

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

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## President's Message

by Tania Granata

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Happy Spring! The calendar says Spring is just a few days away and I couldn't be happier! It has been a VERY busy time for our branch and I have had the pleasure of attending almost all of our events. I know I say this often but our Council is amazing and I've been very lucky to be President with this team by my side.

We had our Professional Development Day in February and despite the snowy conditions, it was still attended by eager teachers interested in hearing what Deborah Cossée had to say about managing our taxes as professional musicians and teachers. Thanks to Olivia Riddell for organizing it. I think it should be something everyone gets a chance to hear as it's such an eye opener. You can get a copy of the hand-out through our website for a small fee.

Our Adult Student Workshop, Master class and Recital all took place recently. Thanks go out to Ioulia Brechun and Carol Wood for pulling it all together. Thank you as well to our clinicians Dina Namer (piano) and Susan Blyth-Schofield and Christiane Riel (voice).

We also had an Information Sharing Session at the home of Paulette Price. Thanks to Margaret MacPherson for offering her ideas.

Administratively, I have been putting together a list of Proposed Council Members for the 2015-2016 year. It is so important to know what direction we are going in, to ensure a smooth transition from one council to another. There are several vacancies that we need to fill and if you are interested in any of them please let me know as we would LOVE some new people on our team. I want to thank those Council Members who have served this past year and are moving on to other things. I've really appreciated your dedication.

I would like to welcome new members Robert Dvorkin, Sabrina Tang, Joan Harrison, Riley McIntyre and Ivan Huor to the branch!

In this issue you can read about this year's OCTA recipient Helen Sinclair. Carol Wood had a great time interviewing her and I think you will enjoy reading her article.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming events: Competitions, Competitions Gala and of course the Annual General Meeting coming up at the end of May. I want to thank Kimberley Sundell and Jennie Smith in advance for their superior work on these portfolios....until then stay happy and healthy.

Yours in music.....Tania

## Ottawa Region Branch Executive and Committee (2014-2015)

**President**

Tania Granata 613-728-1195  
taniag5@sympatico.ca

**Past President**

Sandra Menard 613-834-3052  
sandramenard88@gmail.com

**First Vice-President**

Olivia Riddell 613-680-2996  
olivia@myc.com

**Second Vice-President**

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090  
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

Lori Lynn Penny 613-841-4429  
lorilynnpenny@rogers.com

**Secretary**

Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950  
sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

**Zone Representatives**

Tania Granata 613-728-1195  
taniag5@sympatico.ca

Sandra Menard

613-834-3052  
sandramenard88@gmail.com

**Adult Student Workshop, Master Class and Recital**

Ioulia Brechun (piano) 613-836-2757  
medbeach@yahoo.ca  
Carol Wood (voice) 613 421-1033  
carol.wood@rogers.com

**Assistant Treasurer**

Kathleen Howard 613-258-9503  
kmaryhoward@primus.ca

**Canada Music Week Recital**

Tania Granata 613-728-1195  
taniag5@sympatico.ca

**Competitions**

Kimberley Sundell 613-698-7338  
sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

**Competitions Gala**

Jennie Smith 613-260-9171  
jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com

**Email/Telephone**

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090  
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

**First Class Honours Recital**

Pam Kennedy 613-822-3455  
pamkennedy@rogers.com

**First Class Honours Scholarships**

Sherry Lu 613-862-7221  
sherryludi@yahoo.ca

**Funding**

Danielle Jersak 613-733-4911  
jersakpiano@gmail.com

**Membership List**

Kimberley Sundell 613-698-7338  
sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

**New Members**

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090  
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

**Newsletter (the ORBit)**

Sue Jones (Editor) 613-523-5317  
L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com

Amy Boyes (Ass't Editor) 613-302-8090  
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

**Notes Reporter**

Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950  
sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

**Professional Development**

Olivia Riddell 613-680-2996  
olivia@myc.com

**Public Relations**

Andrea Cochrane 613-321-8516  
andreacochrane@hotmail.com

**Social Convenor**

Jennie Smith 613-260-9171  
jenniesmithrmt@gmail.com

**University Liaison**

Katarina Jovic 613-261-7681  
katarinamusic@sympatico.ca

**University of Ottawa Student Membership**

Kimberley Sundell 613-698-7338  
sundellpianostudio@gmail.com

**Variety Show**

Danielle Jersak 613-733-4911  
jersakpiano@gmail.com

**Videos/DVD Library**

Sherry Lu 613-862-7221  
sherryludi@yahoo.ca

**Website**

Amy Boyes 613-302-8090  
amyboyespianostudio@gmail.com

**Young Artist Recital**

Susan Blyth-Schofield 613-226-4950  
sblythschofield@yahoo.ca

**Ex-Officio****Archives**

Ann Babin 613-830-8826  
ann\_babin@bell.net

**Canadian Music Showcase Liaison**

Ann Babin 613-830-8826  
ann\_babin@bell.net

**Cards and Flowers**

Helen Sinclair 613-271-9725  
helen\_sinclair@rogers.com

**Contemporary Showcase Liaison**

Tania Granata 613-728-1195  
taniag5@sympatico.ca

**Festival Liaison**

Zhanna Gumenyuk 613-715-9709  
zhanna.gumenyuk@gmail.com

**Information Sharing Sessions**

Paulette Price 613-592-6686  
pauletteprice@rogers.com

## Variety Show

by Danielle Jersak, Convener

Our 2015 Variety Show was held on Saturday February 7, 2015 at 2:00 pm at Rideau Park United Church. We had fourteen fabulous performances! There was a wide variety of repertoire including solo piano, own compositions, a duet and a student singing while accompanying herself on the piano! This year, the performers presented an interesting fact about the composer or piece, or why they wanted to play the piece, before they performed. The audience was very enthusiastic throughout the whole recital.



There was a small reception after the recital where cake and juice were served. There were a lot of smiles, compliments and musical conversations between family, friends and performers.

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 Rideau Park United Church, Debby and Debi for the use of their beautiful sanctuary and piano. I would also like to thank Kimberly Sundell, Amy Boyes, and a few of the University of Ottawa Student Members for being so encouraging and helpful during the auditions. Thank you and see you all next year!

---

## Professional Development Workshop Tax Benefits For Self-employed Music Teachers

by Olivia Riddell, Convener

On a snowy Thursday morning in February a group of 18 ORMTA members gathered around coffee, donuts and Debora Cossée for a general overview of tax benefits and entitlements for self-employed persons.

Included was a short bulletin for the 2015 initiatives from Canada Revenue Agency. Debora focused her presentation for persons who are self-employed and the benefits to which they are entitled under the Canada Revenue Agency regulations when preparing their taxes.

Debora Cossée has spent more than 20 years in the not-for-profit sector, as a manager and finance coordinator specializing in the housing sector as well as environmental and retirement industries. She is currently Financial Officer for Music for Young Children. Debra managed to make a very dry and somewhat intimidating subject have a little humour and augmented everyone's knowledge and comfort levels, showing us how to keep more money in our pockets while benefiting from being self-employed.

Thank you to Lori Lynn Penny, Ann Babin and Jennie Smith for helping set-up and tear down.

The hand-outs are available for purchase via download from our website: <http://www.ormtaottawa.ca/#/professional-development/cvce>



## *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 and our plans for the future. 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 classical guitarist Louis Trépanier. I hope to see you on Friday, May 29, 2015 at the Cedarhill Golf and Country Club.

Jennie Smith, Social Convener

**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, 2015.**

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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## First Class Honours Recitals

by Pam Kennedy, Convener



Sunday February 15th marked another wonderful First Class Honours recital for the Ottawa Branch. There were two concerts: one at 3:00 pm and another at 7:00 pm. Both concerts featured students who achieved high marks on their 2014 Conservatory exams for voice, harp and piano. The evening concert also featured the winners of scholarships for outstanding achievements on practical and theory exams. The performances were inspiring.

I would like to thank the teachers who prepared their students for a successful audition and concert performance. Thank you, as well, to the teachers who volunteered their time on the audition day and on the concert day. Thank you to Lauzon Music for donating their beautiful Steinway Concert Grand for both the audition and concerts. It was wonderful for the students to have an opportunity to perform on such an instrument. Finally, thank you to City View United Church and their staff for being so accommodating and helpful. They were excellent to work with. It was a privilege to organize our FCH 2015 event.



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### 2015 First Class Honours Scholarship Winner

by Sherry Lu, Convener

Correction:

Written Theory Award

Grade 9 - Ameen Ismail (student of Sandra Cooke & Virginia Strawn)

### Members' Corner

Congratulations to **Mary Mackey**, who celebrated her 100th birthday on Friday, March 13th.

Condolences to **Joan Quirt** on the death of her brother, Kenneth.

#### Welcome to New Members

**Robert Dvorkin**, Piano

**Dr. Joan Harrison**, Cello, Pedagogy, Rudiments, Violin

**Ivan Huor**, Analysis, Harmony, Piano, Theory

**Riley McIntyre**, Violin

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## Two Weekends of Adult Music Students' Events March 7: Workshop & Piano Master Class

by Ioulia Brechun, Convener

I really enjoyed organizing the Adult Students' Workshop & Piano Master Class on March 7. Adult students are so appreciative, courageous and eager to learn! Although it takes courage to perform in front of peers, the students were grateful for the opportunity to perform and share their music.



Dina Namer was the clinician for the all-day event. In attendance were a number of observers, six Master Class participants and three students who received a performance evaluation from Dina.

Dina's Workshop topic was "Overcoming Performance Obstacles." Some steps that lead to a successful performance are:

- \* Choose repertoire to match your capacity, but at the same time, try new styles;
- \* Practice with awareness. Adults with busy schedules need to put their "to-do" list and worries aside in order to be more aware during practice;
- \* Decide on the fingering. Confidence in fingering is key to security on the stage;
- \* Practice the music slowly to be more aware of all the elements in the music.

Dina shared helpful and humorous advice including the notion of eating a banana half-hour before the performance to calm those nerves!!! The adult students gained practical and valuable coping strategies and technique tips from Dina's comments and suggestions. Master Class and Performance Evaluation participants benefited from Dina's thoughtful suggestions. All who attended were most appreciative of Dina's willingness to share with us her vast musical knowledge.



## March 14 : Workshop & Vocal Master Class

by Carol A. Wood, Convener

Susan Blyth Schofield, Carleton University Associate Performance Instructor and Sessional Lecturer, presented a Workshop on "Performance Jitters" and Christiane Riel, Head of the Vocal Sector, University of Ottawa, led a Vocal Master Class. The event was attended by an audience of 10 including 4 Master Class singers who represented 2 ORMTA teachers.

In the morning Workshop, Susan provided hand-outs in which each participant filled out a self evaluation on causes of their nervousness. A number of breathing exercises were presented and practiced to help the calming process. Character and repertoire research were discussed as a vehicle for relieving stress. And finally a list of strategies were suggested to prevent hijacking our own performances.

Following a brown bag lunch, a Vocal Master Class was given by Christiane who worked in depth with the singers. Christiane offered helpful tips on achieving a supported and resonant sound while clarifying the diction in the Italian, French and English repertoire presented. Gloria Jean Nagy and Ioulia Brechun provided piano accompaniment.

Brava to Susan and Christiane for sharing their ideas with us. We are grateful for the contributions to the Saturday event. Thank you.





### March 15: Adult Students' Recital and Reception



by Carol A. Wood, Convener




The Adult Students' Recital took place on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00 at City View United Church. Family members, friends and teachers made up a supportive audience of some 20 people including the 8 pianists. The performers represented 5 of our ORMTA teachers.

Repertoire performed spanned from the Baroque Era to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Dina Namer, the March 7 Workshop and Piano Master Class clinician, also attended the concert and offered words of praise and encouragement to the performers. The recital was followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall which was enjoyed by all.

Thank you to the volunteers: Kathleen Howard, Gloria Jean Nagy, Ann Babin, Helen Sinclair, Betty Harris, and Danielle Jersak.

 **Upcoming Concerts** 

**Saturday, March 28**, Carleton University Choir presents Songscapes, Schubert Mass in G and Canadian Composers, 7:30 pm, Southminster United Church, 15 Aylmer Ave., Adults \$20, Seniors \$15, students \$10 (see p. 14 for full ad)



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Second Vice-President: **\*Vacant\***

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Secretary/Notes Reporter: Susan Blyth-Schofield  
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Canada Music Week: Tania Granata  
Competitions: Kimberley Sundell  
Competitions Gala: **\*Vacant\***  
First Class Honours Recital: **\*Vacant\***  
Funding: Danielle Jersak  
Membership: Kimberley Sundell  
New Members: Amy Boyes

ORBit Newsletter: Kathleen Howard  
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Scholarships: Sherry Lu  
Social Convenor: Jennie Smith  
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University of Ottawa Student Membership: **\*Vacant\***  
Variety Show: Danielle Jersak  
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## Helen Sinclair, Recipient of the 2015 ORMTA Contribution to Teaching Award

by Carol A. Wood

Helen Sinclair was born in Guelph, Ontario and grew up in nearby Acton. Her father was a church organist and an accomplished cornet player. As the oldest daughter in the family, Helen, at age 12, gained valuable experience accompanying her father for his cornet solos.

During her high school years, Helen studied piano with Dorothy Richardson Scull, who encouraged her to begin teaching junior piano students. Singing was also a part of her early music education. She sang alto in church choirs, the high school Glee Club, the Teachers' College Choir and participated in small ensemble groups.

Helen graduated from Lakeshore Teachers' College and enjoyed a brief career as a primary school teacher in Acton. She married Mac Sinclair in 1963 and they lived in Toronto, Kingston, and Sunnyvale, California. In 1971, they settled in Ottawa with their two young children. In 1973, Helen accepted a position as church organist, resumed piano studies with Irene Woodburn Wright and began building her private piano studio. She went on to receive her Associate Diplomas for Performance and Teaching from the Western Ontario Conservatory of Music. A desire to continue studies and to expand her musical knowledge led Helen to Carleton University where she took courses and studied with pianist Verna Jacobson, graduating in 1993 with a Bachelor of Music.



Helen played an important role in the rejuvenation of the Laurentian Junior Music Club, serving as President for 9 years. Other community work includes volunteering and sharing her talents at a local seniors' care facility since the early 1970's. She presently accompanies a community women's choir whose purpose is to bring entertainment to seniors' residences and provide an artistic outlet for older singers.

Encouraged by Irene Woodburn Wright, Helen joined ORMTA in the early 1980's and has held various portfolios: Social Convener, First Class Honours Recital, Canada Music Week, New Members and presently Cards and Flowers. She is always willing to volunteer at ORMTA events.

Helen is grateful to the Ottawa Region Branch of ORMTA for the recognition and honour of being chosen for this award. She appreciates and values the many friendships that she has made, the opportunities available for personal enrichment and professional growth and for all the support and performing platforms that we make available for students on all levels.

With a piano teaching career which has spanned some 45 years, Helen has been thankful for the wonderful people that have been part of her studio. She encourages young students to develop their abilities so that the joy of music will be a lifelong source of pleasure to them.

### Upcoming ORMTA Events 2015 (April—May)

#### April

1 **Application Deadline for Zone, Student and Young Artist Competitions.** Application forms on our website. Contact: Kimberly Sundell at [sundellpianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:sundellpianostudio@gmail.com)

#### May

10 **Submission Deadline for June/July/August Orbit.** Contact: Sue Jones at 613-523-5317 or [L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com](mailto:L.Susan.Jones@gmail.com)

23/24

**Zone, Student and Young Artist Competitions.** Carleton University, Loeb Bldg., 9th floor, Patrick Cardy Studio. Contact: Kimberly Sundell at [sundellpianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:sundellpianostudio@gmail.com)

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**Competitions Gala 7:30 pm.** Carleton University, Loeb Bldg., 9th floor, Patrick Cardy Studio. Contact: Jennie Smith at [jenniesmith@gmail.com](mailto:jenniesmith@gmail.com)

*Annual General Meeting and Luncheon  
Friday, May 29, 2015*

*Cedarhill Golf and Country Club  
56 Cedarhill Drive*

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 19, 2015

**Entertainment:** Louis Trépanier, classical guitarist.

**Regular menu** carrot and ginger soup \* oven roasted pork loin with apple  
cranberry chutney \* fresh vegetables

**Vegetarian menu** carrot and ginger soup \* quiche with roasted red pepper,  
spinach and parmesan cheese \* fresh vegetables

**Dessert** lemon cream shortcake **OR** fruit cup

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## Competitions 2015 Adjudicators



**Carol McFadden** is active as an educator and musical director. She is currently a vocal coach at Western University, and has been a part time faculty member at Wilfrid Laurier University and in the theatre divisions of Ryerson University and Sheridan College.

She is a member of the College of Examiners for the Royal Conservatory of Music and adjudicates singing, piano and theory.

As a collaborative pianist, she has most recently taken part in several productions for both Spring-Works & Hermione Presents such as *Festival Gems I & II*, *Forties Follies* and *Three Little Maids* in Stratford, ON.

Carol is a member of the Kitchener-Waterloo branch of ORMTA and a member of NATS.

**Mauro Bertoli** is an Italo-Canadian pianist, who lives in Ottawa where he moved from Italy in 2009. After receiving the first prize in several international and national Piano Competitions he has established himself on the international stage and has been praised by the press for his formidable technique and exceptional sensitivity.

Very active as a soloist (recitals and with orchestras) and chamber musician, Mauro has performed for important Festivals and in major concert halls throughout Europe, North America, Israel, Brazil, South Korea and China. He has recorded several CDs, and his performances are often broadcast by *CBC Radio*, *Radio Camara Brazil*, *Brasilia Super Radio*, *Radio Classica Bresciana*, *Radio Classica Milano* among others.

His passion for chamber music allowed him to perform with renowned musicians such as Eric Ruske, Emilio Còlon, Kenneth Grant, Marco Zoni, Massimiliano Motterle, Jethro Marks, Winona Zelenka, Paul Marleyn, David Gardner, Yusuke Hayashi, Benjamin Bowman, Wolfgang David, Netanel Draiblate, Lucia Luque, Liv Hilde Klokk, Steeve Michaud, Julie Nesrallah...

Mauro performed the complete Violin and Piano as well as the complete Cello and Piano sonatas by Beethoven in a two consecutive days project that received acclamation by the audience and the critic. He won the "Giuseppe Sinopoli Award", a prestigious Italian prize awarded personally by Giorgio Napolitano, the President of the Italian Republic. He is currently Associate Piano Teacher at Carleton University and is often asked to offer master classes for Music Institutions or take part as a jury member in Competitions.



Do you have a **new address or phone number**?

You can update your personal profile, on the provincial website [www.ormta.org](http://www.ormta.org) Please remember to **inform the branch** as well, by contacting President Tania Granata at 613-728-1195 or [tania5@sympatico.ca](mailto:tania5@sympatico.ca) or Kimberly Sundell at 613-698-7338 [sundellpianostudio@gmail.com](mailto:sundellpianostudio@gmail.com)

## Review of La Bohème with the Ontario Opera Collaborative



The Ontario Opera Collaborative's Spring tour of Puccini's masterpiece "La Bohème" began at the Kailash Mital Theatre in Ottawa and continued with shows in Toronto and in Sudbury.

The score was brought to life by a talented group of musicians, with a balance of opera-in-concert and staged opera - concert attire and stands with minimal props, staged entrances and super-titles, where the audience had no difficulty in melding into the tumultuous world of the Bohèmians.

Amongst the cast were Ottawa ORMTA members Misty Banyard (Musetta) and Tania Granata (Collaborative Accompanist). Other cast members included Chris Oliveira, Thomas Franzky, Dave Shipley, Kyle Merrithew, Vania Margani and Norman E. Brown.

Ottawa music store owner Gino Granata, declared, "[the performance] blew me away. [The show was] so romantic and full of emotion!"

From ORMTA Ottawa member Frances Balodis: "Yesterday Gunars and I attended La Bohème in Toronto. Our Ottawa ORMTA president Tania Granata was an amazing accompanist...so wonderful. Congratulations Tania. ORMTA member Misty Banyard was a wonderful Musetta. So gripping! We enjoyed this opera so much that we were crying. It was a WOW experience. Congratulations all."



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and Canadian Composers featuring Juno-award winning musicians

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**James McGowan, conductor & arranger**

**Scott Richardson, piano**

**Saturday · samedi**

**March 28 mars · 2015**

**7:30 pm · 19h 30**

**Southminster United Church**

**15 Aylmer Avenue · Ottawa**

**Tickets: Adults \$20 · Seniors \$15 · Students \$10**

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**Please indicate the teacher number 45207**

## 2015 Summer Music Courses



**June 29 to August 5, 2015**

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One-hour classes on weekdays*

*Theory, History and Ear Training courses in preparation for Royal Conservatory of Music examinations*

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# 2015 Summer Music Courses

COURSE (one-hour per day)	TIME	INSTRUCTOR	PREREQUISITE	COST (Plus GST)
<b>Basic/Intermediate Rudiments*</b>	9:00 a.m.	Julie Lacroix	None	\$369
<b>Advanced Rudiments</b>	10:50 a.m.	Julie Lacroix	Intermediate Rudiments	\$369
<b>Basic Harmony</b>	9:00 a.m.	Gabor Finta	Advanced Rudiments	\$369
<b>History 1: An Overview</b>	10:50 a.m.	Laurie Rosewarne	Advanced Rudiments	\$369
<b>Intermediate Harmony</b>	9:00 a.m.	Pierre-Paul Provencher	Basic Harmony	\$369
<b>History 2: Middle Ages to Classical</b>	10:50 a.m.	Gabor Finta	Advanced Rudiments	\$369
<b>Counterpoint **</b>	10:50 a.m.	Pierre-Paul Provencher	Intermediate Harmony	\$389
<b>Advanced Harmony**</b>	1:10 p.m.	Gabor Finta	Counterpoint and Intermediate Harmony	\$389
<b>History 3: 19th Century to Present**</b>	12:00 noon	To be determined	Advanced Rudiments	\$389
<b>Analysis **</b>	12:00 noon	Gabor Finta	Intermediate Harmony and History 2	\$389
<b>Ear Training (30 minutes)</b>	10:10 a.m.	Pierre-Paul Provencher	The ability to read treble clef	\$170

\* Students should apply for Intermediate Examination

\*\* Seminar courses: enrolment limited to 8 students

**Each course consists of a one-hour class each weekday (with the exception of Ear Training which is a 30-minute class) for a total of 26 lessons.**

## EAR TRAINING

Ear Training and sight singing are strongly recommended. Courses are geared to the ear test requirements of RCM practical examinations.

## CANCELLATION

Participants have until June 12 to withdraw. A fee of \$30 will be deducted from your reimbursement.