



## President's Message

by Olivia Riddell

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Thank goodness and welcome to spring! Although we experienced a *dolce* beginning to winter, these last few months certainly have been ones to remember – NOT only for the weather, but also for the amazing events that our council have organized and successfully orchestrated. Congratulations to our council and our teachers who had students participating in these events. Without your participation, these events just could not happen.

Our Adult Student Workshop, Masterclass and Recital all took place recently, thanks go out to Ioulia Brechun (and all the volunteers) for pulling it all together. Thank you as well to our clinician Robert Dvorkin, who presented on the Taubman approach to piano.

We also had an Information Sharing Session at the home of Paulette Price, where even more of our members were able to learn from and share with Robert Dvorkin.

I would also like to welcome two new members to our Region, Anastassia Grankina and Takako Gillingham.

In this issue you can read about this year's OCTA recipient Sandra Menard. Thank you to Lori Lynn Penny for interviewing her and I hope you take the time to read more about this wonderful member of ours.

And as always, please take some time to make note of our upcoming events: Competitions, Competitions Gala and of course the Annual General Meeting all coming up at the end of May. Many, many thanks Kimberley Sundell and Jennie Smith in advance for their superior work on these portfolios. I hope to see you at these upcoming events.

Until next time – wishing you all well,  
 Olivia





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## 2016 Variety Show

by Danielle Jersak, convenor



The ORMTA Variety Show was held on Saturday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00 pm at City View United Church. We enjoyed 13 wonderful performances, some of which included musical theatre, solo piano, 8-hands piano, voice and harp.

This year, performers had the opportunity to play on a Yamaha concert grand piano, which was provided by our partner, Ottawa Pianos.

I would like to thank all of the teachers, parents and performers. Without your support the recital would not take place. I would also like to thank Mary-Lynne, Dave and City View United Church for all of their help and the use of their beautiful sanctuary. Finally, thank you to the volunteers who helped by auditioning students, and welcoming participants and families, as well as helping on stage between performers (Amy Boyes, Meg Iwaskow, Mary Ellen Grigor, Carol Wood and Riley McIntyre). Thank you and see you all next year!

## Information Sharing Session

by Paulette Price, Convener

Eighteen teachers gathered at the home of Paulette Price on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to hear Robert Dvorkin explain the basic principles of the Taubman Approach to piano technique. Dorothy Taubman was a Brooklyn teacher whose method draws the student toward a natural movement and alignment.

Robert told of his own piano journey, and of his first realization of the technical ease that the method could offer. He then explained the basic components of the approach, giving us simple yet memorable physical demonstrations which were very clear as teaching aids. He emphasized the teacher's need for empathy and a willingness to tackle things in new ways.

All in all it was a great morning with lots of discussion - even around the coffee pot! Thank you Robert for your valuable contribution!

## Upcoming Concerts

**April 9, 7:30 pm - Horizons Songs of Hope** - Carleton University Choir, Laurie Hamilton, Director. Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer. Adults \$5, students \$10.

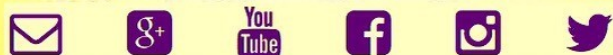
**April 17, 7:30 pm - The Carpenters of Song** - Music and Poetry of Wales, Brittany, Scotland and Ireland with Mary Muckle, harp & harpsichord; Julie Leduc, harp; Marilyn Jenkins, voice; Loyda Lastra, flute; Cantorion Cerd Dant and The Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble. St. Luke's Anglican Church, 760 Somerset St. W. Admission is by donation.

**April 22-24 - Ontario Welsh Festival** based at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa. Mary Muckle has a Harp ensemble performing on the Variety Program (Nosen Lawen) on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at The First Baptist Church on Elgin and is giving a harp workshop at the Lord Elgin on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 3:30-4:30 pm. The three Welsh tenors concert with the Cordydd Choir from Cardiff, Wales takes place on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30 pm at Dominion Chalmers Church. Welsh Hymn Sing (Gymanfa Ganu) sessions on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am and 1:30 pm, in Dominion Chalmers Church, with Alan Thomas at the organ and the Cordydd Choir.

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TBA

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## First Class Honours Recital February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

By Meg Iwaskow, Convener

Sunday February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 marked another wonderful First Class Honours recital for the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association.

There were two concerts: one at 4:00 pm and another at 7:00 pm. Both concerts featured outstanding performances from students who achieved a First Class Honours or higher standing in a conservatory exam in the 2015 year. Scholarships



were awarded at the 7:00 pm concert to students who received the highest mark in the senior practical and theory conservatory exams.

I would like to thank Ottawa Pianos for the delivery, tuning and use of their beautiful Yamaha CFX 9' concert grand piano for both the audition and concert weekends. Thank you to City View United church and their staff for being so helpful as well as to all the ORMTA teachers who worked so hard to prepare their students for a successful audition and concert performance. Finally, a huge thank you to Danielle Jersak, Olivia Riddell, Sherry Lu, Priscilla Gruver, Mary Ellen Grigor, Yuko Soncini-Koizumi and Sarah Keogan for volunteering their time on audition and concert day.

Looking forward to next year.



Liberace's last piano was decorated with 350 lbs. of rhinestones.

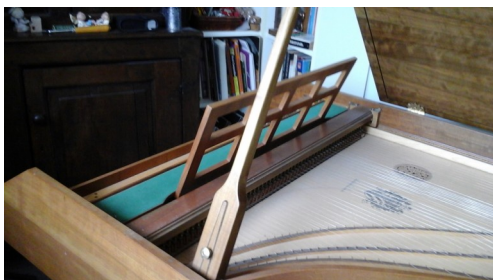
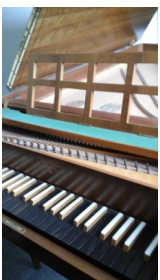


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### Members' Corner

**Welcome to new members:**

**Anastassia Grankina**, active, piano

**Congratulations to Mary Mackey**, who celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on March 13th.

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](mailto:kmaryhoward@primus.ca)

**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 **June/July/August** issue of the ORBit must be received by the editor on or before: **May 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.

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**Advertising Rates**

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1/6 page	\$12	\$16
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1/3 page	\$22	\$25
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Flyers (per page)	\$33	\$44
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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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## ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award 2016 Recipient Sandra Menard

by Lori Lynn Penny



Sandy began her first piano lessons at the age of seven, at the convent near her home in Belleville. After her family moved to Oshawa, she resumed lessons with Sadie Brown and as a teenager enjoyed playing for high-school musicals as well as a local dance studio. She attended Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo where she studied with Boyd McDonald and Michael Purves-Smith. Reorienting her studies toward the harpsichord (and piano as a second instrument), Sandy received a BA in Music (1979) with a specialization in Early Music. One of the highlights of her education was an opportunity, facilitated by Queen's University, to spend a summer of study in Vienna. This program sparked her love for travel.

Returning to Oshawa, Sandy continued lessons at the Royal Conservatory with Gordon Hallett and Wilfrid Powell (who later played organ for her wedding). She started teaching piano and in 1981 moved to Ottawa where she finished her ARCT theory requirements with Sandra Cooke and Virginia Strawn. These ladies encouraged her involvement with the Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA, inviting her onto council even before she became a member – a formality that was settled in 1984.

Since then, Sandy has held every council position, except treasurer. She began her tenure as co-convenor of the First Class Honours Recital, with the oldest of her three children arriving just a week before the recital! She served on her first convention committee (the second in 2006), and remembers the garage-sale typewriter that produced programs, newsletters, and minutes, as well as correspondence dictated from telephone conversations. After a three-year hiatus surrounding her daughter's arrival in 1990, she returned to oversee ORMTA's Performance in the Community portfolio. This interest in community outreach led her to assume the organization of two fund-raising auctions that provided music tuition for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ottawa.

With her branch presidency (2011-2013), Sandy represented the Ottawa region on provincial council where she served as convenor for the Pedagogy Award. With her teaching, she continues to serve the musical community in Orleans. Although she has had advanced students who have pursued music as a career, she strongly believes that all students deserve a solid foundation at the elementary level and this belief forms the heart of her studio. She also acknowledges the unwavering support of her family.

In addition to her teaching, Sandy substitutes for the organist at her church and plays for monthly services at a long-term care facility. She is taking flute lessons, enjoys photography, hiking, skiing, and travelling with her newly retired husband. She is also loving the adventure of her new role as grandmother!

Sandy greatly appreciates all that her ORMTA membership offers, both for herself and for her students. As a council member, she values the opportunity to have contributed to an organization of such high professional standards – to have networked and made many long-lasting friendships. She feels honoured and truly humbled to be recognized as the 2016 recipient of an OCTA. In turn, the Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA is privileged to have been the beneficiary of Sandy's enthusiastic dedication.

### Invitation—Annual General Meeting and Luncheon

If you have never been to our AGM and luncheon or have not attended for several years, I extend my personal invitation to you to join us this year.

The AGM and luncheon is the perfect opportunity to meet colleagues, old and new, and enjoy a catered luncheon together. You will hear reports of what has been happening in our branch over the past teaching year, hear our plans for the future and help us congratulate this year's recipient of the 2016 ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award.

There will be a used music sale with proceeds going to our scholarship fund, and our DVD library will be available.

Our entertainment this year will be the violin duo "Just Duet". I hope to see you on Friday, May 27, 2016 at the Cedarhill Golf and Country Club.

- Jennie Smith, Social Convener

### Competitions May 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Adjudicators for Competitions 2016 are: John Avey (vocal) and Cynthia Borman (instrumental)

**Please note this change to the Rules for Young Artist Competitors:** "Competitors must perform selections of their own choice from the submitted programme for a maximum of 15 minutes. At the conclusion of the competitor's performance of their chosen programme, the adjudicators will request the competitor to perform one or more additional selection(s) from the submitted programme, at their discretion. The same own choice programme must be performed at all 3 levels of the competition - branch, zone and provincial."

## Adult Students' Workshop and Master Class February 27<sup>th</sup> and Recital March 19<sup>th</sup>

by Ioulia Brechun, Convener



Adult students and their teachers gathered together again on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for the whole day Workshop and Master Class event.

Robert Dvorkin, who moved to Ottawa from New York in 2014, presented a lecture on the Taubman Approach to piano technique using power point and live demonstration.

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. The ultimate goal of the Taubman Approach is musical expression, giving the performer the complete freedom to express herself or himself at the keyboard.

The lecture was followed by 6 master classes and 2 practice performance evaluations. It was amazing to see how the quality of

tone and a comfort level of playing of the participants was improving one move at a time as Mr. Dvorkin worked with each student.

It was rewarding to receive very positive feedback from the students afterwards.

The event took place at the Ottawa Pianos who provided us with a beautiful 9-foot Yamaha Grand. Special thank you goes to Carmen Papalia.

At the Recital on March 19<sup>th</sup> at City View United Church, we enjoyed the polished performances of the adult students whose dedication and passion for playing the piano was very inspiring.

Thank you to all volunteers who made both parts of the event go smoothly: Kathleen Howard, Joan Klenavic, Carol Wood, Olivia Riddell and Helen Sinclair.



In a study of 2,500 people, psychologists at the University of Leicester concluded: classical music fans were most likely to have smoked marijuana, blues fans were most likely to have received a speeding ticket, opera fans were most likely to have ingested hallucinogenic mushrooms, and musical theatre fans were least likely to take drugs or engage in criminal behaviour.”

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*Coffee/tea: 9:00 am*

*Meeting: 9:30 am*

*Luncheon: Noon*

*Luncheon ~ \$35*

*Parking ~ free*

*NOTE: reservations are required for the luncheon only, luncheon reservations must be made by Tuesday, May 17, 2016*

**Entertainment:** Just Duet violin duo (Delia Li and Simcha Sutton-Pollock)

**Regular menu:** Cedarhill salad \* oven roasted pork loin with apple cranberry chutney \* fresh vegetables

**Vegetarian menu:** Cedarhill salad \* quiche with roasted vegetables and goat cheese \* fresh vegetables

**Dessert:** chocolate cake with raspberry coulis **OR** fruit cup

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 First Class Honours Recital: Meg Iwaskow  
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 Contemporary Showcase: Tania Granata  
 Kiwanis Festival: Zhanna Gumenyuk  
 Music and Beyond: Katarina Jovic  
 NAC: Olivia Riddell

**Calendar of Events**

**April**

**15 Deadline for Applications for Competitions.** ~ Contact Kimberley Sundell [sundellpianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:sundellpianostudio@gmail.com)

**May**

**10 Submission Deadline for June/July/August ORBit.** ~ Contact Kathleen Howard [kmaryhoward@primus.ca](mailto:kmaryhoward@primus.ca)

**27 Annual General Meeting and Luncheon** ~ Cedarhill Golf & Country Club, 56 Cedarhill Drive. Contact Jennie Smith [jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com](mailto:jenniesmithrmt@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.

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