

## Canada Music Week – 2017

### AJAX / PICKERING

October 18, 2017, the Ajax/Pickering ORMTA branch held two concerts to celebrate Canada Music Week and Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>, which included performances of various Canadian works. We focused on Canada as a multicultural country and several of the performers were invited to dress in a heritage costume representing their country. I had made a quilt of scenes of Canada and also a second quilt representing flowers of each Province along with a Canadian Flag design which our branch will use in the future. To kick off each concert we invited Oksana Hahn who is a member of our branch, originally from Kiev. Oksana is an amazing performer and her performance certainly enhanced our concert and offered a wonderful experience for the children to hear such an accomplished pianist.



### BARRIE

The Barrie Branch ORMTA hosted 2 full recitals for Canada Music Week this year, with 50 students performing! Each recital began with singing *Oh Canada* and featured piano and vocal students of 11 Barrie Branch ORMTA teachers. Students performed a range of repertoire that spanned the levels from beginner to advanced. Between the two recitals, we showcased students who received the highest marks in the Royal Conservatory of Music practical and theoretical exams during the past year. Certificates and honorariums were awarded to students with the highest marks in each category. Certificates were also handed out to many honourable mention students.



### CENTRAL TORONTO

On November 24, Central Toronto Branch hosted a Composition Master Class in downtown Toronto at the Canadian Music Centre. Our clinician this year was Dr. Norbert Palej (University of Toronto). Dr. Palej began with a short talk about composing in today's world, focusing on the conditions affecting the development of a composer's unique "voice". We had four participants (ages 11 – 16) who presented their works (solo piano, piano and voice, and piano and flute). Each participant introduced themselves, described their work's intents and methods, and performed their piece. Dr. Palej was encouraging and gave suggestions for further refinements and directions.

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### CHATHAM KENT

For our eleventh year of hosting a Contemporary Showcase, the Chatham Kent branch of ORMTA decided to offer a special class in recognition of Canada's 150 birthday. In addition to a piano solo performance of Oh Canada, we also had a rhythm band do a performance of our national anthem. Our excellent adjudicator for the day was Karen Rowell. Many thanks to students and teachers involved.

### HAMILTON HALTON

The Hamilton-Halton Branch held its annual Canada Music Week event on Sunday, December 3 at St. Matthew on-the-Plains Anglican Church in Burlington. In the afternoon, Anne Marie Page gave a master class which featured Canadian works at all levels from early intermediate to advanced. In the evening, students performed a rich and varied program of Canadian works for voice and piano. Hamilton-Halton member Jana Skarecky also performed her own Bridge of Dreams for piano and percussion.



### KINGSTON

Kingston's mini CMW festival featured nearly 60 piano, voice, flute and trumpet students and included music by local composers Martha Hill Duncan, Beverly Porter, as well as an original composition by one of the performers, Leonid Nediak. The students appreciated adjudicator Robert Rival's kind and helpful encouragement and suggestions.



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### KITCHENER WATERLOO

On November 25, KW ORMTA teachers and students enjoyed an all-Canadian day of masterclasses and a recital with Kingston composer Martha Hill Duncan. Students had fun exploring Martha's music and receiving helpful information and inspiration from the composer herself. Parents appreciated the hard work, the learning, and the thrill which their children experienced by performing the colourful music of Canadian composers. It was a great Canada Music Week celebration!



### LONDON

To celebrate the Canadian Sesquicentennial, the London branch of ORMTA held a student recital on Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>, at Aeolian Hall. There were works by notable Canadian composers, as well as works by some of our own talented student composers.



### NEWMARKET

The energy and excitement around Canadian music was electric at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora for Canada Music Week! The Newmarket and Area branch hosted two recitals: The students were excited to play and some had even met the composers of their pieces. It was a wonderful afternoon celebrating Canadian composers and their music!

### NORTH BAY

North Bay Branch of Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association (ORMTA) recognized and celebrated music students who achieved HONOURS on their Royal Conservatory of Music exam during this current year. The Student Honour Recital was held during CANADA MUSIC WEEK, on November 25, 2017 at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Cynthia Roveda, President of North Bay Branch of ORMTA

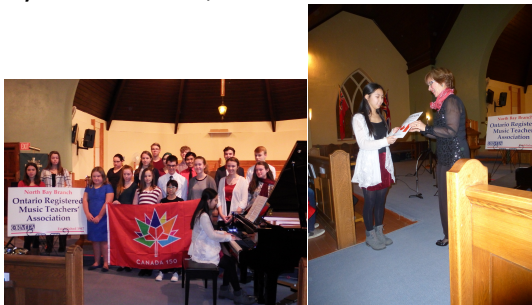
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*says "Certificates were given to student with the highest mark at each practical and theoretical level. Students who had attained the highest mark in levels 6 to 10 practical exams and Advanced Theory also received awards."*

Tim Lacelle and Suzanne Amyotte presented the North Bay Elk's Lodge Award to Stephanie Wu, level 10 piano; Christine Gilbert, presented the Lynda Kennedy Award to Natalie Wong, level 6 piano; Ivy Glenday Award was presented to Christopher Wu; level 9 piano, Evelyn Bourke Award was presented to Lauren Pauli; level 7 piano, Sydna Shorse Award was presented to Madison Peake; and level 8 piano and North Bay ORMTA Award was awarded to Emma Shea.

To Celebrate Canada's 150th year the Branch also held a GRAND PIANO SHOWCASE CONCERT in which Anastasia Rizikov, from Toronto and internationally renowned 18-year-old pianist, performed on the Branch's first grand piano, purchased in Spring 2017. The grand piano was dedicated to a North Bay Branch past member, Joan Sanders Olmsted.

Cynthia Roveda, President



## NORTH YORK / YORK REGION

During Canada Music Week 2017, the North York/York Region Branch held our Fall Auditions, with specially designated Canadian composer awards. During the Branch recitals, students who performed Canadian compositions were specially acknowledged: trophies were awarded to piano, string and voice students for the highest marks in a Canadian composition, as well as medals given to all students who performed Canadian works.

## OTTAWA

Sunday November 19th marked another very successful Canada Music Week recital. City View United church provided a lovely venue for our 39 performers showcasing their love of Canadian music. The audience was treated to several vocal performances, lots of wonderful pianists and a lovely harpist. Thanks goes out to all the teachers who prepared their students with such finesse, thank you to Kimberley Sundell and Paula Lin for giving of their time on the audition day, to the executive for their help on the concert day as well as Mary Ellen Grigor for her help with the reception as well! The performers all dressed in red and white and were given certificates of participation from First Vice President Susan Blyth-Schofield. The concert was very well received and the audience was especially receptive to the Canadian trivia at the end having the chance to earn some great Canadian themed prizes.

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The audience and performers enjoyed a lovely reception following the concert. All in all, a perfect way to spend a snowy Sunday afternoon. I will miss this portfolio greatly!



### OWEN SOUND

We celebrated Canada Music Week with a well-attended recital at the Owen Sound Alliance Church. Anna Zandvliet opened the recital with O Canada, and later received the branch award for highest achievement in Grade 4 piano. We had 17 other students play, spanning all ages and levels. The students played works by many different Canadian composers, including Debra Wanless, Jen Smith Lanthier, Beth Hamilton, Martha Hill Duncan, and Lynette Sawatsky. Two students also performed their own compositions. To conclude the evening, we all enjoyed a Canada-themed cake and refreshments, and to top it all off everyone took home a Canadian souvenir.



### SAULT STE MARIE

ORMTA's Sault Ste Marie chapter presented "Music at the Rapids" on November 19<sup>th</sup> at The Shingwauk Auditorium. This celebration of Canadian music and the gifts of our local young musicians was co-sponsored by SSM ORMTA, AlgomaU, The Northern Arts Academy and White Pines. Canadian music for piano, voice, cello and choir as well as new works by local composers were presented: the world premiere of *Icicles* by AlgomaU Artist in Residence Dr. Anne Louise Turgeon, songs by AlgomaU music student Jackson Reed (winner of The NOMFA Album of the Year), and *The Conquered* by cellist Pete Mozarowski.