

## *'With glowing hearts we see thee rise'...the sound of beautiful music!*

### 2008 Canada Music Week Report – ORMTA

ORMTA members all across Ontario spent the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of November celebrating our country's music and composers. Countless recitals, workshops, competitions, and special presentations were presented throughout the province by a dedicated band of teachers, composers, students and volunteers. Here are some of the highlights:

The **Belleville** Branch held its annual Junior Recital and Tea to celebrate CMW. This Recital gave younger students a chance to perform for parents and friends in a friendly atmosphere. Fifty students performed various piano and vocal pieces, many of which were written by Canadian composers. The youngest performers were a group of 3 and 4 year olds from the Music for Young Children program who played an instrument ensemble by Frances Balodis.

**Bolton-Brampton-Caledon** Branch celebrated CMW with a Student Awards Concert featuring twenty-one students. Branch president, Shirley Jemmett had her students prepare a bio about the composer they were to perform. Canadian composer Debra Wanless presented an enlightening composition workshop. This interactive event featured students composing on the spot, with audience participation. The next day, Ms. Wanless presented a workshop entitled "Understanding Learning Styles: Lets Begin" as part of her visit to the branch.

The **Central Toronto** Branch held its annual Fall Scholarship Recital as part of CMW. Many students performed works by Canadian composers. In recognition of outstanding performances, the branch awarded their Sir Ernest MacMillan Scholarships at both the junior and senior levels.

**Etobicoke-Mississauga** Branch members celebrated CMW early by holding "Get to know contemporary Canadian Music" luncheons at the home of ACNMP President, Jill Kelman back in August. Branch members entered their vocal and piano students in Contemporary Showcase Mississauga in November. The adjudicators were Ginette Duplessis, voice, and Victoria Warwick, piano. They also hosted a Canada Music Week celebration in conjunction with their Assessments program in early December. The adjudicator was Christine Surman. Cups were awarded to first place recipients.

The **Hamilton-Halton** branch held a special CMW recital, which not only featured Canadian music, but also works by many local composers and student composers alike for piano, violin, guitar and voice in a variety of styles. They also held a poster competition that featured eleven entries, judged by a local artist, David Chapman. Mr. Chapman was present during the recital, and actually sketched the students as they performed. The branch also conducted a music writing competition in conjunction with the recital, which was adjudicated by composer, John Burge. A highlight was the performance of several of the compositions by the student composers themselves. Recital organizers Andrea Battista and Heather Thomson performed a duet composed by colleague Elizabeth Maloney. And students were most impressed by the contributions of composer and teacher, Philip Corke to the recital, which included the performance of a piano trio that Philip arranged for violin, cello and piano, performed by ORMTA members Heather Thomson, Andrea Battista and Patricia Birch.

The **Kingston** Branch celebrated CMW early with an October workshop and recital presented by composer and pianist, Frank Horvat. His presentation on teaching theory and the recital of his own works were a great kick off to the school year. This was followed by a visit from Laurentian University professor and pianist, Yoko Hirota at the start of CMW. She discussed a number of topics including piano technique via the piano works of Canadian composer, Robert Lemay. The branch also held their annual student recital, which featured pieces from the new piano collection, *Cottage Days*, by local composer Martha Hill Duncan as well as works by Anne Crosby, Oscar Peterson and Violet Archer. Three teachers also performed two trios, *Turquoise Tangle* and *Fireweed* by local composer Beverly Porter.



*Performers in Kingston's Canada Music Week Recital, November 22/08*

The **Kitchener Waterloo** Branch held their CMW Recital in conjunction with the Grand River Contemporary Showcase. The recital was a refreshing and successful combination of quirky and imaginative Canadian pieces for piano. Each performer received a gift bag with Canada flag goodies inside. As an interesting side note, KW branch president, Carol Ditner-Wilson, was asked to play the organ at a local funeral where she learned that the deceased was the last remaining descendant of Calixa Lavallee, the composer of O Canada!

The **Newmarket & Area** branch hosted their annual CMW recital in Aurora featuring the music of fourteen Canadian composers, including Linda Niamath and Nancy Telfer. Over forty piano and vocal students representing eight teaching studios took part. The large audience of students, parents and teachers enjoyed hearing new works and old favorites.



*Organizers Sheila McLean and Janice Mitchell with their Canadian music display at the Newmarket & Area CMW Recital, November 29/08 in Aurora.*

During CMW, the **North Bay** Branch held its annual Honours Recital; an event where students who achieved marks of honours or higher are invited to play at a special concert. Each student was awarded with a certificate of recognition.

**Oshawa** branch presented two CMW events. A local high school student/visual artist designed an original picture with a CMW theme that was used as the basis for a colouring contest entered by young music students. A recital entitled "Made in Canada", entirely devoted to music of Canadian composers was also held. The structure of the recital was unique and clever in that it was based on the aleatoric nature of Stephen Chatman's "Game of Hypnosis". As each student arrived, they were asked to select a numbered maple leaf from a bowl. The number on the maple leaf determined the order of the program. Like "Game of Hypnosis", the last selection was not left to chance - a student who had submitted "O Canada" as her piece, was the last performer.

The annual **Ottawa Region** Branch CMW Recital was held in Orleans. The concert consisted of twenty-five pianists between the ages of 7 and 16 ranging in levels from introductory to Grade 10. There were many teachers who came to support the event as well as a lovely audience of family and friends. The concert consisted of music by Canadian composers such as Dela, Telfer and Ottawa composer Anita Schlarb who was in the audience.

The **Oxford County** Branch presented a CMW Recital of piano and voice in Woodstock. The evening programme culminated with the presentation of High Mark Certificates.



*High-Mark certificate winners from the CMW Recital that appeared in The Sentinel Review, November 18/08, in Woodstock*

Congratulations to all the ORMTA branches and the countless CMW conveners and volunteers that presented Canada Music Week celebrations in their communities. Other than producing a superb cultural and educational event, you also promoted the quality of music being composed by our talented Canadian musicians. Thank you to all the students, teachers and parents for recognizing the importance of maintaining our Canadian heritage!

*Compiled by Frank Horvat*