

Newsletter of the Ottawa Region Branch
of the Ontario Registered Music
Teachers' Association
www.ormtaottawa.ca



President's Message

by Amy Boyes

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Greetings all and happy summer to you!

The late spring has made me particularly anxious to get outside and enjoy some time in the sunshine. My daughter is turning into a keen gardener, which makes me very pleased, and if we win the war with the squirrels and rabbits we will have a nice harvest of vegetables to enjoy.

Summer is a quiet time on the ORMTA calendar with the exception of the Provincial Annual General Meeting, Competitions, and Awards Luncheon in Mississauga on Saturday, July 27th. We will be celebrating fourteen ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award recipients from across the province including Brenda Eisener from Ottawa. Please read more about Brenda on page 9. To find out more about these Provincial events or to purchase tickets for the luncheon, please visit <https://ormta.org/2019-AGM-Competitions>

Many thanks to Katarina Jovic for organizing and hosting our Competitions. The two-day event was a success with competitors from across the city, featuring both instrumentalists and vocalists. Please read more about the Competitions in the following pages.

Also thanks to Kimberley Sundell for organizing the Junior Piano Master Class with Paulette Price on May 26th at Ottawa Pianos. As always, Paulette's kind and encouraging words were just what were needed for the young performers as they continue on their musical journeys.

ORMTA could not offer the events and programs that it does without the continued efforts of our volunteers. This year, the position of Professional Development Convenor needs to be filled. If you're interested in volunteering, please let Susan Blyth-Schofield know.

And, on that note, it's time to sign off and hand over my own portfolio. I've enjoyed my time as branch president. Planning last year's Provincial Convention here in Ottawa was certainly a highlight of my term, but more importantly, I've enjoyed getting to know ORB members better. Hearing about members' concerns and ideas has truly been a privilege. I'm continuing my work on ORMTA's Provincial Council in the role of second vice president, so it seems that ORMTA will be in my life for many more years to come.
Have a wonderful summer!

Amy Boyes



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ORMTA Competitions May 4-5, 2019

by Katarina Jovic, Convenor



Our annual student Zone and Provincial competitions were held on May 4 and 5 in Freiman Hall, School of Music, University of Ottawa. The Young Artist competition was not held this year.

In all, 32 students submitted their applications - 23 instrumentalists and 9 vocalists. Our students represented 13 teachers in 3 different disciplines (piano, violin, and voice). Congratulations to the teachers who submitted students. *Bravo* also to the 30 students who participated!

Many thanks to Susan Blyth-Schofield, Ann Babin and Amélie Langlois who generously

volunteered their time throughout the weekend to help me run the competitions smoothly. A special thank-you to Randle Wilson for his calligraphy on the certificates and for helping us around on both days of the competitions.

The School of Music once again offered their space and the use of their new CFX 9-foot grand piano. We are very fortunate to be able to use these spaces and the piano, in light of long-standing relationship between University of Ottawa and the ORMTA.

This year we invited highly acclaimed musicians Glen Montgomery (instrumental) and Jo-

anne Kolomyjec (vocal) to adjudicate. Both professors came from Montreal. They praised the high standards of musicianship our students showed. Participants received very detailed comments from adjudicators that they may find helpful in their future music studies. After each competition, both adjudicators generously offered their time to share their expertise, thoughts and suggestions, in both general and individual comments. The audience was thankful for their efforts and enjoyed the experience.

All photos by Katarina Jovic



2019/2020 EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL**President**

Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950
sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

Past President

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

First Vice-President

Danielle McIntyre 613-404-2565
jersakpiano@gmail.com

Second Vice-President

Amélie Langlois 613-271-0787
amelielanglois@gmail.com

Treasurer

Lori Lynn Penny 613-841-4429
lorilynnpenny@rogers.com

Secretary

Kimberley Sundell 613-698-7338
sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

Zone Representatives

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com
Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950
sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

EVENT PORTFOLIOS**Canada Music Week Recital**

Amélie Langlois 613-271-0787
amelielanglois@gmail.com

Competitions & Gala

Katarina Jovic 613-261-7681
katarinamusic@sympatico.ca

First Class Honours Recital

Danielle McIntyre 613-404-2565
Co-Chair Meg Iwaskow jersakpiano@gmail.com

First Class Honours Scholarships

Sherry Lu 613-254-8772
sherryludi@yahoo.ca

Junior Piano Master Class

Kimberley Sundell 613-698-7338
sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

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Katarina Jovic 613-261-7681
katarinamusic@sympatico.ca

Young Artist Recital NOT HOSTED IN 2019/2020

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Paula Lin 613-721-2850
paula.w.lin@gmail.com

Music and Beyond

Carol Ann Wood 613-421-1033
carol.wood@rogers.com

NAC

Olivia Riddell 613-680-2996
olivia@myc.com

ADMINISTRATIVE PORTFOLIOS**Assistant Treasurer/Membership List**

Kathleen Howard 613-301-9123
kmaryhoward@live.ca

DVD/Video Library

Sherry Lu 613-254-8772
sherryludi@yahoo.ca

Funding

Amélie Langlois 613-271-0787
amelielanglois@gmail.com

New Members

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

Newsletter (the ORBit)

Kathleen Howard 613-301-9123
kmaryhoward@live.ca

Notes Reporter

Kimberley Sundell 613-698-7338
sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

Public Relations

LaDawn Ouellete 613-324-3161
ladawnouellete@gmail.com

Social Convenor

Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950
sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

Website/Email/Telephone

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

EX OFFICIO PORTFOLIOS**Archives**

Ann Babin 613-830-8826
ann_babin@bell.net

Cards and Flowers

Helen Sinclair 613-271-9725
helen_sinclair@rogers.com

Information Sharing Sessions

****VACANT****

2019 Ottawa Region Branch Student Competitions Final Results

<i>Class</i>	<i>Student</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
Zone Instrumental		
First	Khañh Mai	Chunson Park
Second	Adam Zheng	Chunson Park
Second	Alexander Hou	Chunson Park
Third	Charlotte Hou	Chunson Park
Third	Maxim Boguslavsky	Olena Vyhovskiy
Zone Vocal		
First	Anara Hopley	Lauren Richardson
Second	Hannah Klemets	Lauren Richardson
Third	Charlotte Panetta	Misty Banyard
Provincial Instrumental		
First	Jeffrey Jin	Chunson Park
Second (Runner Up)	Sarina Xi	Chunson Park
Third	Alice Yang	Heather Norian
Third	April Zheng	Chunson Park
Provincial Vocal		
First	Deanna Singh	Maghan McPhee
Second (Runner Up)	Leandra Dahm	Lauren Richardson
Third	Emily Green	Misty Banyard
Third	Sonja M.F. Peters	Maghan McPhee
Special Scholarships - Instrumental		
Isabel (Ball) Laidlaw Memorial	Adam Zheng	Chunson Park
Elaine Kruse Memorial	Sarina Xi	Chunson Park
Douglas Voice Memorial	Charlotte Hou	Chunson Park
Steinway Piano Gallery Gift Card	Jeffrey Jin	Chunson Park
Special Scholarships - Vocal		
Olive Hindle Memorial	Deanna Singh	Maghan McPhee
Marr Memorial (best French Art song)	Leandra Dahm	Lauren Richardson
Marr Memorial (best German lied)	Leandra Dahm	Lauren Richardson
Irene and James Nagy Memorial	Anara Hopley	Lauren Richardson

Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA is very grateful to the following businesses and individuals whose generosity allows us to hold our competitions annually and give out scholarships and prizes.

COMPETITIONS SPONSOR: School of Music, University of Ottawa

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS:

Frances Balodis - Olive Hindle Memorial Scholarship

Robyn Kuzell - Douglas Voice Memorial Scholarship

Edith Orton - ORMTA Competitions Scholarship Fund

Shirley Sterlinger - Isabel (Ball) Laidlaw Memorial Scholarship

The Leading Note - ORMTA Competitions Scholarship Fund

Susan Blyth-Schofield - Lyric Theatre Scholarship

Gloria Jean Nagy - Irene and James Nagy Memorial Scholarship

Ottawa Pianos - ORMTA Competitions Scholarship Fund

Steinway Piano Gallery Ottawa - Gift Card

Carol Ann Wood - Marr Memorial Scholarship

About the ORBit

The ORBit is the official newsletter of the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association. 7 issues are published per year: September, October, November, December/January, February/March, April/May, and June/July/August.

All submissions for the September issue of the ORBit must be received by the editor on or before: August 10, 2019.

Send submissions to: kmaryhoward@live.ca
 or by mail to: Kathleen Howard, Editor
 326 Donoghue Rd.
 Oxford Mills, ON K0G 1S0

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1/3 page	\$25	\$31
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Heavy Brochures	\$60	\$75
Larger than 8.5 x 11	\$100	\$125

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Annual General Meeting May 24, 2019

by Susan Blyth-Schofield, Convenor

The Branch held its Annual General Meeting on Friday, May 24, at the Cedarhill Golf and Country Club. Some twenty-seven members attended. Our President, Amy Boyes, chaired the meeting and we heard reports from executive and council members. A number of items were voted on including the new slate of officers for 2019-2020.

Brenda Eisener is this year's Ottawa Region Branch OCTA recipient, and she was honoured with a corsage and a com-

memorative "iceberg". Amy paid tribute to Brenda's many and varied contributions to the Branch, and Brenda spoke about her life and ORMTA.

Susan Blyth-Schofield then said a few words about our outgoing President and presented Amy with flowers. At Amy's request a donation was made to the Ottawa Hospital's Neo-natal ICU in lieu of an "iceberg".

Ann Babin gave us another delightful look into our archives – this time with items that related to

our OCTA winner, and Mitchell Wright and Carmen Papalia from Ottawa Pianos spoke to us about their ongoing relationship with and support of our Branch.

We also had a draw for two tickets to the NAC production of *2 Pianos, 4 Hands* which was won by Sandra Cooke.

The meeting was adjourned and it was then time for lunch, when we all had a chance to chat and catch up with our friends and colleagues before the summer break.



Photos by Danielle McIntyre, Amy Boyes and Susan Blyth-Schofield

Junior Piano Master Class May 26, 2019

by Kimberley Sundell, Convenor

May 26, 2019 was a wonderful afternoon of music and learning at ORMTA Ottawa's Junior Piano Masterclass.

Paulette Price was a fantastic clinician and led an engaging and interactive session for 6 students levels Prep through 5.

A huge thank you goes out to Carmen Papalia and Ottawa Pianos for the use of Felix the Grand Piano.



Photos by Kimberley Sundell

Rachmaninoff

THIS is the first issue of THE ETUDE which has ever been devoted in great part to a living composer—a Rachmaninoff issue. Editorial binoculars often look far into the distance, but cannot even focus upon men and things nearby.

That we have now residing in America a great master—one who in future years will stand out on the pages of history, as stood his great predecessors—is in itself an honor we should not ignore.

Not since Rubinstein visited America has any European composer-pianist of the stature of Sergei Rachmaninoff been with us. Simple, sincere, earnest, intense, granite in strength, yet fern-like in delicacy, the works of Rachmaninoff rank with the great music of all time. Representing, as he does, the genius of Russia, he brings a message to America to which our future MacDowells will eagerly listen. Indeed, his own admiration for the genius of MacDowell is very warm and sincere.

THE ETUDE takes pardonable pride in presenting in this issue Rachmaninoff's views upon important musical problems, and a composition by the master hitherto unpublished.

From The Etude, October 1919, "The Rachmaninoff Number"

Trys for the Teacher

By E. E. Hipsher

- Try to be cheerful always.
- Try never to use a word that will hurt.
- Try to put yourself in the place of the pupil.
- Try patience when perplexed.
- Try in your judgments to be just.
- Try to keep youthful in spirit.
- Try to pluck weeds from your pupil's path and to plant flowers in their stead.
- Try to help your pupil to search for beauty in music and not barely to master the notes.
- Try to make music study as interesting as reading a story.
- Try so to live that your pupils will want to be like you.

From The Etude, February 1920

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Members' Corner

Condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of **Stanja Hlavacek**, who passed away.

Get Well Wishes to **Hoda Nassim**, recuperating after surgery.

Do you know an ORMTA member who deserves a congratulatory note, condolences or get well wishes? Send details to: kmaryhoward@live.ca

OCTA Recipient 2019 Brenda Eisener

submitted by Amy Boyes



Growing up in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley, music was a large part of Brenda's life, involving piano lessons, church choirs, and school music activities. She went on to study music in the Special Music Class at Nova Scotia Teachers College under Dr Catherine Allison. After Summer School classes at Dalhousie University she graduated with a Specialized License to teach School Music.

In 1962 Brenda married her military husband Bernie Eisener. She continued to teach school music in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick as she and her husband moved around in the military. While living in northern Quebec, she was organist and choir director at the military chapel.

In 1974 Brenda and Bernie and their three children were posted to Baden-Soellingen, Germany for three years. While in Germany Brenda realized that maintaining a school teaching career as a military wife was too difficult. She then started further piano studies with Pat Lemoine who was on assignment from the RCM.

Returning to Ottawa in 1977 Brenda continued piano studies with Netta Gale and started teaching piano privately. She completed her ARCT with Verna Jacobson at Carleton University whom Brenda credits with much of her success as a piano teacher. While at Carleton she studied voice and sang in the University Choir, fulfilling her love of singing. In her piano teaching she has always stressed the importance of singing with her students.

In 1988 Brenda joined ORMTA and was soon invited to become a Council member by then President Joan Clarkson. Her duties included Social, Membership List, First Class Honours, Workshops, Competitions and President from 1992 to 1994. A highlight of her Presidency was the hugely successful 1993 CFMTA Convention at the Château

Laurier in Ottawa. This success was largely due to the phenomenal work of Sandra Cooke and her convention committee. Also, from 2012-2014 Brenda looked after Cards and Flowers.

As Zone Representative from 1996-1999, she was responsible for Provincial Competitions, a challenging and rewarding portfolio. Brenda also served as Zone Rep again in 2004-2005 completing her friend Shirley Efford's term. During this year, Brenda was responsible for Bylaws and later served on a committee to rewrite the Bylaws.

Brenda's commitment to music was also manifested by her years of community work with the Gloucester Music Teachers, Gloucester Music Club and the Gloucester Concert Association.

Her years of teaching piano and theory (harmony and history) have been extremely rewarding and she has had the satisfaction of seeing several of her students go on to further studies in music. Her role in ORMTA has also broadened and enriched her life.

The Leading Note—Tips for Navigating the Elgin St. Renewal Project

2019 is going to be an interesting year for The Leading Note and the whole Elgin Street area! Beginning on January 7 and continuing throughout 2019, the street will be closed to car traffic as the sewers and other infrastructure are replaced. The end result of this renewal project is going to be a vast improvement in the overall streetscape. But, in the meantime, the street closure will mean some challenges for us and our local customers. Your support will be crucial to the future of The Leading Note.

Please visit our [Guide to the Elgin Street Renewal Project](http://www.leadingnote.com) (accessible from the home page on our web site www.leadingnote.com) for a few tips to help you get through this year. These include: the best routes to access the store, parking options in the area, and the introduction of new pick-up locations at: Ottawa Pianos on Bank Street, and the uOttawa Music Department.

Remembering Mary Mackey 1915 – 2019

by Deborah Foster



I first met Mary Mackey as an adult piano student when I was interviewed by her as a prospective student. After playing for her, I was accepted into her studio, with a very warm hug. So began a more than a 20 year association with Mary as a teacher, mentor and very dear friend.

Mary was a member of ORMTA for over 50 years, and was a lifetime honorary member of the Ottawa Region Branch. The Ottawa Branch was founded in 1931 by four teachers, and it was soon after that that their students, including Mary, joined at a fee of 50 cents a year. Her involvement in the early days was very influential on how the organization has evolved to what it is today. She held the Cards and Flowers/Telephoning/New Members portfolio position on Council from 1990 to 1992. In 1997 the Ottawa Branch presented her with the Special Teacher Award.

Mary belonged to the Laurentian Junior Music Club, a club that has been active in the Ottawa area for over 50 years, dedicated to promoting the development of young musical talent.

She also belonged to the

Friday Morning Club, a group which played on the last Friday of every month. The last meeting she attended was one she hosted at her retirement home at Amica.

Over the years I heard many fascinating stories of Mary's life and her insights about music. Her first piano teacher was Irene Miller, who took lessons at the Paris Conservatory. Mary herself attended Juilliard, and was taught by Sascha Gorodnitzki (student of Josef Lhévinne). Mary told of a lesson at Juilliard when the entire hour was spent on creating the proper sound of a two-note slur.

As a teacher, Mary considered one of the most important elements in music making was the production of tone - playing to the bottom of the keys to get a full sound (she called it the Russian way of playing), and not just tinkling on top of the keys. She felt that too many students did not listen to the sounds that they produce. She felt that to produce a beautiful piano tone, a student needed to have adequate technique, and the fingers must stay close to the surface of the keys.

One interesting story she had was as a young girl her piano teacher had her play for a pianist/composer who travelled to Ottawa to give a performance. This pianist wanted to hear some of the "local talent", and Mary was one of the students asked to play for him. She found out later that she had played for Sergei Rachmaninoff!

In later years, she would perform with Irene Woodburn-Wright, doing two piano works.

In 2000 she, Marlene Basarab, Margaret Macpherson and Irene Woodburn-Wright gave a "4 Pianos, 8 Hands" concert, which was a sold-out performance and extremely well received.

Mary touched so many lives in her 104 years! Her students adored her, and blossomed under her wonderful teaching. Many students went into the music profession as either performers or teachers, and many excelled in other areas.

One of her most successful students is her great-grandson Carson Becke, who this fall successfully completed his PhD in piano performance from Oxford University. In his biography he is very proud to mention that it was his great-grandmother who was his first teacher, thus setting a strong foundation for his playing. I attended many of Carson's performances with Mary, and she still wore her teacher's hat when listening to him! She was extremely proud of him.

Mary officially "retired" at age 92. She told me she was following in the footsteps of Rosina Lhévinne (Van Cliburn's teacher), who retired in her mid -90's.

Mary will be remembered as a lady - she was well-dressed, never a hair out of place. Up to the very end, she had an excellent memory and enjoyed talking about and listening to music. She had always wanted to be a piano teacher, and was very successful in this accomplishment. Bless you, Mary!