

Canada Music Week Reports – 2018

BARRIE

The Barrie Branch ORMTA hosted 2 full recitals for Canada Music Week this year, with 60 students performing! Each recital began with singing *Oh Canada* and featured piano and vocal students of 9 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.



BELLEVILLE

On Sunday, November 18, the **Belleville** Branch celebrated Canada Music Week with the presentation of their annual Recognition Recital honouring students who had received first class honours on their practical and theoretical examinations in 2018. 20 students performed and received awards to mark their achievement.

CENTRAL TORONTO

Central Toronto Branch held a composition master class, run by the University of Ottawa's Dr. Kelly-Marie Murphy, on November 18. Dr. Murphy began with a talk about her life in music: the progression from her childhood on isolated army bases to becoming one of Canada's most popular composers. The master class followed, in which each participant introduced and presented their pieces and then worked with Dr. Murphy. Lily Griffiths, Polina Chernik, and Erik Kreem all composed solo piano works and senior participant, George Gagnidze, offered a symphonic movement for large orchestra. These composers proved Canadian music is alive and fantastic!

HAMILTON HALTON

The Hamilton-Halton branch celebrated Canada Music Week on November 18 with an afternoon workshop featuring Canadian composers Jana Skarecky and Branch president Sharona Clarke, showcasing how they compose their pieces, in order to inspire composition in our music practices. Our evening Recital demonstrated fabulous performances of all-Canadian works by our students and teachers, including pieces by our own ORMTA branch composers. The evening was topped off with a social and some lovely snacks and a Canadian cake provided by Kamara Hennessey and Diane Manojlovich. St. Matthew-on-the-Plains Anglican church in Burlington provided a wonderful venue and atmosphere for our events.



KINGSTON

The Kingston Branch was thrilled to welcome Andrew Harbridge to adjudicate their 2018 Canada Music Week Mini-Festival. Mr. Harbridge heard performances of an interesting and exciting selection of Canadian compositions from several dozen piano, voice and flute students. His encouraging and educational feedback included discussions about the composers whose works were being performed. Our students came away with a new awareness of contemporary composers and the wonderful variety of Canadian music available to them. A fun and successful musical weekend!

KITCHENER WATERLOO

"Music is power!" declared First Nations' singers at KW ORMTA's Canada Music Week event on Nov.24. Music of Canadian composers was celebrated with a full day of masterclasses and a recital. Students of all levels received helpful comments from clinician Kati Gleiser, a highly accomplished pianist, singer and improviser. The final recital featured First Nations guest artists who sang, drummed and danced. Children and parents were touched when they heard that in past years our indigenous people were arrested and imprisoned for singing their traditional songs in our country. Students played piano and sang as parents, teachers and guests listened with open ears and hearts.



LONDON

To celebrate Canada Music Week, the London Branch enjoyed a recital by over 35 students performing works of Canadian Composers from coast to coast, including many fabulous student compositions. This special event was also an Awards Recital, taking time to celebrate the achievements of students who excelled in their conservatory examinations. Students, parents, and teachers enjoyed a reception following the recital with a Canada cake and punch and had time to socialize and reflect on this special event.



NEWMARKET

On Saturday, November 10th, 2018, the Newmarket & Area Branch celebrated Canada Music Week with an afternoon of Canadian music with two recitals entitled Canadian Composers and Their Music...We Treasure You!

These recitals featured piano, violin, and flute students of fourteen teachers.

Taking inspiration from our event title, "A Celebration of Canadian Composers and their Music...We Treasure You!", our young performers took part in our very first Canadian Composer Treasure Hunt. Four stations displaying a series of clues about specific composers were set up. Students then needed to identify a selected composer's hometown, and instruments that he/she composed for. Once all necessary information was gathered, the composer's home town was marked on a large map of Canada, and our students proceeded to a treasure box filled with Canadian pencils and goodies. 😊

We also recognized Susan Griesdale of our branch, as she is widely known across the country and beyond for her contribution to composing. Two of her compositions for Flute and Violin were performed.

As is customary with our branch, we concluded our afternoon with refreshments and cupcakes, donned with a Canadian Flag!



NORTH BAY

The city of North Bay Mayor Al McDonald proclaimed CANADA MUSIC WEEK 2018 in North Bay. On November 24 the North Bay Branch ORMTA held their STUDENT RCM HONOUR RECITAL, where students performed repertoire from various Canadian composers. Micah Sauder, level 9

piano student, received from Cynthia Roveda, President North Bay Branch ORMTA, Canada's 150th Collector's Edition of O Canada. Twenty (20) students performed. Seventeen (17) students received certificates. Five (5) students received awards. Invited guests were: Mayor Al McDonald, Dr. Michael Bourke, Christine Gilbert, and Suzanne Amyotte and Brian Krauskopf from the North Bay Elk's Lodge.



OTTAWA

The Ottawa Canada Music Week recital was held on November 25th, 2018 at City View United Church and was a great success. The performers from age 6 to 18 delighted the audience with a wide variety of repertoire, representing 20 different Canadian Composers. Performers were pianists and vocalists. Students received a certificate at the end of the recital, and everyone enjoyed a beautiful reception afterwards. Warm thanks to all students, parents and teachers for making this event such a wonderful one!



OWEN SOUND



WELLAND-PORT COLBORNE

The Welland – Port Colborne branch of the ORMTA held their annual presentation concert on Saturday November 24, 2018 during Canada Music Week. The venue was Portal Village Bible Chapel that has a very nice Steinway Grand to enjoy. We traditionally hold this concert to give students who attained first class honours in their music exams in the past year another chance to perform in public. Awards and scholarships were presented, and a lovely slab cake was enjoyed afterwards which was decorated with “Happy Canada Music Week” along with a Canadian flag in icing.