

2019 Canada Music Week Report

Barrie:

The Barrie Branch ORMTA began Canada Music Week with a fundraising gala concert featuring some of our branch teachers and special guest Luca Candelino, the Canadian 18 & Under Fiddle Champion! All fund raised at the concert were put toward our student awards and scholarships. To finish off Canada Music Week we had 2 student recitals with 60 students from beginner to diploma level participating! Between the two recitals we held an awards ceremony to recognize students who received the highest marks in the Royal Conservatory of Music practical and theory examinations during the past year.



Belleville:

The Belleville Branch of the ORMTA celebrated Canada Music Week with our annual Recognition Recital featuring the outstanding students of 2019. 19 students performed and received awards for their first-class honours achievements in both piano and theory.



Brampton-Bolton-Caledon:

Every year, the Bolton-Brampton-Caledon Branch of ORMTA hosts an Awards Concert and Ceremony for our students with high marks in exams, in both practical instrument and voice, and theory. We also take this opportunity to give awards to the students who received cash scholarships at our May festival, and the Branch Competition winners. This year, from the 20 teachers in our branch, we presented 125 awards! The top marks earners were asked to perform in the concert, and we were pleased to have 30 performers. We are delighted to have so many young Canadian musicians, who do so well.

Central Toronto:

Central Toronto Branch's Composition Master Class was held on November 17 at Toronto's Canadian Music Centre. Our clinician – Dr. Eliot Britton, professor of composition and media technology at the University of Toronto – began the event with a talk on composition and technology: electronic music as part of the tradition of instrument design; notation software's abilities and limitations and its impact on the compositional process; and technological resources. Student composers, Ally Jiang, Ali Sani, and George Gagnidze presented their works (piano, violin, and orchestra) and Britton offered suggestions for refinement. Enlightening conversation, hearing new Canadian works: Canada is alive with music!



Kingston

Kristin Rae again very capably organized a Canada Music Week mini-festival for the Kingston branch. We invited Queen's University composer Dean Burry, who was a fabulous adjudicator, kind and knowledgeable. He made our piano and vocal students feel valued and they left with some great ideas to continue in their development. We heard a great variety of imaginative titles celebrating Canadian composers and music. From those, Dean invited many students to perform in a well-attended highlights recital to finish off the weekend.



Hamilton-Halton:

For Canada Music Week, Hamilton-Halton branch held a Canadian Music Recital which featured sixteen students of all ages playing a wonderful variety of compositions by Canadian composers. We had mostly pianists, and one singer accompanied by her instructor. A special treat was hearing two students who composed pieces they wrote themselves! This is very encouraging as a number of our branch members are composers or writers of method and instruction books, and we hope to inspire the next generation of music creators. We thank all the teachers, parents and students who participated, and St.-Matthew-on-the-Plains church for providing the venue.



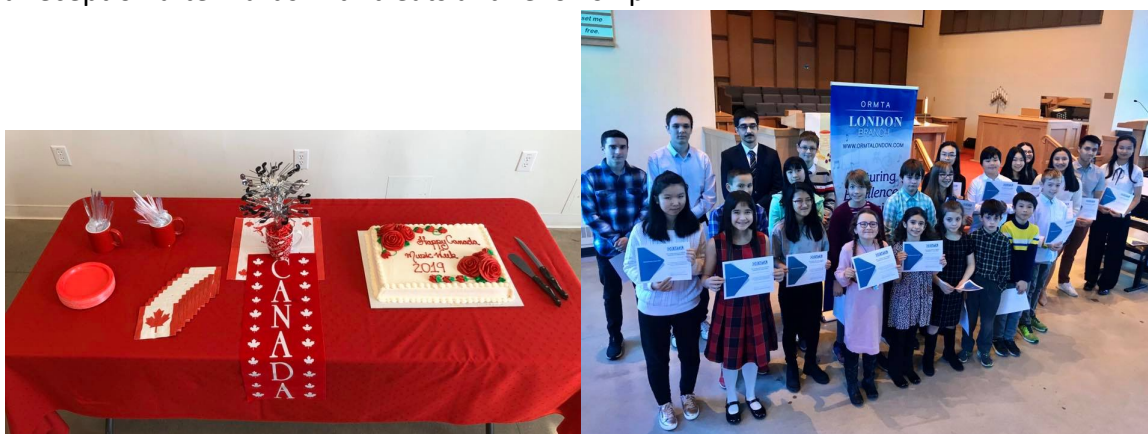
Kitchener-Waterloo:

For students of KW ORMTA teachers, Canada Music Week was an opportunity to express themselves through both music and visual art. Clinician Susan Griesdale shared her talents as composer, teacher and visual artist in a day of masterclasses and a recital. Students played pieces by Canadian composers, gaining experience and insight from Susan's helpful comments. They then expressed their music visually by doing line drawings using charcoal on art paper. A lovely recital of music by Canadian composers ended the day's activities. The results were very positive. Students, teachers and parents relaxed and had fun. Our Canada Music Week celebration of music and art provided creativity, expression and joy.



London:

The London ORMTA Branch celebrated Canada Music Week with their annual awards recital, honoring all students who received over 85% on their Conservatory Examinations. Family and friends were treated to a spectacular recital featuring works of Canadian composers, including student compositions. Everyone enjoyed a reception afterwards with treats and fellowship.



North Bay:

ORMTA North Bay celebrated CMW with a Student Honour Recital on November 23, 2019 at Calvin Presbyterian Church. Students who received highest standing in RCM Examinations in 2019 received a certificate and CMW pencil. Branch member and recent recipient of the RCM Gold Medal for Level 8 Harp, Doreen Bryer, thrilled the audience with her harp performance. Student Kelly Potts performed an original composition. Beth Chartrand was presented with her 25 yr. ORMTA membership certificate and Elsa Tafel was presented with her Contribution to Teaching Award.



Oshawa and District:

On Saturday November 16, we had our first ever Pizza Club Performance! The response for this recital – for students only - was overwhelming. We had almost 50 performers, from various teachers and disciplines, from Pre-Grade 1 to ARCT levels. At the end of the recital, pizza was served! The students were relaxed, well behaved, made some new friendships and thoroughly enjoyed themselves! When parents retrieved their children, the students left happily with pizza tucked in their tummies and felt good about their accomplishments!



Ottawa:

The Ottawa Canada Music Week recital was held on November 17th, 2019 at City View United Church and was a great success. The performers from level introductory to grade 10 delighted the audience with a wide variety of repertoire, representing 25 different Canadian Composers. We started the recital with O Canada piano duet, and everyone did stand up for more than 5 minutes. 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!



Sault Ste. Marie:

Each year the Sault Ste. Marie Branch celebrates Canada Music week by hosting the "Music at the Rapids Recital" at Algoma University. This year was very special! Before the recital, many of the students had created art inspired by their pieces. Thanks to member Paul Dingle, these images were digitally projected as each of the students introduced their pieces and composers before their performances. This brought a new awareness of contemporary Canadian composition to all present. Around thirty-five students of all levels participated. Afterwards, we all enjoyed a beautiful reception."

