



## President's Message

*by Ann Babin*

### Memo: From # 34 to # 35

Congratulations and best wishes, Sandy, as you take up the duties of the 35<sup>th</sup> President of Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA. You will find it, as I did, an equal mix of privilege and responsibility. I'd like to share some of what I've learned over the past two years.

Let's start with the good stuff... free admission to ORMTA events, to be exercised as often as you wish, the subsidy for convention attendance, but best of all the almost daily rush from being at the center of the business of ORMTA Ottawa. In return for this expect to be recognized and called upon to say a few words at ORMTA events, to be the contact point for ORMTA Ottawa in town and out, and to rack up extra hours at the computer dealing with administration details. Our 200 plus membership entitles you to bragging rights as president of Ontario's largest branch; it will also give you the biggest headache when it's time to publish an accurate, up-to-date membership brochure. Fortunately there is help. Which brings me to another plus...

You will have to work with you on council some of the most interesting and committed music teachers I have had the pleasure to meet. Each contributes their unique skill set and perspective to their job - all of it volunteer - and we are the better for it. I have enjoyed the easy camaraderie of our meetings and the support that is offered when hands are needed. The end-April Marc Durand workshop is a fine example of an event that came together seamlessly with little advance notice. Your VP Tania Granata and Past Presidents Sue Jones, Ann Empey and I are there to serve as sounding boards. Don't be afraid to ask, and to seek out second, and third, opinions. There is something to be said for corporate memory, a two-year term is not enough time to see and experience it all, although some days you might wonder.

Expect bumps on the road. Ottawa ORMTA membership represents a wide range of backgrounds and expectations, and differences of opinion can occur. Although Council meets every month we have only three general meetings a year to discuss, revise and set policies and budget items, and sometimes the unexpected pops up, either from a local initiative or a provincial directive. This is a very exciting time for ORMTA, both provincially and locally, as we pursue a more modern image and marketing plan. The province wants more teachers to join, and the branch more students to register with its teachers. Armed with the pro bono help of a Toronto advertising specialist, the province plans to lead the way in a re-branding effort. Ottawa's needs should be met in this process as well, but while provincial consulting takes place we'll develop some ideas of our own. And you'll be right there in the middle of it all.

Finally, savour every moment. I did.



**The ORBit**  
**is now officially**  
**ONLINE**

**See *The Last Word* ... on**  
**Page 14 for more**  
**information**

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## *A Message from Helen Sinclair*

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for your support at the time that my husband Mac passed away so suddenly - for your cards and words of sympathy and condolence, and for your presence at the memorial service. Your thoughtfulness has meant a great deal to me and to my family at this difficult time. I am truly blessed to be part of such a caring community.

## Variety Show

*by Susan Blyth-Schofield*

Way back at the end of January, the Branch held its Variety Show at City View United Church.

Again this year the theme of the concert was non-classical music and twelve solo pianists, three singers with their accompanists, one piano duet, and the Arpa Nova harp ensemble took part. The concert lasted for about an hour and was well received by an enthusiastic audience of friends and family.

A reception followed in the church hall where performers and audience members mingled while enjoying the sweets that were kindly provided by parents and members.

## Ottawa-Gatineau Adult Piano Group

Our recently-formed piano group holds informal gatherings of adult pianists of mixed abilities and a range of ages, who get together to play, to socialize and to have tea/coffee and biscuits!

The group gets together about once a month, normally on the third Sunday afternoon of each month. Some of the participants volunteer to host the gatherings at their homes.

The purpose is to socialize and meet other adult pianists, and to play -- to try out new pieces or old favourites and to hear what others are playing, as well as to practice performing in a non-judgmental environment.

All levels and all styles of piano playing are welcome. Please contact Liz Watford at [e\\_j\\_watford@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:e_j_watford@yahoo.co.uk) (that's eee underscore jay underscore watford)



Variety Show Participants

### About The ORBit

The ORBit is published seven times a year:  
September, October, November, December/January,  
February/March, April/May and June/July/August.

All submissions for **September 2011** ORBit must be  
received by the editor on or before: **August 10, 2011.**

Send submissions by e-mail to:  
L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com

or by mail to:

Sue Jones, ORBit Editor  
259 Crocus Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1H 6E7

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## Adult Students' Workshop, Master Class and Recital

by Carol A. Wood

The annual **Adult Students' Workshop and Master Class** took place on March 26 at the Resurrection Lutheran Church in Orleans.

The all-day event lead by clinician Jenny Regehr, consisted of a morning Workshop entitled "If I Only Had More Time to Practice" and an afternoon Master Class. In addition to discussing time saving practice strategies, the lecture form Workshop also focused on how the body is used while playing and the musical goals of the adult student. Fourteen auditors were in attendance.

After a one-hour brown bag lunch break with refreshments in the church's Fellowship Hall, an afternoon Master Class followed and included four enthusiastic participants who performed works from the Baroque to Contemporary eras. Jenny's gracious and easy manner in presenting new musical ideas relaxed the participants as they incorporated new playing techniques into their pieces. Eleven auditors were present.

We thank Jenny Regehr for sharing her extensive teaching knowledge and performance expertise with us.



Workshop participants with convenor Carol Wood (left) and Jenny Regehr (4<sup>th</sup> from left)

Adult students taking part in the three events represented the following ORMTA teachers: Betty Jo Barker, Betty Harris, Joan Klenavic, Chunson Park and Paulette Price. Thank you ORMTA teachers for encouraging your adult students!

As well, thank you ORMTA members who attended as auditors and who helped with the front desk, food contributions and set-up/clean-up: Ann Babin, Betty Jo Barker, Ann Empey, Beverley Heard, Kathleen Howard, Valerie Kilpatrick and Sandy Menard.


Look in your upcoming ORBits for a venue and dates for 2012's Adult Students' W/S, M/C, Recital.



Recital Participants

**Adult Student Recital** - On a very stormy spring evening on April 16, adult students returned to Resurrection Lutheran Church to perform in a recital. Five enthusiastic performers played works by Mozart, Beethoven, Grovley, Archer and Bonsor. A reception with refreshments followed the recital.

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**A Reminder: if you wish to be included in the 2011-2012 Membership Brochure, make sure you pay both your Branch Levy (due June 1) and your Provincial Membership dues (due June 30).**

## Marc Durand Workshop

*by Amy Boyes*

On Sunday, April 17th, ORMTA Ottawa was very pleased to present a workshop by well-known pianist and pedagogue, Marc Durand. An enthused group of teachers and students were privileged to hear him present "Technic: Understanding the relationship between the piano and how one uses the body."

Mr. Durand believes that performing is the combination of physical, emotional and spiritual forces. This global approach encourages musicians to embrace many elements. A knowledge of the score, the composer and the instrument is equally as important as good technique and no performance is complete without attention to spiritual and psychological components. These elements of performance are tempered by active listening and he stressed the importance of the ear directing and creating the sound rather than merely responding to it.

Mr. Durand first outlined some principles presented in George Kochivetsky's book "The Art of Piano Playing." The structure and function of the nervous system was briefly explained and further comments were made about inborn and conditioned reflexes, the second signalling system, analysis, proprioception, excitation and inhibition of the central nervous system, establishing stable conditioned reflexes, and the development of motor skills. He explained that these complex elements of piano playing are the natural use of the forces of physics to control the relationship between gravity and weightlessness to one's advantage as a pianist.

Mr. Durand outlined three elements to creating tone on the piano – speed of attack, weight of touch and absorption of vibrations. He demonstrated the differences in tone that are possible as intensity of these elements are increased or decreased. Helpful suggestions were given to assist pianists in projecting sounds, avoiding over-pushing the keys, and quickly locating the double escapement on unfamiliar keyboards. Throughout his explanations, he emphasized the importance of constant listening and free, natural movements.

Following this discussion on the instrument, Mr. Durand explained the basic anatomy of the human body and the contribution of certain muscle groups to piano playing. By

establishing good posture and form, he explained that pianists can use their bodies to assist in the production of beautiful tone. He also explained that the hand is made up of two major parts, the thumb and the fingers. Any motion that can be divided between the thumb and a finger will require rotation from large muscles in the wrist and forearm rather than from the smaller muscles of the finger. Healthy technique will always employ large, strong muscles and will not fatigue the smallest muscles that are often susceptible to strain or injury. Mr. Durand demonstrated how everything from simple passages to large chords, complex patterns, and trills can be played with ease when the proper release of weight and tension is achieved.

Mr. Durand's passion for healthy performance practices was obvious at every moment. From his inspiring global perspective to his most helpful hints, Mr. Durand captivated his audience and his congenial and often humorous approach was truly engaging. What a privilege it was to hear him speak!

Special thanks to event organizers Jenny Regehr and Ann Babin and to Paulette Price who graciously opened her home to the workshop during this busy season.



Jenny Regehr, Marc Durand, Paulette Price and Ann Babin

## ***News From the Province***

*by Sue Jones and Ann Babin*

- \* Provincial AGM, Awards Luncheon and Competitions will be held on Saturday, July 23 at the Stage West Hotel in Mississauga.
- \* The Provincial Council is investigating ways to rejuvenate our image to make us more appealing to the younger teachers coming up.
- \* CNCM graduates are now accepted by ORMTA as qualifying for membership.
- \* The Summary of the Minutes for May 1, 2011 are available. Contact Sue Jones: 613-523-5317 or L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com
- \* Provincial Membership dues are payable by June 30, 2011.

## **Eastern Ontario Friends of Conservatory Canada 2011 Gala Concert/Awards Presentation**

### **Student Recital**



**St. Paul's Presbyterian Church**  
**471 Woodroffe Avenue**  
 (Just north of the Queensway)

**Sunday, May 29, 2011**  
**1:30 p.m.**

**Admission by donation (suggested donation \$5)**  
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## Ottawa Region Branch Competitions

*by Sue Jones*

Our annual Student Competitions were held on May 7 and 8 in Freiman Hall at the University of Ottawa with adjudicators Shoshana Telner and Laurence Ewashko.

Congratulations to all nineteen teachers who submitted students: Misty Banyard, Debra Bonneville-Laundrie, Clare Ellement, Alexandra Golod, Priscilla Gruver, Zhanna Gumenyuk, Katarina Jovic, Pam Kennedy, Diana McCarthy, Gloria Jean

Nagy, Heather Norian, Chunson Park, Nicole Presentey, Paulette Price, Lauren Richardson, Anita Schlarb, Charlotte Stewart, Andrew Tunis and Sandra Webster. In all, we had thirty-one students competing.

Bravo to all those teachers and students whose dedication to their art is so inspiring!

The results are as follows:

<b><i>Class</i></b>	<b><i>Placement</i></b>	<b><i>Student</i></b>	<b><i>Teacher</i></b>
<b><i>Zone Instrumental</i></b>	First	Katerina Paravalos	Chunson Park
	Second	Kevin Yang	Heather Norian
	Third	Cassandra Lee	Diana McCarthy
	Third	Samuel Lee	Diana McCarthy
<b><i>Zone Vocal</i></b>	First	Elyssa Mahoney	Charlotte Stewart
	Second	Mikaela Bennett	Lauren Richardson
	Third	Marc-André Veselovsky	Charlotte Stewart
<b><i>Provincial Instrumental</i></b>	First	Sharon Ding	Sandra Webster
	Second	Patric Ryser	Chunson Park
	Third	Michael Golod	Alexandra Golod
	Third	Kevin Liang	Sandra Webster
	Third	Jenny Sheng	Chunson Park
<b><i>Young Artist</i></b>	First	Anita Pari	Andrew Tunis
	Runner-Up	Phillip Cho	Zhanna Gumenyuk
	Third	Chris Oliveira	Misty Banyard
<b><i>Special Scholarships - Instrumental</i></b>			
Elaine Kruse Memorial		Anita Pari	Andrew Tunis
Elsie Melson Memorial		Katerina Paravalos	Chunson Park
Douglas Voice Memorial		Phillip Cho	Zhanna Gumenyuk
Fred and Elly Ayrheart Memorial		Anita Pari	Andrew Tunis
20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> Century		Patric Ryser	Chunson Park
<b><i>Special Scholarships - Vocal</i></b>			
Olive Hindle Memorial		Elyssa Mahoney	Charlotte Stewart
Elsie Melson Memorial		Elyssa Mahoney	Charlotte Stewart
Irene and James Nagy Memorial		Chris Oliveira	Misty Banyard
20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup> Century		Isabella Giuliano	Gloria Jean Nagy

### **Competitions Sponsors**

Thank you to the following sponsors who, through their generosity, enabled us to give over \$2,250 in scholarships to our students:

**Frances Balodis**  
(Olive Hindle Memorial Scholarship)

**Music for Young Children**  
(First Place Young Artist)

**Gloria Jean Nagy**  
(Irene and James Nagy Memorial Scholarship)

**The Pari Family**  
(The Pari Scholarship)

**Anita Schlarb**  
(Fred and Elly Ayrheart Memorial Scholarship)

The University of Ottawa sponsored us again by letting us use their space for a nominal fee, which is very much appreciated. Lauzon Music again loaned us their Steinway concert grand for the Competitions and the Gala - a real treat!

Contributors to the ORMTA Scholarship fund:

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**and a few donors who wish to remain anonymous**

It takes many hands to make light work - a big thank you to the following volunteers who helped out over the two days: Ann Babin, Susan Blyth-Schofield, Andrea Cochrane, Sherry Lu and her student Amy, Sandy Menard and her student Kay, Lori Lynn Penny, and Jennie Smith.

### **The Competitions Gala** *by Sandra Menard*

The Gala was held at the Mennonite Church on Kilborn Avenue on Sunday, May 15th, 2011. We had six performers at the concert, who were all prize winners at the competitions. Congratulations to the teachers of the participating students: Zhanna Gumenyuk, Gloria Jean Nagy, Chunson Park, Sandra Webster, Andrew Tunis and Lauren Richardson. It was an immensely successful concert. Huge thanks go to Sue Jones for her help with organizing and for making the program, Jennie Smith and her two helpers for all the kitchen duties, Carol Ann Wood for her last minute offer to help at the door and to all those who brought contributions for the reception! We gratefully acknowledge and thank Ken Lauzon for the loan of the Steinway concert grand piano.

The Gala offers a sampling of some of the finest the Ottawa Region Branch has to offer, and is a result of tremendous dedication on the part of the students and their teachers. If you didn't make it out this year, try to plan for it next time around...it is an event not to be missed!



Gala participants with Sue Jones and Gala Convenor Sandra Menard

## Competitions Photo Gallery

Saturday, May 7, 2011



Provincial Instrumental winners with adjudicators  
Laurence Ewashko and Shoshana Telner



Young Artist First Place Winner and Runner-Up

Sunday, May 8, 2011



Shoshana Telner with Zone Instrumental Winners



Zone Vocal class with Laurence Ewashko



## Annual General Meeting

by Ann Empey

Our Annual General Meeting was held on Friday, May 20 at Cedarhill Golf and Country Club. There were 32 members in attendance including our Special Teacher, Joan Klenavic, who was presented with a lovely corsage and iceberg plaque. The provincial Matters for Voting were attended to and the next years executive and council were voted in. Coffee and tea was served from 9 a.m. and our outgoing president, Ann Babin, was presented with a beautiful bouquet as well as an iceberg for her two years of dedication and hard work to our organization.

The venue was exceptional and the food outstanding. Many words of praise were heard in the dining room while we were being served. With our special guests, Giovanni and Siqin Pari, we were treated to a delightful a cappella concert by the trio Tourmaline. We hope to see more members out next year to this annual event.



Lori Lynn Penny and Special Teacher Joan Klenavic



Ann Babin and Sandra Menard with the Presidents' plaque

## ♪ Upcoming Concerts ♪ (listed by date)

**Sun. May 29 - Merched Dewi and Friends** (Welsh Women's Choir from Toronto). An afternoon of Welsh music. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 470 Roosevelt Ave. 3 pm. Freewill offering.

**ORMTA members** - Do you have an upcoming recital or concert in which you are performing? Advertise **FREE** in this column.

## Members' Corner

### Condolences to ...

\* **Helen Sinclair**, whose husband, Mac, passed away. See a message from Helen on Page 3.

\* **Gunars Balodis**, whose stepfather passed away.

### Congratulations to ...

\* **Maya Badian** on her successful lecture on Canadian composers in Oldenburg, Germany at the International Association of Women in Music

\* **Olivia and David Riddell** on the birth of Quinn Wesley John on April 8, 2011

\* **Erica Smith and her husband Wayne** on the birth of Chloe Naomi Dustin on Apr. 14, 2011

\* **Andrew Tunis** whose student, Anita Pari, placed third in the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition performing Shostakovich's Concerto in F Major with orchestra.

### Please take note ...

♪ Do you have a **new address or phone number**? Please inform Kathleen Howard at 613-258-9503 or [kmaryhoward@primus.ca](mailto:kmaryhoward@primus.ca)

♪ If you would **like more students**, call the ORMTA Hotline at 613-226-6768 and have your name added to the list of Teachers Looking for Students.

♪ If you would like a **new subject added** to your list of teaching subjects, contact Ron Spadafore, our Provincial Registrar, directly at 705-264-0978 or at [ormta@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:ormta@ntl.sympatico.ca). You may only add subjects that you are qualified to teach.

♪ If you would like to **change your membership status**, contact President Sandra Menard before March 1 in order to be billed at the new rate for next year.

## CHANGES TO THE 2010 - 2011 MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE

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Zaid, Nadia	662 Paul Metivier Drive, Ottawa, ON K2J 0Y2 Active: P	613-878-9243

### Address/Phone Changes

Balodis, Francis/Gunars	1204 Ed Briese Road, R.R. #1, Utterson, ON P0B 1M0 Active: P, O, T, H, Comp, EC / Auxiliary	705-769-3449
Fletcher, Giselle	2728 10 <sup>th</sup> Line Road, Carleton Place, ON K7C 3P2 Active: S, R	613-257-3165
Hawley, Laura	169 Pickford Drive, Kanata, ON K2L 2C4 Active: P, R, T	613-270-9029
Kilpatrick, Valerie	54 Costello Avenue, Ottawa, ON K2H 7C5 P, T	613-726-8638
Loveless, Jennifer	685 Bowercrest Crescent, Ottawa, ON K1V 2M2 Active: P, O	613-850-1785
Macpherson, Iain	140 Grosvenor Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 4T1 (Teaching address) Active: S, R ~	613-720-0117
Wood, Carol Ann	3025 Linton Road, Ottawa, ON K1V 8H1 Active: S, R	613-421-1033

### Status Changes

Booth, Adrienne	8-31 Russell Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1N 7W9 Active: P, R, *1	613-234-1695
Foster, Deborah	270-D Dalehurts Drive, Nepean, ON K2G 4J5 Active: P, R, *2	613-224-7244

### Correction

Parenteau, Joanne Marie	Should be listed in South of Baseline, West of Woodroffe area 302E Craig Henry Drive, Ottawa, ON K2G 4H5 Active: P, R, T	613-225-8962
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### A Piano Tuner's Day: *The Hamster*

by Bill Gerow - bill@billgerowpianoservice.com

As I entered my customer's home, I noticed the framed invoice that I had given her some years ago. The charge of \$35 was for the "removal of one hamster". I do remember that day!

It was the Labour Day Weekend, Monday to be exact. The phone rang, and I recognized the voice. "The piano needs a tuning, but there is a bit of a red alert. The hamster is stuck in the piano" – she had a grand. Apparently the daughter was baby sitting two munchkins, and they took the hamster out of the cage, and put it on the edge of the piano.

Naturally it immediately disappeared into the action. After removing the fall board, I noticed that they had been quite considerate by pouring some granola into the action for the poor beast. It immediately tore off some felt and made a cozy nest for itself!! Upon removal of the beast and the granola (groan), I re-installed the fallboard and presented the customer with the invoice. She noticed that the hamster had left track marks in the dust on the soundboard. She inquired as to how to get rid of the marks. I told her to tie a feather to the hamster's tail and put it back in the piano to clean up the fallboard. There have been no more hamsters in her piano.

### UPCOMING ORMTA EVENTS (June - September)

#### June

- 1 **Deadline for Payment of Ottawa Region Branch Levy.**
- 30 **Deadline for Payment of Provincial Membership Dues.**

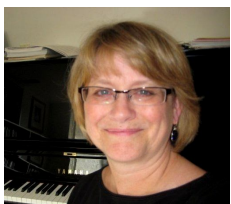
#### July

- 6 - 9 **CFMTA Convention** in Regina, Sask. Information: [www.cfmta.org](http://www.cfmta.org)
- 23 **ORMTA Provincial Annual General Meeting, Awards Luncheon and Competitions.** Stage West Hotel, Mississauga. Information: [www.ormta.org](http://www.ormta.org)

#### September

- 12 **\*\*\* GENERAL MEETING AND POT-LUCK BREAKFAST \*\*\*** Location TBA. Contact Jennie Smith: 613-270-9191 or [timj.smith@sympatico.ca](mailto:timj.smith@sympatico.ca) or Sandra Menard 613-834-3052 or [sandramenard88@gmail.com](mailto:sandramenard88@gmail.com)

### The Last Word ...



Do you remember Kermit the frog and his little song "It's not Easy Being Green"? Well, it turns out, it IS easy "being green" ... at least in an environmental sense. Starting in September, you will be able to

not only help the environment by using less paper, but you will also be able to save the ORB some postage and printing costs if you choose to read the ORBit on our website: [www.ormtaottawa.ca](http://www.ormtaottawa.ca) **If you no longer wish to receive the ORBit via Canada Post, please contact me by e-mail: [L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com](mailto:L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com) and your name will be removed from our ORBit mailing list. Easy!** You can check out the past few issues of the ORBit on our website before you make your decision. **Please let me know by June 30, 2011.**

I want to take this opportunity to thank Ann Babin for her two years as our branch President. It has been a busy time and as Ann has found out, by the time you figure everything out, it's time to pass on the gavel (or in our case, the bell). Now it will be her honour and privilege to guide our incoming President, Sandra Menard. I wish them both much success in their new roles within our branch.

Also, many thanks to those on council who are leaving us after logging in many volunteer hours on our behalf: Jane Arrowsmith (Cards and Flowers), Judy Jackson (Funding) and Hoda Nassim (Video Library and Telephone/E-mail). A warm welcome to new council members Brenda Eisener (Cards and Flowers), Debra Grass (Telephone/E-mail) and Joy Hodgkinson (Funding). Welcome aboard!

*Sue Jones, Editor*