

President's Message

by Ann Babin



As I write this our Canadian Music Week recital is still a week away. By the time you read this we will have moved on to the December deadlines for the First Class Honours auditions and recitals, Variety Show, a master class, and reminders of the January 17 general meeting. Life moves on. Since we will not have a January ORBit, I'd like to take this space to look forward and look back, like the two-faced god Janus for whom the month is said to be named.

First, looking forward - at the January meeting, there are a few things we would like to bring to you that we've been discussing at recent Executive and Committee meetings. One of the items concerns publicity - we have been increasingly unhappy with what we see as a small return for the large amount of money that goes into our Yellow Pages ad and have been exploring other means of getting ORMTA's profile out into the community. Andrea Cochrane began an online campaign in November, starting up a GoogleAd account and linking us with child and music-specific websites. We are also in the process of making our own website the go-to place for up-to-date information and forms. At the provincial level there is a plan to produce workshop videos that can be distributed either online through clips on YouTube or in their entirety on loan to members. For details on these initiatives the January meeting is the place to be.

One other thing that we might consider updating is the tag line on our membership brochure "Quality Music Education Is Affordable". The brochure has been evolving over the years and I wonder if it's time for another change. How about a line from the ORMTA mission statement that we see front and centre on our branch website homepage "promoting excellence in music education"? If you have any ideas or comments about that please let us know. The membership brochure is produced in July so there is time to think about it.

Now, looking back - our Ottawa branch Executive and Committee has met four times so far this year, in August, October, November, and December. During that time we have set and successfully presented a budget, worked on some publicity ideas and issues, run the September general meeting, presented a workshop and two Teacher Information Sharing Sessions, the Young Artist Recital and the Canada Music Week Recital. We have made plans for the two master classes, workshop, First Class Honours auditions and recitals and Variety Show that are scheduled for the winter months and are looking ahead to the May Competitions. And you know what? We do it all for you. To get your membership dues worth you and/or your students simply have to participate in as many events as possible. Call it an ORMTA Christmas gift, or make it a New Year's resolution.

Have a wonderful holiday everyone.

General Meeting and Pot-luck Breakfast

**Monday, January 17, 2011
Ottawa Mennonite Church
1830 Kilborn Avenue**

*9:00 am - coffee, tea, juice
9:15 am - meeting begins*

*Table-ready donations of food
are most welcome*

*Information: Jennie Smith
613-260-9171*

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Irene Woodburn-Wright (cont'd)

by Marlene Basarab

The following is a continuation of an article in the October ORBit.

In the winter of 1999 Irene and Mary Mackey came up with the idea of a four piano—eight hand benefit concert to be held in April of 2000. They said this would be a wonderful way to begin the new millennium and the proceeds would go towards ORMTA scholarships. Every Monday night that winter and spring Mary, Margaret Macpherson, Irene and myself would gather at Ottawa Pianos thanks to Dick Papalia's very generous offer of this fine rehearsal space. It was a lot of fun practicing on the different grand pianos - at first coordinating the four parts from different angles of the large room was a bit tricky; but as the concert date got closer the ensemble became quite tight.

I always had to admire the determination and energy Irene had when it came to concert preparations. I still remember her favourite phrase, "The show MUST go on!" and it always did. Even I, who was half Irene's age found it difficult to head out on those cold, snowy winter nights to rehearse until the late hours; but nothing seemed to dampen Irene's energy and enthusiasm.

The day of the concert came and it was a sell-out crowd. Some of the latecomers who could not find a seat in the large Unitarian Congregation sat on the windowsills and happily absorbed the music. The four works for four grand pianos included a *Fantasia and Fugue* by Bach, a Scott Joplin *Rag Rhapsody*, *Waltz* from *Faust* by Gounod and a *Carmen Concert Suite*. The final duo that Irene and I were to perform was the very demanding Rachmaninoff *Tarantella* from Suite No. 2, Op. 17. I remember Irene whispering to me just before we went out to play, "Dear, don't take the tempo too fast." What we both had not realized was that it was Irene who had the first two measures and set the tempo! And set the tempo she did indeed! My



Margaret Macpherson, Mary Mackey, Irene Woodburn-Wright and Marlene Basarab

jaw dropped when I realized how fast I'd have to go to keep up to her.

Afterwards people in the audience recounted how they had sat on the edges of the pews. When the final dramatic chords were sounded, the audience let out a gasp and then jumped to their feet and shouted Bravo! Bravo! It was a moment I'll never forget and to top it off over \$3000 was raised for ORMTA scholarships.

The following year Irene and I were invited to perform in Lanaudiere, Quebec and in 2002 and 2003 we gave our two last duo performances for Meals On Wheels. By then Irene was 93 and decided she would stop performing.

Through over eighty years as a piano teacher and performer, Irene has been a magnificent inspiration to many students and admirers alike. She will remain so to all who knew her for her generosity of spirit and love of music as well as her wonderful musicianship and talent as a pianist.

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 **February / March 2011** ORBit must be received by the editor on or before: **January 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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The ORBit Advertising Rates

	Members	Non-members
1/6 page	\$12	\$16
1/4 page	\$16	\$22
1/2 page	\$25	\$33
Full Page	\$33	\$44
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Flyers	\$33	\$44
Heavy Brochures	\$50	\$66
Larger than 8.5 x 11	\$83	\$110

Contact the Editor 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.

Passing the Torch

by Joan Clarkson

Teachers take great pleasure when a student chooses music as their life's career. But some amongst us have the added delight of their own children following in their footsteps. This is the second in a series of articles allowing us a glimpse into these special relationships.

Olivia and Frances Balodis

These are two very busy ladies to be sure but we "miraculously" found time to chat together. Olivia recalls that while growing up, their home had children coming and going all the time and that once her mother taught her to "chord" she enjoyed accompanying her grandfather on his fiddle.

Frances began teaching at the unbelievable age of 9! Surprisingly, it took some time for her to realize that this would be her life's work as she had been thinking instead of becoming a pediatrician. Olivia was mentored by her mother when it became clear she could "communicate". To date they have taught a total of 73 years. Both say they respect the professionalism of their colleagues in ORMTA and that being a member gave them credibility with parents. Olivia adds she found it much easier to connect with fellow members once she joined council. Over her years of teaching, Frances has noticed that conservatory marks are now higher and that her founding of Music for Young Children has had an impact on the teaching of beginning students.

Clearly, Olivia and Frances are proud of each other's achievements. Olivia says her mother always stressed the importance of continuing her musical education and playing for her students. Frances says she witnessed enthusiasm and patience in observing Olivia's teaching and found it inspiring. As a measure of their admiration for each other, they have substitute taught for each other when required.

After some internal reminiscing, Frances shared a little story of some years ago when she taught a young student, Treena. At that time, one of Frances' key phrases was "you are doing very well" followed by a sticker (anyone who knows Frances



knows she is the queen of stickers). Well, Treena arrived one day at her lesson and announced "I am doing very well" and waited for her sticker BEFORE her lesson. A sweet memory.

One other thing: Olivia attended her first Registered Music Teachers' Association meeting at the age of 2 and behaved very well. Can anyone top that?



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Information Sharing

by Ann Babin

A small group met at the home of Paulette Price for the November 8 Teachers' Information Sharing Session where they viewed (and later reviewed) a video featuring Canadian pianist Alan Fraser explain and demonstrate several techniques to improve performance and avoid performance-related injury. A book on the same subject, titled *The Craft of Piano Playing*, is also available.

Teachers may be interested in viewing Alan Fraser's web site, www.alanfraser.net where interesting accounts and audio clips from his teaching in China can be seen, as well as further information on his books and video.

While the group agreed that Fraser's audience was perhaps geared more to the advanced performer, many of the tips and suggestions offered valuable insights into the art of teaching and understanding technique, particularly related to the stability and capabilities of the hand. His presentation was interesting and well given, however one sitting did not seem sufficient to absorb it all. The video is divided into chapters which focus on a particular aspect of technique so it would be easy to make it into several shorter viewings.

It was felt this would be a good addition to the ORMTA DVD collection.

Variety Show

Sunday, January 30, 2011

Location: City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue. 3:00 pm

Auditions: Sunday, January 16, 2011 from 2:00 - 6:00 pm at the above location. Once again the emphasis will be on pop, jazz, musical theatre, and other non-classical genres.

Application Deadline: December 17, 2010

Application forms and information from:

Susan Blyth-Schofield (sblythschofield@rogers.com); 613-226-4950

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Ottawa Region Branch Scholarships

by Sherry Lu

Each year, our branch awards scholarships to the students with the highest marks in theory and practical conservatory exams. These scholarships are awarded at the First Class Honours Recitals. This year's recitals will take place on February 6, 2011.

Please note that there are **two new scholarships** offered this year: Intermediate Keyboard Harmony and Senior Keyboard Harmony.

The application deadline is **December 15, 2010**.

There is no application form. To apply, simply send a photocopy of your student's exam results along with a covering letter to:

Sherry Lu
Scholarship Convenor
2 Nanook Cres.,
Kanata ON K2L 2A7

Following are the scholarships awarded at the First Class Honours Recitals.

Practical:

Gr. 8/Advanced Rudiments	\$100
Gr. 9	\$150
Gr. 10	\$200
Associate Performer	\$250
Associate Teacher (practical)	Exam fee

Theory:

Junior	\$150
Intermediate	\$200
Senior	\$250

Keyboard Harmony:

Junior	\$100
Intermediate ** NEW **	\$125
Senior ** NEW **	\$150

For more detailed information about the scholarships, please contact Sherry Lu at:

613-862-7221 or sherryludi@yahoo.ca

♪ Upcoming Concerts ♪

(listed by date)

Sat. Dec. 4 - 7:30 pm. Bytown Operaworks presents "Carols for Kids" with special guests: The Ottawa Catholic School Board Chamber Choir, the Bell Ringers of St. John's and Quattauro Voce. MC - Max Keeping. Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd. Tickets: \$20 Adults, \$15 Students/Seniors. Information: www.bytownoperaworks.ca

Sun. Dec. 5 - 2:00 pm. Ottawa Youth Harp Ensemble, director Mary Muckle, presents "Harps for the Holidays", a fundraiser concert. St. Andrew's United Church, Main St. (Hwy 29) Packenham. Tickets at the door - \$15 adults, \$7 children 12 years and under. Information: Mary Muckle 613-825-1379.

Thurs. Dec. 9 - 8:00 pm. Felix and Friends (music of Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Bloch and Chopin) featuring Paul Merleyn, cello; Dina Namer, piano. Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive. Tickets: \$20, Students \$15. Information: 613-224-1802. See ad on page 4.

Sun. Jan. 16 - Brunch 10 am. Concert 11 am. Les Concerts Ponticello presents a Brunch Concert featuring Dina Namer, harpsichord; Joan Harrison, cello; Donelda Gartshore, flute; Michael Namer, bassoon. La Salle Basoché du Centre culturel, 120 rue Principale, Gatineau (Aylmer). Information/Tickets: 819-771-6454

Sun. Jan. 29 - 7:30 pm. St. Brigid's Eve, featuring Welsh penillion singers "Cantorion Cerdd Dant"; Kirsten Carlson, flute; Mary Muckle, harp/voice and The Ottawa Celtic Choir. The Irish Canadian Cultural Centre, 176 St. Patrick's St. Tickets at the door. Information: Mary Muckle 613-825-1379.

Sun. Feb. 13 - 2:00 pm. Arpa Nova, director Hoda Nassim, presents a series of love songs at the Stonehaven Manor, 70 Stonehaven Drive, Kanata. Information: Hoda Nassim 613-236-3865.

ORMTA MEMBERS - Do you have an upcoming recital or concert in which you are performing? Advertise FREE in this column.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Congratulations to ...

* **Maya Badian**, on the launch of her biography *The Life and Music of Maya Badian, A Privilege to Soar* by Fred Popovici.

* **Amy Boyes**, who is getting married on December 28.

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything ~ Plato

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, complete an application form and send to Ron Spadafore, our Provincial Secretary-Registrar, along with the required \$10 fee. All subjects must be officially recognized.



If you would like to **change your membership status**, contact President Ann Babin before March 1, 2011 in order to be billed at the new rate for next year.

Canadian Music Showcase

The Canadian Music Showcase took place November 19 - 21 at Rideau Park United Church and University of Ottawa's Perez Hall. Students performed in a master class format and received excellent adjudication in voice (Giles Bryant), strings (Anne Contant), composition (James McGowan) and piano (Dina Namer). CMS provides a wonderful opportunity for students of all ages and stages to explore and learn about our Canadian musical heritage.

Among the works presented over the weekend were compositions by local music notables Frances Balodis, Christine Donkin, Gabor Finta and Anita Schlarb. A follow-up **Gala is planned for Sunday afternoon December 5 at 2:00 pm** in Perez.

For syllabus and other general information consult the new website www.canadianmusicshowcase.com

50th Anniversary of Canada Music Week

by Tania Granata



The Ottawa Region Branch hosted their Canada Music Week Recital on Sunday November 21st with 31 talented young musicians from throughout the city eager to perform their Canadian repertoire. This year Canada Music Week celebrated its 50th Anniversary and the longstanding tradition of quality performance was embraced by all of this year's performers who ranged from the introductory level up through grade ten. There was a lovely balance of solo pieces along with 3 duets and an original composition by one of the performers herself.

After the certificates were passed out by Provincial Vice-President Sue Jones, each performer was given a red rose and white tulip to continue the red and white Canadian theme. Then convener, Tania Granata, treated the audience to a ten question trivia game based on Canadian music and music in general. Each winner received a prize consisting of all things Canadian: scores of music by Ottawa composers, local bagels, Canadian coffee and of course maple syrup. Then the afternoon was topped off by a lovely reception where we continued to celebrate with a red and white 50th Anniversary cake ... the day was a huge success!

Benefit Concert for Autism

submitted by Children at Risk

On October 3, 2010 a benefit concert for autism took place at the All Saints Anglican Church in which two ORMTA members played a key role. The concert was organized by The King's Daughters and Sons and over \$2,000 was raised and donated to Children At Risk and Autism Ontario.

Valentina Kotko and Marlene Basarab performed as a duo team as well as accompanied the other soloists which included Angela Blackwell (clarinetist from Divertimento Orchestra), Susan Lines (soprano), Marc Coderre (popular singer), Alisa Klebanov and Maria-Sophia Pera (young violinists who had played in the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival Rising Stars concert), as well as Eric Pusey (former piano student of Marlene's and an ASD adult).

The Master of Ceremonies was the well-known Ottawa CBC announcer Lucy van Oldenbarneveld whose genuine enthusiasm and praise for the high quality of the afternoon's musical offering inspired people to leave further donations at the door on their way out.

We are very grateful to Valentina and Marlene and are hoping to make this an annual event. We would like other musicians to become aware of this good cause and perhaps feel inclined to give of their time and talents in the next years' concert. For information, contact Marlene Basarab 613-823-3895.

Young Artist Recital

by Susan Blyth-Schofield

On Saturday, October 30 the branch hosted the Young Artist Recital Tour at Freiman Hall at the University of Ottawa. Ann Babin introduced the featured artists: Toronto-based soprano Lesley Bouza and her collaborative pianist Joy Lee. They performed beautifully to an enthusiastic but sparse audience. Their programme featured pieces by Rameau, Bach, Dowland, Mozart, Berlioz, Ives and Weinzwieg with an encore of 'Chacun le sait' from Donizetti's *La Fille du Régiment*.

The artists were presented with flowers from the branch at the close of the concert. A small reception followed in the foyer of the Pérez Building, where both Lesley and Joy chatted at length with members of the audience.



Pianist Joy Lee and Young Artist Lesley Bouza

News from the Province

by Sue Jones and Ann Babin

- ❖ Pedagogy has been added as a Teaching Subject. To add this to your list of teaching subjects, you must supply 6 student results (honours).
- ❖ You may now register in a specific theoretical subject, instead of the entire Theory designation. Supply six student results in that subject, i.e. six honours History results. For the complete Theory designation, please follow the current rules and provide six honours students results in three different areas.
- ❖ *Wisdom of the Ages* is still available for \$20. Contact Lori Tennant at lorriennant@sympatico.ca
- ❖ The Summary of the Provincial Council Minutes of the October meeting is available. Contact Sue Jones if you would like a copy. L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com
- ❖ Provincial Council is working on putting NOTES magazine on the Provincial website.
- ❖ The Membership application form is undergoing an update.
- ❖ You may download the Studio Cards from the Provincial website. There is a link on the home page.
- ❖ Want to make a financial donation to ORMTA? Go to www.ormta.org and click on the CANADA HELPS button.



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Workshop and Concert with Frank Horvat

Sunday, February 13 --- Workshop: 1 pm. Concert: 4 pm - both FREE
Freiman Hall, Perez Building, University of Ottawa, 610 Cumberland Street, Ottawa

Getting your students to improvise and compose; easy suggestions to nurture creativity in the life of a music student. Frank uses his own journey of composing and improvising along with his teaching methods as an example of how to get students to be more creative at their instrument. Very step-by-step and methodical, this workshop will give clear and concise suggestions that teachers can give to their students of any age or grade level within a traditionally structured lesson. Not genre specific. Connections will be made with performance, theory and aural training. This workshop is specifically designed for the teacher with no formal training in composition and/or improvisation. Frank will provide a handout and some score samples for attendees to keep.

Student participants will be needed. Contact Ann Empey 613-592-1177 or ivory414@sympatico.ca

CHANGES TO THE 2010 - 2011 MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE

Additions

Brechun, Ioulia	19 Forbes Avenue, Kanata, ON K2L 2L7 Active: P	613-836-2757
Boyes, Amy	9 Lightfoot Place, Kanata, ON K2L 3M5 Active: P, R, T	613-302-8090
Costello, Michael	192 Crampton Side Road, RR #1, Carleton Place, ON K7C 3P1 Active: P	613-257-7594
Elliott, Julia	248 Stewart Street, Ottawa, ON K1N 6K4 Affiliate 1: P	613-562-3038
Grigor, Mary-Ellen	683 Prestonville Road, Lanark, ON K0G 1K0 Active: P, R, T, Viola da Gamba	613-259-2925
Smith, Ingrid	1344 Rae Road, Almonte, ON K0A 1A0 Active: S, R	613-256-7552

Address/Phone Changes

Fletcher, Giselle	2728 10 th Line Road, Carleton Place, ON K7C 3P2 Active: S, R	613-257-3165
Macpherson, Iain	140 Grosvenor Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1S 4T1 (Teaching address) Active: S, R ~	613-720-0117
Carol Ann Wood	3025 Linton Road, Ottawa, ON K1V 8H1 Active: S, R	613-421-1033

Correction

Parenteau, Joanne Marie	Should be listed in South of Baseline, West of Woodroffe area 302E Craig Henry Drive, Ottawa, ON K2G 4H5 Active: P, R, T	613-225-8962
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UPCOMING ORMTA EVENTS (December - February)

December

- 3 **Application Deadline** for the **First Class Honours Recital**. Contact Deborah Foster 613-224-7244 or dlfoster@sympatico.ca
- 15 **Application Deadline** for the Ottawa Region Branch **Theory and Graded Scholarships**. Contact Sherry Lu 613-862-7221 or sherryludi@yahoo.ca
- 17 **Application Deadline** for the **Variety Show**. Contact Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950 or sblythschofield@rogers.com

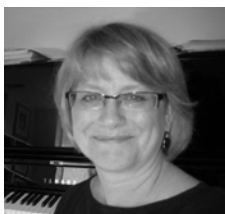
January

- 10 **Deadline** for **February/March ORBit** submissions. Contact Sue Jones 613-523-5317 or L.susan.jones@gmail.com
- 16 **Auditions** for the **Variety Show**. City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue. 2:00 - 6:00 pm. Contact Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950 or sblythschofield@rogers.com
- 17 ***** **ORMTA GENERAL MEETING** ***** Ottawa Mennonite Church, 1830 Kilborn Avenue. 9:15 am. Contact Jennie Smith 613-260-9171 or timj.smith@sympatico.ca or Ann Babin 613-830-8826 or ann_babin@rogers.com
- 23 **Auditions** for the **First Class Honours Recitals**. Contact Deborah Foster 613-224-7244 or dlfoster@sympatico.ca
- 23 **Master Class** with **Stéphane Lemelin** at Freiman Hall, Perez Building, University of Ottawa, 610 Cumberland Street, Ottawa. Contact Adrienne Booth 613-234-1695 or ambooth@magma.ca
- 30 **Variety Show** at City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue. 3:00 pm Contact Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950 or sblythschofield@rogers.com

February

- 1 **Deadline** for **NOTES** submissions (Spring issue). Contact Olivia Riddell 613-680-2996 or Olivia@myc.com
- 6 **First Class Honours Recitals**. Location to be announced. Application deadline was December 3, 2010. Contact Deborah Foster 613-224-7244 or dlfoster@sympatico.ca Admission at door \$10.00 adult, \$5.00 student, \$20 family.
- 13 **Frank Horvat Green Keys Tour**. Workshop - 1 pm. Concert - 4 pm. Freiman Hall, Perez Bldg, University of Ottawa, 610 Cumberland Street, Ottawa. Contact Ann Empey 613-592-1177 or ivory414@sympatico.ca
- TBA **Information Sharing Session** – Paulette Price's studio, 13 Lismer Crescent, Kanata. Topic TBA. Contact Paulette Price 613-592-6686 or pauletteprice@rogers.com

The Last Word ...



I am very pleased to announced that the ORBit now has an Assistant Editor - Amy Boyes. Having just moved from Manitoba to Kanata this summer, she has established a very respectably sized teaching studio and is already getting involved in our branch. To top that off, that she is getting married at the end of December!

Amy - a very warm welcome to Ottawa and the Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA!

Sue Jones, Editor