

the **ORBit**

November 2015

Newsletter of the Ottawa Region Branch of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association

www.ormtaottawa.ca



President's Message

by Olivia Riddell

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Calendar of Events

With November's arrival, I always find it a bit of a relief that I have made it through September and October and the whole process of getting back in routine, and that the swing of things finally doesn't feel "new" or "tiring".

We were so fortunate to have such wonderful weather throughout September and October as well! This fabulous fall air really helped keep me energized and motivated to keep moving forward with the exciting activities around the Ottawa Region Branch; and I hope it did for you as well.

Since we were together at our General Meeting on September 14th, there have been great movement and activities regarding our partnerships within Ottawa. Barbara Clark, our contact for NAC Family Adventure's TUNETOWN pre-concert activities, and I have been chatting and they would like ORTMA to be the **featured group** on the mini lobby stage for the **Saturday, January 9th, 2016** TUNETOWNS. The performance opportunities for our students are between 12:45-1:25pm and 2:45pm-3:25pm. During these times, we will have 3, 8-10 minutes performance segments, with a 5 minute break to encourage people to continue onto the next TUNETOWN activity. What an amazing and exciting performance opportunity for your students!! Performances can be of any instrument, solo or group. If you are interested in having your students participate, please contact me directly (olivia@myc.com). During these segments, we will also have the opportunity to have a table to provide parents/participants with more information about ORMTA and our teachers. We will need 2 volunteers to staff the table during these segments. If you are interested in doing this, again, please contact me directly. Barbara has mentioned to me that it would be helpful to have someone who is bilingual at the table, however it is not mandatory.

Another exciting partnership has developed since September as well. Meg Iwaskow, who has the First Class Honours (FCH) portfolio was instrumental in creating a fabulous, three-year agreement with Carmen Papalia, Owner of Ottawa Pianos. Ottawa Pianos is now our exclusive supplier of a 9-foot Yamaha concert piano. We will have this amazing instrument for essentially every ORMTA performance event (Canada Music Week, FCH, Adult Student recital, Competitions, etc.) – as well as access to their performance studio for

auditions – at no charge. Thank you, and congratulations to Meg for all her hard work. I think you and your students will be very excited to see and hear this professional instrument at our events. This partnership highlights our relationships and drive for creating the best quality performance opportunities for our students.

Keep well and warm! Until next time, Olivia Riddell



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First Class Honours Scholarships

by Sherry Lu, Convenor

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 Recital which will take place in February, 2016. The application deadline is December 15, 2015. There is no application form. To apply, send a photocopy of your student's exam results along with a cover letter to:

Sherry Lu, Scholarship Convenor

2 Nanook Crescent Kanata, ON

K2L 2A7

The following scholarships are awarded at the First Class Honours Recitals (Feb. 7, 2016):

Practical:	: Theory:		Keyboard Harmony:		
Gr. 8/Advanced Rudiments	\$100	Gr. 9	\$150	Junior	\$100
Gr. 9	\$150	Gr. 10	\$200	Intermediate	\$125
Gr.10	\$200	Associate	\$250	Senior	\$150
Associate Performer	\$250				
Associate Teacher (practical)	Exam fee				

For detailed scholarship guidelines, please visit our website: www.ormtaottawa.ca or contact Sherry Lu at: sherryludi@yahoo.ca or 613-862-7221

First Class Honours Auditions and Recitals

by Meg Iwaskow, Convenor

Registration Deadline: December 15th, 2015.

Students of ORMTA members may register to audition if they received a First Class Honours standing (80%) or higher on their practical exams in 2015. This event is open to students who have completed Grade 2 and above.

Registration forms and detailed information can be found online at www.ormtaottawa.ca under the EVENTS link or you can contact Meg lwaskow megiwaskow@gmail.com

Auditions: January 24th, 2016 at City View United Church. 1-4pm.

Recitals: February 7th, 2016 at City View United Church. Recital times TBA

New 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 from September 2015 to June 2016.

ORMTA OTTAWA REGION BRANCH CUPCAKE ORDER FORM

All proceeds go to the ORMTA Ottawa Scholarship Fund Support ORMTA Ottawa and its students! September 2015 – June 2016

Name:			
Address:			
Email:	Telephone:		
Number of Cupcakes: (doze	n) Contact:	Danielle Jersak	
One dozen cupcakes—\$20.00 donation		1347 Dowler Avenue	
Tax receipt will be issued		Ottawa, ON K1H 7R8	

(613) 404 2565

jersakpiano@gmail.com

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, November, November, December/January, February/ March, April/May and June/July/August.

All submissions for the **December/January** issue of the *ORBit* must be received by the editor on or before: **December 10, 2015.**

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.

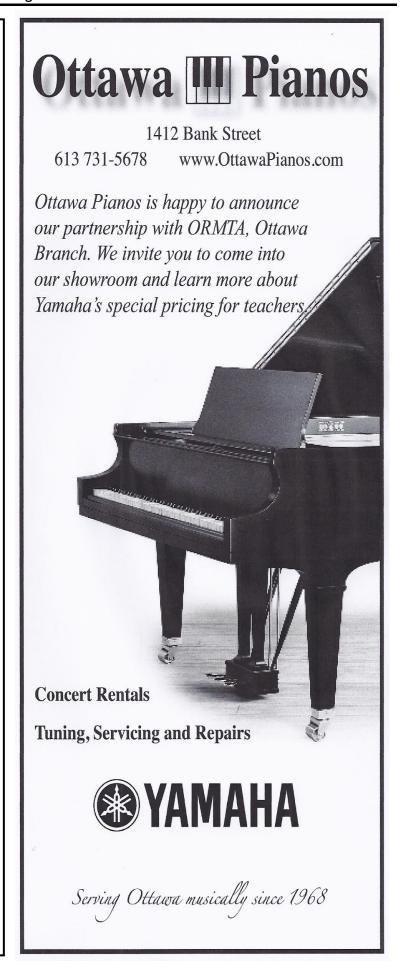
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Advertising Rates

_	Members	Non-members
Ads		
1/6 page	\$12	\$16
1/4 page	\$16	\$22
1/3 page	\$22	\$25
1/2 page	\$25	\$33
Full Page	\$33	\$44
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.



101 Pianists

by Claudia Cashin-Mack



On September 18 one hundred Ottawa piano students aged 6 through 18 took part in a master class at the National Arts Centre, sponsored by the Lang Lang Foundation. Lang Lang began "101 Pianists" in China over a decade ago and it has been held in cities such as London, Paris, Hong Kong, Berlin, Rome, and Vancouver.

The students were recruited from across Ottawa, including ORMTA, the University of Ottawa, and the Conservatoire de Quebec. ORMTA teachers whose students participated included Claudia Cashin -Mack, Catherine Donkin, Priscilla Gruver, Danielle Jersak, Hoda Nassim and Dina Namer. Students were asked to prepare Schubert's Marches Militaires, op. 51, no.1, and Brahms` Hungarian Rhapsody no. 5, both of which had been arranged to suit the different age levels.

Participants gathered for a rehearsal with conductor Alexander Shelley, who obviously enjoyed working with young people. Much emphasis was put on ensemble skills and dynamics. Watching a conductor was a new experience for many and took some getting used to! For the tempo changes in the Brahms, Maestro Shelley had the students sing their parts with wonderful results. He kept the rehearsal fun and never once showed any impatience. Bravo Maestro!!

After lunch and games outside on the NAC patios (a welcome break), everyone lined up and took their places on stage in a most professional manner. Once the students were seated in pairs at 50 Roland keyboards Lang Lang bounded onto the stage with Maestro Shelley. When Schubert's Marche Militaire took off at an alarming speed, Lang Lang asked the students,

"What's the hurry? Have you got somewhere more important to go?", and the second time through was considerably calmer.



Lang Lang spoke about his musical influences growing up in China. He is a big fan of cartoons, especially "Tom and Jerry," and treated everyone to a showing of his favourite episode in which the cat and mouse, dressed in tuxedos, battle over control of a concert grand piano. The performers on stage enjoyed this immensely.

Then it was time for the Brahms. Oh, those tricky tempo changes!! There were more than a few accidental "solos". After two tries, Lang Lang took charge with his microphone. The pause *finally* worked when he yelled "STOP!".

We were then treated to a solo performance by Natania Fok of "Tiger in the Sun" by Michael Torke. With only a month to learn this formidable piece, Natania calmly took the stage and played beautifully. Bravo to Natania and her teacher, Catherine Donkin.

To finish the afternoon, the students were asked which piece they would like to perform again. The vote went to Schubert and we were treated to the final and best performance of the day. A Meet-and-Greet with Lang Lang followed, and all received gift bags of souvenirs. Everyone left with big smiles and a new appreciation for the hard work that goes into an orchestral concert.

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See page 6 for students' comments.

101 Pianists—Students' Comments

Il learned when Lang Lang yells into a microphone, listen to him!

It was a very interesting event for both younger and older kids. We all learned something new and had lots of fun. It was an amazing Friday that we will never forget.

\$1 liked the presents at the end.

J"It was a lot of fun. Wow!! I was lucky to be performing onstage at the National Arts Centre.

♪To play piano with more than one thousand fingers together and with one of the greatest pianists. Lang Lang, is an experience that happens once in a lifetime, and that I will never forget. It was one of the most special events that I have taken part in. It was also another new experience because it was a challenge to play with 100 people together. I learned not to only listen to myself but also to other players. I also learned to pay attention to the conductor, while also looking at my music so that we could stay together. I really enjoyed working with him. I would like to thank my teacher, Catherine Donkin, for helping me learn the selected piece, Tiger in the Sun by Michael Torke. Without her guidance, I could not have had the opportunity to share my music with everyone. I enjoyed this experience working with Lang Lang. Alexander Shelly, and everybody who participated in the program. I would like to thank everyone for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be part of this program. I would also like to give many thanks to my teacher and parents who have been supporting my learning music experience.-Natania Fok



It was truly a great experience playing on the stage at the NAC along with so many other talented musicians. I was grateful for the opportunity to be among the 100 participating pianists, and I was honored to be placed at one of the two grand pianos face to face with first-class pianist Lang Lang. It was also a wonderful experience playing under the conduction of the outstanding NAC music director Alexander Shelly, who made sure that we had the best experience we could ask for. He is no doubt an amazing conductor as he came up with unique, entertaining methods of conducting that spark enthusiasm in each and everyone of us, even the younger ones. All in all, I had a lot of fun and it was a fantastic experience. Thank you-Rosa Sun



Members' Corner

Condolences to:

 Paulette Price, on the death of her father in late October.

Congratulations to:

- Erin Puttee, on her marriage in August, to Alex MacFarlane
- Edith Orton, who turns 91 on November 9th.
- Anne Graham, whose student, Charlie Watson, achieved 92% in Grade 8 RCM Practical Exam.
- Raymond Devidi, son of Debra Grass, and student of Debra Grass and Shauna McDonald, who was awarded the RCM Gold Medal for Grade 9 Clarinet.
- Diana McCarthy, whose student, Tina Yang, achieve 90% in her RCM ARCT Exam.
- Gloria Jean Nagy, whose student Cindy Zhang earned the silver medal for Conservatory Canada Grade One voice (88.7%) for the highest mark in Ontario, and whose student Roshan Karavally earned the silver medal for Grade Four voice (90.6%) for the highest mark in Ontario.

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

Upcoming Concerts

November 21, 7:30 p.m. - Love and Marriage - Ottawa Savoy Society, Gloria Jean Nagy, Director. St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Parkdale and Sherwood Avenue. Tickets \$12 (fundraiser for the spring production of lolanthe) Contact: gloriajeannagy@gmail.com

November 21, 8p.m. - Sweet Brahms* - violist Jethro Marks, cellist Paul Marleyn and pianist Mauro Bertoli at La Charrette, 460 W Hunt Club Rd. Tickets \$35* (in advance only until November 10th) Contact: Mauro Bertoli mauro.bertoli@bell.net

December 5, 8p.m. - Uncorked, Live Music and Fine Wines* cellist Paul Marleyn, pianist Mauro Bertoli, and sommelier Antonio Mauriello at La Charrette, 460 W Hunt Club Rd. Tickets \$35 *(in advance only until November 10th) Contact: Mauro Bertoli mauro.bertoli@bell.net

*Package price: \$65 for the two concerts.

December 5, 7:30 p.m. at Woodroffe United Church, and December 13, 2:00 p.m.at St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church- Christmas Gloria - Musica Serbia and Joined Choirs of Woodroffe United, and St. John with Strings of St. John's, featuring What Sweeter Music by Mark Hayes Conductors: Gordon Johnston, Katarina Jovic. Info/Tickets: www.stringsofstjohns.ca

Information Sharing Session

Monday, November 9th, 2015 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

at the home of Paulette Price. 13 Lismer Crescent in Kanata

Do we really teach our students to practice effectively? How can we sharpen our focus on this important element of teaching?

Give some thought to this question as you get underway with your fall schedule. We will hopefully have a lively discussion and perhaps all find ways to boost the satisfaction of our students and ourselves in the proc-

If you are inclined to bring a snack to share at coffee time please notify Paulette one week prior to the session.

Those planning to come, reserve your spot with Paulette pauletteprice@rogers.com.



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Adult Students' Piano Workshop & Master Class

by Ioulia Brechun, Convenor

Robert Dvorkin will be our clinician for the 2016 Piano Workshop and Master Class. to be held on Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 9:30 at Ottawa Pianos, 1412 Bank Street.

Robert began piano lessons at the age of nine, and two years later was accepted in the studio of Ernesto Lejano of the University of Alberta, with whom he studied for the next six years. In 1974, Robert entered the Bachelor of Music program at Indiana University in the studio of György Sebők. Robert obtained a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance, studying with Enrica Cavallo-Gulli. He lived in New York City for many years, and performed and taught in both the United States and Canada. In 1999, he was inspired by the work of Dorothy Taubman and began an intensive study of her approach. His expertise in the Taubman Approach has benefited many students of all levels. He moved to Ottawa in 2014 where he maintains an active teaching studio. He continues to perform in many cities in the United States and Canada. For more information, please visit www.robertdvorkin.com.

The Piano Workshop will include the Taubman Approach, which is a codified set of technical principles that, when correctly applied, can result in a near-tension-free playing experience, 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, play without pain, sight-read better, learn more quickly, and myriad other benefits.

The Workshop will be followed by a Master Class for six performers. Applicants will be chosen on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Please submit your completed applications as soon as possible. Due to limited space in the Master Class, we are also offering a Practice Performance Evaluation for additional students who wish to play in the Recital on March 19, 2016 at City View United Church. The Practice Performance is a chance to play for peers and to receive comments and suggestions from Mr. Dvorkin.

Please go to our website www.ormtaottawa.ca for registration form and further information, or contact Ioulia Brechun at med-beach@yahoo.ca

Alicia Desjardins 1957-2015

by Ann Babin



ORMTA member and colleague Alicia Desjardins-Hutchinson died suddenly on August 6. She was a dedicated teacher and musician, and a keen and knowledgeable student of Canadian music. I am forever grateful for her wonderful support in my early years with Canadian Music Showcase. Although piano was her main instrument she was also proficient in voice and guitar. She met fellow music student John Hutchinson at Carleton and they married in 1983. After several years of adventures in Europe they settled in Chesterville where they established the successful Village Academy of Music. John joined ORMTA in 1994. Alicia followed suit in 1999. In the early 2000's they chaired ORMTA's *Music in the Community*.

I met Alicia in the 1990's as a MYC teacher and we connected at the Piano Pedagogy course offered at Carleton in 2000 by Dr Gilles Comeau and Dr Elaine Keillor. From there we enrolled in the new Piano Pedagogy Laboratory at the University of Ottawa. It was lots of hard work and deadlines but we enjoyed it all. Among other things, we gave a short presentation on our research at an ORMTA AGM and collaborated on a historical study of the development of music conservatories in Canada. Alicia

was a serious student, very focussed. Anything less than A+ was a disappointment, anything less than A was a disaster. Sadly, ill health forced her to withdraw and her thesis never came to be. Limited mobility in her last ten years made life difficult. She died of an unanticipated heart attack with her loyal and loving John at her side. Her well-attended Celebration of Life service on August 29 at Winchester United Church interspersed spoken tributes from family and friends with musical performances from students.





Calendar of Events

November

- **8 Canada Music Week Auditions** ~ 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd. Contact Tania Granata taniag5@sympatico.ca
- 9 Information Sharing Session ~ 9:30 a.m. at the home of Paulette Price, 13 Lismer Crescent. Contact Paulette Price pauletteprice@rogers.com
- 10 Submission Deadline for December/January ORBit. ~ Contact Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca
- **22** Canada Music Week Recital ~ 4:00 p.m. at Orleans United Church, 1111 Orleans Blvd. Contact Tania Granata taniag5@sympatico.ca

December

- 15 Deadline for First Class Honours Applications~ Contact Meg lwaskow megiwaskow@gmail.com
- 15 Application Deadline for First Class Honours Scholarships ~ Contact Sherry Lu sherryludi@yahoo.ca

January 2016

- 7 Deadline for applications for David Jalbert Master Class, University of Ottawa ~ Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 9 Deadline for Variety Show applications ~ Contact Danielle Jersak, danielle_jersak@hotmail.com
- 10 Deadline for applications for Christiane Riel Master Class, University of Ottawa ~ Contact Katarina Jovic katarinamusic@sympatico.ca
- 10 Submission Deadline for February/March ORBit ~ Contact Kathleen Howard kmaryhoward@primus.ca
- 11 General Meeting and Potluck Breakfast ~ 9:30 a.m., Ottawa Mennonite Church, 1830 Kilborn Avenue. Contact Jennie Smith jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com
- 23 Variety Show Auditions ~ 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. City View United Church. 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Danielle Jersak danielle jersak@hotmail.com
- **24** First Class Honours Auditions ~ 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. City View United Church. 6 Epworth Ave. Contact Meg Iwaskow megiwaskow@gmail.com

February

- **Variety Show Recital** -~ 2:00 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 ~ 2:00 to 9:00 p.m. (exact times TBA). 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
- 27 Adult Student Workshop & Master Class ~ Ottawa Pianos, 1412 Bank St.. Contact Ioulia Brechun medbeach@yahoo.ca

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.~ 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