



President's Message

by Sandra Menard

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The Ottawa Region Branch warmly welcomes new member Joël Dazé! Joël teaches piano, theory, composition and jazz in Kanata.

It is with regret that we say goodbye to council members Pam Kennedy and Joy Hodgkinson. I can't thank them enough for all their contributions to our organization over the past year and more. I wish you both well, ladies, as you take your energy in different directions! You will be missed!

We have such immense talent within our own branch and it's wonderful to have our own members share their knowledge and experience with us! Thanks to Amy Boyes for the wonderful presentation at the October 29 Information Sharing Session on personality types and ways to recognize and deal with them in our students! Thanks to Paulette Price for hosting once again. Also a treat was the Canada Music Week Recital held on November 18. Tania Granata and her many terrific helpers did an amazing job organizing this fun afternoon and they all deserve a huge round of applause!

Planning ahead for a very busy winter... Our University of Ottawa master classes (January 27 and March 3) are already full, but there is plenty for all to learn by attending. The Variety Show has been moved to February 10 with auditions taking place on January 27. Check page 9 for details. We also have our First Class Honours Recitals to plan for in February. Please consider joining council for the January potluck breakfast meeting. It would be great to see you! Details are on page 3.

I was privileged to have attended my first Provincial council meeting this past October. It was a great experience getting to know everyone and I was hugely impressed with the professionalism with which the meetings are run. We have much to be proud of in this organization! Some of our time was spent on a presentation of the new Provincial web site www.ormta.org. It's definitely worth browsing through! Frank Horvat, Nancy Dale and Ron Spadafore have put countless hours into the new design. If you like what you see, why not consider dropping them a congratulatory note?

Every December, I think of a houseguest who came to the German church service in Toronto with us on Christmas Eve in the late 1970s. On the way home, excited to begin dinner and gifts, our car broke down on the Don Valley Parkway. Thanks to the emergency road phone, we found an open garage with two wonderful young mechanics who spoke neither German nor English. While dad panicked, our guest made light of the catastrophe and cheerfully began singing German Christmas Carols. Smiles broke out and those young men linked arms with her and took time out to enjoy the spirit of the moment! The barriers of language and race were broken with the gift of music, confirming for me that Christmas does not always come in a package under the tree!

However you celebrate your cherished traditions, I wish you all a season of merriment filled with music and love!