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President's Message

by Olivia Riddell

Happy 2016 to all our members. I hope and trust you all were able to enjoy some well-deserved time with your friends and family over the holiday season.

I feel as though January and February have "suddenly appeared" and the wonderful 2016 events that our council have been working on for the last few fall months are upon us! There are SO many events, of many different styles and themes, for our entire membership to enjoy over the next month. I hope you take the time to go through our entire newsletter so you can grab all the dates and details.

As you read this we will have already had our January General meeting. Thank you again to Jennie Smith for her hard work in organizing this event. Thanks as well go out to Ann Babin, our Archives convener, for giving us another "trip in our time-machine" with Ottawa Region Branch's history.

Both the Variety Show and First Class Honours Auditions happened at the end of January. Thank you to Danielle Jersak and Meg Iwaskow for their hard work in organizing this. I know their attention to detail and selection of judges for the auditions will guarantee some top-notch events at the beginning of February that you will not want to miss!

Please take careful note of our **Calendar of Events** at the end of this newsletter. The Variety Show Recital, Ottawa University Master Class with David Jalbert and First Class Honours Recital ALL happen within the **first weekend** of February. The success of these events are not only due to our council and their preparation – and teachers participating, but also to you in showing your support by attending these events.

There is another wonderful sharing session hosted by Paulette Price on **February 22nd**, and I am also thrilled to announce that we have confirmed our Professional Development workshop with a Provincial Clinician, Nikki Loney, on **February 27th**. Please continue reading for more details about both these events.

On January 14th, I attended the Kiwanis Music Festival Committee meeting with Zhanna Gumenyuk. It was a very interesting meeting and please know that Zhanna is dedicated and passionate about ensuring that our ORMTA voices are heard! And, on January 22nd, I did a presentation at Ottawa University, for Louis Trépanier's class regarding becoming an ORMTA student member.

Thank you to all the teachers and students who helped make our **NAC Pre-Concert Event** (January 9th) a HUGE success. Please continue reading to find out more about this wonderful opportunity and our strengthening partnership with the NAC.

I hope to see you at many of these events; until then, stay warm and healthy!

Olivia Riddell





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NAC Event January 9th, 2016 – TUNETOWN Event

ORMTA Ottawa Region Branch Featured Activity

by Olivia Riddell

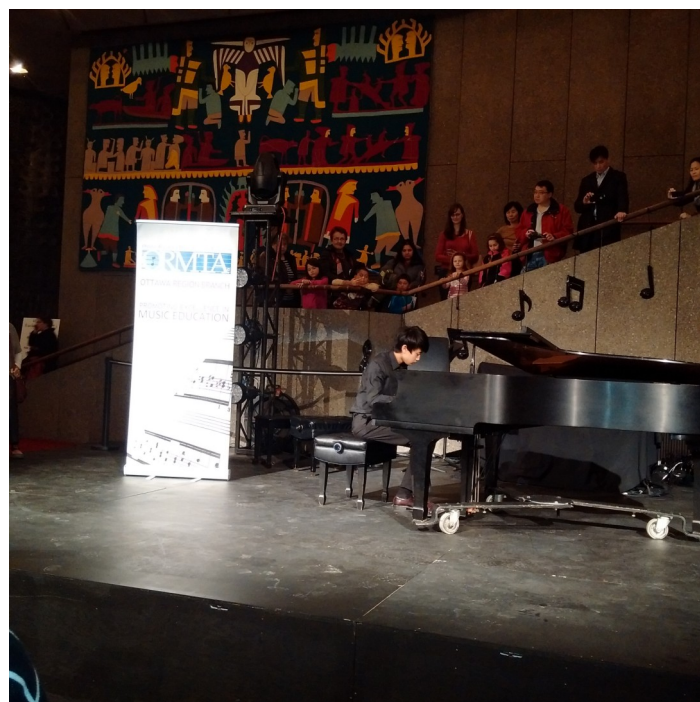
On the first Saturday of 2016, ORMTA students were featured on the main-stage in the NAC Lobby as part of our new relationship and partnership with the NAC, during the TUNETOWN Pre-Concert Activities for their Family Adventures Concert series.

The day was a wonderful success, with 22 students performing piano, voice and harp. Thank you to Yuko Soncini-Koizumi, Catherine Donkin, Gloria Jean Nagy, Priscilla Gruver, Valentina Kotko, Claudia Cashin-Mack, Hoda Nassim, and Ioulia Brechun for their participation and preparation (of their students) for this event.

More than once, NAC organizers AND the members of the general public attending the concerts came up to me, commenting on the talent, preparation and excellence of the students performing. I KNOW, without a doubt, that these students and ORMTA made an impact.

A special thank you to Yuko Soncini-Koizumi as well for staying at the table for the entire event. I ended up announcing and “MC-ing” throughout both segments of performances, so it was so helpful to have her be able answer questions and hand out our rack-cards to interested parents.

One final note; when Yuko’s students played their 8-hand variation of “Happy Birthday” at the NAC on Saturday, at one point they got up from the piano and stood around our ORMTA banner and shouted, “Happy 80th Birthday ORMTA!” which made me take a moment to realize what impact ORMTA teachers have made over those 80 years. The Ottawa Region Branch is full of wonderful teachers and students, and you as an ORMTA teacher are making a huge impact on your students – not only through your teaching but by engaging them in moments/days/opportunities like this. Congratulations.



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TBA

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First Class Honours Scholarships 2016 Winners*by Sherry Lu, Convenor*

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grade 9 Written Theory Award | Emma Zhang (Student of Sandra Cooke) |
| Grade 10 Written Theory Award | Ameen Ismail (Student of Virginia Strawn & Sandra Cooke) Catherine Beaudin (Student of Sandra Cooke) |
| Associate Written Theory Award | Haotian Yu (Student of Lori Lynn Penny) |
| Junior Keyboard Harmony Award | Garnet Zhao (Student of Paulette Price) |
| RCM Intermediate Keyboard Harmony Award | Not Awarded |
| RCM Advanced Keyboard Harmony Award | Michelle Sim (Student of Paulette Price) |
| Associate Teacher Award (Lorna McGill Hancock Award) | Not Awarded |
| Grade 8 Practical Award | Ning Hu (Student of Chunson Park) |
| Grade 9 Practical Award | Hayeon Lee (Student of Catherine Donkin) Garnet Zhao (Student of Paulette Price) |
| Grade 10 Practical Award | Spencer Klymyshyn (Student of Zhanna Gumenyuk) |
| Associate Performer (Gladys Boyd Memorial Award) | Avery Vine (Student of Dina Namer) |

Congratulations to the award winners and their teachers!

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About the ORBit

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

All submissions for the **April/May** issue of the *ORBit* must be received by the editor on or before: **March 10, 2016.**

Send submissions by e-mail to:

kmaryhoward@primus.ca

or by mail to:

Kathleen Howard,
Editor, the *ORBit*
326 Donoghue Rd.
Oxford Mills, ON K0G 1S0

Advertisements and announcements should either be plain text or fully formatted text. Plain-text submissions will be formatted by the editor. Fully formatted submissions will be included exactly as sent. The only acceptable formats are: pdf, jpeg, or tiff. Formatted word processing documents may not preserve formatting and/or font information and will not be accepted. Type-written submissions are also acceptable. Submissions must be accompanied by written reprint permission where applicable.

The products, services, and ideas expressed by the authors and advertisers in the *ORBit* are not necessarily those of the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association.

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| Ads | | |
| 1/6 page | \$12 | \$16 |
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| Inserts | \$25 | \$33 |
| Flyers (per page) | \$33 | \$44 |
| Heavy Brochures | \$50 | \$66 |
| Larger than 8.5 x 11 | \$83 | \$110 |

Contact the Editor – kmaryhoward@primus.ca concerning rates for multiple edition advertising.

The Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association shall retain the right at all times to accept or decline any advertising opportunity based solely on the judgment of the Editor with the support of the Executive Committee of the Ottawa Region Branch.

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General Meeting January 11th, 2016

By Olivia Riddell, President

A small group of members and council met together on Monday, January 11th, 2016 – our first General Meeting of 2016. Although it was a smaller than usual group, I was so pleased to see those who were there and appreciated their ability to be present.

Ann Babin had some really interesting and fun facts in regards to our membership's previous agendas and, specifically, our newsletters – and we all enjoyed a few good laughs when Ann had some questions for us, as Gloria-Jean Nagy was able to fill in all the blanks for us!

We enjoyed our usual meeting with executive reports and short review of council reports, shopping for used music checking out the video library, as well as some well-needed “catching-up” with colleagues and friends.

Thank you again to Jennie Smith for organizing another wonderful General Meeting and starting off our 2016 year so well.



Information Sharing Session, February 22nd

by Paulette Price, Convenor

Location: Home of Paulette Price, 13 Lismer Crescent in Kanata, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

This session will be presented by **Robert Dvorkin**, one of our newer ORMTA members. Robert has been teaching in Ottawa since 2014 and he has agreed to share his knowledge of the Taubman Approach with us. Robert discovered the work of Dorothy Taubman in 1999 and began intensive study of her approach. His expertise in the Taubman Approach has benefited many students of all levels. It promises to be an interesting morning!

The Taubman Approach is a codified set of technical principles that, when correctly applied, can result in a near-tension-free experience at the keyboard, and can lead the way to a virtuoso technique. Students who experience tension, awkwardness, and/or pain while playing report that the Approach vastly improves their ability to produce sound, navigate the keyboard with unprecedented ease, play without pain, sight-read better, learn more quickly, and myriad other benefits.

There should also be time for questions about specific concerns, and for that teachers may want to bring specific examples.

If you would like to attend the session reserve your spot by emailing Paulette at pauletteprice@rogers.com or phone 613-592-6686. Also, if you would like to help out with a snack item for our coffee time, please let Paulette know 1 week prior to the session.

In 1991, Guy Klucsevsek composed “Eleven Large Lobsters Loose in the Lobby” for solo accordion, in which no notes are played. The accordionist produces the required sounds by tapping the keys and pressing the register switches.

Members' Corner

Welcome to new members:

Takako Gillingham (Active) Piano

Congratulations to **Laura Hawley**, whose composition *Alhamdoulillah*, commissioned by Ecole de LaSalle, and performed by their choir, has received more than a million YouTube views.

Do you know an ORMTA member who deserves a congratulatory note, condolences or get well wishes? Have your students received a gold or silver medal, or achieved First Class Honours with Distinction on their exams (Gr. 10 and up) or other notable accomplishments? Forward details to:

Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca

Adult Students' Piano Workshop & Master Class

by Ioulia Brechun, Convenor

The Adult Students' Workshop and Master Class will be held on Saturday, February 27th, at a new location, Ottawa Pianos, 1412 Bank Street.

We are really excited that Robert Dvorkin is going to present The Taubman Approach to piano playing. Robert Dvorkin is a pianist and teacher from Edmonton. After moving to New York City, Robert was exposed to the Taubman Approach, and attended two summer seminars with Dorothy Taubman in 1999 and 2000. He began intensive training with Mrs. Taubman's student John Bloomfield in 1999, and continues his studies with Mr. Bloomfield to this day. Robert's recital repertoire emphasizes the works of Debussy, including the complete *Préludes* and *Images*. He has given many concerts in New York City, and elsewhere in the United States and Canada. In 2014 Robert moved from New York to Ottawa, where he established a teaching studio. The Taubman Approach is a codified set of technical principles that, when correctly applied, can result in a near-tension-free experience at the keyboard, and can lead the way to a virtuoso technique. Students who experience tension, awkwardness, and/or pain while playing report that the Approach vastly improves their ability to produce sound, navigate the keyboard with unprecedented ease, play without pain, sight-read better, learn more quickly, and myriad other benefits.

We will accept 6 applications for the Master Class on first come-first served basis and those who don't get into the Master class will still have an opportunity to perform and get feedback and suggestions from Robert. That part of the event is called Practice Performance Evaluation. Students and teachers are also welcome to come as observers to either workshop or master classes or both.

Unfortunately we cannot have lunch at the Ottawa Pianos, so a list of restaurants in the area will be forwarded to participants. Note that some of the restaurants require reservations.

The application deadline for the event is February 13 and the application form is on the ORMTA Ottawa website. The Recital will take place on March 19 at 2:30pm at the City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Ioulia Brechun at medbeach@yahoo.ca.



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Professional Development Workshop February 27th

by Olivia Riddell, President

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WHO?

Nikki Loney, Humber college Program Dip. (Honours) 1992, RMT, NATS, Website and Publicity Convener, Hamilton-Halton Branch, Author and Publisher of FULL VOICE WORKBOOKS SERIES & Website Designer.



WHEN?

February 27th @ 10:30am (Location to be confirmed – coming VERY soon!)

Cost: \$35 for ORMTA members / \$45 for non-members (who are welcome!!!) Please register by **February 20th**

WHAT?

Teaching Websites: Will discuss the important information that visitors are looking for when they search for a music teacher online. This workshop will ensure your website will be an effective marketing tool for both you and your studio.

Social Media: Online sharing has changed the way businesses connect with their customers. Private music teachers can greatly benefit from the effective use of social media. In this workshop you will learn how to connect with students, families, colleagues and support your professional associations.

ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award Ottawa Region Branch

Council is requesting nominations for the 2016 ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award (Ottawa Branch). If you wish to nominate a colleague, please send their name to Olivia Riddell, President olivia@myc.com. Things to consider: must be an ORMTA member for at least 10 years, cannot presently be on council, nominee's contribution to teaching and the community, educational pursuits, consistently excellent student results, contributions to ORMTA and other professional organizations.

Ottawa Branch OCTA recipients:

| | | | |
|------|----------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| 2015 | Helen Sinclair, piano | 2000 | Dr. Elaine Keillor , piano |
| 2014 | Ann Babin, piano | 1999 | Grace McGugan, piano |
| 2013 | Gilles Comeau, piano | 1998 | Frances Balodis, EC |
| 2012 | Charlotte Stewart, voice | 1997 | Mary Mackey, piano |
| 2011 | Joan Klenavic, piano | 1996 | Elsie Melson, piano |
| 2010 | Adela Contreras, piano | 1995 | Netta Gale, piano |
| 2009 | Gloria Jean Nagy, voice | 1994 | Sandra Cooke, theory |
| 2008 | Paulette Price, piano | 1993 | Edith Orton, piano |
| 2007 | Joan Clarkson, piano | 1992 | Bertha Bower, theory |
| 2006 | Grace Davies, piano | 1991 | Irene Woodburn Wright, piano |
| 2005 | Elaine Kruse, piano | 1990 | Flora Goulden (posthumous) |
| 2004 | Virginia Strawn, piano | 1989 | no entry |
| 2003 | Sr. Kathleen Devlin, piano | | |
| 2002 | Barbara Ross, voice | | |
| 2001 | Jack Cook, voice | | |

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Calendar of Events

February

- 6 Variety Show Recital** ~ 4:30 p.m. at City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Danielle Jersak danielle_jersak@hotmail.com .
- 7 David Jalbert Piano Master Class, University of Ottawa** ~1:00 to 4:00 p.m.. Freiman Hall, Perez Building. Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 7 First Class Honours Recitals** ~ 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Meg Iwaskow megiwaskow@gmail.com
- 13 Deadline for Applications for the Adult Student Workshop, Master class and Recital** ~ Contact Ioulia Brechun medbeach@yahoo.ca
- 20 Deadline to register for the Professional Development Workshop** ~ Contact Olivia Riddell olivia@myc.com
- 27 Adult Student Workshop & Master Class** ~ 9:30 a.m. at Ottawa Pianos, 1412 Bank St.. Contact Ioulia Brechun medbeach@yahoo.ca
- 27 Professional Development Workshop** 10:30 a.m. Location TBA, (lunch and learn) with Nikki Loney re:Teaching Websites and Social Media Marketing. Contact Olivia Riddell olivia@myc.com for details.

March

- 6 Christiane Riel Voice Master Class, University of Ottawa** ~ 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Freiman Hall, Perez Building. Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 10 Submission Deadline for April/May ORBit** ~ Contact Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca
- 19 Adult Student Recital.** ~ 2:30 p.m. City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Ioulia Brechun medbeach@yahoo.ca

April

- 15 Deadline for Applications for Competitions.** ~ Contact Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

May

- 10 Submission Deadline for June/July/August ORBit.** ~ Contact Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca
- 27 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon** ~ Cedarhill Golf & Country Club, 56 Cedarhill Drive. Contact Jennie Smith jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com
- 28-29 Competitions** ~ Carleton University, Loeb Building, Patrick Cardy Studio. Contact Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com
- 29 Competitions Gala** ~ 7:30 p.m. Carleton University, Loeb Building, Patrick Cardy Studio. Contact Kimberley Sundell sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

Fundraising Initiative



Support ORMTA's Scholarship Fund and enjoy delicious cupcakes! Make a \$20 donation and receive a dozen cupcakes as a thanks! This "sweet" deal is only available until June 2016.

ORMTA OTTAWA REGION BRANCH CUPCAKE ORDER FORM

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Italian Alps



Carl has a real flare for music and deep knowledge of its history that helped bring out the best in my understanding of the music and therefore my singing

Each day we built on the previous day, so that at the end of the 2 weeks I felt a huge improvement

I think it pushed me to become more in tune with who I am and what I have to offer on stage. In this way, the class exceeded my expectations. I never thought I would begin to feel more comfortable with myself in performance in such a short period of time



Two weeks to focus on singing was amazing. I had no worries except to prepare to sing. I learned so much from [the teachers]

The numerous masterclasses gave the opportunity for us to learn from our own performances in a group setting as well as learn more general things from the performances of other individuals. The teachers were always helpful and enthusiastic, which created a positive, motivating environment

I really enjoyed the format of the 2 weeks. The location was beautiful and the people were great to be with

I would definitely recommend this program to other singers. It is such an amazing opportunity to work and improve as musicians and performers. It is well-organized and run so that there is a good balance between working on music and exploring the beautiful region, culture, and wonderful people of Breno

I would recommend this program to other singers, because I loved being in the Italian Alps with incredible teachers. Having no other distractions and having many opportunities to perform, I feel like I've grown so much in such a short period

The performance for the cloistered nuns was also very eye-opening and inspiring experience for everyone



Feb 27, 2pm
Jacob Siskind Music Resource Centre
Room 503, MacOdrum Library, Carleton University

Admission: \$10
free for Carleton Students



For further information contact maghan@gmail.com