaboration with The Lethbridge Branch on March 14 and 15th. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped with this event!

Over 25 teachers and students, including 18 performers attended. Our amazing clinicians Carolyn Herrington and Cheryl Emery-Karapita guided students during the masterclasses in an incredibly supportive and encouraging manner. Their presentations for teachers Friday evening, "Thinking Orchestally at the

Piano" and "ADHD and the Wiggly Student" were very informative and enlightening and their lunch performance of a program of piano, four hands of repertoire by Brahms, Dvorak, and Grieg as well as a two-piano work by Cecile Chaminade was inspiring! We thank Carolyn and Cheryl for sharing their passion and expertise!

We also extend a big thank you to the breakout session presenters Jill Asling-Monk: *Music's Eras Tour*; Carmen Letourneau: *Playing with Performance Jitters*; Christine Rogers: *An Introduction to the Harpsichord*; Alina Khvatova: *Fiddling 101*; and Marc Vantol: *Keyed Percussion 101*, and to the volunteer moderators and registration helpers: Cheryl Emery-Karapita, Carmen Letourneau, Jill Asling-Monk, Brad Parker, Lavinia Kell Parker, Christine Rogers, and Betty Jo Radley.

We would like to acknowledge our funding sponsors: the Alberta Piano Teachers Association (APTA), and the ARMTA. We are extremely grateful for their support of this event.

Coffee and Conversation will resume again in the fall.

The Lethbridge Branch will be hosting the Alberta Young Artist Concert featuring Jaydon Zhuang, piano on **Saturday, May 17th, 2025, at 7:30 pm in the Casa Community Room, 230-8 St S.** Admission will be by donation. Thank you Carmen for initiating the communication with the ARMTA Young Artist Convenor. Please encourage your students to attend. This is sure to be an inspiring performance. Jaydon's program will include works by J.S. Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, and Francois Morel. For more information visit our website: www.LRMTA.com/events

Carmen Letourneau will be hosting a lecture/recital on the music of late nineteenth-century pianist, composer and teacher, Marie Jaëll (1846-1925) to celebrate her life and work, this year being the 100th anniversary of her death. The event will take place in the Casa Community Room on Thursday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m. Carmen will speak a little about Marie Jaëll's life, and she and her students will be performing selections of her music. Carmen has extended an invitation to students and teachers in the community to join them as participants or audience members that evening. Please contact Carmen directly by email at coachcarmen@gmail.com if you or your students would like to participate, to get scores, or if you have any questions.

Here are links to Marie Jaëll's intermediate works.

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Beaux_jours_\(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Beaux_jours_(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie))

[https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Jours_pluvieux_\(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie\)](https://imslp.org/wiki/Les_Jours_pluvieux_(Ja%C3%ABII%2C_Marie))

If you would like to learn more, follow the link to Carmen's master's research thesis which focuses on the life and work of Marie Jaëll, discussing her influences, and placing her innovative and integrative approach to teaching piano within the context of nineteenth-century piano pedagogy. <https://opus.uleth.ca/server/api/core/bitstreams/f34c2f42-19a7-4014-a59d-52f4ad95a238/content>

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.** in the meeting room at Casa.

Minutes prepared by Christine Rogers

Other items of note:

The [Lethbridge and District Music and Speech Arts Festival](#) dates will be determined shortly. 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

Our local **RCM Rep** is Monica Baczuk: 403-942-4321(h); 403-715-6051(c,) monicab1961@hotmail.com and our Provincial Rep is Derek Chiu: derek.chiu@rcmusic.ca.

Please visit our website (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. during the University Fall and Winter semesters.

Complete information for The University of Lethbridge Music at Noon Series: <https://www.ulethbridge.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:

Should you require a Certificate of Insurance regarding a specific location or event, please send your request directly to winnipegcertificates@marsh.com with a cc to the Associate Client Executive, Danielle Blach (Danielle.Blach@marsh.com) along with the following information:

- Name of the Member Requesting the Certificate (please specify if this is related to a branch event)
- Provide the date and location of the event
- Mailing address of the party requesting evidence of your coverage (certificate holder)
- Does the Certificate Holder require additional insured status

Important Notes regarding Requesting a certificate:

- Please sent all requests for events no less than one week prior to your event.
- Certificate Requests received outside regular business hours of Monday to Friday 8:30 am Central Time to 4:30 pm Central Time will not be reviewed and processed by the Certificate Team until the next business day.
- Certificates must be requested by the member responsible for event or to whom coverage applies. Third Party Requests will not be processed.
- Please allow 24 to 48 hours to process requests.