

Inside ...

| | Page |
|--|------|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Executive Committee | 2 |
| General Meeting | 3 |
| Young Artist Recital | 3 |
| About the ORBit | 4 |
| Advertising Rates | 4 |
| Nov. 10 Information Sharing Session | 5 |
| Canada Music Week Recital | 5 |
| Adult Student Events | 7 |
| ORMTA/ONMC Composition Workshop | 8 |
| Address Changes | 8 |
| Members' Corner | 9 |
| Upcoming Concerts | 9 |
| Upcoming Events | 10 |



President's Message

by Tania Granata

As I write this final President's message of 2014, it is also my first message of 2015. I wish you a peaceful and restful upcoming holiday with your friends and family. I also wish you a wonderful, exciting and musical 2015! When I think back to 2014, one word comes to mind – whirlwind – and I don't see it changing much for the New Year! But that's good! I have a very full life: full of music, full of friends and family, full of opportunities and full of things to learn. No time to get bored! I attended my first Provincial Council meeting in Toronto at the end of October. As an ice breaker, we were all to go around the table and introduce ourselves and mention things we like to do when we aren't "ORMTA-ing" or doing something music-related. I wasn't surprised when most of us were stumped because it seems that music, in addition to our families, fills most of our time! But I wouldn't have it any other way.

November was a very busy time in our branch. We started it off with a wonderful Information Sharing Session on harmony and chord structure and how to make the teaching of them more effective in our lessons. Thanks Paulette, for leading such a wonderful and creative session! There are also two music festivals that happen in November: Contemporary Showcase and the Canadian Music Showcase. Congrats to all of you who participated in one or both of these very worthwhile events. Wrapping up Canada Music Week (or month as I call it!) was our own ORMTA Canada Music Week recital. You can read more about this wonderful concert on page 5 of this issue.

December/January are all about deadlines: First Class Honours scholarships, First Class Honours applications, Guitar master class applications, Variety Show applications, Piano Masterclass applications. Be sure to check the Upcoming Events on page 10 for dates!

Our January General Meeting is booked for January 12 at 9:30 am at the Mennonite Church on Kilborn and I hope to see many of you there! We are hoping to have some speakers and it's a nice way to kick off the New Year. I would personally like to see many of our new members and our University of Ottawa student members in attendance, so they can have a great insight into how we run the branch. If you need a ride, please don't hesitate to contact me and I'll see what can be done about helping you.

I hope you are all planning some down time with your friends and family over the next while. A battery charge is definitely needed! I would like to wish you all a peaceful holiday season and say a special thank you to my council for the marvelous job they have done so far this teaching year and tell them how excited I am for the next 6 months of events that I know they have in the works!

Yours in music,
 Tania

Ottawa Region Branch Executive and Committee (2014-2015)

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| | |
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| | Festival Liaison Sally Rowsell 613-324-0343 rowsellstudio@bellaliant.net |
| | Information Sharing Sessions Paulette Price 613-592-6686 pauletteprice@rogers.com |

First Class Honours Auditions and Recitals

by Pam Kennedy, Convenor

Our 2015 FCH recitals will be held Sunday, February 15 at City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Students of ORMTA members may apply to audition on February 1 if they received a FCH standing (80%) or higher on their practical exams in 2014. This event is open only to students who have completed Grade 2 and above.

Application forms and detailed information can be found online at www.ormtaottawa.ca under the EVENTS link, or you can contact me at pamkennedy@rogers.com

The application deadline is December 12.

I am looking for ORMTA members to volunteer their time both for the audition and concert days. Any help will be appreciated. Please contact me if you are interested.

General Meeting

Monday, January 12, 2015

Ottawa Mennonite Church,
1830 Kilborn Avenue

9:15 am ~ coffee, tea, juice

9:30 am ~ meeting begins

Contributions to the refreshment table appreciated
Used music sale and DVD / CD library available

Join us and meet new colleagues, renew old friendships
and explore what is new in the branch!

For more information, contact:
Jennie Smith 613-260-9171 or jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com

Young Artist Recital

by Susan Blyth-Schofield, convenor



On Sunday, October 26, Ottawa was treated to a superb piano recital given by this year's Young Artist winner, pianist Charissa Vandikas. She delighted her audience throughout with totally polished and professional interpretations giving each composer his own voice.

Charissa began with two sonatas by Scarlatti (K.212 in A major followed by K.54 in A minor) both played with delicacy and charm. They were followed by Beethoven Op. 101 (Sonata in A Major). Here her interpretation was mature and her execution flawless. Charissa closed the first half of her concert with an animated performance of Liszt's *Années de Pèlerinage II* Supplement to *Venezia e Napoli*, *Tarantella*, S 163.

After a short interval Charissa returned to the stage with a dynamic interpretation of another showpiece: David McIntyre's 'Butterflies and Bobtails'. Her closing selection, Brahms' Variation and Fugue on a Theme by Handel, was played with a fabulous sense of style and musical expression well beyond her years.

Following the concert Charissa was presented with flowers and an iTunes gift card from the branch.

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 **February/March** issue of the *ORBit* must be received by the editor on or before: **January 10, 2014.**

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

or by mail to: Sue Jones,
Editor, the ORBit
259 Crocus Avenue
Ottawa, ON
K1H 6E7

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.

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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 – L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com 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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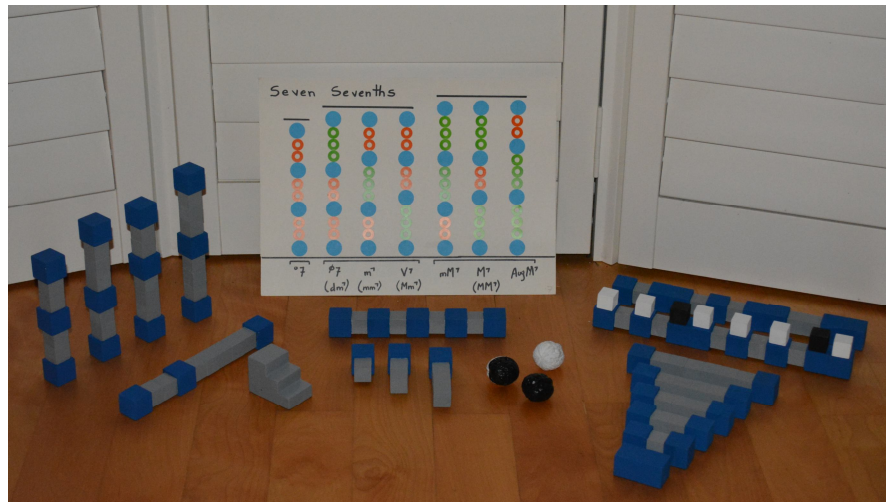
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November 10 Information Sharing Session

by Paulette Price, convenor

Our second Information Sharing session proved to be a lively morning with nearly twenty teachers in attendance. Paulette Price led the discussion for the morning by explaining some methods she is using to help make harmony and tonality more felt and understood in repertoire for students of all ages. Many uses for her handcrafted wooden models of triads and 7th chords were explored, gesture patterns for chord qualities were tried out by teachers, and listening strategies, keyboard games and mnemonics were all discussed as to their possible benefits.

Teachers shared their own interesting perspectives on training the ear and the eye to be more aware of the magical chemistry of harmonic colour.



Wooden models of triads and 7th chords

Canada Music Week Recital

by Tania Granata, convenor



Wow! What a night! Orleans United Church was jam-packed with supportive family and friends on Sunday, November 23 for the 2014 Canada Music Week recital. The crowds were treated to music performed by 39 young musicians ranging in age from 7 to 18 featuring a variety of instruments: voice, harp and piano. We even had a few original compositions by Ottawa composers: Kelly-Marie Murphy, Colin Mack, Claudia Cashin-Mack, Anita Schlarb and young composer Abbey Sugars-Keen. They were all outstanding.

The last performer was voice student Cassidy Van Bavel and the amazing harpist Caroline Leonardelli performing *Frozen Fire*, an amazing piece written for Cassidy by her mother Kelly-Marie Murphy. It was riveting! As a way of furthering our ONMC/ORMTA collaboration, pianist Catherine Donkin performed two pieces composed by Christine Donkin to close the concert. It brought the crowd to their feet! We are definitely a city that exudes musical talent.

All the participants received a certificate of participation and ORMTA voice teacher Misty Banyard helped hand out the "Obama" cookie to all the performers, which has become a small tradition! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped organize the students and reception, those who brought items for the reception and those who helped with cleanup.



Carleton University Musical Theatre Ensemble Presents

A Salute To Broadway The Fallies II

FEATURING
 Brittany Boots
 Morgan Brittain
 Mathieu Charlebois
 Cithmi Gunapala
 Sydney Harding
 Caitlin Klotz
 Jesse Levy
 Joy Mwandemange
 Brandon Nguyen
 Melina Delley
 Lili Roussikas
 Berlayne Smith

Stage Direction by Susan Blyth-Schofield
Musical Direction by Larry Tarof

Friday 5 December 2014
7:30 pm
Kailash Mital Theatre
Carleton University

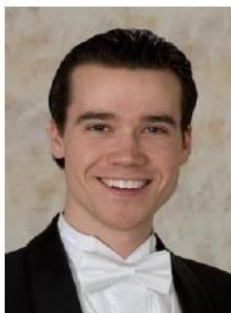
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Adult Students' Workshops, Piano/Vocal Master Classes and Recital 2015

by Ioulia Brechun (piano) and Carol Ann Wood (vocal), convenors

Saturday, March 7: Piano Workshop and Master Class with Dina Namer, starting at 10 am

Location: 3025 Linton Road



Dina Namer, who is sought after as a harpsichordist and chamber music player as well as a being a gifted piano teacher, will lead the March 7, 2015 Adult Students' Workshop and Piano Master Class.

As a long-time member of the Queen's School of Music faculty, Dina had an extensive career in both

the United States and Canada as a harpsichordist and pianist, performing and recording a wide range of repertoire from Baroque harpsichord to contemporary Canadian piano works. She has a long association with the musicians of the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada in Ottawa.

Since 1995, Ms. Namer has performed regularly in the *Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival*, *Festival Music and Beyond* and the *Alexandria Festival of the Lakes* in Alexandria, Minnesota. Ms. Namer is heard frequently on Minnesota Public Radio, CBC, and Radio Canada.

The subject of the morning workshop will be *Strategies for Overcoming Performance Obstacles*. This will be followed by the afternoon master class. We will accept six applications on a first-come, first-served basis, so send your complete applications as soon as possible. Application forms are available on our website complete with information on dates, times, fees and locations of the Adult Student event.

This year we are offering a practice performance evaluation class following the master class which is open to those who have not participated in the Piano Master Class. This evaluation includes comments and suggestions from Dina Namer and the chance to play in front of peers.

For more information about the piano workshop and master class, please contact: Ioulia Brechun at medbeach@yahoo.ca

Saturday, March 14: Workshop and Vocal Master Class Workshop with Susan Blyth-Schofield, 10 am – noon

Vocal Master Class with Christiane Riel, 1 – 4 pm

Location: 3025 Linton Road

Susan Blyth-Schofield, Associate Performance Instructor and Lecturer of Carleton University, will present a morning workshop on performance anxiety which is open to vocalists

as well as instrumentalists. Susan will discuss coping strategies to calm those "jitters."

Susan's performance experience in a vast variety of musical areas in Canada and Europe, includes appearances on the opera, operetta, musical theatre, and concert stage. She is also active as a director, teacher, and musicologist. As well as her appointment with Carleton University, Susan teaches voice and interpretation from her own vocal studio in Ottawa.



Christiane Riel, Head of the Vocal Sector, University of Ottawa, will lead the Vocal Master Class. With expertise in Italian and French romantic repertoire, Christiane will be delighted to work with the students on all genres of vocal repertoire, classical or musical theatre.

Christiane has earned wide acclaim with opera companies in Canada, United States and Australia for her interpretation of demanding soprano roles in Puccini, Verdi and the French romantic repertoire. She has devoted significant time to vocal instruction, giving master classes throughout Canada. As a member of the university teaching fraternity, appointments have included Wilfrid Laurier University, Western University and now the University of Ottawa.

For more information about the workshop and vocal master class, contact Carol Wood carol.wood@rogers.com or 613-421-1033.

We are fortunate indeed to have Dina Namer, Christine Riel and Susan Blyth-Schofield bring their vast knowledge and performance experiences to share with us this spring.

Saturday, March 28: Recital 2:30 pm

Location: City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue

A recital for those who have participated in the adult student workshops and/or master classes will take place at City View United Church.

Registration forms, including clinician biographies and other information, can be found on our website at www.ormtaottawa.ca

ORMTA/ONMC Composition Workshop 2014

by Ann Babin

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 19, as a result of the coordinated efforts of Curtis Perry and Christine Donkin of the ONMC (Ottawa New Music Creators) ORMTA teacher and ONMC member Colin Mack, and ORMTA teachers Sandy Menard and Tania Granata, two talented young composers, Aris Penny and Toby Armstrong, were each able to spend sixty minutes discussing their work with Ottawa composer Christine Donkin.

Both students received a written adjudication of their submitted work as well as intensive hands-on keyboard time reviewing their compositions and brainstorming other composing options. Christine was generous with her time and experience as she shared composing ideas and encouraged Aris and Toby to continue with their efforts. A huge thank you to the ONMC who provided the funding for clinician expenses.

Teachers sitting in would have a great opportunity to learn from this. Not everyone is a composition teacher but sometimes we get students who want to try their hand at the craft. Hopefully this event will grow in the years to come.



Aris Penny, Christine Donkin and Toby Armstrong

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Please remember to inform the Ottawa branch as well, by contacting either:

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Members' Corner

Congratulations to ...

- **Ann Empey**, whose student, Emma Drinnan, won the Medal of Excellence from Conservatory Canada for History 6.
- **Edith Orton**, who just celebrated her 90th birthday!

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? Contact: L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com

♪ Upcoming Concerts ♪ (listed by date)

Fri. Dec. 5 – 7:30 pm, and

Sat. Dec. 6 – 7:30 pm – Coro Vivo Ottawa Celebrates 30 Christmases. Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd. Orleans. Tickets: Tickets \$20, free for children 14 and under. Contact: www.corovivoottawa.ca 613-841-3902 www.facebook.com/corovivo

Sat. Dec. 6 – 3:00 pm. Cantiamo Girls Choir Christmas Concert. Director: Jackie Hawley. Accompanist: Laura Hawley. Dominion-Chalmers United Church, 355 Cooper Street. Tickets: \$15 Adults, \$10 Seniors/Students/ Alumni, \$35 Family. Contact: info@cantiamogirlschoir.ca

Sat. Dec. 6 – 7:30 pm. Gloria! Carols for the Christmas season with the choirs of St. John the Evangelist Church, Woodroffe United Church and the Strings of St. John's. Conductors: Gordon Johnston and Katarina Jovic. Woodroffe United, 207 Woodroffe Ave. Tickets: \$20 Adults (\$17 advance), \$15 Seniors/Students. Contact: 613-232-4500 or info@stringsofstjohns.ca

Sunday, Dec. 7, 8:00 pm – Les Concerts Ponticello. Maison du Citoyen, salle Jean-Desprez, 25 Rue Laurier, Gatineau (secteur Hull). Beethoven Piano concerto #5, Emperor, arranged for piano and string quintet by Lachner. Also Dvorak string Quintet #2. Mauro Bertoli, piano. Contact: mauro.bertoli@maurobertoli.com

Sun. Dec. 14 – 2:00 pm. Gloria! All information is the same as Dec. 6 concert above, but venue is St. John the Evangelist Church, Elgin St. at Somerset W.

Upcoming ORMTA Events 2014 - 2015

(December 2014 – February 2015)

December

- 12** **Application Deadline for First Class Honours Recitals.** Contact: Pam Kennedy at pamkennedy@rogers.com
- 15** **Application Deadline for First Class Honours Schoarships.** Contact: Sherry Lu at sherryludi@yahoo
- 18** **Application Deadline for Louis Trépanier Classical Guitar Master Class.** Contact: Katarina Jovic at katarinamusic@sympatico.ca

January

- 8** **Application Deadline for David Jalbert Piano Master Class.** Contact: Katarina Jovic at katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 10** **Submission Deadline for February/March ORBit.** Contact: Sue Jones at 613-523-5317 or L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com
- 12** **GENERAL MEETING.** 9:15 am coffee/tea. 9:30 am meeting. Ottawa Mennonite Church, 1830 Kilborn Ave. Contact: Jennie Smith at jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com
- 15** **Application Deadline for Variety Show.** Contact: Danielle Jersak at danielle_jersak@hotmail.com Application forms are available on the website.
- 18** **Louis Trépanier Guitar Master Class.** University of Ottawa. 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Contact: Katarina Jovic at katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 24** **Variety Show Auditions.** 2:00 pm. Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Dr. Contact: Danielle Jersak at danielle_jersak@hotmail.com

February

- 1** **First Class Honours Recitals Auditions.** 1:00 – 4:00 pm. City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Contact: Pam Kennedy at pamkennedy@rogers.com
- 7** **Variety Show.** 2:00 pm. Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Dr. Contact: Danielle Jersak at danielle_jersak@hotmail.com
- 8** **David Jalbert Piano Master Class.** 1:00 – 4:00 pm. University of Ottawa. Contact: Katarina Jovic at katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 8** **Application Deadline for Andrew Tunis Piano Master Class.** Contact: Katarina Jovic at katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 12** **Professional Development Workshop.** 9:30 to 11:30 am. Venue TBA. Contact: Olivia Riddell at olivia@myc.com
- 15** **First Class Honours Recitals.** 2:00 - 9:00 pm (exact times TBD), City View United Church, 6 Epworth Ave. Contact: Pam Kennedy pamkennedy@rogers.com

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