

# Notes



*The definitive information source for Ontario Registered Music Teachers*



## MUSIC WRITING COMPETITION 2020



## CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING AWARD





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JUNE 30, 2020**

## **Tune in to our 2020 AGM Through Zoom July 20, 2020 at 1:00 pm**

- Members in good standing are welcome to attend
- Members must **pre-register before July 12**
- There is no cost to register
- Log in to the website through the button in the top right corner
- Click on the Events Page and find AGM 2020 in the list, or on the Events Calendar, or Click on the AGM Banner link
- Click on the REGISTER NOW button. Be sure to confirm your registration information at the bottom of the page  
[www.ormta.org/2020AGM](http://www.ormta.org/2020AGM)

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- As an ORMTA Member you are also a member of the Canadian Federation of Music Teachers' Associations (CFMTA). The CFMTA is a Canada-wide federation of music teachers encompassing ten provinces and one territory, with over 3500 members nationwide
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- Involvement in a Provincial organization which is working towards exceptional music education, awareness of the benefits of music programs, and opportunities for sharing with colleagues and students

**ORMTA members are part of a professional association of music teachers who have attained substantiated educational credentials and teaching experience.**



## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

### ARTICLES

All submissions must be received by the NOTES editor by the following deadlines: May 1 (summer issue), October 1 (fall issue), February 1 (spring issue). The editor prefers that all text be sent by e-mail using Microsoft Word. Reports from the Branches and OCTA biographies are limited to 400 words. Written permission must accompany all text where applicable.

### PHOTOS

High resolution colour photos in .jpg format are preferred. Email photos directly to: [paddy@coppernoise.com](mailto:paddy@coppernoise.com)

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### NOTES FOR NON-MEMBERS

Non-ORMTA members may receive NOTES by submitting an annual fee to ORMTA Secretary-Registrar Sandra DiCienzo at [secretaryregistrar@ormta.org](mailto:secretaryregistrar@ormta.org), phone 289-501-1301

### NOTES EDITOR

Please send material for review to:

Patrick McCormick - Notes Editor

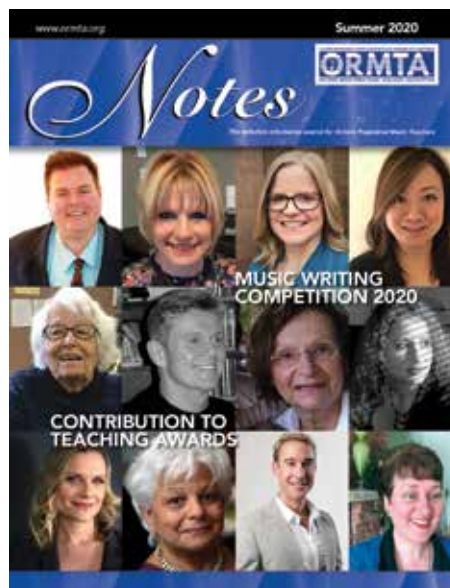
158 McRoberts Avenue,

Toronto M6E 4P5

Tel: (416) 554 3998

email: [paddy@coppernoise.com](mailto:paddy@coppernoise.com)

[www.ormta.org](http://www.ormta.org)



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# Calendar of Events 2020

<b>June 22</b>	Deadline for Branches to voice questions/concerns to Zone Reps prior to Summer Council Meeting
<b>June 30</b>	Deadline to submit Matters for Voting ballots
<b>June 30</b>	Deadline for Branches to make Zone Representative nominations
<b>July 1</b>	Provincial Membership fees are due
<b>July 1</b>	Deadline for Branches to provide the ORMTA Head Office with their Executive for the next school year
<b>July 12</b>	Deadline to register for the 2020 AGM
<b>July 20</b>	Annual General Meeting - online through Zoom. Details will be provided to registrants via email
<b>September 11-12</b>	2020 ORMTA Convention - <b>CANCELLED</b>
<b>October 1</b>	Deadline for Fall/Winter issue of NOTES

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# Greetings!

from your  
**NOTES Editor!**

Congratulations to the Contribution to Teaching Award recipients. The biographies of the winners certainly reflect a remarkable range of individual accomplishments as well as a total commitment to their profession/art.

Be sure to check out the winners of the Canada Music Week Music Writing Competition.

Congratulations to all the student composers and their teachers on their fantastic work.

Please stay safe during these demanding times and let the music play on!

Patrick McCormick  
Editor

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## From the President

ORMTA members, along with the entire world have been faced with extraordinary challenges during this ongoing pandemic. I want to commend you all for your tenacity in these uncertain times. Many of you went to online teaching formats with your students. However, I recognize that it wasn't always ideal and that many members have taken a financial hit to their studio revenue. CFMTA sent a letter to the Prime Minister and all the Premiers outlining your unique situation in order to be included as a profession in their emergency funding for lost revenue. By the time NOTES magazine comes out there may be a solution. ORMTA Council gave members several ideas through emails, Accent and on the website of how to adapt studio lessons.

Thank goodness for technology! Teachers have become better educated in its use for the studio and many signed up for free webinars and professional development offered outside ORMTA (MTNA, Francis Clark Institute, Tim Topham etc). I consider myself pretty tech savvy but learned how to position my camera and microphone better, as well as how to organize an efficient and organized lesson. Some teachers discovered that in the future they need to improve on the quality of studio technology, others discovered a need to improve their studio library. In all cases, we as teachers certainly have been stretched and have become extremely creative! Piano lessons have become more than just hands on the instrument and the change in how we teach has given opportunity for students to improve their listening, theory and composing skills through apps and games. We also appreciate parents who have had to monitor practice and activities much more closely, all the while trying to work from home and keep the students engaged.

This is my final NOTES letter as President of ORMTA. I'm sorry that I cannot see you all at the 2020 ORMTA Convention in Niagara Falls due to the pandemic situation. We thank the organizing branch for all their hard work in planning over these past 2 years. What a disappointment for them and for us; however, we're excited to announce that 2022 will be in Kingston. This will give us all something fun to look forward to professionally. ORMTA is still discussing options for future competitions as we move forward and especially if the pandemic situation dictates creativity.



Council has continued to function quite well online and I commend ORMTA's Communications officer Alessandra Matthews for her tireless, persistent, and absolutely essential and invaluable work! One of the greatest tasks was to get the new website up and running. We hope that you have had a chance to navigate through it and find all the information you require.

I personally want to thank Laura Gray, 1st Vice President for taking on a huge amount of the Presidential workload during my unexpected absence. She has had a little head start and is totally prepared to take on the full role as your new President of ORMTA. We welcome her and wish her all the best in her new role as representative of ORMTA to the Province and CFMTA.

As you wind up your teaching and enter into summer mode, I wish you all good health and safety; we all remain hopeful that our profession can remain a light in the darkness for students and families. Hang in there and seize every opportunity to improve upon yourself professionally so that your students can be the best they can be!

*Kathy Schmidt*



# From the Branches

## BRANTFORD

The Brantford branch of ORMTA has had a busy year of making music! This fall we sponsored a workshop in October with Clayton Scott. This was titled "Perfectionist Child - Perfectionist Parent." She gave practical helps to be used in everyday lessons. This was well attended and enjoyed by all. Our Halloween Recital was held at a local Seniors home. Some performers were in costumes. A highlight was the attendance of one of the residents who was a founding member of the Brantford Branch.

Christmas in the community was held in the lobby at our local Wayne Gretzky Sports arena in early December. Various studios entertained community members with solo and group performances of festive music!

In January some of our teachers met at a local restaurant for a breakfast meet. The food was good and the fellowship enjoyed by all.

In February, local string students enjoyed a masterclass workshop with Joy Schuster, conductor of the Cambridge Youth Orchestra.

As with all our ORMTA branches,

our pre-festival recital, along with our annual music festival, had to be postponed due to Covid-19.

Many teachers have rose to the challenging task of doing online lessons.

Hopefully by September, things will be back to normal, so we can all resume our usual schedules.

– Rosalyn Dargie

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## HAMILTON-HALTON

As the COVID-19 pandemic and imposed "self distancing" restrictions have affected every facet of our personal and professional lives, to a greater degree meetings and online teaching have become the "new normal" for Hamilton-Halton members. For those savvy music educators in our branch who have been teaching online for decades, it was business as usual. Dr. Christopher Foley our current Past President is on such "visionary" who has been an advocate for online teaching. Foley often remarked that it provided greater opportunity for teachers to expand their studio business beyond the borders with the potential for increase income when it attracted students

from different parts of the world.

In addition, it also allowed for becoming more skillful in the use of technology. Therefore, giving and receiving of knowledge and other resources are much more prevalent in this "virtual reality" environment integrated within an abundant real world.

For many, like me, the idea of teaching online initially met with some reluctance as it meant not having that personal hands-on interactivity with our students during the in studio lesson session. But, in order to thrive through these ever changing and uncertain times to continue to offer a valuable education while still managing to keep business up and running in the "needs-must" for both student and teacher, it presented another opportunity for professional development. Intentionally, the Executive was able to schedule a free online webinar on Wednesday, March 25 with clinician, Allison Vest. Participants were guided through the process of how to set up for Teaching Music Online using the required devices, and recommended Apps created to deliver the best in visual and audio connections. With over 20 individuals who signed in, this informative workshop went of quite well with Q & A / comments in the chat box.

## From the Branches



My colleagues and I congratulate Tom Oliver for being selected to receive the OCTA. As a long standing Hamilton-Halton member, Oliver's impressive biography precedes him as it underscores the professional and personal contributions he has made over the decades as an outstanding educator in musical theatre mentoring students in his private studio, and humbly and generously giving back to the community.

Cancellations of branch recitals and competitions have redirected members to find more innovative / creative ways to keep their students motivated and engaged in the online teaching platform. Looking back, this unprecedented pandemic has blessed us in more ways than one!

– Kamara Hennessey

### KITCHENER WATERLOO

Here in KW, we are coping as well as we can, and like everyone else, trying to keep our heads above water as we learn how to manage our students and family commitments in this unprecedented time. Our tireless member Jen Carter hosted a Zoom meeting for our branch in early March, to help many of us learn about remote teaching and we continue to support each other with a regular WhatsApp chat. One can only marvel at the ingenuity and creative teaching all around us and appreciate how fortunate we are to be music educators.

In what seems like the distant past now, we hosted a very successful Pops Recital in February, with three separate recitals, including an exclusively adult concert. All

participants came prepared with a wide variety of pop repertoire and the smiles were plentiful all around.

Our branch workshop on teaching Harmony was well attended in early March, with guest Francine Regaudie-McIsaac, an engaging and informative speaker.

As with all other branches, we are reeling with the cancellations of our competitions and spring events but all look forward to resuming our regular ORMTA activities when we can safely do so. Thanks to Patrick for his work on Notes and to all our council members making many tough decisions and leading us into the new normal.

– Susan Robinson



# From the Branches

## NORTH BAY

As I began to prepare to write this report for Notes, I instinctively looked up our Branch Event Schedule and my heart sank. What is there to write? Everything has been cancelled or post-poned!

But after some reflection, I soon realized that although many of our official branch events are not running, there are in fact, many things to share and celebrate. I am reminded of a quote by Mary Anne Radmacher "Unexpected events can set you back or set you up. It's all a matter of perspective." I have witnessed many teacher's looking to improve their online lessons and searching for suggestions on how to best meet their student's needs. We have had ORMTA students submit video performances to our local Symphony who organized an online community night for everyone to play "Ode to Joy" from their homes at the same time. Together we shared creativity and innovation.

We are helping students navigate a new RCM examination experience. This event in time has given us an opportunity to show what we are truly capable

of accomplishing. But more than anything, I am thankful for the community of ORMTA. Sharing our struggles and victories with each other is what I love about our branch. We are more than colleagues and members. We are friends who listen, share and encourage each other to grow in our professional and personal lives.

I hope that you are also feeling "set-up" for success in this crazy new world we find ourselves living in. If you are feeling "set-back" please reach out to your local branch. We are here to help.

– Jennifer Levitan

## OTTAWA

We held 3 masterclasses in collaboration with the University of Ottawa School of Music: a violin/viola masterclass with Prof.

Yehonatan on January 19, a piano masterclass with Prof. Frédéric Lacoix on February 2, and a piano masterclass with Prof. David Jalbert on March 1. All sessions were well attended. Thanks to organizer Katerina Jovic.

Our First Class Honours Recital was held at the Carleton Dominion-Chalmers Centre on January 26 with 37 students from 21 different teachers performing. Several practical and theory scholarships were awarded. An enjoyable time was had by all and thank you to organizers Danielle McIntyre and Meg lwaskow.

Our first information sharing session of the year was held on January 16. Dr. James McGowan was our clinician and spoke on experiential learning. Many thanks to Hoda Nassim for hosting this event.



## From the Branches



Unfortunately, as the current situation developed, we were forced to cancel several events, including our ORMTA Competitions and Junior Piano Masterclass. We hope to hold our May AGM via Zoom. We wish to congratulate Hoda Nassim on being our OCTA recipient. Here's hoping we will all see each other in person soon.

– Kimberley Sundell

### TIMMINS

Greetings from the Timmins Branch! We look forward to the arrival of Summer and warmer weather. During this unusual Spring of social isolation and distancing due to COVID-19, many of our teachers were able to utilize online technology to continue teaching; others had to take an unplanned hiatus.

As with other ORMTA Branches, our Spring concert had to be cancelled, as well as the 80th annual Porcupine Music Festival de Musique.

Our Branch has made plans to hold a Canada Music Week concert on

November 24, 2020, provided our society is back to normal again. We have not had a Canada Music Week concert in many years, so it will be a welcome addition to our Branch activities. Scholarships will be awarded to students who achieved the highest marks for the 2019 and 2020 conservatory practical examinations.

Stay safe and healthy, and happy teaching,

– Audrey Jean Wells

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## Etobicoke-Mississauga Branch presents:

*From Instruction to Inspiration: New  
Paradigms in Teaching Analysis*

with Joe Ringhofer



**Christ Church**

1700 Mazo Cres., Mississauga, ON

August 17-18, 9-12

August 19, 9-2

Contact:

**Virginia Taylor**

416-742-6429;

[viriniataylor@sympatico.ca](mailto:viriniataylor@sympatico.ca), to register.

\$190.00 earlybird July 15, 2020

\$200.00 late registration & at the door

(fees include lunch on Wednesday followed by a one hour Q and A)

**Question: "Do you teach Analysis?"**

**Correct Answer: "Yes" ... because we all teach analysis in some form starting in the earliest practical lessons up through the advanced levels!**

*This summer we will focus on the ARCT Analysis material including: harmonic analysis, fugal analysis, binary/ternary forms, sonata and rondo forms, an exploration of art song, and a survey of post-1900 techniques.*

***This seminar will benefit all teachers*** who would like to brush-up on their abilities to deconstruct music. For the only thing more important than providing our students with "the answers" is teaching them what questions to ask of the music they play and to listen too!!

*Come and be part of this dynamic network of teachers!*

Joe Ringhofer 2020



SPOTLIGHT ON FORMER ORMTA YOUNG ARTISTS:

# 2016 WINNER: ANDREW FU

By Sheila Vandikas and Andrew Fu



**Sheila Vandikas:** In this fourth article on a former ORMTA Young Artist, we highlight Andrew Fu. Andrew is not in a music program but continues to pursue his passion for music. When I first met Andrew, he was a young high school student, travelling far to take lessons with Dr. Michael Esch. At the studio, Andrew had many conversations with my oldest son, who continues to enjoy music at a high level, but chose to pursue a degree in computer science instead. Andrew was studying with Koichi Inoue while in university. When he won the Young Artist Competition in 2016, he was in a dilemma about managing the Young Artist Tour, though he chose to do it. I have heard of Andrew's continued performances and cannot help but think that one's passion for music never fades no matter where they are in life. Although the Young Artist Concert Tour is one of many highlights in a performer's life, it is usually one of the important stepping stones toward their many musical successes.

**Andrew Wu:** My background is not in music, but I have gained much from the Young Artists program nonetheless. I graduated from the University of Waterloo with a degree unrelated to music. Still participated in chamber ensembles at Conrad Grebel University College, under Professor Ben Bolt-Martin, and I attended the K-W Symphony several times. It is an orchestra that keeps outdoing themselves, and in my opinion, one of the best in Canada.

I was in the middle of my undergrad studies during the Young Artist Competition. I was hesitant to enter, and even to do the tour. My mom and my teacher urged me to do it. I have since learned not to shy away from opportunities, daunting as they may be.

Where has the Young Artist Competition led me to? It has led me to meet many amazing and generous teachers, students, and parents. I met a great many different people – moms, dads, businesspeople, manufacturing workers, new immigrants, naturalized Canadians – all of whom are integral to supporting music in our communities, without whom I, and the music we enjoy, would be nothing. It has also led me to enjoy sharing music and connecting with the audience, for without their attendance, no performance is possible. I spoke in Mandarin to Chinese parents after my Windsor performance about mistakes (which don't matter) and interpretation (which does matter!) in music performance. I was asked "how do you do it?" by teachers and students. I'm not sure myself; I only know that one must never quit, and that it is possible to enjoy music, regardless of one's background. It had also led me to the CFMTA competition, where I left empty-handed. It was very frustrating and it spoiled Baltimore for me, but also drove me to rethink my playing. It also underscored the importance of playing music primarily for enjoyment, be it our own or others'. Everything else is

secondary. Post competition, the experience has led me to other stages in Toronto and Kitchener, and performances at a level higher than I thought possible from myself. I was invited to join the Rose Orchestra Brampton in Carnival of the Animals in February. It was a wonderful opportunity to support my local community, and quite possibly the pinnacle of multi-tasking.

I extend my sincere gratitude to my teachers: Sylvia Hajetian; Paule Kerluke; Michael Esch, without whom I would never be able to play as I do now; and Koichi Inoue, who added a new dimension to my perception of music. To me it seems wildly improbable that I should still be playing music at all. But it is a part of my identity, and one that I owe to the efforts of everyone at ORMTA.

If you would like to know more about Andrew, you can watch his performances on YouTube. Here's a link to one of his concerts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97bQejhmleg>

For performance opportunities, he can be reached at [qwertyqrw@yahoo.ca](mailto:qwertyqrw@yahoo.ca)

**If you are a former Young Artist, please get in touch - we want to hear from you!**

**Contact Sheila Vandikas at: [s.vandikas@ormta.org](mailto:s.vandikas@ormta.org).**

# PEDAGOGY AWARD 2020 | **MARILYN SHANTZ**



*Recipient - Marilyn Shantz*



*Teacher - Joanne Bender*



Marilyn is passionate about instilling a love of music in her students. Her love for music was initially nurtured by exceptional music teachers in school, with her first instrument being the violin. She began piano lessons at a later age, when it became a possibility, and started teaching soon after.

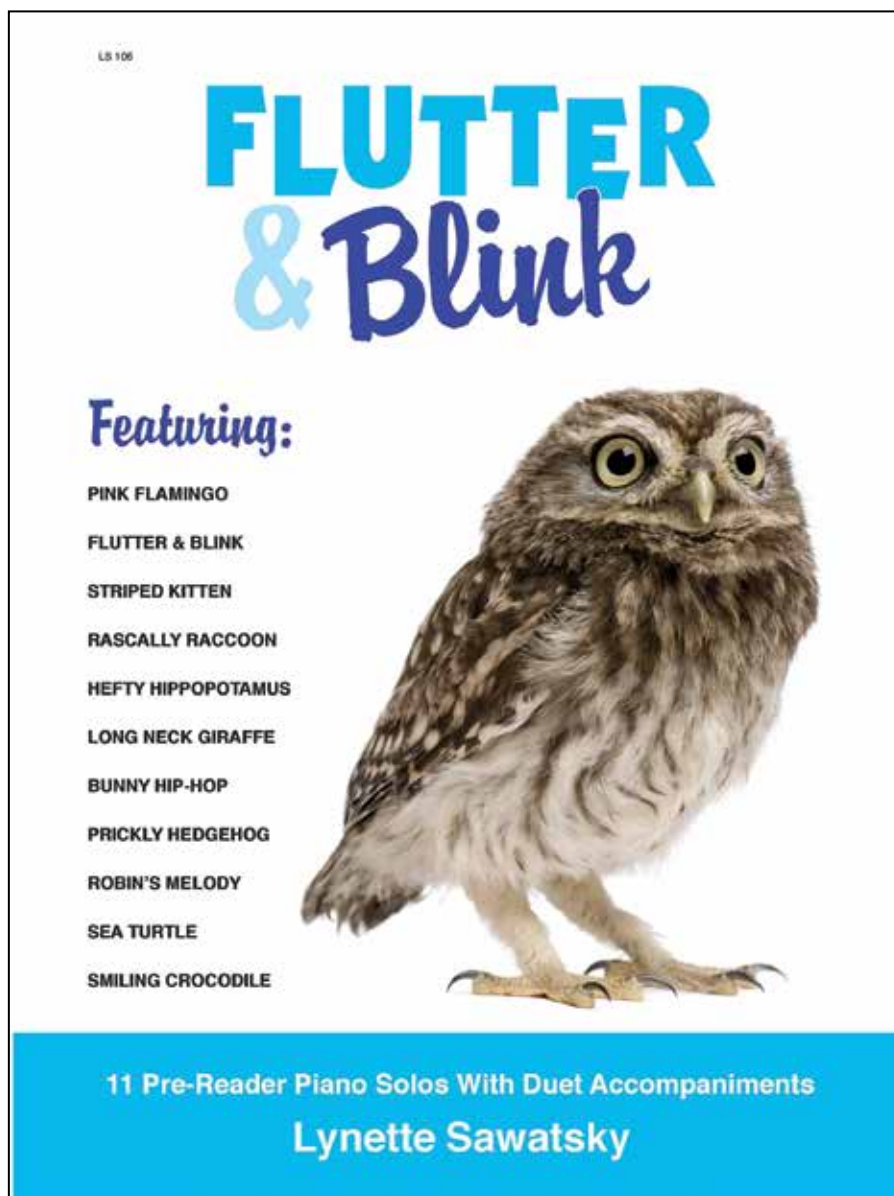
For Marilyn, the joy and fulfillment in reaching students' hearts, watching them achieve their goals, win scholarships, receive their high school credits and create meaning and purpose in their life, makes teaching an honour and a privilege.

One of her greatest accomplishments has been caring for developmentally disabled and autistic adults through music. Ever since the door opened for Marilyn, it has been a challenging and rewarding experience. The language of music has the ability to reach everyone and the impact it has is unspeakable!

Marilyn thanks her teachers, Carolyn Bearinger, Joanne Bender (pedagogy) and Erin Coffey (theory) for their inspiration, insight and expertise through the years.

The quote by Bach is hung in her studio, *"The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul."*

# BOOK



*Lynette Sawatsky,*

# REVIEW

Laura Gray - Ontario

## FLUTTER & BLINK

By Lynette Sawatsky, Saskatchewan

### Pre-Reader Piano Solos with Duet Accompaniments

Published by Debra Wanless Music, 2018

Flutter & Blink will quickly become a young student's favourite collection, creating a 'big' sound on the piano, with musical and memorable patterns. The 11 pre-reader pieces capture the varied animal characters of their titles, and give little fingers an endless imagination.

Several pieces use the black keys, which compliments many beginner piano series, but the composer explores creative combinations of black and white keys. Striped Kitten (pew!) is based on the whole tone scale, while Rascally Raccoon adds some mischievous chromaticism.

The compositions give children the opportunity to explore the full range of the piano keyboard and its capabilities with dynamics, articulation, optional damper pedal, and octave transposition. The Long Neck Giraffe is elegant as it reaches from low C, to middle C, and crosses over to high C as it stretches its neck to reach the tree tops.

Pieces like Hefty Hippopotamus contrast perfectly with Robin's Melody to discover dynamics and major and minor tonalities. Bunny Hip Hop will have students relating to legato and staccato touch as the bunny hips and hops around, wiggling his long ears.

Each piece is supported with a fun teacher accompaniment, but the solos are excellent stand-alone music, and a wonderful choice for a Canada Music Week event. The students will enjoy Lynette's creative lyrics which support the pedagogical concepts found in the music, and you might even hear them singing along.

## NOT ALONE

Lynette Sawatsky, March, 2020

Not Alone is piano music for a time of staying home, being separated, but not alone. Lynette reached out to thousands of piano teachers and students, and many came together to learn the step-by-step music which she shared over a five-week period. Pianists "joined" with Lynette each Friday afternoon on her YouTube channel to perform what they had learned that week. The lyrical and gentle piece had modified versions to accommodate more levels of ability, and by playing along with Lynette's recordings students developed listening skills in timing, rubato, dynamic expression, and phrasing. I also expect that a few of them realized that they need to call the piano tuner when the restrictions are lifted.

Follow along with Canada's own Lynette Sawatsky as she has more projects planned for sharing music and connecting musicians during the pandemic.



# *Contribution to Teaching Award 2019*



**Arianne Ewing-Chow**

NORTH YORK/YORK REGION

Arianne Ewing-Chow is a piano teacher, examiner with the Royal Conservatory of Music, and an experienced adjudicator. Her passion and desire in her teaching life, is to merge the students' emotions with the written output of the composer, to create an intended musical expression. Arianne attended international masterclasses in Bad Bertrich, Germany where she studied with John Perry, and gained much insight under Brian Ganz and Luis de Moura Castro at the Almalfi Coast Music Festival. She was most fortunate to perform in the very first ten-piano monster concert in Rome and Toronto organized by Toyich International Projects. She has organized 'Music with a Cause' concerts to raise funds for various charities. Arianne attended the GGPS and U of T for her music studies, under the guidance of Boyanna Toyich. She is a member of the ORMTA North-York York Region branch where she serves as the Awards Festival Convener.



**Doranne Minotti**

NIAGARA FALLS

Doranne Minotti began her musical studies at the age of four. She studied privately for fourteen years with Jacqueline Dingman and Rivoli Iesulauro, after which she moved to Waterloo, where she received her Degree in Piano Performance from Wilfrid Laurier University. After performing professionally for seven years, Doranne shifted her focus to teaching, which she has enjoyed immensely for the past 29 years. Doranne has been a member of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association's (ORMTA) Board of Examiners and was a member of the Provincial Council of ORMTA for nine years. She completed her term as ORMTA Provincial President in 2008. In her hometown of Niagara Falls, Doranne teaches piano at Princess Margaret Elementary School and maintains her own private teaching studio. She remains robustly involved with her local ORMTA Branch and is active as a music festival adjudicator across Ontario.

## *Contribution to Teaching Award 2019*



**Lynn Pigeon**

TIMMINS

Lynn Pigeon began piano lessons at the age of six in Timmins, Ontario. After high school, she attended The University of Western Ontario in the Honours Bachelor of Music program. She attended Dawson College in Montreal and received a diploma in Community Recreation Leadership Training. For ten years Lynn held the position of recreation instructor at the Cochrane-Temiskaming Resource Centre in Timmins, working with mentally and physically challenged adults. Lynn then attended the Royal Conservatory of Music to complete theoretical courses with Larysa Kuzmenko, history courses with Janet Lopinski, and had private piano lessons with Boyanna Toyich and Earle Moss. For one year she replaced the music therapist in Timmins elementary schools, working with children with special needs. She maintains a particular interest in teaching private music lessons to students with developmental difficulties. Lynn has been an ORMTA member for thirteen years, and is currently President of the Timmins Branch.



**Eric Shaw**

CENTRAL TORONTO

Eric Shaw has established an international reputation through performances at a number of renowned musical centres.

Presently, Eric is busy with his private voice and piano studio that he has been building for the past 20 years. Eric is currently a supply music teacher as well as an assistant conductor, accompanist and répétiteur for North Toronto Collegiate, Lawrence Park Collegiate and Rosedale Heights school choirs. He is also an accompanist for vocal students. For the past two years, Eric has been music director at St. Clement's High School in Toronto.

Some other passions outside of one-on-one teaching include presenting choral workshops for various choirs. Eric also has adjudicated various festivals and has recently completed his training for the Royal Conservatory Adjudicator certification program. Eric is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and has been a member of ORMTA since 2008.

Eric is truly humbled and gratified to receive the OCTA award this season.

# *Contribution to Teaching Award 2019*



**Judi Ayotte**

MARKHAM-STOUFFVILLE

Judi Ayotte began piano and theory lessons at the age of twelve. Upon graduating from high school, Judi trained as a nurse at the Regina Grey Nuns Hospital. Judi and her family, including four children, moved to Markham, ON in 1970 and she resumed piano lessons in 1976 with Nadine Nidle at Loretta Abbey and theory with Molly Slater, Joe Marcello and Bill Andrews. She obtained her Associate Diploma (ARCT) in 1981 and a year later helped form the ORMTA Markham-Stouffville Branch with Paula Brown and Doris Bates. In following years, she served in various positions including President, Secretary and Treasurer.

She is currently the Education Convenor. Judi continues her own education by frequently attending teaching workshops. Judi's goal in teaching – ages 6 to 80 – is to instill a love for music and awareness of the benefits of music. Judi has always determined to never belittle a student and no student leaves her studio without her having pointed out at least one musical accomplishment. She has contributed to her community as a singalong accompanist at a nursing home for 8 years, an accompanist for high school student at their instrumental exams, and a pianist at social parties. Judi looks back on the past forty years as an amazing and fulfilling journey that it continues to be.



**Laura Gray**

HANOVER-WALKERTON

Laura Gray completed an Honours Bachelor of Music in 1998, and began teaching piano. As a member of ORMTA Laura has served as Treasurer and President of the Hanover-Walkerton Branch and is currently the North Central Zone Rep and Provincial Vice President. In 2009 she completed an Associate Diploma in Piano Pedagogy through CNCM, where she serves as an examiner. Laura taught the MYC program from 2009-2016.

Laura also volunteers as convenor of the Palmerston Canada Music Week Festival, sings in a community choir, takes up the role of Musical Director for local theatre productions, and works as a church organist. She lives in Harriston with her husband and her 2 children.



## *Contribution to Teaching Award 2019*



### **Marnie Van Weelden**

KITCHENER-WATERLOO

Dr. Marnie Van Weelden enjoys a versatile career as a pianist and devoted teacher. After completing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in piano performance and pedagogy from the University of Michigan, she joined the faculty of Wilfrid Laurier University in 2007 where she teaches piano and piano pedagogy. She has also maintained a private piano studio for over twenty years. She is in demand as a festival adjudicator, workshop clinician on technical choreography and injury prevention, and she is a member of the Royal Conservatory's College of Examiners. Marnie strives to pursuing a meaningful connection between teaching, performing, and community engagement. She regularly performs both as a soloist and in her duo, Blondes on 88, with pianist Rebekah Jordan-Miller in various concert series and charity events to support the arts and other community initiatives. Marnie is both grateful and humbled to be honoured with an OCTA award this year!



### **Hoda Nassim**

OTTAWA REGION

Hoda Nassim: Born in Cairo, Egypt, Hoda Nassim received her primary education in a private school and began piano lessons at age 11. She was chosen for the National Conservatory of Music, where she studied with Melita Lorkovic. Her mentors included Alfred Cortot, Lazare Lévy, and Stanislav Stancec.

Hoda's university studies required her to learn a second instrument and she was assigned the pedal harp. At 18 she performed Beethoven's 2nd piano concerto with the Cairo Symphony Orchestra. After immigrating to Canada, Hoda taught at UOttawa's School of Music, Carleton University, and for the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Hoda is the Director of Arpa Nova and has been a member of ORMTA for 51 years and of The Musical Arts Club of Ottawa since 1969. Hoda's hobbies include nature walks, reading, dancing, swimming and socializing. She feels blessed by her 2 children (Mark and Tania) and 3 grandchildren (David, Maia and Malek).

# *Contribution to Teaching Award 2019*



**Michael Faulkner**

KINGSTON

Michael Faulkner's passion and life is music. Michael began musical studies at age four, participating in music festivals and receiving many top awards. He studied at Queen's University and the Royal Conservatory of Music (A.R.C.T., Piano and Voice). Michael has enjoyed a rewarding, 36-year career as teacher, performer, collaborative pianist, church musician, adjudicator, workshop and masterclass clinician and Conservatory Canada examiner. He is an active member of the ORMTA, Kingston Branch and is currently Eastern Zone rep for Provincial Council. He sits on the Ontario Music Festivals Association Board and local festival boards.

Known for musical insight, beautiful tone, and technical command, Michael fosters his students' ability to collaborate with others and share a common goal—the joy of music. Michael directs a 60-voice choir, which performs two annual concerts for charity. Alongside his passion for music, Michael is an avid animal lover and enjoys theatre, gardening, travelling and hiking.



**Joy Lippert**

OXFORD COUNTY - WOODSTOCK

Joy Lippert grew up in the town of Mitchell, Ontario, starting piano lessons at the age of 5. At the age of 16, having achieved her Grade 8 piano, she started teaching piano, going from house to house on her bicycle. She also studied organ in Mitchell, later spending her summers in Toronto studying organ and school music at what was then the Toronto Conservatory.

Joy achieved Grade 8 voice, Grade 9 violin, ARCT piano, and ARCCO organ certificates, studying with a variety of teachers including Irwin Luther, Henry Clark and Cora Ahrens. She originally joined ORMTA as a member of Stratford Branch, later transferring to Oxford County/ Woodstock Branch, where she was an active, contributing member until recently. She was also very involved in the Woodstock Rotary Festival of Music.

Joy has worked as a church organist for a total of 51 years and taught piano in Woodstock well into her 80's. Joy celebrated her 90th birthday in September 2019, surrounded by family, friends and ORMTA colleagues.

## *Contribution to Teaching Award 2019*



**Tom Oliver**

HAMILTON-HALTON

Tom Oliver is in high demand as a voice teacher and adjudicator. His studio, Voice Concepts, (Hamilton ON.) has prepared and trained young singers for Universities and Colleges throughout North America. He has trained artists with the Shaw and Stratford Festivals, Broadway (Jersey Boys, Rock of Ages, and Book of Mormons) Dancap, Theatre Aquarius. In 2016, Tom co-founded The Hamilton Music Festival with colleague, Diane Manojlovich. From 2004 to 2019, Tom collaborated as a member of the Voice Faculty at Sheridan College Music Theatre (Hon. BA. Music Theatre and Performing Arts Preparatory Divisions). Tom is a graduate of The San Francisco Conservatory of Music (BA. MUS). He performed as principal artist with Sacramento Opera, Vancouver Symphony and Opera Company, Canadian Opera Company, Rainbow Stage, Theatre Plus, Canada Opera Piccola. Tom began his teaching career in his final year of University. He retired from performance in 1993 to continue his voice research in neuro-science application to vocal production.



**Linda Indovina**

ETOBICOKE - MISSISSAUGA

Linda Indovina grew up in a home full of music. Her father was a talented singer in Toronto who sang in local shows and once shared dinner and a few songs with the legendary operatic tenor Luciano Pavarotti. She has more than 25 years of experience in piano theory and practical lessons and runs the Linda Gray Piano Academy out of her home in Oakville.

She is a multi-time winner of the Steinway teacher of the year award. The award is given annually to a teacher in the Greater Toronto Area for outstanding instruction and leadership in piano education. She is also on the executive board of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers Association Etobicoke-Mississauga branch and on the board for the Contemporary Showcase of Canada.

Linda is also appreciative of the many executive and fellow members in the ORMTA Etobicoke-Mississauga branch who have generously nominated her for this special honour.



# ORMTA MEMBER HAPPENINGS



Did you or your student receive a prestigious award or scholarship? Have you written a paper or article on some pedagogical topic? Did you perform a concert or release a CD? We want to hear from you!

You're invited to submit interesting going's on in your musical life. Email NOTES Editor, Patrick McCormick, your name, ORMTA branch, text (20 words or less) and a picture (optional). Your news could be included in a future issue of NOTES Magazine.





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# Music Writing Competition



## JOHN BURGE

Dr. John Burge (b.1961) holds degrees in Composition and Theory from the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia. He obtained his Associate Diploma of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Piano Performance while still in high school in Calgary. Since 1987 he has been teaching at Queen's University, where he holds the position of Full Professor.

A prolific, Juno-winning composer of solo, chamber, choral and orchestral music, he has also composed an opera and one-woman show based on the life of Mata Hari and finds himself increasingly drawn to music for the theatre. Academic honours include a Queen's University Prize for Excellence in Research in 2013 and, for both his success as a composer and service to the Arts in Canada, he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2014. He is a member of the Red Leaf Pianoworks' composers collective, and a number of his piano compositions can be found on conservatory syllabi.

Burge is a member of the Red Leaf Pianoworks collective and is in demand across Canada as a music festival adjudicator in the areas of piano and composition.

For more information do check out:  
[www.johnburge.ca](http://www.johnburge.ca)

**The Elephant Dance**  
 P1 - 8 Years and Under  
 Raya Campbell

*In a playfully ponderous manner*  
 ♩ = 120

Piano

### Class P1:

**1st Place:** Raya Campbell  
 Teacher: Rachelle Courtney  
 (London Branch)

**2nd Place:** Waaseyaa Couchi  
 Teacher: Rachelle Courtney  
 (London Branch)

**3rd Place:** William Palma  
 Teacher: Jeryl-Anne Churchill  
 (London Branch)

### Class A1:

**1st Place:** Oliver Lo  
 Teacher: Avila Lotoski  
 (Central Toronto Branch)

**2nd Place:** Helia Lotoski-Todd  
 Teacher: Avila Lotoski  
 (Central Toronto Branch)

**3rd Place:** Soraya Godfrey  
 Teacher: Natalia Ryjanovskaia  
 (Central Toronto Branch)

**3rd Place:** Connor Mahon  
 Teacher: Matthew Gartshore  
 (Kitchener/Waterloo)

**HM:** Orly Ross  
 Teacher: Elizabeth Shannon (Central Toronto)

**HM:** Melissa Ann Mavers  
 Teacher: Elanna Foster (London Branch)

**HM:** Tony Liu  
 Teacher: Elanna Foster (London Branch)

**Helicopter Ride over Coronado Bay**  
 Oliver Lo

♩ = 60  
*The propellers start turning*

Piano

*con pedale* *accel. poco a poco* *f*

Cajón

*f*

♩ = 100  
*The helicopter goes up*

Pno.

*f*

*Flying over Coronado Bay*

Pno.

*p*

## Anthony Morassutti



© 2019 Anthony Morganti

Teacher: Jen Smith Lanthier (Owen Sound Branch)

## Sky Yang

Sky Yang Copyright ©2021

Teacher: Rachelle Courtney (London Branch)

## R2 = 15 years and under

### With Inspiration

 $\lambda = 130$ 

Marissa Gorse



Teacher: Rachelle Courtney (London Branch)

# Music Writing Competition

**Fantasy for Concert Band** Eric Bouchard

## Class C:

**1st Place:** Eric Bourchard

Teacher: Catherine Donkin (Ottawa Branch)

**2nd Place:** Anna Bartlam

Teacher: Rachelle Courtney (London Branch)

**2nd Place:** Quinn Bales D'Cruze

Teacher: Susan Griesdale  
 (Newmarket & Area Branch)

**3rd Place:** Brandon Sambrano

Teacher: Maria Case (Central Toronto Branch)

**3rd Place:** Kimberly Yang

Teacher: Laura Sgroi  
 (North York/York Region Branch)

**HM:** Brandon Sambrano

Teacher: Maria Case (Central Toronto Branch)

**HM:** Griffin Hook

Teacher: Laura Sgroi (North York/York Region Branch)

**HM:** Nicholas Orcsik

Teacher: Thomas Green (Windsor-Essex Branch)

## Class D:

**1st Place:** Griffin Hook

Teacher: Laura Sgroi (North York/York Region Branch)

**2nd Place:** Sarah Dolan

Teacher: Mary Muckle (Ottawa Region Branch)

**3rd Place:** Matthew Montani

Teacher: Leon Karan (Hamilton-Halton Branch)

**HM:** Brice Hall

Teacher: Natasha Finlay (Central Toronto Branch)

**A Trumpeter's Lament** Griffin Hook

**Moderato** (♩ = c. 112)  
 Wallow in Sadness



ORMTA 2020



Niagara Falls



# **Canceled**

**We're so sorry to see it  
happen, but it's the  
responsible choice.**

**Full refunds will be issued on all  
registrations. Thanks to  
everyone involved for your  
cooperation!**

All events at Marriott on the Falls

**ONTARIO REGISTERED MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

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# Dear Teaching Colleague

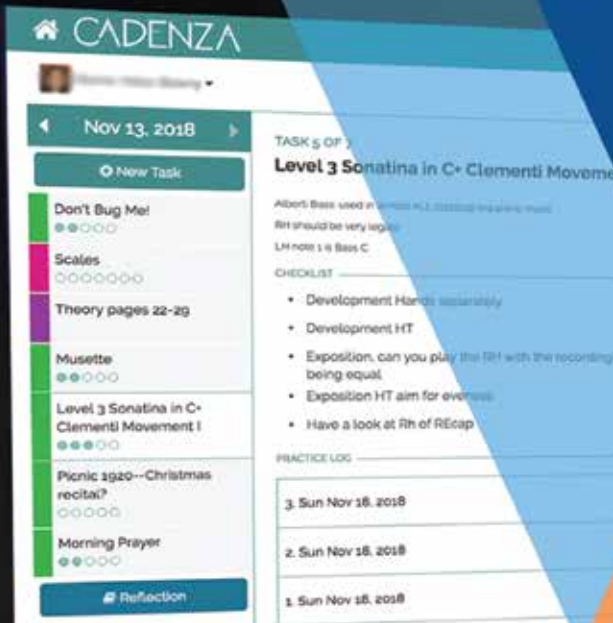


Do you need advice on overcoming a tricky teaching situation? Have you exhausted all techniques in trying to help that student and nothing seems to work?

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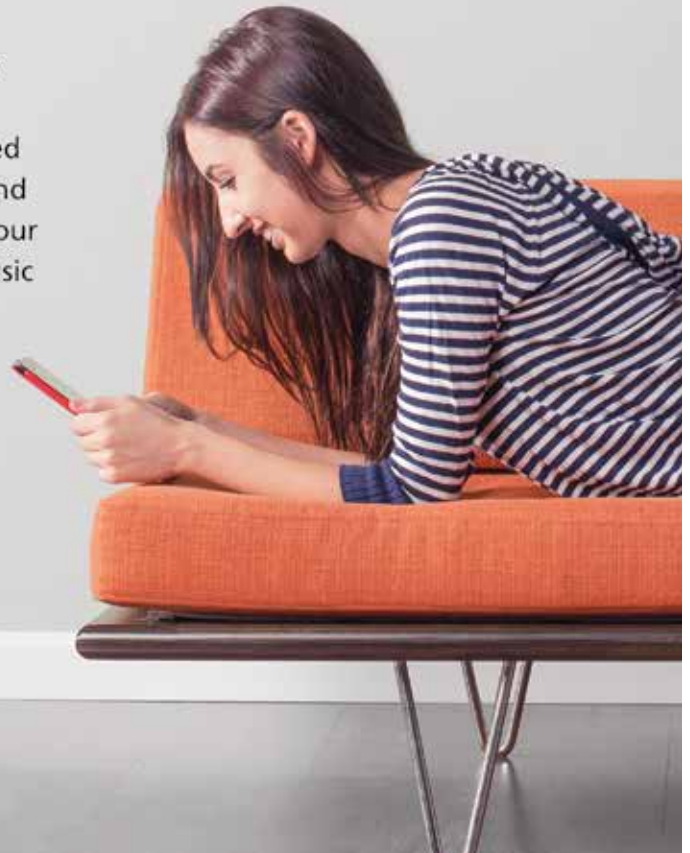
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# FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

SANDRA DICIENZO | [secretaryregistrar@ormta.org](mailto:secretaryregistrar@ormta.org)

The seasons of Spring and Summer offer us the feelings of freshness and renewal. Why not harness those energies by taking a few moments to log into the new ORMTA website and update your profile?

You can now add a personal biography on your listing and give prospective parents and students information about your education, teaching experience, program offerings and accomplishments!

## **A warm welcome to our new member:**

Annie Richard-Guindon | Ottawa Region, School Music

*"The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery."*  
- Mark Van Doren





**Convention update:** The ORMTA convention 2020 in Niagara Falls has been seriously compromised by the current COVID-19 pandemic and will no longer take place in September 2020. Options are being evaluated and will be shared when finalized. All registration and vendor fees will be refunded.

**Website use reminder:** ORMTA transitioned to a new web site using Club Express, a powerful Internet tool for managing clubs and associations. One of the features of Club Express is an online membership database which includes all of your contact and renewal information as well as an online member directory and many other features.

Your membership information has already been loaded into this database and an account has been created for you. To access your account, go to the website at <https://ormta.org>, then click the "Member Login" option to log in (top, right corner).

When you log in for the first time, you will be required to change this password to something that is more intuitive. Enjoy navigating the new site and discovering all the interesting features.

Please keep your contact data updated (especially your email address) since branch lists are generated from this information.

**Membership fee payment** by cheque or money order is still accepted. Please make these payable to ORMTA.

**Electronic payment reminders** were requested by many in the membership. These reminders are automatically programmed into and generated from the site. If you have recently paid or are carrying a small balance, just disregard the reminder.

**NOTES magazine hard copy:** If you do not have a subscription but you would prefer the hard copy delivered, please inform us and the annual subscription fee of \$25 will be applied.

**Branch levies:** **Some** 2020-21 invoices include the branch levy (a separate mandatory fee initiated and governed at the branch level).

Approved motion from Matters for Voting July 2016 AGM

**67 3.A Local branch levy, as set by the local branch, is part of the association's annual fees and as such will cause the suspension or cancellation of a membership if it remains unpaid.**

Not all branches have the additional branch levy fee but each Active member pays the branch portion fee.

Both the branch levy and the branch portion fee are returned to the branch each year.

**Branch scholarship donations and tax receipts reminder:**

CRA approved the issuing of tax receipts at the branch level and the branches may issue their own tax receipts. These monetary donations **must be directed towards scholarships** and be recorded/saved in the branch files for seven years. There is no minimum eligible amount. Please contact me for further details (email address below).

**Special Projects fee:** This is a mandatory group fee. It is a small portion of the Provincial fee designated annually for a specific project or event. The 2020-21 Special Project will be designated in July 2020.

**The 2020-2021 invoices** will be sent mid-May 2020 with the deadline of June 30, 2020. As in the past, it is necessary to login if you choose to pay online.

To view the 2020-2021 fee structure for your branch, login to the ORMTA site, click on "Members Only" (top right banner), click "Document Library" in the drop-down menu. Under "Document Folders" (left side) click the yellow folder to the left of "Branches" and click on your branch name. Finally, click the white arrow inside the green circle (right) and your 2020-2021 branch fees including the levy (if applicable) will be revealed!

Do not hesitate to contact me (email address below) if you have any questions or concerns.

Despite this year's unique situation, prompt membership dues payment is appreciated and provides ORMTA with the funds to continue the regular flow of payments to Westland Insurance (due June 30 2020), CFMTA and the branch portion fees and branch levies (if applicable).

To better days ahead.  
Stay safe and healthy.

Nancy Dale, Provincial Treasurer  
[treasurer@ormta.org](mailto:treasurer@ormta.org)

# ORMTA Provincial Council 2019-2020

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<b>CENTRAL</b>	Vacant
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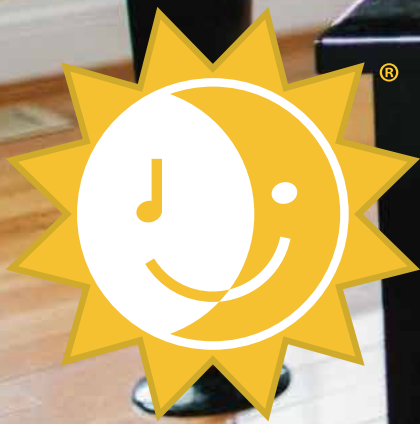


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