



President's Message

by Sandra Menard

The beginning is the most important part of the work.
- Plato

As September draws near, I can't help but feel a tiny bit of anxiety. I believe that as music teachers, most of us feel a little overwhelmed with the changes we experience every fall.

As I write, I am sitting in my studio glancing over to a bookcase that looks very tidy but is, in fact, very disorganized. I know most of these books were replaced in a hurry and are not where they belong. I still have repertoire to purchase, music to review and phone calls to make. I realize that in sorting out these shelves, I will be compelled to sit down and play a good deal of that music, review forgotten pieces and explore new ones. I'll begin a shopping list and make phone calls. I'll begin to feel less anxious, more organized and more excited!

I am definitely excited to begin working with my new students and can't wait to explore new repertoire with returning students. I hope the fall change brings you the same sense of anticipation and wish you all the very best for a productive and stimulating year.

My new position as president on the ORB council marks another important beginning for me. I will go from placing most of my attention to the portfolios I find most interesting to taking an avid interest in *all* portfolios. My years on OMRTA council are many, but I have so much more to learn. I thank both returning and new council members for the planning they have already begun on behalf of this branch. I know them to be dedicated team players and I look forward to sharing ideas and making new plans with them. I warmly welcome our new council members Brenda Eisener, Debra Grass, Joy Hodgkinson and Diana McCarthy and look forward to getting to know them better. This summer, we also welcomed new members Marta Pocięcha, Sarah Kennedy and Lisa Moody.

It is my sincere hope that as a group, all members will feel they can have a voice in our branch. If you would like to lend a helping hand with any of our events or if you have constructive thoughts to offer, please don't hesitate to contact me.

The ORBit is constantly evolving and is gradually taking on a new look thanks to Sue Jones and Amy Boyes. Speaking of important beginnings and of being organized - do consider taking in the exciting workshop Amy has planned on October 21st *Building a World Class Music Studio*. You won't want to miss it!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the September 12th coffee party!

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GENERAL MEETING AND POT-LUCK BREAKFAST

Monday, September 12, 2011

**Orleans United Church
1111 Orleans Blvd.**

9:15 am

Coffee, tea and juice available starting at 9:00 am.
Table-ready donations of breakfast foods most welcome.

Used music for sale before and after the meeting
with proceeds going to our Student Scholarship Fund.

Door prizes!

For more information, contact Jennie Smith 613-260-9171 or
timj.smith@sympatico.ca

About the ORBit

the ORBit is published 7 times a year: September, October, November, December/January, February/March, April/May and June/July/August.

All submissions for the **October 2011** issue of *the ORBit* must be received by the editor on or before: **September 10, 2011.**

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

or by mail to:
Sue Jones, ORBit Editor, 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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1/6 page	\$12	\$16
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Provincial Competitions

Young Artist Competition



Stella terHart, Anita Pari, Gwenlynn Little, Chris Foley

Once again, Ottawa has fared extremely well at the Provincial Competitions, held at the Stage West Hotel in Mississauga, Ontario on July 23. Sharon Ding, representing the Ottawa Region Zone and student of Sandra Webster, was the Runner-Up for the Provincial Instrumental Competition. The winner was Vanessa Aversa, student of Greg Butler

Provincial Instrumental Competition



Sharon Ding, Vanessa Aversa

from the Western Zone. The Young Artist Competition was won by Ottawa's Anita Pari, student of Andrew Tunis. Adjudicators Stella terHart, Gwenlynn Little and Chris Foley commented often on the high standard of all the performances. Congratulations to Anita and Andrew, as well as Sharon and Sandra!

ORMTA NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for someone to take over the **Archives portfolio**. This is an ex-officio position (you do not have to attend monthly meetings). Please contact Sandra Menard for further information at sandramenard88@gmail.com or 613-834-3052.

Dick Whittington

A pantomime by John Crocker
Music and Lyrics by Eric Gilder

November 10-13, 2011

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613-829-4402 for more information

*If you have a student who would like to
participate, please e-mail gjnagy@rogers.com
by September 9 for consideration.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...

ORMTA occasionally sends information of interest to our members via e-mail. Although we encourage communication within our association, we wish to reduce the number of messages that we send. If you have a message of relevance to the membership, please contact president Sandra Menard. Upon her approval, it will be forwarded to the membership. Sandra can be reached at sandramenard88@gmail.com

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"Tunetown" pre-concert activities at the NAC

by Carol A. Wood

On Saturday, May 28, Susan Blyth-Schofield and I represented the Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA at "Tunetown" pre-concert activities. The event was arranged by Barbara Clark, Hyacinthe Wade, Janis Perkin and Friends of the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

Children and their parents had the opportunity to visit a number of stations set up in the NAC's main lobby, mezzanine and amphitheatre levels. Organizations represented were Dave's Drum Shop, Kiwanis Music Festival, Long & McQuade, Music for Young Children, Ottawa Children's Choir, Ottawa International Children's Festival, the Ottawa Public Library, and our own ORMTA.

Our ORMTA station included a slide show presentation of ORMTA's 2010-2011 events compiled by Susan Blyth-Schofield. An accompanying binder explained ORMTA events and described our work in the community with a strong emphasis on what ORMTA teachers have to offer their music students, i.e., scholarships, recitals, competitions, workshops and master classes. Brochures and a list of teachers looking for students were also available.

The NAC Orchestra performed *Charlotte and the Music-maker*; original music and music direction by Alain Trudel and written and performed by Platypus Theatre's Peter Duschenes. The work is part of the NAC Orchestra's "Family Adventures" series and is a creative way to introduce children to the instruments of the orchestra.

"Tunetown" gave ORMTA an occasion to raise its profile and to increase the public's awareness of our organization.



Susan and Carol at the NAC

Please take note ...

🎵 Do you have a **new address or phone number**? Please inform Kathleen Howard at 613-258-9503 or kmaryhoward@primus.ca

🎵 If you would **like more students**, call the ORMTA Hotline at 613-226-6768 and have your name added to the list of Teachers Looking for Students.

🎵 If you would like a **new subject added** to your list of teaching subjects, contact Ron Spadafore, our Provincial Registrar, directly at 705-264-0978 or at ormta@ntl.sympatico.ca You may only add subjects that you are qualified to teach.

🎵 If you would like to **change your membership status**, contact President Sandra Menard before March 1 in order to be billed at the new rate for next year.

Members' Corner

Condolences to ...

- * **Brenda Eisener**, whose mother-in-law passed away
- * **Beverley Heard**, whose mother passed away

Congratulations to ...

- * **Frances Balodis**, who was awarded the Hugheen Ferguson Award at the CFMTA Convention.
- * **Colin Mack and Lori Lynn Penny** whose student, Anita Pari was awarded the RCM gold medal for theory.



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News From the Province

by Sue Jones and Ann Empey



Carol, Joy, Sue and Ann at the National Competitions in Regina

CFMTA Convention - ORMTA's delegates to the CFMTA, Charline Farrell (ORMTA President) and Sue Jones (ORMTA Vice-President) attended the convention in Regina, where Charline was elected Vice-President of the CFMTA.

Ottawa was well represented with nine of our members in attendance: Ann Babin, Frances and Gunar Balodis, Amy Boyes, Joy Hodgkinson, Sue Jones, Olivia and David Riddell (with baby Quinn) and Carol Wood.

Frances Balodis was one of three recipients of the Hugheen Ferguson Distinguished Teacher Award. This award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the art of music and the profession of music teaching. Congratulations Frances!

Provincial AGM – Ann Empey was voted in as our Zone Representative. Anita Pari, our ORB Young Artist winner, won the Provincial Young Artist Competition. See story and photos on page 5.

A Piano Tuner's Day: *The Concert Tuning*

by Bill Gerow – bill@billgerowpianoservice.com

One of my customers called me to say that he had a concert with a bassoonist at a local public school. This was to educate the young children about music. The principal informed me that the piano was in the library, but no one would be there that morning. I arrived to find a small Yamaha upright, with its back against a wall of glass. It was up to pitch, which made the tuning much easier. I started to tune the piano, starting from the bass side. I was approaching C2 when I heard the door open to the library and approximately ten students filed into the room that the piano was backing upon. This room, I realized, was the computer room. The students were almost as quiet as church mice. The class ended and they left. The tuning continued.

An announcement was made, something about the rain - I paid little attention - and the door soon

opened the second time. I should have paid more attention to the announcement – everyone was to stay inside, which meant that 60 students came into the library. These were grade 3s and grade 4s. Quiet is not one of their strong suits! The teachers did their best and I addressed the class telling them that I had to tune the piano and since I needed to listen very carefully, silence would be appreciated.

I was soon done and I asked the teachers if they would like me to speak to the class. With their consent, I asked how many took piano lessons and was quite amazed with the number who raised their hands. I played a few pieces and the class was over. There were quite a number of students that stayed and asked questions about the piano and about music. A very rewarding experience.



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bill@billgerowpianoservice.com

UPCOMING ORMTA EVENTS 2011 (September – October)

September

- 12 **September General Meeting and Coffee Party.** 9:15 am. Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd. Contact Jennie Smith 613-260-9171 or timj.smith@sympatico.ca See Page 3 of this issue for detailed information.
- 19 **Info Sharing Session** 9:30 am - 11:30 am. At the studio of Paulette Price, 13 Lismer Crescent. Playthrough of the selected pieces for the Kiwanis Festival. Please confirm your attendance with Paulette at 613-592-6686 or pauletteprice@rogers.com

October

- 16 **Young Artist Recital.** 3:00 pm. Freiman Hall, Perez Building, University of Ottawa, 610 Cumberland Street. Ontario Provincial Winner Anita Pari, performing works by Mozart, Beethoven, Liszt, Mozetich and Chopin. Admission at door: Adults \$10, Students \$5, Family \$20. Contact Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950 or sblythschofield@rogers.com
- 21 **Workshop with Maureen Harris.** 9:30 am - 1:00 pm. *Building a World Class Music Studio.* Rideau Park United Church, 2203 Alta Vista Drive. General Admission: \$20, ORTMA members \$15, Students \$10. Contact Amy Boyes at 613-302-8090 or e-mail at amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com
- 28 **Application Deadline for Canada Music Week Recital.** Contact Tania Granata-lenzi 613-728-1195 or taniag5@sympatico.ca



The Last Word...

(or How I Spent My Summer Vacation)

The highlight of my summer, I'm almost ashamed to say, was the acquisition of a new laptop! It is as fast as a speeding bullet and has made my life infinitely easier. AND it doesn't weigh a ton like my old one enabling me to actually travel with it.

All that aside ... in early July I attended the CFMTA convention in Regina. We were treated to concerts every night, my favorite being the Gryphon Trio, as well as excellent master classes and workshops. The competitions were very exciting and it was great to catch up with the other CFMTA delegates. The weather was spectacular – mid-20s every day – which made walking from building to building on the campus of the Univeristy of Regina very pleasant.

In mid-July my husband and I went to Sudbury for the 60th wedding anniversary party for his parents. Sixty years! Wow. Almost the entire family was there which hardly ever happens.

Late July, was the ORMTA AGM in Mississauga where I had the pleasure of watching our young Anita Pari win the Young Artist Competition. The fact that this was the first Provincial Competitions that I organized made it all the sweeter.

August has been reserved for spending time at the lake and despite the fact that I am still working, it is with the sounds of loons and crickets and frogs and gulls and hawks and eagles and sometimes ... just silence. A welcome rest.

... Sue Jones, Editor